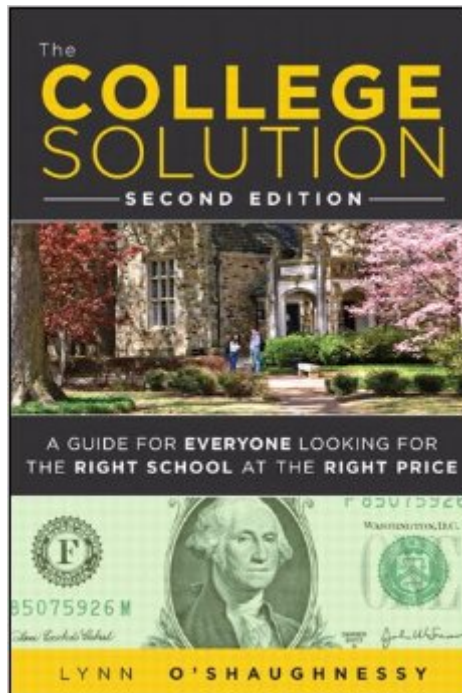


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The College Solution: A Guide For Everyone Looking For The Right School At The Right Price



Synopsis

This bestseller has been completely updated to provide you with the answers that you need to find wonderful colleges and universities at more affordable prices. The second edition of *The College Solution*, which contains approximately 90% new material, is aimed at helping parents and teenagers become empowered consumers as they navigate through the college process. Billions of dollars are available to pay for college, but not everybody gets their share. It's not always the families with the brightest students or the parents who are struggling financially who receive the most money. *The College Solution* shares the secrets of how you can capture some of this money for your own family. The book provides advice on such topics as financial aid, merit scholarships, athletic scholarships, admission hooks, the important differences between colleges and universities, college rankings, the best student loans and the latest online tools to evaluate the generosity of schools. Oâ™Shaughnessy presents an easy-to-use, proven road map for getting past the ratings, and finding the right schools at the right price. No other book offers this much practical guidance on choosing and paying for college now â “ and no other book will save you as much money!

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Customer Reviews

Lynn O'Shaughnessy's book is essential reading for anyone who has a child heading for college in a few years. The biggest takeaway for me was the message to start early. Don't wait until junior year to start thinking about where-when-how-and-why. Because of the ridiculously complicated issue of financing, parents need to complete all kinds of financial calculations -- ones I'd never heard of, like the Expected Family Contribution and the Net Price Calculator -- in order to estimate the true cost of any college their child is considering. I sort of knew about the FAFSA paperwork that you fill out in order to qualify for financial aid, but because of this book and a subsequent call to a college my son is considering, I learned that I need to complete paperwork other than FAFSA a year early if we submit applications for early decision or early action. You'll also find some great inside information on how to tip the scales in your favor in the admissions game: for example, if you're a male, you're going to look good to a liberal arts college with a high percentage of female students. Another book parents of high school students must read is *The Perfect Score Project: Uncovering the Secrets of the SAT* by Debbie Stier. The author wanted to know how to prepare her son for taking the SAT, so she took the test herself seven times! She has lots of real-world tips for preparing for the test and for taking the test. That's another big message of Ms. O'Shaughnessy's book -- the importance of that SAT score, a student's grade point average and class ranking. My kid's not going to be slacking off any time soon!

I learned a lot from this compact, well organized book! The volume is divided in to six basic parts: "Shrinking the Cost of College", "Increasing Your Admissions Chances", "Knowing Your Academic Choices," "Evaluating the Academics", "Admission Nuts and Bolts" and "Borrowing for College". In the "Shrinking the Cost of College" section I discovered that parents can have an unlimited amount in retirement accounts and a very expensive home and this does not detract from the child's chance at financial aid. The Expected Family Contribution form and its importance is well explained as is how to use net price calculators. Plenty of practical advice surrounding how to maximize financial aid and shrink college costs is included. Much can be learned from the book's second section entitled "Increasing Your Admissions Chances". I was surprised to find how many well respected schools are now making admissions tests like the ACT and SAT optional. Also interesting was how important geographic location can be in getting admitted to college. I never knew before that showing interest often and early in particular can actually help a prospective student be admitted to

their dream school. And the book does not shy away from discussing when gender or race can help or hurt at certain colleges and universities. Part three "Knowing Your Academic Choices" explores the differences between colleges and universities and further breaks this topic down into the four main types of institutions of higher learning. There is a chapter in this section called "The Ivy League Myth" which is very interesting. The author seems to have a bit of a bias toward liberal arts colleges which she explains thoroughly and convincingly.

This is it. The practical, down to earth, realistic advice you need as a parent in order to help your child to choose a college or university (which, by the way, are not the same and the difference is explained in this book). The author helps you to figure out how to get the most for your education dollar. There are tons of books helping you to decide how to buy a house, or a car. College often costs even more. This is the book you need to help you get value for your money for your child's higher education and to choose a place your child will thrive. The sections are titled: 1. Shrinking the cost of college 2. Increasing your admissions chances 3. Knowing your academic choices 4. Evaluating the academics 5. Admissions nuts and bolts 6. Borrowing for College My son is a current high school sophomore. He attends a private high school, with excellent college counselors. In fact, he was required to take a class this year on college counseling. I did learn quite a bit from the material he brought home from that class, but still felt like I had many questions. This book answered many of them, among them: Is an Ivy League education worth the price tag? (probably not from a lifetime earnings point of view) What are the advantages/disadvantages of attending a research institution? What are some factors that affect admissions and aid? How can you maximize merit aid (especially if you are not eligible for financial aid)? The author shows a decided leaning toward liberal arts colleges and is up front about her position. She bases this opinion upon the fact that these colleges are more concerned with teaching undergraduates, leading to a focus on student learning rather than research.

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