

College Planning Resources

Websites

[College Navigator](#)

Lots of search options – by name, state, institution type, major, campus setting, and much more. Detailed info about each institution.

[College Affordability and Transparency](#)

Has a number of tools related to cost.

[College Scorecard](#)

Find and compare a standard data set for different universities: Costs; Graduation and Retention; Financial Aid and Debt; Typical Earnings; Student body; Test Scores and Acceptance.

[Western Undergraduate Exchange \(WUE\)](#)

Find universities in the western state that will give WUE tuition to WA residents (no more than 150% of their in-state tuition). Good search tools.

[FAFSA](#) - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (required for everyone)

[CSS Profile](#) – College Scholarship Service Profile (generally more expensive universities require)

[Smart College Visit](#) – I just came across this recently, haven't personally used it but it looks promising.

College Process – FHHS resources

[FHHS College Process Presentations](#)

Presentations for parents of Juniors, parents of Seniors, and for seniors (though that one is somewhat specific to FHHS students).

[College Search Options](#)

[Scholarship search options](#)

Books

[The truth about college admission: a family guide to getting in and staying together](#) by Barnard Brennan and Rick Clark, 2019.

I like the general philosophy of this one best. It isn't pushing elite or expensive schools and gives you and your student questions to answer along the way, to help you find your own path.

[The price you pay for college: an entirely new road map for the biggest financial decision your family will ever make](#) by Ron Lieber, 2021.

The focus is a little too much on expensive schools, but it does explain a lot about why the cost is what it is, and how holistic admission works. It also has useful sections on things worth paying for, money-saving hacks that will tempt you, and financial planning for college.

[Who gets in and why: a year inside college admissions](#) by Jeffrey Selingo, 2020.

This is almost entirely focused on schools that are difficult to get into, whether private or flagship state schools. It is interesting if you're looking at those schools.

[Colleges worth your money: a guide to what America's top schools can do for you](#) by Andrew Belasco, 2020.

This is also focused on the highest ranked schools, thus schools that are expensive and/or hard to get into. It has a nice format of two page spread with the same categories of information for each school, making comparisons easy. However, most schools an ordinary student can get into are not in the book at all.

[Where you go is not who you'll be: an antidote to the college admissions mania](#) by Frank Bruni, 2015.

On order. I haven't read this but other sources rated it highly.

[Girls with bright futures](#) by Tracy Dobmeier and Wendy Katzman, 2021.

Fiction about the college admissions scandal. It takes place at a fictitious private school in Seattle, where several girls all have their hearts set on Stanford. Although intended to be over the top, the scandal broke while the authors were finishing the book, and it turns out it isn't as over the top as they intended. Nevertheless, it is an entertaining read and a good reality check if your child is considering applying to any elite schools.