

College resources for students and families

General Web sites

ACT, Inc. The Web site for information on the ACT, including registration, test dates, etc. www.actstudent.org.

Campus Tours: Virtual College Tours. Virtual tours with still pictures and descriptions, webcams, campus maps, and videos of hundreds of colleges throughout the United States. Provides a first look at colleges. www.campustours.com.

The College Board. A complete site, with college and scholarship searches, information about the SAT® and SAT Subject Tests™, and other material pertaining to the college search and application process. Easy-to-use college search feature. www.collegeboard.com.

Collegiate Choice Walking Tours Videos. A site run by a group of independent counselors in New Jersey who offer videos of walking tours of more than 350 colleges, providing “an unedited recording of an actual student-guided campus tour offered at that college.” www.collegiatechoice.com.

eCampusTours.com. Virtual tours of colleges. Useful for its 360-degree views of dorm rooms and other buildings. www.ecampustours.com.

NCAA Eligibility Center. Official NCAA Web site that gives details of student-eligibility requirements to play NCAA sports. Watch this site for changes in eligibility; students can print the “Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.” www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

Peterson’s Education Portal. An all-purpose site including a college search, as well as information about summer programs, summer camps, and jobs. The site asks you to register before using some of the search engines and other resources, but there is no registration fee. There is a charge for some of the services provided. www.petersons.com.

U.S. Department of Education. The federal government’s Web site is easy to use and an excellent source of information on financial aid, much of it in Spanish as well as English. www.ed.gov.

Financial aid Web sites

The College Board. Has a scholarship search, a loan calculator, and an online application form for the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® form, which is required by some colleges. www.collegeboard.com.

FAFSA on the Web. The Web site for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This form must be submitted in the senior year (after January 1 and by June 30) for families applying for need-based aid. Students may complete it electronically at this site. www.fafsa.ed.gov.

FastWeb. Extensive information on merit- and need-based scholarships and aid. www.fastweb.com.

FinAid! Good site for information about types of financial aid and applying for financial aid. www.finaid.org.

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Books

Comprehensive objective directories

Barron's Profiles of American Colleges. New York: Barron's Educational Series, Inc. Updated every two years.

The College Board College Handbook. New York: The College Board. Published annually.

Peterson's Guide to Four-Year Colleges. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides. Published annually.

Peterson's Guide to Two-Year Colleges. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides. Published annually.

Subjective guides

Fiske, Edward, and Robert Logue (contributor). *The Fiske Guide to Colleges*. Illinois: Sourcebooks Trade. Updated annually.

Greene, Howard, and Matthew W. Greene. *Greene's Guide to Educational Planning: The Public Ivies*. HarperCollins, 2001.

Greene, Howard R., and Matthew W. Greene. *The Hidden Ivies: Thirty Colleges of Excellence*. New York: HarperCollins, 2000.

Pope, Loren. *Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools You Should Know About Even If You're Not a Straight-A Student*. New York: Penguin, 2006.

Staff of *Yale Daily News*. *The Insider's Guide to the Colleges*. New York: St. Martin's Press. Updated annually.

Specialized topics

Aaron, Scott. *Jewish U: A Contemporary Guide for the Jewish College Student*. Urj Press, 2002

College Board Book of Majors. New York: The College Board. Published annually.

Detailed descriptions, written by professors, of more than 180 popular majors, plus lists of 900 majors and the colleges that offer them.

Getting Financial Aid. New York: The College Board. Published annually.

Mathews, Jay. *Harvard Schmarvard: Getting Beyond the Ivy League to the College That Is Best For You*. New York: Prima Publishing, 2003. Good insights on the college choice process from the education columnist for the *Washington Post*.

Nelson Reference. *Nelson's Complete Guide to Colleges & Universities for Christians*. 2002.

Princeton Review et al. (eds.). *The Hillel Guide to Jewish Life on Campus*. 14th ed. New York: Random House Information Group, 1999.

Princeton Review et al. (eds.). *K&W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorder*. 8th ed. New York: Random House Information Group, 2005.

Schoem, David. *College Knowledge: 101 Tips for the College-Bound Student*. University of Michigan Press, 2005. Practical advice on how to become engaged in college intellectual and cultural life.

Windmeyer, Shane L. *The Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students*. Boston: Alyson Publications, 2006.

Strichart, Stephen S., and Charles T. Mangrum, II (eds.). *Peterson's Colleges with Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorder*. 7th ed. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides, 2003.