

college?

The Coalition
of America's Colleges
and Universities has
prepared this brochure
so that all Americans
have the resources
they need to make an
informed decision
about whether and how
to attend college. For
additional information,
visit our website at:

www.CollegelsPossible.org

The Coalition of
America's Colleges
and Universities

www.CollegelsPossible.org

or call

1-800-433-3243

the U.S. Department of Education's special
toll-free number for college information

College Is Possible

a resource guide
for
parents, students,
and education
professionals

Thinking about

Whether you are a parent or student, you probably have a lot of questions: How does the application process work? What sort of college is right for me? And who can help me start this important journey on the right foot?

You may also be wondering: How much will college cost? Perhaps you are under the impression that college is out of reach — that it is simply too expensive. If that is the case, America's colleges and universities have three encouraging words for you: College Is Possible! Many people are frightened off by the high tuition "sticker prices" they hear on television or read about in newspapers, and are not aware that \$60 billion in grants, scholarships, and low-interest loans are awarded to students every year. With planning, preparation — and the right information — college is possible for almost every American.

Where can you find the information you need to prepare for college, choose the right college, and pay for college? America's colleges and universities have come together to identify those resources that will be most helpful to you as you navigate the higher education waters, and have listed them in this brochure. No matter what your questions are, these resources should help provide the answers.

preparing for college

While it is never too late to think about college, early preparation can help smooth the way, both academically and financially. Parents should start saving for college — even if they can only afford to set aside a small amount — when their children are very young. Academic preparation for college must also start early. America’s colleges and universities recommend the following resources to help parents and students prepare for college.

Preparing Your Child for College: A Resource Book for Parents

Publication type: Website
Publisher: U.S. Department of Education
Address: www.ed.gov/pubs/Prepare
Description: This very popular book is now available only on-line.

Planning Ahead

Publication type: Website
Publisher: The College Board
Address: www.collegeboard.org/planning/html/intro.html
Description: Designed for middle-school students and their parents. Features information on academic and financial planning, including a savings calculator.

Getting Ready for College Early/Preparádnos a Tiempo para la Universidad

Publication type: Book
Publisher: U.S. Department of Education
Cost: Free
To order: Call 1-800-USA-LEARN or visit: www.ed.gov/pubs/GettingReadyCollegeEarly (www.ed.gov/pubs/GRFC_Span/grfcspan.html for the Spanish version).

Think College

Publication type: Website
Publisher: U.S. Department of Education
Address: www.ed.gov/thinkcollege
Description: This website has special sections for parents whose children have not yet entered high school, high school-aged youth and their parents, and adults seeking to return to school.

Sallie Mae

Publication type: Website
Publisher: Sallie Mae
Address: www.salliemae.com
Description: Features interactive calculators to help families project future college prices and their expected family contribution.

Guide for Parents/Guia para los Padres

Publication type: Brochure
Publisher: National Association for College Admissions Counseling
Cost: Free
To order: Call 703-836-2222 or write 1631 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2818

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Publication type: Website
Publisher: National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Address: www.nasfaa.org
Description: Information from campus financial aid administrators about preparing for college academically and financially.

choosing the right college

What sort of college do you want to attend? There are many options, from community and technical colleges, to small private colleges and large state universities — each has its own distinct advantages and benefits. The following resources will help you choose the right school for you, as well as provide information about the college admissions process.

A Guide to the College Admissions Process

Publication type: Book
Publisher: National Association for College Admissions Counseling
Cost: \$6.00
To order: Call 703-836-2222 or write 1631 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2818

Smart Parents' Guide to College: The 10 Most Important Factors for Students and Parents to Know When Choosing a College

Publication type: Book
Publisher: Peterson's
Cost: \$16.95
To order: Call 1-800-338-3282, ext. 660 (English), ext. 462 (Spanish)

Internet Guide for College-Bound Students

Publication type: Book
Publisher: The College Board
Cost: \$14.95
To order: Call 1-800-323-7155, M-F 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. ET

CollegeQuest

Publication type: Website
Publisher: Peterson's and the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Address: www.CollegeQuest.com
Description: This site features a college search program as well as information on financial aid and admissions tests.

College Search

Publication type: Website
Publisher: The College Board
Address: cbweb1.collegeboard.org:445/csearch/cs_main.html
Description: This site features an on-line college search program as well as information on admissions and financial aid.

ACT Assessment

Publication type: Website
Publisher: American College Testing
Address: www.act.org/aap/index.html
Description: Information and registration for the ACT Assessment.

Find Your Community College

Publication type: Website
Publisher: [U.S. News and World Report](#) and the American Association of Community Colleges
Address: www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/communit/commsrch.htm
Description: The publishers have produced this site to help students find the community college that best fits their needs.

SATI and SATII

Publication type: Website
Publisher: The College Board
Address: www.collegeboard.org/sat/html/students/indx001.html
Description: Information and registration for the SATI and SATII.

paying for college

Every year, more than 7 million college students receive financial aid. You, too, may be able to receive aid, and you don't need to be a straight-A student or star athlete to qualify. The following resources will help you understand the student aid process. They include general information on financial aid, the forms you'll need to apply, and databases that can help you search for grants and scholarships.

The Student Guide

Publication type: Book
Publisher: U.S. Department of Education
Cost: Free
To order: Call 1-800-4FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or visit www.ed.gov/prog_prog_info/SFA/StudentGuide

Cash for College

Publication type: Website
Publisher: National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Address: www.nasfaa.org/public/cashfc.html
Description: This brochure, available on-line, provides a concise overview of financial aid.

Top 10 Financial Aid Questions

Publication type: Brochure
Publisher: National Association for College Admissions Counseling
Cost: Free
To order: Call 703-836-2222 or write 1631 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2818

Need a Lift? College Financial Aid Handbook

Publication type: Book
Publisher: The American Legion
Cost: \$3.00
To order: Write National Emblem Sales, PO Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or call 317-630-1200

Don't Miss Out: The Ambitious Student's Guide to Financial Aid

Publication type: Book
Publisher: Octameron Association
Cost: \$8.00
To order: Call 703-836-5480

Paying for College: A Guide for Parents

Publication type: Book
Publisher: The College Board
Cost: \$14.95
To order: Call 1-800-323-7155, M-F 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. ET

Financial Aid for Students

Publication type: Website
Publisher: U.S. Department of Education
Address: www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/Students
Description: Best starting point for information on federal student financial aid. Includes links to publications, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and information on new tax cuts for higher education.

FastWEB

Publication type: Website
Publisher: FastWEB
Address: www.fastweb.com
Description: This website boasts one of the largest free scholarship databases with over 400,000 listings of private scholarships.

College Scholarship Service Financial Aid Profile

Publication type: Website
Publisher: The College Board
Address: www.collegeboard.org/finaid/fastud/html/proform.html
Description: This financial aid application form is required by many private colleges. Request via this website or call 1-800-778-6888.

The Financial Aid Information Page

Publication type: Website
Publisher: Mark Kantrowitz
Address: www.finaid.org
Description: One-stop shopping for all types of financial aid information. Provides links to many other sites.

Expan Scholarship Search

Publication type: Website
Publisher: The College Board
Address: www.collegeboard.org
Description: Free on-line scholarship search service includes aid programs from 3,300 sponsors and also features college and career search capabilities.

Sallie Mae's Online Scholarship Service

Description: Website
Publisher: Sallie Mae
Address: scholarships.salliemae.com
Description: Provides access to the College Aid Sources for Higher Education (CASHE) database, one of the oldest scholarship databases.

This list was assembled from the recommendations of admissions and financial aid professionals, as well as other higher education officials. It should not, however, be construed as a formal endorsement of any particular product or service.