Learn: Applying for College

Books and Materials

The bound-for-college guidebook: a step-by-step guide to finding and applying to colleges
by Frank Burtnett
Presents a step-by-step guide to finding a college, from exploring the options to deciding where to go to school.

Complete guide to college application essays: Essential Tips for Making Your Writing Stand Out
by Princeton Review
This user-friendly guide gives struggling students the step-by-step writing help they need to perfect the writing on their college applications, from the all-important personal essays to the supplemental material like short answer questions and resumes. Also available on Libby & Overdrive.

The Best 386 Colleges 2021: In-depth Profiles & Ranking Lists to Help Find the Right College for You
by Princeton Review
This comprehensive guide to the nation's best colleges provides in-depth profiles on schools, best-of lists by interest, and tons of helpful student-driven details that will help you or your student choose their best-fit colleges! Available on Libby & Overdrive.

Online Library Resources

The College Blue Book
by Gale
Guide to thousands of 2-and 4-year schools in the U.S. and Canada. Covers the expected listings and detailed descriptions, degree programs offered, scholarships, and occupational education programs.

LearningExpress Library
This database contains a College Admission Test Preparation section to help prepare for any entrance exams. It also provides guidance for writing college admission essays. In addition to the preparation assistance, it features a School & Scholarship finder to help you choose the best college for you.

JobNow
Having trouble choosing a major? Check out eParachute from JobNow! It will help you discover the college majors and careers that match your skills and interests. Use the Writing Lab to have an expert review your application essay for tips on how to improve it.

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Online Courses

**Khan Academy**
Life Skills: College Admissions
Course description:
We interviewed admissions officers across the country and compiled their advice into this comprehensive resource to help you make the most of your application process. Get tips on how to prep for your admissions interview, help brainstorming for your college essay, and advice on asking your teachers for letters of recommendation. Whatever stage of the application process you’re in, we’ve got you covered.
*This course may contain ads and its content does not reflect the views of the Metropolitan Library System.*

**LinkedIn Learning**
College Prep: Writing a Strong Essay
Course description:
Given today’s competitive college admissions process, a strong essay is critical. It can be the difference between acceptance and rejection. In this course, writing instructor Leigh Ann Chow covers planning, drafting, editing, and polishing an unforgettable college essay. She explains how the essay is used in determining acceptance and reviews good and bad essay examples. These lessons will not only help improve your chances of getting into a top-choice school, but also make you a better writer once you get there.

*Use your library card number to log in and your last name as the PIN code. If it asks for a library ID, use MLS.*

Other Tips

**Take a Tour!**
Most colleges and universities will offer campus tours to prospective students. Use that tour as an opportunity to take a look at the campus and ask questions to help you figure out if it is a good fit.

**Check this out:**
Take a look at the How To Get Into College: Ultimate Guide to Admissions article from Affordable Colleges Online to see a useful College Admission Timeline as well as tips and resources for navigating the admissions process.
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