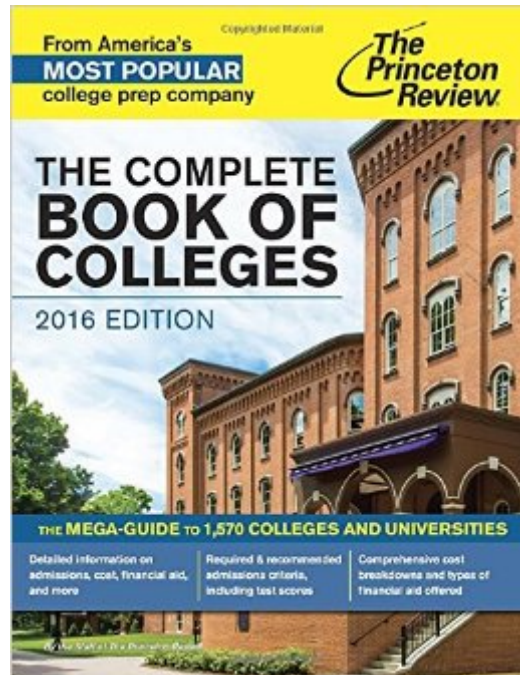


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# The Complete Book Of Colleges, 2016 Edition (College Admissions Guides)



## Synopsis

The MEGA-GUIDE to 1,573 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES! No one knows colleges better than The Princeton Review! Inside The Complete Book of Colleges, 2016 Edition, you'll find meticulously researched information that will help you narrow the search for the best college for you! Each of the 1,573 user-friendly profiles answers your questions, including:

- How much are tuition and other student fees and costs?
- What types of financial aid are available, and when are the applications due?
- What do admissions officers most look for in test scores and recommendations?
- Which majors are the most popular and have the highest enrollment?
- What is the housing like, and how accessible is technology on campus?
- What are the key campus organizations, athletics, and student activities?
- How selective is the school?

Plus! Indexes based on cost, selectivity, and size that will help you narrow your search. Get a leg up on your college search with this easy-to-use, comprehensive, and savvy guidebook from the experts at The Princeton Review.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Complete Book of Colleges presents, in encyclopedic fashion, a vast array of details on colleges and universities. It also judges the quality of schools, designating some of them as among the 351 best. However, to learn more about what makes a school one of the best, the reader must buy an additional Princeton Review book. This guide resembles most other available college guides

and these similarities are not accidental. All of today's college guides gather their most important information from the same source: the common data set (see [...]) Originally established to standardize and ease the distribution of college information, the common data set now seems to function as a barrier to original efforts to evaluate American colleges and universities. The Princeton Review touts its guide as "the best place to begin, fine-tune and execute the search for your perfect college." Given that everybody uses the same data, that claim seems a little dubious and resembles advertising campaigns by soap manufacturers desperately trying to differentiate almost identical products. The publishing industry's sloth is glaringly evident in their failure to pressure colleges and universities to provide important test score information left out of the common data set. Industry representatives participate in the common data set initiative; yet, their role appears completely passive. This guide only lists information on test scores taken by entering high school students (for example, the SAT I, ACT, etc.). No score information is reported for tests taken by students in college, such as the Medical College Admissions Test, Law School Admissions Test, Graduate Record Examinations, or Graduate Management Admissions Test; yet, these scores would seem to reflect better college achievement.

My youngest just started college a few weeks so I'm officially done with the college process but when I saw this as my local library, I couldn't resist picking this up, just out of curiosity. "The Princeton Review Complete Book of Colleges (2009 Edition)" (1,572 pages) is, in all but details pretty much the same as the 2008 edition, not that it's a bad thing or that it matters, as most readers will likely be new to the college search process, or restarting it after a few years off. The best thing about this book that it does offer a pretty good overview of the 1,800 or so colleges profiled in here. All of those colleges are listed alphabetically, which makes it a bit less user-friendly. It is a fact that 80% of kids look to colleges in their home state, so why not have the colleges grouped by state? There is, to be fair, an index in the back of colleges by state, among other indexes, such as size, environment, cost, and selectivity. The last 500 pages of the book is in essence paid advertising by those colleges that wanted to pay for that (each college receives 2 pages; the editorial content of that section was done entirely by the colleges themselves, NOT by the Princeton Review). The biggest flaw in this book is that for some inexplicable reason there are a good number college profiles that lack information on tuition and room/board cost. How can that be? All that said, this book is a just okay starting point for anyone in the college search process, in particular if the student does not have any strong feelings about which colleges are on his or her shortlist. For a better alternative when you're just starting, I'd suggest the 2009 Edition of the gigantic (closer to 3000

pages) "Peterson's Four Year Colleges". But by no means should it be the end point.

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