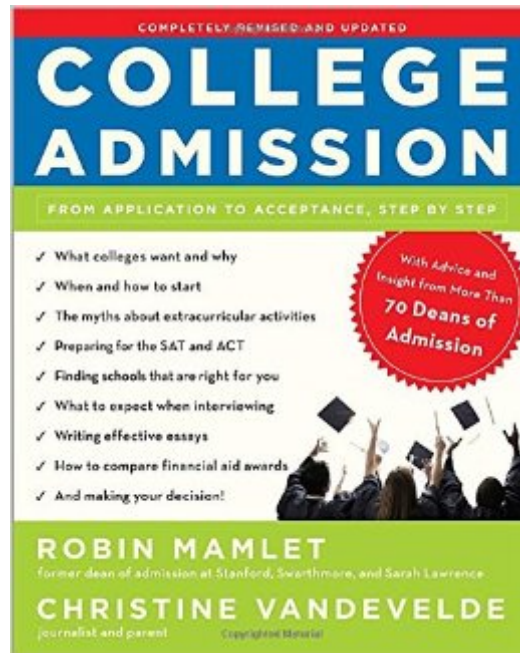


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# College Admission: From Application To Acceptance, Step By Step



## Synopsis

College Admission is the ultimate user's manual and go-to guide for any student or family approaching the college application process. Featuring the wise counsel of more than 50 deans of admission, no other guide has such thorough, expert, compassionate, and professional advice. Let's be honest: applying to college can be stressful for students and parents. But here's the good news: you can get in. Robin Mamlet has been dean of admission at three of America's most selective colleges, and journalist and parent Christine VanDeVelde has been through the process first hand. With this book, you will feel like you have both a dean of admission and a parent who has been there at your side. Inside this book, you'll find clear, comprehensive, and expert answers to all your questions along the way to an acceptance letter:

- The role of extracurricular activities
- What it means to find a college that's the "right fit"
- What's more important: high grades or tough courses
- What role does testing play
- The best candidates for early admission
- When help from parents is too much help
- Advice for athletes, artists, international students, and those with learning differences
- How wait lists work
- Applying for financial aid

This will be your definitive resource during the sophomore, junior, and senior years of high school.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Finally. A resource book about college admissions for students and parents that is current,

comprehensive, and accurate. What I like the best about College Admission is that it offers suggestions and guidance based on real knowledge about the process today--not what applying to college was like ten years ago. I also like that the authors have included wisdom from dozens of deans, financial aid administrators, and college counselors who do this work every day. That perspective makes a real difference. Every step of this guide is absolutely right on, and much of the info and advice here is exactly the same that I give parents and students. There are no secrets, no tricks--just up-front and honest information about how admissions works. When families understand admissions, then the application process is less threatening and less stressful. The chapters on testing and on financial aid are particularly useful. Each contains information that is terrifically useful and clearly outlined. Parents will appreciate the straightforward approach to both. The authors even include vocabulary that will help any student or parent gain a better insight to what they need to know. On testing, topics range from planning in the tenth-grade to considering test-optional schools. On financial aid, the scope covers everything from understanding how aid works to giving parents and students practical questions to ask. The authors even include several sample awards so that families can get an idea what it's like to compare offers and what to be sure to look for. Overall, College Admission is probably the best book of its kind that I've seen. It offers clear explanations, easy-to-follow steps, and thorough advice about what students and parents need to know from the first stage of the process right up to the very end. It's an excellent explanation of how admissions works, and I wish I had written it myself.

I was so grateful to have this book as my family went through the admissions process. It's coffee stained and dog-eared now. Having College Admissions around was truly a comfort. The whole family appreciated the step-by-step, non-hysterical approach. We loved the lay-out, the sidebars, the comments from college counselors and admissions officers. It was user-friendly, and we always found the advice excellent, easy to understand, and easy to follow. I especially appreciated some of the myth-busting, and also the outlook that there are some things you can control (like the essay--great chapter!) and that it doesn't help to worry about the things you can't. Sometimes we'd flip through pages, not so much because we needed to find some information, but just to lower the stress level.

As a current high school junior, it's sometimes frustrating and difficult to pull together all this information for colleges. And a lot of guidebooks are written for the middle 50% of the market, so students who want to apply to more selective or liberal arts schools are left out. And that's why I

recommend this book. Unlike other review books, this one gave advice on getting into all types of colleges. It differentiated admission advice for selective colleges (such as Harvard and Duke) vs. other colleges (such as state colleges). That's really helpful to me because I plan on applying to more selective schools and the generic info in guidebooks weren't cutting it for me. I thoroughly recommend this book because I definitely learned something new about the admission process in every page and it definitely gave me ideas on how to set up my applications. It gives a lot of good advice on how to make your activities and even the smallest hobbies application friendly. It goes into the most important parts of the application process based on the type of schools your applying to, financial aid, college visits, testing, transferring, making decisions once you're accepted, as well as providing charts and checklists to help guide you through the process. So from a current high school junior who is in the top 5% of her class, I can tell you that this book helps. This is the one guide that literally works for everybody. I plan on referring to it for the rest of the year as I plan my events and applications as well as through senior year as I make my decisions and sit through interviews. I may even leave it for my younger sister to use when her time comes. It's that helpful.

Some guides to looking for a college seem to want the reader to believe that the process is overwhelming and awful. This book makes the reader feel that both the process and the outcome can be a good experience -- for the student and for the family. The candid advice from Admission Deans at a wide variety of schools is a great feature of this book: these are the conversations parents and students wish they could have throughout the process. Robin Mamlet's savvy insight and Christine VanDevelde's informal and fact-packed writing add up to make this the "must have" guide.

We loved reading this book, and especially seeing the research about the importance of academic rigor and challenging high school coursework in college admissions. This is thoughtful material, presented to be actionable for students and families. There are answers to critically important issues -- like: should students opt for a more challenging class even if they think they will end up with a slightly lower GPA? This question is one that I've seen many of my students struggle with, not knowing that college admissions officers tend to prefer students who stretch for tougher coursework when they have the opportunity. Many times, people make these types of important decisions using intuition or hearsay. Why not go to the experts -- an experienced parent and an experienced admissions officer -- who have packaged major findings and tips together in one place for you to use? For this and other questions, they provide specific answers to help students achieve college

goals. Well done!

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