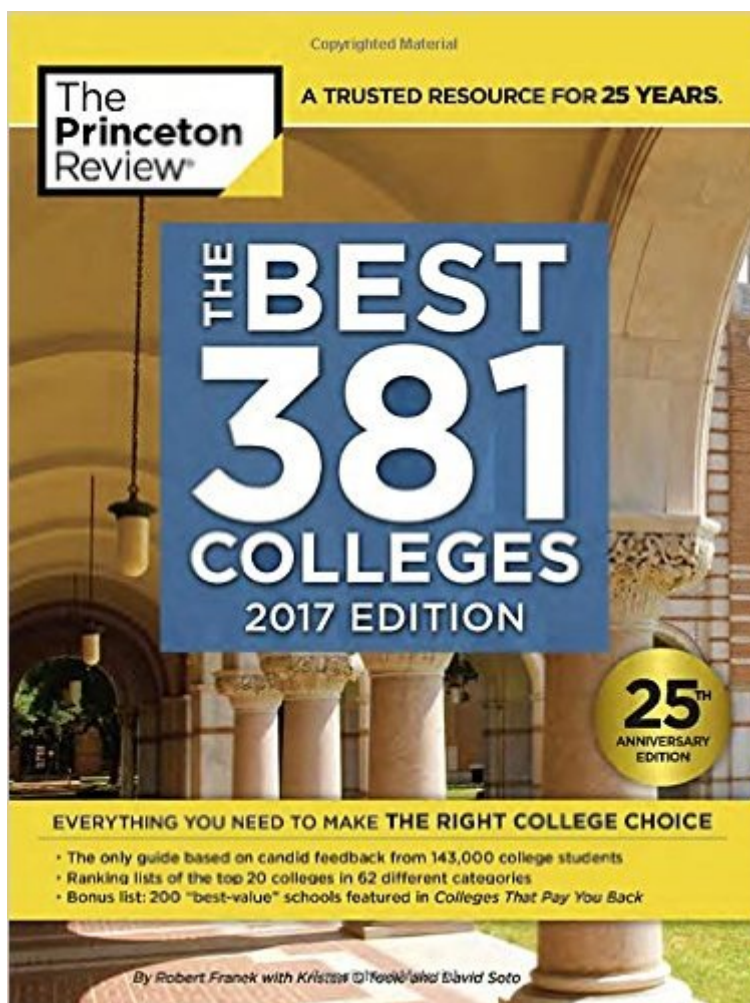


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# The Best 381 Colleges, 2017 Edition (College Admissions Guides)



## Synopsis

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF HELPING STUDENTS SELECT THE PERFECT COLLEGE! The Princeton Review started publishing *The Best Colleges* in 1992 with surveys from 30,000 students. A quarter-century and more than a million student surveys later, we stand by our claim that there is no single "best" college, only the best college for you | and that this is the book that will help you find it!

**What Makes THE BEST 381 COLLEGES the Most Popular College Guide? DIRECTLY FROM STUDENTS TO YOU** 381 in-depth school profiles based on candid feedback from 143,000 students, covering academics, administration, campus life, and financial aid

**Insights on unique college character, social scene, and more**

**RANKING LISTS & RATINGS SCORES** Lists of the top 20 colleges in 62 categories based on students' opinions of academics, campus life, facilities, and much more

**Ratings for every school on Financial Aid, Selectivity, and Quality of Life**

**Bonus list of the 200 "best-value" schools featured in Colleges That Pay You Back**

**DETAILED ADMISSIONS INFORMATION** The "Inside Word" on competitive applications, test scores, tuition, and average indebtedness

**Comprehensive information on selectivity, freshman profiles, and application deadlines at each school**

**What the media is saying about The Best 381 Colleges from The Princeton Review:**

- "The most efficient of the college guidebooks. Has entertaining profiles larded with quotes from students."
- "Rolling Stone" The offbeat indexes, along with the chattily written descriptions of each school, provide a colorful picture of each campus.
- "The New York Times" "A great book.... It's a bargain."
- "CNN" "Our favorite college guidebook."
- "Seventeen" "Provides the kind of feedback students would get from other students in a campus visit."
- "USA Today

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Princeton Review publishes a number of college search-related books, including the "Complete Book of Colleges" and this one. This book is essentially a distilled version of the "Complete Book", and frankly a lot more useful (but people completely new to the college-shopping process, definitely check that out too). "The Best 381 Colleges (2017 Edition)" (872 pages including 26 pages of ads) is similar to last year's edition. After holding the number of best colleges at 380 last year (remember this book started off in 1992 with the best 250, where have the years gone!), this year there are 3 new "best" colleges: Manhattan College, San Diego State University, and University of New Haven. Two schools from last year's list were dropped. In the Introduction, the editor reminds us that this is the 25th edition of this book, that in 1992 they surveyed 30,000 students and now 134,000, and that in 1992 they did 120 surveys per campus, and now 375. There are over 60 fun-to-browse top 20 lists of best/worst, such as "Most Beautiful Campus", "Students Study the Most", "Party Schools", and "Most Politically Active Students" (my daughter's school was in the top 10 ranked school on that list, and now has dropped out altogether, so yes these rankings change from year to year, although not sure how exactly these rankings come about, as her school's drop seems pretty steep). The best feature of this guide remains the 2 page layout for each of the colleges, with in-depth information on campus life, academic selectivity (the number of applicants, how many were accepted, and of those how many actually decided to attend), up-to-date tuition and room/board costs (I checked the numbers of my daughter's college, and they are more or less accurate for the 2015-16 school year, so you'd better check the website of your school of interest to get this school year's info), etc. Another aspect that is very helpful is the right page sidebar, in which the essence of the university is distilled, and Princeton Review's final assessment on how tough it really is to gain admission when all is said and done. I again re-read the listings of the various colleges that my daughter and my son considered before making a final choice (she chose a school in DC, he stayed in Ohio), and can only state that all of what is written in here seems very much on point. In the end, the proof is in the pudding: of the many college guides out there, my daughter spent more time with this book (when she was looking at colleges a few years ago) than with any other. This book is not the first place to start the college search, but once your son or daughter has narrowed down his/her colleges of choice, and assuming those colleges are featured in the "best 381", this book, despite its

imperfections (such as not quite current tuition and fees numbers) nevertheless is the best/most useful resource out there, the last step before a campus visit, and can be used again following the campus visits. I've looked at a lot of college-search books and if I was forced to recommend only one book among all the college search guides, this book is it, period.

This is much better and more informative than the US News and World Report rankings -- even though those purport to use objective measures of quality, their data are subject to much manipulation by the participants, and their categories reveal little about the educational experience available at each school. The Princeton Review is based primarily on student surveys, and even though this is not especially "objective," it is much more revealing about what your experience at each school will be like. Bear in mind that they don't cover every college in the country -- only the top 5%, or 381 total. The schools represented are arguably the best in the country, and this book can give you real insight into what it will be like to study at each one.

My friend highly recommended this resource, so I ordered it. It doesn't even have Michigan State University listed (that might be my own bias)! Many of the page numbers in the index are incorrect.

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