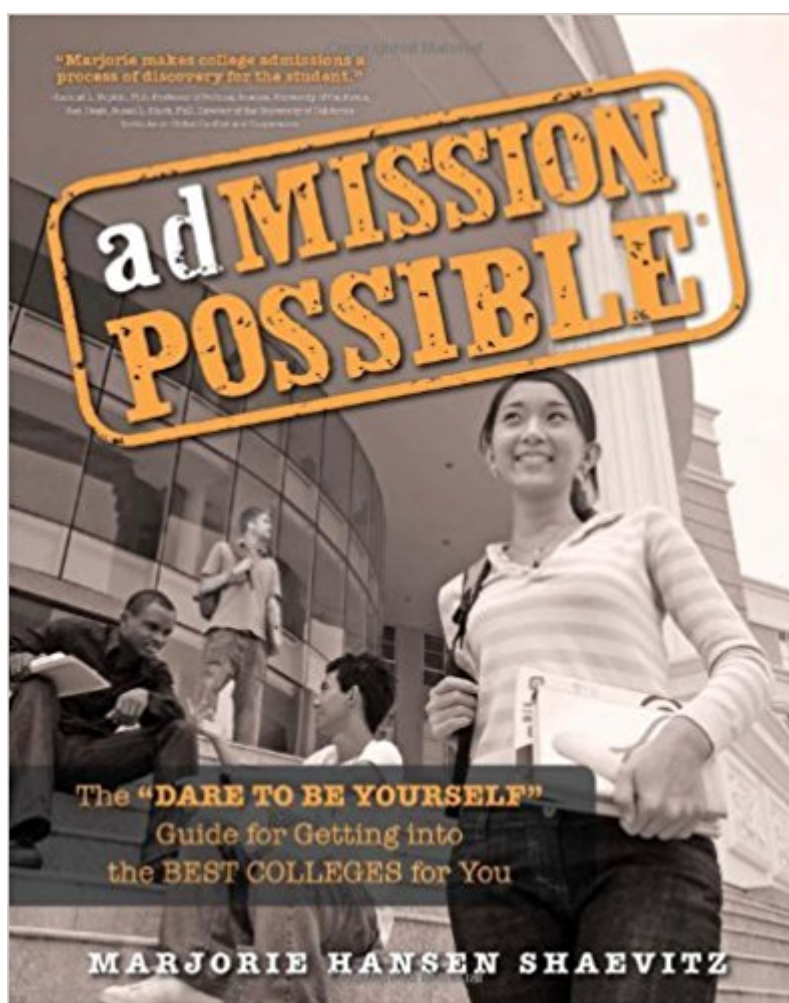


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AdMISSION POSSIBLE: The "Dare To Be Yourself" Guide For Getting Into The Best Colleges For You



Synopsis

When It Comes to College Admissions, Dare to Be Yourself Applying to college isn't just about your GPA, test scores, or how many activities you've done. It's about finding colleges that fit you as a student and a person. And the secret is: that's what the colleges want as well.

adMISSIONPOSSIBLE is not your ordinary admission guide-this book is designed to help you be just a little bit different, just a little bit better, than everyone else by focusing on who you are and what you love. adMISSION POSSIBLE takes the stress out of the admission process by providing you with the most useful hands-on advice on everything you need to know and do to make the application process go smoothly-a step-by-step action plan, filled with worksheets, charts, resume and essay samples, questions, directions, and timelines. Along the way you'll discover how to make yourself shine with: • Extracurricular activities that show your passions, know-how, leadership, and/or resourcefulness • Admissions essays based on insights and unique, down-to-earth personal stories • High school counselor and teacher recommendations that are "over the top" • An Activities Résumé that helps colleges and recommenders really know you

"Wonderfully comprehensive...extraordinarily accurate in a field with a million small details that can change abruptly." • Jon Reider, Former Senior Associate Director of Admission, Stanford University (1985-2000), Director of College Counseling, San Francisco University High School "Majorie makes college admissions a process of discovery for the student and leaves them happy about where they are going instead of unhappy about where they are not going." • Samuel L. Popkin, PhD, Professor of Political Science, University of California, San Diego, Susan L. Shirk, PhD, Director of the University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation

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Customer Reviews

"Shaevitz's suggestions and advice could prove invaluable for students and parents involved in the college-admissions process." - School Library Journal
"A step-by-step guide to the application process, including worksheets and resume and essay samples." - The Chronicle of Higher Education
"Having this book is like having your own private college admissions counselor to walk you through every little step." - The Chicago-Tribune
"The great thing about this resource is that it takes a process that is daunting for all involved and breaks it down, organizing it into manageable chunks... This reference guide will make an excellent purchase for individual students, parents of high school students, school counseling offices, and public and high school libraries. It is highly recommended." - VOYA
"Right on target... Unlike other books, this title doesn't just describe college admissions, it shows students exactly what to say and do during every step of the process." - Library Media Connection
"Chock-full of user-friendly and student-centered advice on extracurricular activities, admission essays, letters of recommendation, test taking, and everything else students and parents need to know about the admissions process, this is the guide a motivated high school freshman will want to own." - School Library Journal

Introduction: Who am I to be telling you what to do? I never intended to be a college admissions coach, develop a website, or write a book about college admissions. That all these have taken place is one of those delightful, unforeseen eventualities that sometimes occur in life. I have worked at a number of universities including Stanford University and the East West Center at the University of Hawaii. Some years ago, I created a Re-entry Program for adults at University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Over the years, I counseled many adults about going back to school, and often ended up helping their children with college admissions. Most of my professional life has been spent working as a marriage and family therapist and executive coach with women (and some men), trying to bring some sanity and healthy living practices to their lives. Then a very predictable life event presented itself: my two children entered high school and the buzz about college admissions began leaking into our lives. I wasn't overly concerned about the children's college prospects. They were both very good students and attended a school that had a college counselor who focused on helping students with the admissions process. However, my sense of calm slowly eroded as I began to see that my children were not getting the information and support they needed. Among

other things, the school did not alert my son to sign up for the appropriate subject test after he had completed an AP History class. As it happens, he scored a 5 on the AP test, but by not signing up for the related Subject Test he lost a wonderful opportunity. Another worry was the school outwardly discouraging students from preparing for the SAT I test. Finally, the straw that broke the camel's back occurred when my children, as a sophomore and a junior, began asking questions about college admissions and the college counselor brushed them off by saying that it was much too early to start thinking about such things. I decided that I was going to cut through all the myths and folklore about college admissions to find out "the truth" about what really happens and what counts. To do so, I read every book written on the subject. I also called many of my admissions friends to get "the skinny" on what was important and not. In the end, I assisted my children in developing college lists that matched their needs and interests, and helped them figure out how to make their applications stand out from those of other applicants. Both were admitted to many different colleges and for their own very different reasons each chose Stanford University for their undergraduate education. Once they were settled in college, I thought my admissions work was done. However, something very interesting happened. Because of the children's success, my best friend asked me to help her son with his college applications. I couldn't turn her down. Once her son was admitted to Princeton, she then told many of her other friends to get my help with their children's college admissions. Within a year of my children leaving for college, my phone began to ring off the hook with pleas from parents asking for assistance. Soon those phone calls were not just from San Diego where I live, but also from Los Angeles, San Francisco, the East Coast, Pacific Northwest, Mexico City, Tel Aviv, London, Stockholm, Tokyo, and even cities in China and India. I never dreamed that college admissions coaching would become a full-time job; never once have I advertised or marketed the service. To this day, adMISSION POSSIBLE is totally a word-of-mouth business. I can't keep up with the demand. Who would have thought that helping my children with their college applications would someday evolve into a successful global business, including a coaching service, website, and a series of books and other products. Because I can't see all the students who want my counsel, and also because there are many people who cannot afford to pay the fees for an independent counselor, I decided that writing a book about college admissions (and developing a website that offers free information and advice) would be a good way to broaden the base of people whom I could help, as well as level the playing field for those who need admissions information, but lack the financial resources to pay for it. So who am I to be writing a book about college admissions? I bring the following background, experiences, and biases to this work: •First, I have worked as an admissions counselor for many, many years now, and have coached thousands

of students. I consider myself a student advocate. Rather than feel beaten up by the admissions process, my clients feel in control, gain major life skills, and develop confidence in themselves. The students with whom I have worked have been very successful in finding colleges that match their academic backgrounds, as well as their personal needs, wants, and desires. More importantly, they have gained acceptance to the likes of Amherst, Arizona, Babson, Bard, Bowdoin, Brown, Colorado, Cornell, Dartmouth, Duke, Emory, Georgetown, George Washington, Hampshire College, Harvard, Indiana, Loyola Marymount, MIT, Miami of Ohio, Miami, Michigan, Middlebury, NYU, Northwestern, Penn, Pomona College, Princeton, Santa Clara, Sarah Lawrence, Scripps College, Smith, SMU, Stanford, USC, University of San Diego, Vassar, Wake Forest, Washington University, Williams, Yale, the UCs, and many other colleges. adMISSION POSSIBLE provides readers with examples of what these successful applicants have done, written, and said. It is also filled with important life-management skills such as decision-making, problem solving, and interviewing techniques, as well as creating an Activities R  sum  .

  Second, as a trained marriage and family therapist, I am determined to bring some sanity and calm to this predictably challenging time in a child's and a family's life. It is my hope that in reading this book, students and parents will become informed about admissions, organized, and strategic, thus avoiding the trauma that many people experience during the college admissions process. Even more, I want to redefine the admissions arena so that rather than having it be such a negative event, college admissions becomes a positive one that helps students figure out who they are and what they want to be and do in life.

  Third, as a frequent buyer and reader of admissions books, I have been struck by how difficult it is to find the information I want. To begin with, while most of the current books have a table of contents, often the chapter headings and sub-headings are so obtuse I don't have a clue as to what is in them. Even more frustrating is the fact that many current books don't have indices. That means I have to read an entire book to see if it contains anything that might answer my questions. Therefore, in writing this book I have tried to be extra-sensitive to the need for readers to find and return to information they deem useful or important.

  Finally, I am a concerned parent who is alarmed about the feeding frenzy that has developed around college admissions. Having successfully gone through the process with my own children, I know what it's like to experience the pressures and frustrations that occur from beginning to end. I have great empathy for anyone involved with applying to colleges. I want to make things easier for you. What this book represents is all the information and material I wish that I had possessed when I was helping my own kids.

I have two grandchildren starting high school and recently gave each of them the adMission

Possible book. They, and their parents, have been reading it and are finding the suggestions for each high school year very helpful. Lists are already being made! This book is well-organized with practical advice and information. The adMission Possible Tips, Questions and Answers, Definitions, and Little Known Fact sections are very helpful throughout the book. I have been recommending to my friends that they give adMission Possible to their grandchildren. I wish I had this book available to use when my children went through the college admissions process. Thank you to Marjorie Hansen Shaevitz for making it possible for my grandchildren to receive the benefit of this exceptional college admissions resource.

Simply chock-full of useful information! A great guide for wherever you are in the college search and application process. Wish we had had it when our high school junior was in middle school but am thankful we have it now and to use as our younger teens begin their own college searches. This book and accompanying online information are must-haves for students and parents.

I agree with other reviewers - this is helpful even if printed 4 years ago. It is realistic about the situation of applying to colleges these days - very different when I was in high school. also really liked The secrets of picking a college that was printed last year. Both are excellent in different ways.

I first checked this out from the public library and found it so readable and full of good, relevant, user-friendly information in a clean and logical format that buying it was a no-brainer. If you are trying to navigate the college admissions maze, this is a good start.

Clear directions are given in a way that my high schooler can absorb and understand. It is best to engage your student early in the process so that tactical corrections can be made. We bought this book to better prepare our third child entering college and this book is helping him see the importance of grades, standardized testing, volunteer and leadership activities. It also will be helpful to make him think about what college to attend. Highly recommended.

Applying to colleges was daunting forty years ago when I was a high school senior. Today, the process and standards are even more challenging. Marjorie Hansen Shaevitz's book provides a comprehensive view of what is required for today's young adult to: 1) find a good FIT (the first important step), 2) access/apply, 3) successfully enter their college of choice. I am going to start giving this valuable guide to students as they enter high school so they can begin discovering their

unique qualities, begin shaping their future qualifications and begin making some of the most important choices of their young lives.

I'm so glad that this book is now available in paperback. It is an excellent resource (and a great gift) for anyone starting the arduous and often confusing journey of preparing to apply for college in the U.S. It's packed with information that you won't find in one place anywhere else and is the result of years of research and familiarity with the college admissions process. My daughters benefited greatly from Marjorie's information during their college admission process - now I'm giving this as a gift to my nieces and nephew. M. Lau

The book is a bit scary at first, since it appears to be aimed at ivy league bound students. Once you get past that, there is all kinds of useful advice for any college applicant. It covers the entire process - Admissions tests, researching schools, completing applications, visiting schools, and making your final selection.

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