

Rachel's Resource Room

The college process

College Match: A Blueprint For Choosing The Best College For You, by Steven Antonoff

Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be, by Frank Bruni

Crazy U: One Dad's Crash Course in Getting His Kid Into College, by Andrew Ferguson

The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College, by Jacques Steinberg

thechoice.blogs.nytimes.com A discontinued blog, but a great resource nonetheless. Q&A.

insidehighered.com The best comprehensive, free online journal for all things related to college policy, trends, breaking news

Researching colleges (books)

Fiske Guide to Colleges, by Edward Fiske

Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools That Will Change the Way You Think About College,
by Loren Pope

Cool Colleges 101, Peterson's

Insider's Guide to the Colleges. Yale Daily News Staff

Creative Colleges: A Guide for Student Actors, Artists, Dancers, Musicians and Writers,
by Elaina Loveland

The College Solution, by Lynn O'Shaughnessy Good resource for understanding and seeking merit aid

Researching colleges (websites)

collegerealitycheck.com – site run by Chronicle of Higher Education, great for assessing value

collegedata.com - it's run by a bank so ignore the ads, but the aid data (Money Matters tab) is reliable.

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nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator - a government site, good source for debt levels, starting salaries

Common Data Set - Google "common data set 2014-15 *name of college*"

Kiplinger sortable databases of 300 colleges – get ideas for merit aid colleges

<http://www.kiplinger.com/tool/college/T014-S001-kiplinger-s-best-values-in-public-colleges/index.php>

Edvisors.com – great resource for how to fill out the FAFSA, info on tax credits, tuition deductions, etc.:

<https://www.edvisors.com/education-tax-benefits/introduction/overview-of-education-tax-benefits/>

HESC.com - NYS site, great information

studentaid.gov – Federal site, great information

Calculators

EFC, Expected Family Contribution

bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/expected-family-contribution-calculator

NPC, Net Price Calculator

Each college's website must have an NPC. Google NPC and name of college.

Need-based financial aid

Federal methodology (FM) schools = FAFSA online application

fafsa.ed.gov

Also use FAFSA application if you just want the Federal Direct Student Loan.

Institutional methodology (IM) = CSS/Profile online application

student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile

List of 300+ colleges using CSS/Profile is at

profileonline.collegeboard.org/prf/PXRemotePartInstitutionServlet/PXRemotePartInstitutionServlet.srv

NYS TAP (tuition assistance program) application

www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/apply-for-financial-aid/nys-tap/apply-for-tap.html

Should pop up right after you complete the online FAFSA