



College Bound

November 2005

This pathfinder will be useful in finding information about college selection, applications and financial aid.

For an introduction to the topic, see:

- FSA – Federal Student Aid (U.S. Department of Education)
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>
- College Application Calendar
<http://www.collegeboard.com/article/0,3868,5-25-0-23626,00.html>

Key Resources at a Glance:

- *College Handbook 2005* (42nd edition by College Board)
- *College Cost and Financial Aid Handbook 2006*, College Board.
- *Scholarship Handbook 2006*, College Board.

Reference Background

- *Four-Year Colleges 2005* (Peterson's Four-Year Colleges) – presents basic information (costs, size, degrees/majors) on over 2100 institutions in the U.S. and Canada. Includes 2-page “in-depth” spread for 1000 of those schools. Quick answers to many questions such as: “Which colleges offer Army ROTC programs?” A good place to start. There is also a *Two-Year Colleges 2005*.

Resources

Books

- *Colleges that Change Lives: 40 Schools You Should Know About Even if You're Not a Straight-A Student* by Lauren Pope. [This book has a small-school bias. Use an added resource, not as your only source.]
- *Best 361 Colleges*, 2006 edition, by Princeton Review. [This book uses a 4-star rating system for quality of campus life, academics, selectivity and financial factors. Information is based on interviews with students. Note: This is not much different than the 2005 edition!]
- *Insider's Guide to the Colleges, 2006* by Yale Daily News. [Standard information plus things you won't find on the school's website – such as quality of cafeteria food.]

Search Aids

Search Terms

(Use for computer searches)

- college admissions
- student financial aid

Subject Headings

(Use in card catalogs and print indexes)

- Universities and colleges -- Directories
- Student Aid
- College applications -- Handbooks

Call Number

- 378 (Dewey Decimal)
- L901 (Library of Congress)

Indexes and Abstracts

- EBSCOhost
- FirstSearch
- Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature

Library catalogs

- Your local library catalog
- SILO - State-wide catalog
- WorldCat - World-wide Catalog

Magazine Articles

- “Preparing for the ACT and the New SAT,” *Literary Cavalcade*, Sep 2004, volume 57, no. 1.
- “How Schools Will Grade You,” *U.S. News and World Report*, 8/30/04, volume 137, no. 6.
- “Understanding the Aid Form,” *U.S. News and World Report*, 9/6/2004, volume 137, no. 7.
- “Strategies for the Ages,” *U.S. News & World Report*, 9/5/2005, Vol. 139, Issue 8.
- “The Hidden Costs of College,” *Atlantic*, Nov 2005, Vol. 296 Issue 4.

Web Pages and Web Portals

- Peterson’s Education Portal
www.petersons.com
- FAFSA on the Web
www.fafsa.ed.gov
- U.S. News & World Report -- College
www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/cohome.htm
- College on Princeton Review
www.princetonreview.com/college/
- CollegeNET
www.collegenet.com
- College Board (producers of the SAT)
www.collegeboard.com
- ACT
www.act.org
- College Savings Plans Network
www.collegesavings.org
- College Savings Iowa
<http://collegesavingsiowa.uui.upromise.com>

Organizations and Special Collections

- Iowa College Student Aid Association
www.iowacollegeaid.org/

** You can evaluate other resources using criteria at: www.THEpathfinderproject.org/evaluate.html **

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