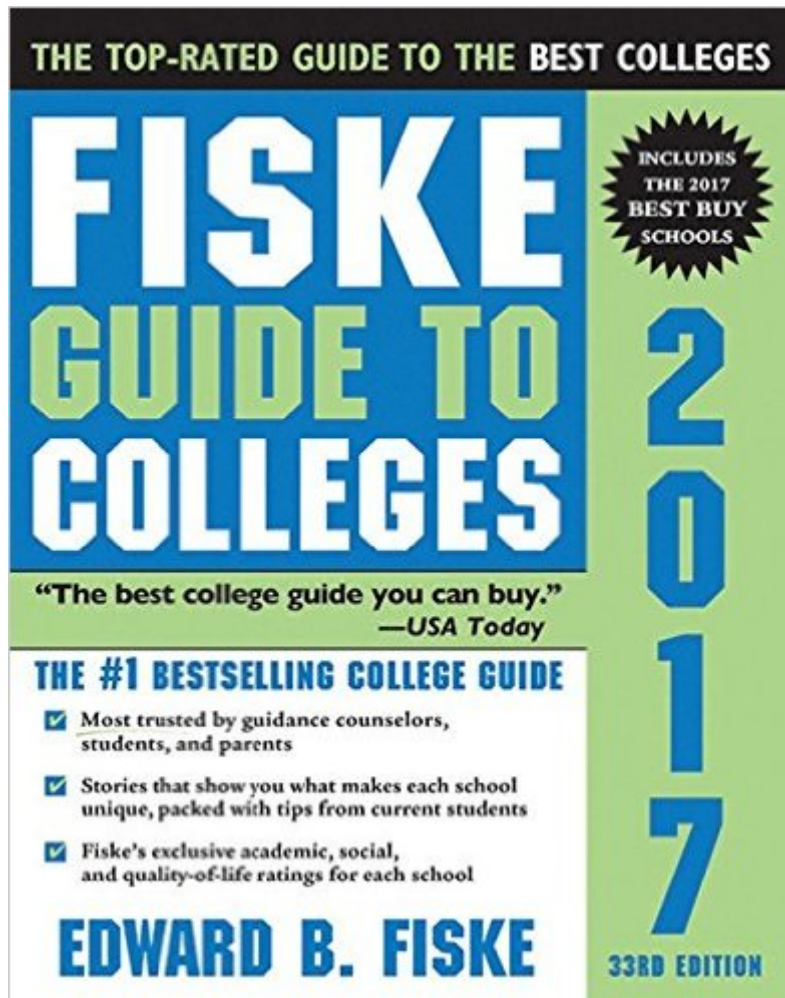


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# Fiske Guide To Colleges 2017



## Synopsis

"The best college guide you can buy."-USA Today Every college and university has a story, and no one tells those stories like former New York Times education editor Edward B. Fiske. That's why, for more than 30 years, the Fiske Guide to Colleges has been the leading guide to 320+ four-year schools, including quotes from real students and information you won't find on colleges' websites. Fully updated and expanded every year, Fiske is the most authoritative source of information for college-bound students and their parents. Helpful, honest, and straightforward, the Fiske Guide to Colleges delivers an insider's look at what it's really like to be a student at the "best and most interesting" schools in the United States, plus Canada, Great Britain, and Ireland—so you can find the best fits for you. In addition to detailed and candid stories on each school, you will find: • A self-quiz to help you understand what you are really looking for in a college • Lists of strong programs and popular majors at each college • "Overlap" listings to help you expand your options • Indexes that break down schools by state, price, and average debt • Vital information on how to apply, including deadlines, fees, and test requirements • Exclusive academic, social, and quality-of-life ratings • All the basics, including financial aid stats, SAT/ACT scores, and acceptance rates Plus a special section highlighting the 44 public and private Best Buy schools—colleges that provide the best educational value "I send students to Fiske before I send them anywhere else." — Director of College Counseling, Los Olivos, CA

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Fiske Guide to Colleges 2017" (868 pages) is a curious college-guidance/search book in my opinion. It lists the "best and most interesting" colleges in the country, about 300 out of 2,000+ four year colleges in the US (and even some Canadian and British schools) are written up. According to the introduction, they were selected on the basis of academic quality, geographic diversity, a balance of public and private schools, and schools that are currently popular for certain programs (engineering and technical schools, religious emphasis, etc.). Being from Ohio, I look at the list of 13 schools that "made the cut" and inexplicably Xavier University (a very fine Jesuit college here in Cincinnati) is left out of the book (but Xavier of Louisiana somehow did make the cut). Huh? While the descriptions give a good flavor of a particular college, there are essentials missing, such as the exact tuition/room/board (there is only a general 1 to 4 star rating on how expensive a college is, and even those are misleading, for example American University is listed merely as "moderately" expensive for a private school (defined as "\$40-45K for tuition and fees"), way, way off the mark! For the record, AU full-time undergrad tuition is \$47K for 2016-17 and add another \$14-16K for room/board and other miscellaneous fees). Also not helpful in my opinion is that the colleges are presented alphabetically, rather than by state, since most kids look at colleges in a particular state (usually their home state), although there is an index by state. On the other hand, the descriptions of the schools are oftentimes right on point. Check the first sentence on American University (the college of my youngest): "If the odds to enter Georgetown are against you and you can't see yourself on GW's highly urban campus, welcome to American University." That is EXACTLY what happened to my daughter: not admitted to Georgetown, admitted to GW and AU, but turned off by GW's urban campus and instead charmed by American's idyllic campus, hence AU. The descriptions of the school my son attended here in Ohio are also on point. When my daughter was simply looking to get basic information, she did not spend a lot of time with this book. As she narrowed her choices, she did read up more on her pool of colleges in this book. Bottom line: if you are at the very beginning of your college search, this is not the book to start with. For that I might instead suggest "The Complete Book of Colleges" issued by the Princeton Review, "College Handbook" issued by CollegeBoard, or "Barron's Profiles of American Colleges". The "Fisk Guide to Colleges" (which really should be titled "Fiske Select Guide to Colleges" or something like that) is instead more appropriate/helpful to get a second (or third) opinion once your child has narrowed down his/her selection of colleges of interest (assuming of course it made the Fiske cut of 300).

I'm a Harvard Grad (class of '02), professional test-prep tutor and college consultant based in San

Diego, and I give this book my qualified recommendation. I've been using the Fiske guide to Colleges with my students for over 10 years now. Although it's not my favorite college guide (that honor goes to Princeton Review's College GuideÂ The Best 380 Colleges, 2016 Edition (College Admissions Guides)), the Fiske guide is still helpful and worth checking out for its unique perspectives. However, be forewarned that the Fiske guide is not exactly an unbiased, realistic source of information. If you're looking for honest criticism of colleges as well as glowing praise, then don't bother looking here--it makes every college look great. Yes, student interviews are included, but they are overwhelmingly positive--it's almost as if these entries are extensions of the admissions department from each school. The most negative kind of comments you can find are those such as "classes are demanding" and "this school is for people who want to make a lot of money after college." If you're like me, then as a college-bound student (or the parent of one) you don't just want to read the good news about your prospective schools, but the bad news too. If the dining hall food is lousy, the dorms are dreadful, or the town is not college-friendly, then this is something we deserve to know, rather than have glossed over in a sea of overblown praise. Look elsewhere for this type of critical information. Here are the statistics provided by the Fiske guide: Website, Location, Public/Private, Total Enrollment, Undergraduates, % Male/Female, SAT Ranges, ACT Ranges, % Financial Aid, % Pell Grant, Expense (they use categories, but why not just provide an exact full tuition cost?), % Student Loans, Average Debt (again categorized instead of a dollar amount), Phi Beta Kappa (Yes/No), # Applicants, % Accepted, % Enrolled, % Grad in 6 Years, % Returning Freshmen, Academics (rating), Social (rating), Quality of Life (rating), Admissions Phone #, Email Address, List of Strong Programs, Application Requirements. I wish you the best of luck with your college search!

Great guide for your college bound kids. Very informative. We used for my older daughter and the reviews were very helpful in making her decision. After a year at school she re-read the reviews and said they were spot on, so believe them - good or bad.

It's a simple, easy to use "phone book" style college guide with a brief write up on each school mixed in with a few statistics about each institution. If you want a college guide that really gets into the finer details of what students and parents should focus on during the college search, I recommend purchasing "The Enlightened College Applicant: A New Approach to the Search and Admissions Process" by Andrew Belasco and Dave Bergman.

This is an excellent college guide. It is updated annually. I have been recommending it to all my students as the best narrative guide for many years. AMG Educational Consultants

This is the best college guide book on the market. Unfortunately he only reviews the more selective colleges. Too bad he doesn't have a comparable book with all colleges in it.

Comprehensive and informative; Good data on standard information such as student population composition, admission requirements, coupled with personal comments from students.

Great!

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