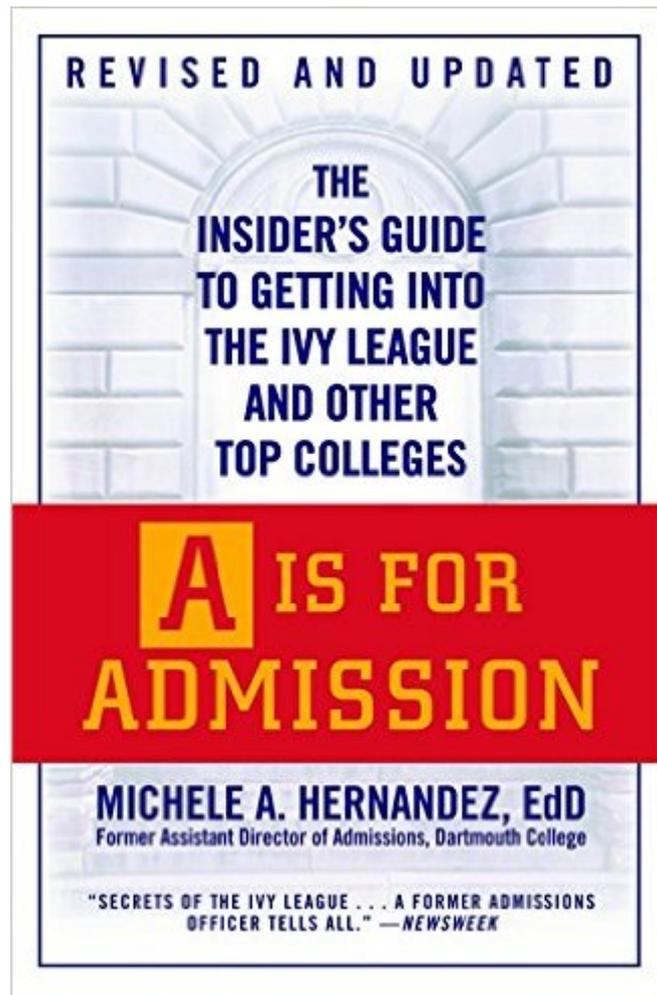


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A Is For Admission: The Insider's Guide To Getting Into The Ivy League And Other Top Colleges



Synopsis

A former admissions officer at Dartmouth College reveals how the world's most highly selective schools really make their decisions.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

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Customer Reviews

Hernandez doesn't coddle up to the reader. She doesn't give false hope, or outline strategies that may have worked for someone whose extreme luck got them on the waiting list for Princeton. No, she gives the cold reality, and explains to the reader quite descriptively the process in which a thousand students are selected from tens of thousands. The reason I say that it's more of a litmus test is that most readers go into this book thinking that ANYONE could follow the pages step by step, checking off each word of advice, and then finding a big, thick envelope waiting for them in their mailboxes with a thrilling offer of admission. They quickly learn, however, that not everyone is Ivy League material, at least at the age of 17-18. No one likes to hear that their child or they themselves are limited, but believe me, having gone through the college admission process, it's instrumental for one to have a clear understanding of what is doable and what isn't. Hernandez does an excellent job of describing what sort of student one is (or one has the capability of), and then shows that the obvious Ivy League-level kids stand a great chance of getting in, as is. She then describes little tricks and strategies for these kids to prepare their applications accordingly, what not to say in an interview, being one's self in the personal essay, and so forth. In other words, she shows the student how NOT to mess up their application. For those who aren't necessarily Ivy League bound but still very intelligent and hard working, the author gives advice on how to

maximize such a person's profile and luck so that the chance of getting noticed by an Ivy League admissions officer increases significantly, though not necessarily immensely.

My daughter and I had just attended our first college info session the weekend before purchasing this book. I could hear so much of what the admissions officer said echoed in this book but it wasn't until reading the book that I really understood what the admissions officer was saying. The book was like a rollercoaster ride - okay we're covered there; oops, we might be in trouble here; omg we definitely missed the boat on that one! Since reading the book we've attended 5 other college info sessions. 3 were private ivy colleges and 2 were "ivy type" public colleges. The most consistent messages - matching what was stated in the book - was that even more than the high scores on the SAT and ACT, the schools were looking for potential students who would bring something special to the table - a special inner drive that is such a part of their makeup that anyone describing them would likely touch on it. The admissions officers also touched on their quest for diversity in the student body although none actually admitted to flagging or coding the student files. I can see from many of the communications that we are receiving from these schools (among others) that they are indeed targeting specific audiences in their diversity recruiting efforts. With regards to how the applications are reviewed by assigned officers first and then either accepted right off the bat or put forward to a committee for further evaluation and consideration - most of the schools did acknowledge that process. Most of them did actually review physical files. Interestingly enough, UC Berkeley strives to be fully electronic. They do not want paper of any type.

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