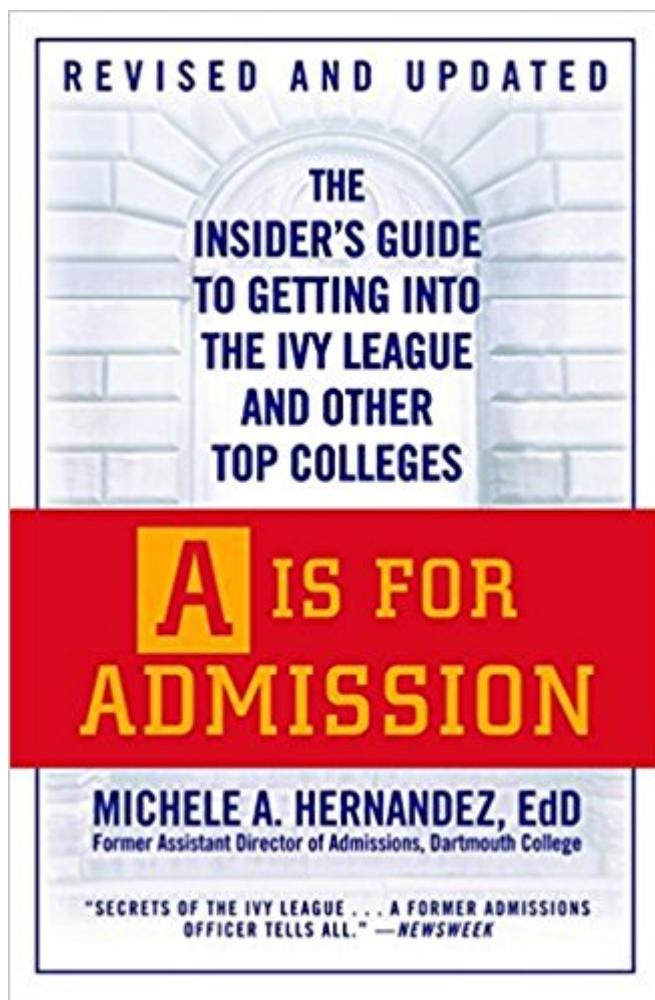


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# A Is For Admission: The Insider's Guide To Getting Into The Ivy League And Other Top Colleges



## **Synopsis**

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

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Who gets in and why". -- Chronicle of Higher Education

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, THE COMPLETE, INSIDE STORY FROM AN ACTUAL IVY LEAGUE ADMISSIONS OFFICERFor generations, the admissions process of the Ivy League schools has been cloaked in mystery and myth. Now Michele A. Hernandez, a former admissions officer at Dartmouth College, finally breaks the ancient code of silence to reveal how the world's most highly selective schools really make their decisions. With absolute candor, she tells you all the hard truths, how officials factor in every extenuating circumstance, and, most important, how to make this complex, high-stakes system work for you. Thorough, direct, and written for results, *A IS FOR ADMISSION* answers the questions asked by countless students: -- What do admissions officers look for and what turns them off?-- How are test scores and grades truly evaluated?-- Does applying for early decision hurt or help you get into the college of your choice?-- How can you improve the odds of acceptance? ...and much more.

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. Anyway, this book was a fast read and definitely helped me to decipher what the admissions officers were really saying and helped in determining how my daughter needs to present herself in Essays and such. Too late for the extra-curricular boost but she's exhibited the love of learning that they look for in the transcripts. This book is a must read - preferably while your student is in 9th grade - but still provides some last chance advice if you're just stepping into the reality of college admissions as a rising senior.

Bought this for my 11 year old sister. She told me she now has a plan and knows what she needs to do to get into MIT! We'll see what happens in 6 years!

This was a gift to friend going to college and she loves it.

very informed, well written, right to the point. Updated version contains latest info

I found the book to be informative, but dated (12 years old as of this review). I have to believe that many of the admissions office "lifers" that the author occasionally describes in not-so-admiring terms have either moved on or had their eyes opened to the need to attract the best of the best. The

information on the Common Application may have been accurate 12 years ago, but is wrong now: all of the highly selective schools now accept them, along with a school-specific supplement. An earlier reviewer mentioned that the acceptance rates shown are way too high. I also suspect that admissions evaluation procedures may have changed somewhat since the advent of online applications and ubiquitous computerization. I guess the bottom line is: there are gems to be mined in this book, but don't use it as your only source of information.

I checked online through several college sites to find a book that gives a concise, informative review of the admissions process. This is the title that kept coming up. "A is for Admission" has the details that flesh out the generalized articles in annual editions of U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges". Now the system actually makes sense to me, and the book is an easy read. My son just signed up for 9th grade and I wondered if I was starting too early, but after reading the book I believe middle school is the best time to start. The way I see it--our kids tell us their goals and we give them the support they need to reach those goals. This book helped me as a parent to better understand how to support my son. I would love to see a book of this quality that described the admission procedures at California's top universities and colleges.

Very interesting read...If you're at all curious about the college application process at the Ivy level, especially as it relates to Asians, then you'll appreciate the author's as she tells it like it is. Much appreciated, Dr. Hernandez.

Hopefully the things I learned from this book will help me navigate the confusing college admissions process. Hernandez wrote in a very readable style while still providing a lot of great information.

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