

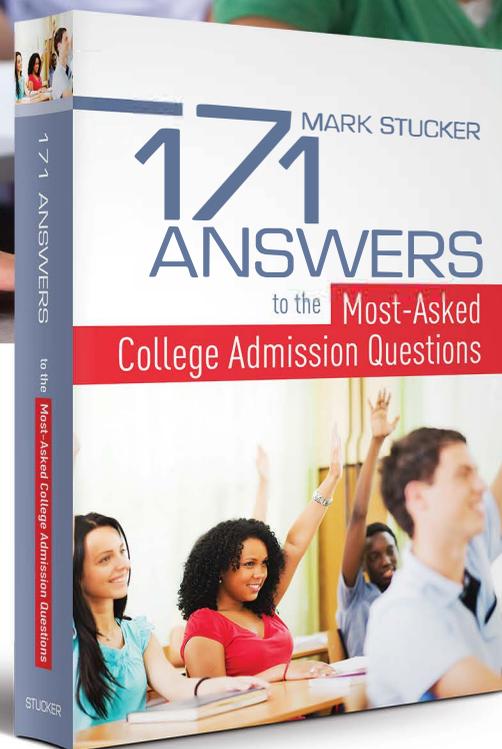


171 ANSWERS!

To the Most-Asked College Admission Questions

The book with 171 answers you need to know about college.

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Section 1: Selecting the Right Career

- 1) What does it really mean to be successful?
- 2) What free resources are there to help me identify my areas of passion?
- 3) How can doing self-inventory help me assess which careers I will find fulfilling?
- 4) What free resources can I use to identify what the best jobs will be in the future?
- 5) How can the internet help me learn what a typical day looks like in the career I'm considering?
- 6) How can the internet help me learn what salary I can expect in various professions?
- 7) How can the internet help me understand what steps I need to take to reach my career objective?
- 8) How can I use shadow days and internships to confirm my areas of career interest?
- 9) How can I prepare for the jobs that will be here in the future?
- 10) A challenge for parents about your child's career selection...

Section 2: Building the right college list

- 11) What is the difference between "holistic admissions" and "admission by the numbers"?
- 12) How many colleges should I apply to?
- 13) What are "lottery schools," "reach schools," "mid-range schools," "likely schools," and "safety schools"?
- 14) Why is it important to have financial match schools at various levels of selectivity?
- 15) What is a college admission calculator, and how can it help me build my college list?
- 16) Important Criteria To Determine Whether a College is a Match for You
- 17) How can I use the school's website to tell whether that school should be on my list?
- 18) A New and Creative Approach to Learning Which Colleges Are Interested in Me
- 19) How can I use college reviews to learn more about schools I'm considering?
- 20) What options are there for families who can't afford to visit colleges, or don't have the time?
- 21) How can I do a self-assessment of what my family can really afford to pay for college?
- 22) How can I find out if a school is affordable before visiting?
- 23) How do I know if a college is strong in my major before I visit?
- 24) How can I make the most of college visits?
- 25) Why am I receiving all of these college mailers at my home, and does that mean I'll be admitted?
- 26) What if May 1st arrives and I still haven't been accepted anywhere?
- 27) What is the parent's role in deciding which colleges to apply to, and which one to select?
- 28) How much weight should I put on the college rankings?

Section 3: Getting accepted where you apply

- 29) What are admissions counselors really looking for?
- 30) What are the four types of Grade Point Averages (GPA)?
- 31) Is it better to earn a B in an advanced course or an A in a standard-level course?
- 32) How do colleges evaluate your grade trends?
- 33) How do colleges evaluate your class ranking?
- 34) What hope is there for me if I am only a C student?
- 35) Which of your grades do colleges see in your senior year before they make their admissions decisions?
- 36) How will a selective college evaluate courses I've decided to take?
- 37) What is the PSAT and why is it important?
- 38) What is the National Merit Scholarship Program?
- 39) What is the ACT?
- 40) What is the SAT?
- 41) How is the "new" SAT different from the "old" SAT?
- 42) What are the differences between the ACT and the SAT?
- 43) Does it matter whether I take the ACT or the SAT?
- 44) How do I know whether the ACT or the SAT is the better test for me?
- 45) How many times should I take the ACT or the SAT?
- 46) What tips can I use to improve my ACT or SAT scores?
- 47) What is a competitive SAT or ACT score?
- 48) What is the recommended timeline for taking the ACT or SAT?
- 49) How can I use the SAT Subject Tests to stand out?
- 50) What are "super-scoring" and "score choice"?
- 51) How do I select test prep or tutoring company?
- 52) Is it better to do online test prep, one-on-one test prep, or group test prep?
- 53) Why are an increasing number of schools not requiring standardized test scores these days?
- 54) What are the different variations of "test optional" and "test flexible" colleges?
- 55) What are the 15 different ways I can apply to college?
- 56) What are the pros and cons of applying to a school through Early Decision?
- 57) How can I showcase my passions in the application process?
- 58) What is demonstrated interest, and why is it important?
- 59) What do I need to know about my social media presence and the admission process?
- 60) How do colleges view homeschooled applicants?
- 61) What do college admission counselors look for in my Personal Statement or main essay?
- 62) What are the biggest mistakes applicants make with their Personal Statements/main essays?
- 63) How do you decide which of the essay prompts you should choose for your Personal Statement?
- 64) What do admissions counselors look for in supplemental essays?
- 65) What advice do you have for me about my college admission recommendations?
- 66) What do visual and performing art majors need to know about how their college application process is unique?
- 67) How important is it to show academic passion, and how do I do this?
- 68) What are the biggest mistakes students make with their extracurricular activities?
- 69) What do I need to know about college admissions interviews?
- 70) How can I keep a weakness in my application from leading to automatic denial?
- 71) What are 13 steps to take if I'm waitlisted?
- 72) What advice do you have for undocumented students?
- 73) What questions should students with disabilities be asking?
- 74) What is an admission hook and what are some of the main hooks?
- 75) Will a college ever rescind an admission acceptance?
- 76) What are some mistakes parents make in the college application process?
- 77) How do admission offices evaluate applicants who are transferring from another college?
- 78) Should I hire an independent counselor to assist me with the college application process?
- 79) What role does my school counselor play in the process?
- 80) What are some common mistakes made by Black and Latino applicants?
- 81) What are some common mistakes made by international students to US colleges?
- 82) What is a "gap year" and should I take one?
- 83) What should I include on a college resume?
- 84) What is an Honors College and how will it benefit me?
- 85) What can you do now to set your child up for opportunities if he/she is 12 or under?
- 86) When should I start the college admission process?
- 87) How does the admissions committee make decisions?
- 88) Do colleges evaluate the high school I attended?
- 89) What is the difference between Advanced Placement (AP) courses and the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma?
- 90) Do the colleges I apply to know where else I applied?
- 91) Why is there so much buzz about the new Coalition College Application?
- 92) What's the secret about college admissions that the media isn't telling me?
- 93) How do I keep from going crazy from the college admissions process?

Section 4: Paying for College without going broke

- 94) What is Cost of Attendance, and why is it important?
- 95) What are the five main reasons why college costs are skyrocketing?
- 96) Who is eligible for federal financial aid (grants or loans)?
- 97) What is EFC, and why is it so important?
- 98) Why does my EFC say I can pay such an outrageous amount of money?
- 99) What do I need to know about the very-important FAFSA?
- 100) What is FAFSA4caster, and how can it help me?
- 101) How do I know whether I am considered an independent or dependent student?
- 102) Should I complete the FAFSA if I'm wealthy?

- 103) How can I get outstanding free assistance in completing the FAFSA?
- 104) Why did I receive a letter saying my FAFSA information needs to be verified?
- 105) What kinds of financial aid questions might single, divorced, and remarried parents have?
- 106) What happens if a parent refuses to complete the FAFSA?
- 107) What are the most common mistakes students and parents make on the FAFSA?
- 108) What is the CSS PROFILE, and am I required to fill it out?
- 109) Why are my financial aid awards completely different between colleges?
- 110) What are the answers to the most-asked questions about the requirement to submit the non-custodial parent PROFILE application?
- 111) What is a merit scholarship from the college?
- 112) How do I get a merit scholarship from a public college?
- 113) How do I get a merit scholarship from a private college?
- 114) Where can I find merit scholarships?
- 115) How will I be assessed by a college for a merit scholarship?
- 116) What is need-based college aid and how do I get it?
- 117) How can I increase my need-based aid?
- 118) What is a Pell grant, and how do I get it?
- 119) What is FSEOG, and how can I get it?
- 120) What is the TEACH grant, and how can I get it?
- 121) How do I know how much loan debt to take out for college?
- 122) What is the PLUS loan?
- 123) Mark, tell me what you really think of the PLUS Loan.
- 124) What are the 15 Reasons why there is one loan that is unquestionably the BEST loan that almost all students are eligible for?
- 125) Why are federal loans better than private student loans?
- 126) What are my repayment options for federal student loans?
- 127) Is paying for college the student's responsibility, or the parent's responsibility?
- 128) How do I stand out from the competition and win private scholarships?
- 129) Where do I find these outside private scholarships?
- 130) Is it true that some colleges will reduce my grants if I receive a private scholarship?
- 131) 32 Things Athletes Should Do to Get a Scholarship
- 132) What is a Department scholarship, and how do I get one?
- 133) How does the typical family pay for college?
- 134) What are the areas where admissions counselors are often not totally honest with me when it comes to money?
- 135) Here are my ten best resources for under-resourced students.
- 136) How do I lower my costs if I am already enrolled at a college?
- 137) What do I need to know about state-based aid?
- 138) How do I get in state tuition when I am an out of state student?
- 139) How do Regional College Tuition Discounts work?
- 140) What is Federal Work Study?
- 141) How does a school's endowment impact your education and what you have to pay?
- 142) What are priority deadlines and why are they important?
- 143) What is the difference between need-blind and need-aware admissions?
- 144) What does it mean if a college meets "full demonstrated need"?
- 145) How do we understand and compare financial aid awards?
- 146) What do you need to know about your Financial Aid Officer?
- 147) Do I need to pay all at once or do colleges offer payment plans?
- 148) If I am just flat broke, what is the cheapest way to go to college?
- 149) What is "net price," and what is a net price calculator?
- 150) Tell me 18 Reasons why a 529 plan is the best college savings vehicle.
- 151) What are the pros and cons of using a Roth IRA to pay for college?
- 152) Do schools give the same aid award to transfer students that they give to freshman applicants?
- 153) What is the role of college financial aid certified planners and paying for college?
- 154) What advice do you have if I want to appeal the aid award I/our child received?
- 155) Tell me 35 myths about the financial aid process.
- 156) How do I accept a Federal Student Loan?
- 157) What kinds of expenses can parents who have children in college potentially claim on their taxes?
- 158) How can I save thousands of dollars through exams and creative college programs?
- 159) What are the pros and cons of using a Home Equity Loan or a HELOC to help you to pay for college?
- 160) What can you tell me about the ROTC Scholarship?
- 161) What is "Affirmative Action for rich kids"?
- 162) How can I save money through online courses?

Section 5: Staying In and graduating

- 163) How can I save over \$100,000 more than most students who attend college?
- 164) Why is it so important to select the right friends in college?
- 165) Why is it so important to establish academic accountability?
- 166) What can you tell me about the power and value of affinity groups?
- 167) How can I tap into my campus's most valuable resources?
- 168) Why should I try to avoid changing colleges?
- 169) Why is it so important to utilize my advisor and their knowledge?
- 170) How can I avoid common financial pitfalls?
- 171) How can I develop the character to withstand life's storms?

Section 6: Recommended Resources

- Mark's most-recommended college admission books
- Mark's most-recommended college admission websites
- College Access Organizations for under-resourced students