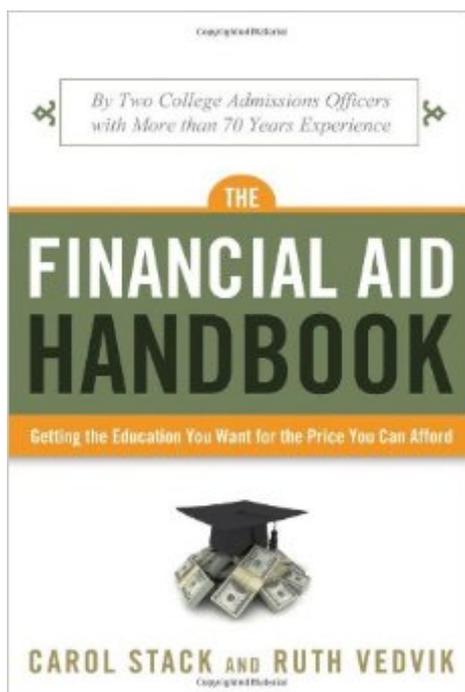


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# The Financial Aid Handbook: Getting The Education You Want For The Price You Can Afford



## Synopsis

In today's tough economy, a college degree is more important--and more expensive--than ever before. The Financial Aid Handbook is the definitive, one-stop guide to the college selection and payment process, covering everything from basic timelines and tuition costs to predicting your scholarship award from colleges and taking ownership of student debt after graduation. Families and students will appreciate the straightforward language, engaging explanations, and hundreds of tips to maximize their financial aid--the scholarship funds that come from the colleges themselves. No other book on the market teaches students and parents how to find real, four-year scholarships...and how to land them. The Financial Aid Handbook is the only book families will need to find the "right college at the right price. The Financial Aid Handbook includes: The seven biggest myths about paying for college The ultimate guide to federal, state, and private student loans A step-by-step guide to completing the FAFSA and PROFILE How to predict scholarship dollars with the Merit Aid Profile, or MAP Profiles of selected schools with exceptional merit aid How to negotiate with the financial aid office.

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## Customer Reviews

Experience counts in a game with so many variables, and authors: Carol Stack and Ruth Vedvik have 70 years combined experience in the college admissions and financial aid fields. They've written a book that helps both parents and students to understand both the pieces and the totality of college admission and paying for it once you get in. The book is 'new' in the sense that unlike some other handbooks the authors encourage college bound students and their parents to focus their college search on schools that 'will fund you' to go to their school. Even better, they show you how

to do that! In planning for filling out the FAFSA (for potential federal financial aid and low interest loans) and the CSS (a much longer, detailed form required by some private colleges to assist them in dispersing their funds), I was looking for a book to give me a baseline understanding of the process and provide honest advice regarding the process. Upon opening this book I was thrilled to find it was exactly what I'd hoped it would be - very helpful! The book covers several topics related to admission and paying for college, but obviously (from the title...) it's mainly about paying for college and the process of how to get financial aid. The authors talk about the myths related to applying for aid, terminology related to forms, how much a family can expect to be responsible for (EFC - Estimated Family Contribution), merit awards, picking a college based upon cost, debt after college, comparing colleges, ratings and rankings of colleges, and having a plan 'b' when your first choice doesn't work out. The book isn't on the most titillating of subjects, but it's fun to read. The authors write with a friendly tone, using humor when possible to bring home valuable points.

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