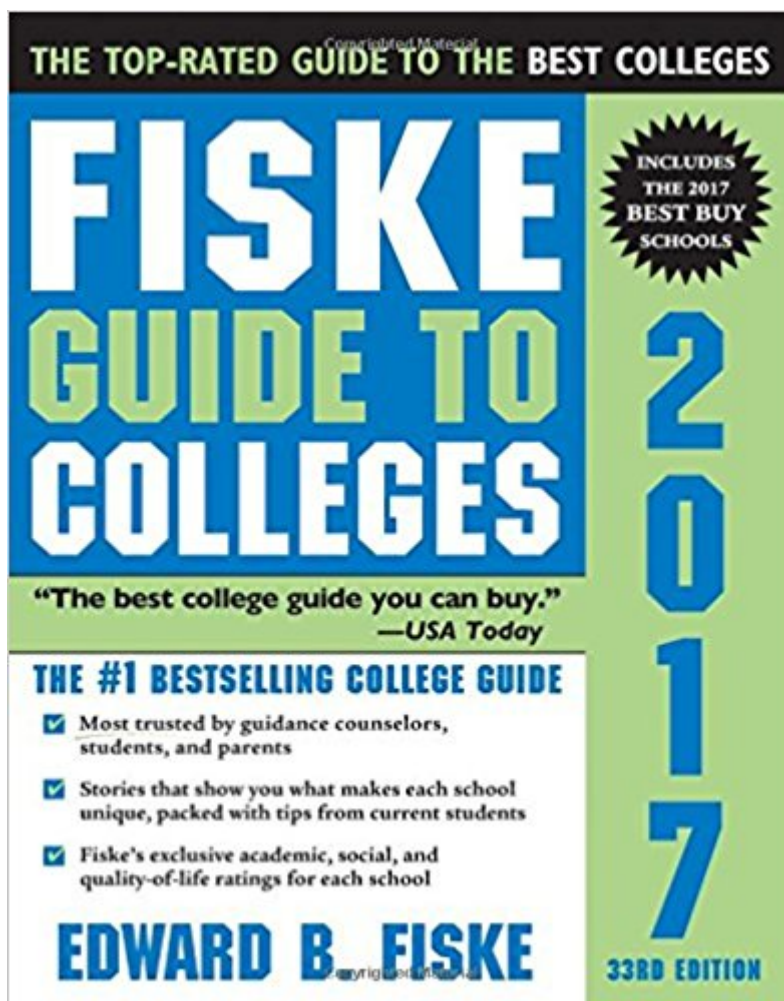


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Fiske Guide To Colleges 2017



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

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Customer Reviews

Which Schools Count the Most Presidents as Alumni?

Harvard University

Harvard tops the list with five, but all of them were named either Adams (John and John Quincy), Roosevelt (Theodore and Franklin) or Kennedy (John). Probably not a good bet if you don't qualify as a legacy. The College of William and Mary William & Mary has turned out four future presidents, assuming you count the surveyor's license it awarded to George Washington and ignore the fact that James Monroe dropped out to join the Continental Army. Unfortunately, no members of the Tribe have made it to the White House since John Tyler, class of 1807. Yale University Yale lists three presidents in its alumni roll, but William Howard Taft is the only one not named Bush (George and George W.). See above reference to legacy. Princeton University Princeton turned out James Madison and Woodrow Wilson and would have had three future presidents except that John F. Kennedy transferred to Harvard after six weeks. Once you get beyond the Big Three, Ivy League grads in the White House are hard to find. Barack Obama, who went to Columbia, is the exception.

Edward B. Fiske is the founder and editor of the Fiske Guide to Colleges. A former Education Editor of the New York Times, Fiske is known around the world for his award-winning writing on topics ranging from trends in American higher education to school reform in Southeast Asia, New Zealand and South Africa. The guide was established in 1982 when, covering higher education for the Times, Fiske sensed the need for a publication that would help students and parents navigate the increasingly complex college admissions scene. The guide, an annual publication, immediately became a standard part of college admissions literature and it is now the country's best-selling college guide. Fiske has teamed up with his wife, Helen F. Ladd, a professor at Duke University, on several major international research projects regarding the development of education in various countries. Together, they are co-editors of the Handbook of Research in Education Finance and Policy, the official handbook of the American Education Finance Association. Fiske's journalistic travels have taken him to more than 60 countries on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development, UNESCO and the Asia Society. Born in Philadelphia, Fiske graduated from Wesleyan University summa cum laude, and received master's degrees in theology from Princeton Theological Seminary and in political science from Columbia University. He is a regular contributor to the International Herald-Tribune. In addition to the New York Times, his articles and book reviews have appeared in Atlantic Monthly, Chronicle of Higher Education, Los Angeles Times, and other national publications. A resident of Durham, North Carolina, Fiske serves on a number of boards of

non-profit organizations working for access to college and international understanding. He is also a founding member of the board of the Central Park School for Children, a charter school in Durham.

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 Guide— 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!

"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).

This is a classic college guide for more researching selective colleges and universities in the US and Canada. Gives a nice balance of facts and figures mixed with more qualitative information. This is the go-to book among the parents I've spoken with at my kid's highly competitive high school.

A thorough informational guide to all colleges. My family of 3 seniors found it helpful.

Was surprised/disappointed several of the schools I was searching for wasn't included in the book. For the reviews that are included they are insightful and accurate.

I bought this for my first child headed to college. So helpful and best of all the survey of what my child was looking for in a college gave me a lot of insight into her wants and needs. Thank you for making this stressful process so much better. I feel we are prepared to help our daughter make a good decision about which college to attend. Thank you.

One of the most thorough college reviews - includes a lot of information that other guides don't include but are important when considering where one will love and work for four years...

Very helpful

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