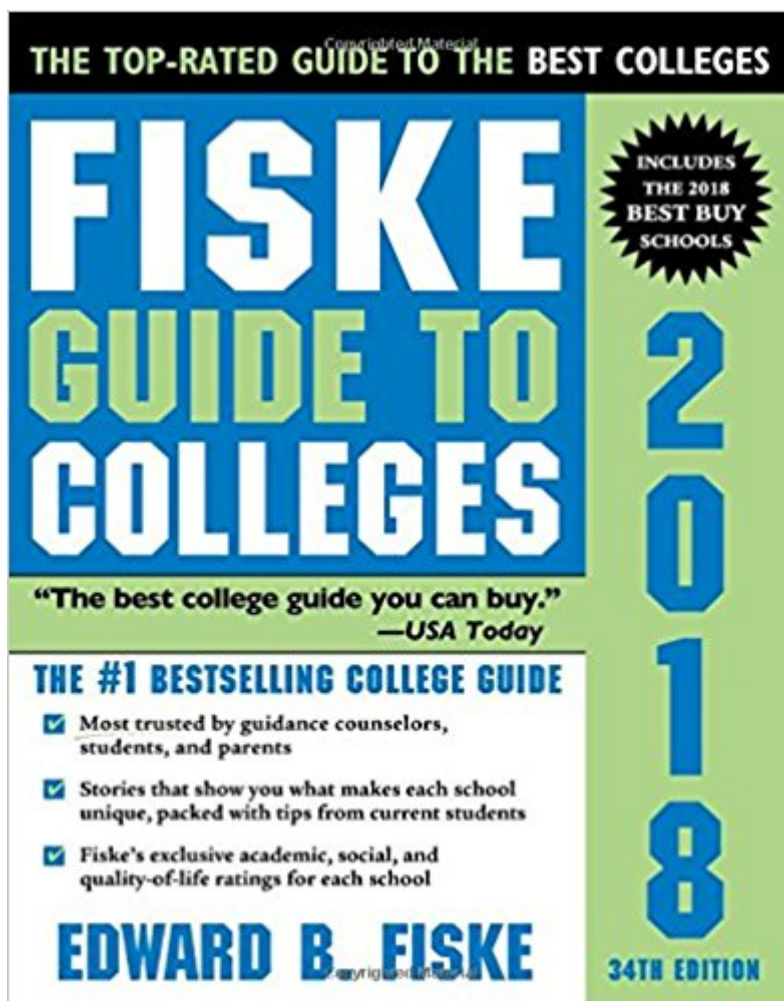




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# Fiske Guide To Colleges 2018



## Synopsis

"The best college guide you can buy."-USA Today Every college and university has a story, and no one tells those stories like former New York Times education editor Edward B. Fiske. That's why, for more than 30 years, the Fiske Guide to Colleges has been the leading guide to 320+ four-year schools, including quotes from real students and information you won't find on college websites. Fully updated and expanded every year, Fiske is the most authoritative source of information for college-bound students and their parents. Helpful, honest, and straightforward, the Fiske Guide to Colleges delivers an insider's look at what it's really like to be a student at the "best and most interesting" schools in the United States, plus Canada, Great Britain, and Ireland. So you can find the best fits for you. In addition to detailed and candid stories on each school, you will find: A self-quiz to help you understand what you are really looking for in a college; Lists of strong programs and popular majors at each college; "Overlap" listings to help you expand your options; Indexes that break down schools by state, price, and average debt; Vital information on how to apply, including deadlines, fees, and test requirements; Exclusive academic, social, and quality-of-life ratings; All the basics, including financial aid stats, SAT/ACT scores, and acceptance rates Plus a special section highlighting the 44 public and private Best Buy schools - colleges that provide the best educational value "I send students to Fiske before I send them anywhere else." - Director of College Counseling, Los Olivos, CA

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Edward B. Fiske is the founder and editor of the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*. A former Education Editor of the New York Times, Fiske is known around the world for his award-winning writing on topics ranging from trends in American higher education to school reform in Southeast Asia, New Zealand and South Africa. The guide was established in 1982 when, covering higher education for the Times, Fiske sensed the need for a publication that would help students and parents navigate the increasingly complex college admissions scene. The guide, an annual publication, immediately became a standard part of college admissions literature and it is now the country's best-selling college guide. Fiske has teamed up with his wife, Helen F. Ladd, a professor at Duke University, on several major international research projects regarding the development of education in various countries. Together, they are co-editors of the *Handbook of Research in Education Finance and Policy*, the official handbook of the American Education Finance Association. Fiske's journalistic travels have taken him to more than 60 countries on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development, UNESCO and the Asia Society. Born in Philadelphia, Fiske graduated from Wesleyan University summa cum laude, and received master's degrees in theology from Princeton Theological Seminary and in political science from Columbia University. He is a regular contributor to the International Herald-Tribune. In addition to the New York Times, his articles and book reviews have appeared in Atlantic Monthly, Chronicle of Higher Education, Los Angeles Times, and other national publications. A resident of Durham, North Carolina, Fiske serves on a number of boards of non-profit organizations working for access to college and international understanding. He is also a founding member of the board of the Central Park School for Children, a charter school in Durham.

Comprehensive, current and very handy. A short article, useful facts, and data for each school. Seems faster and a better format than online resources.

"Fiske Guide to Colleges 2018" (887 pages) is a curious college-guidance/search book in my opinion. It lists the "best and most interesting" colleges in the country, about 300 out of 2,000+ four year colleges in the US (and even some Canadian and British schools) are written up. According to the introduction, these colleges were selected on the basis of academic quality, geographic diversity, a balance of public and private schools, and schools that are currently popular for certain programs (engineering and technical schools, religious emphasis, etc.). Being from Ohio, I look at

the list of 13 schools that "made the cut" and inexplicably Xavier University (a very fine Jesuit college here in Cincinnati) is left out of the book (but Xavier of Louisiana somehow did make the cut). Huh? While the descriptions give a good flavor of a particular college, there are essentials missing, such as the exact tuition/room/board (there is only a general 1 to 4 star rating on how expensive a college is, and even those are misleading, for example American University (the school of my youngest) is listed merely as "moderately" expensive for a private school (defined as "\$41-46K for tuition"), way, way off the mark! For the record, AU full-time undergrad tuition is \$49K for 2017-18 and add another \$14-16K for room/board and other miscellaneous fees. Also not helpful in my opinion is that the colleges are presented alphabetically, rather than by state, since most kids look at colleges in a particular state (usually their home state), although there is an index by state. On the other hand, the descriptions of the schools are oftentimes right on point. Check the first sentence on American University (the college of my youngest): "If the odds to enter Georgetown are against you and you can't see yourself on GW's highly urban campus, welcome to American University." That is EXACTLY what happened to my daughter: not admitted to Georgetown, admitted to GW and AU, but turned off by GW's urban campus and instead charmed by American's idyllic campus, hence AU. The descriptions of the school my son attended here in Ohio are also on point. When my daughter was simply looking to get basic information, she did not spend a lot of time with this book. As she narrowed her choices, she did read up more on her pool of colleges in this book. Bottom line: if you are at the very beginning of your college search, this is not the book to start with. For that I might instead suggest "The Complete Book of Colleges" issued by the Princeton Review, "College Handbook" issued by CollegeBoard, or "Barron's Profiles of American Colleges". On the other hand, The "Fisk Guide to Colleges" (which really should be titled "Fiske Guide to Select Colleges" or something like that) is instead more appropriate/helpful to get a second (or third) opinion once your child has narrowed down his/her selection of colleges of interest (assuming of course it made the Fiske cut of 300).

My son found this book very helpful in evaluating the culture of the different colleges that he was considering. We originally purchased the 2017 guide and now the 2018 guide as we were hoping for alternative commentary on the different colleges. We found that the commentary was exactly the same as in the 2017 guide and only the Testing Ranges and enrollment numbers and other data in the side bar had been updated. So if you have a previous version, no real need to purchase the newer one.

This guide is useful, as it was in 1989. Perfect? No. accurate? not sure. But it attempts to give the subjective information to help you get a feel for each school. It has the same statistics you find everywhere (including online for free), but combining those with the verbatims is required to really 'get it.' example: just about every students thinks their school is very challenging academically, but this includes party schools full of B/c students and MIT. So you have to think about who is saying what. They have a lot now on Irish and British schools...While it reads like a Zagat's restaurant guide, it does help you get a step closer to what the school is about and whether it might be a fit for your 18 year old.

As a long time college counselor, the Fiske Guide continues to be my favorite reference for my students and their parents.

Best of the college books! Highly recommend!

quality info

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