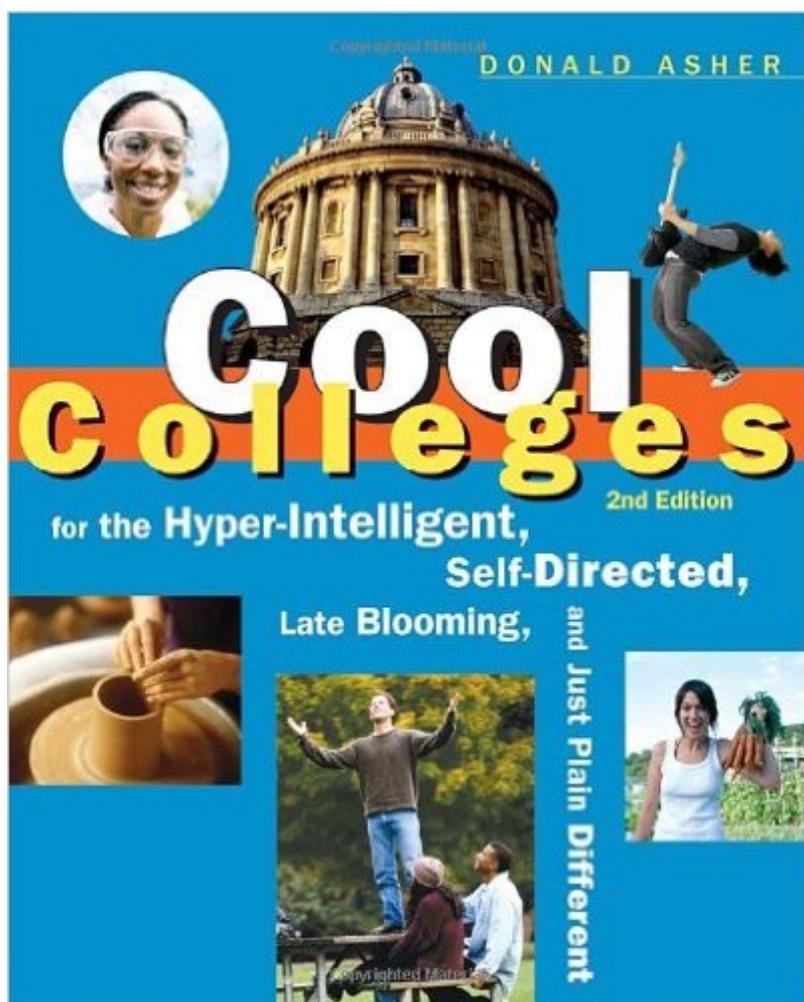


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# Cool Colleges: For The Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, And Just Plain Different (Cool Colleges: For The Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, & Just Plain Different)





## Synopsis

Fully revised since the first edition, COOL COLLEGES covers the most exciting schools in the U.S. and Canada, with a new chapter on eco schools, an update on tuition-free schools, and the total low-down on the so-called top-ranked schools. Are you hyper-intelligent? Self-directed? A late-bloomer? Or just different? Then you need a great school that will challenge, nurture, inspire, and motivate you-and COOL COLLEGES has got 'em. It will also give you the scoop on: What the Ivy league is and what it really wants Totally free schools, including one where financial need is a requirement for admission Universities that don't give grades Schools that don't want your SAT scores Data on the highest (and lowest) paying majors The schools that graduate the most millionaires Men's, women's, and minority-focused colleges Schools where you can design your own degree program A college where you can hike and camp your way to a degree A college that runs its own ranch on an 80-square-mile campus Science and engineering schools where undergrads get their own labs The most competitive colleges, including one that rejects 95% of applicants Campuses where students love to study, even on Saturday nights Schools that offer programs in computer game studies, comedy, auctioneering, special-effects makeup, and more Plus a link to the Web addresses for every college and university in the United States and Canada. COOL COLLEGES is the resource for finding your dream school-and gives you the edge you'll need to get accepted. *Reviews* "Worth a look, if you're headed for college or getting ready to apply." -San Diego Union Tribune received a used copy of your book, Cool Colleges (2nd Edition) in the mail this morning and (admittedly) out of vague interest and the slight boredom that comes with not having a driver's license, I picked it up and went about my usual hole-up-in-my-bedroom-with-new-book-and-blinds-down-and-stay-holed-until-I-have-finished-the-text-in-it's-entirety routine. The purpose of this message is to express my nearly inexpressible gratitude to you and your associates in research. I have read life-changing books, articles, and speeches but I have never, not once, been so deeply affected by a work of this type: A guidebook? I have perused U.S. News & World Report's 2007 College Guide and the Newsweek/Kaplan 2007 College Guide, each with their individual talents and faults, but your book was different. For once I felt like the book was directed to students such as myself. I'm not an athlete and I'm no academic superstar: at my school, that's what it takes to be a favorite. I am just another mediocre teenager in millions who wants to save the world. Your book made me feel, for once, as though someone was looking at those of us hanging by our fingernails on the edge of being completely lost in our distinction. I love to learn for the sake of learning and not because I'm aiming for any star-studded diplomas or accreditations, but because there is so much to learn. Your book not only allowed me to

see that there were other "Lost Kids" (that's what my guidance counselor called me) but further that there were places trying to find us because we aren't as lost as some of our superiors like to think. Again Sir, thank you for all your work. It has not gone unnoticed nor was it in vain. If nothing else, you made at least one girl's life (and future) a little brighter. -Carina, 17St. Petersburg, FL

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

My daughter is starting the process of looking at colleges, so I am in the process of obtaining information about various colleges. As a somewhat unusual teen, with unusual tastes, I am particularly looking for colleges that are unique or off beat. While this book does have some good information, it was difficult to find due to the incredibly poor layout. It was more like reading a catalog than a book about schools. In addition, while many kids may not know about these schools, many others may. My daughter has been contacted by almost all of the colleges in the book that would interest her. How? By filling out the ACT and SAT questionnaires and letting the colleges that matched her desires find her. My recommendation would be to check this out of the library or the guidance office and see if it might help you. If so, go ahead and buy it.

I was all set to send myself to a small elite liberal arts college (and send my parents into a considerable amount of debt!), but this book made me think twice. Six years after I made the choice to attend one of the super-cool (and significantly cheaper) niche programs recommended by Asher,

I have nothing but positive things to say about my undergraduate experience. The quality of my education was comparable to that of my friends who went to elite schools, but my satisfaction with my overall college experience far exceeds theirs.

... this book is actually rather difficult to read. Its layout is exceedingly non-linear, and tended to make me cross-eyed. I joke not. The book was hard to read. In addition to the layout, the writing is mediocre and tends toward overstatement. The colleges themselves are undoubtedly worthy, but the book is little more than a wildly overgrown listing of the colleges. So, my advice is to **GET THIS BOOK FROM THE LIBRARY BEFORE PURCHASE**. If you like it, then buy it. Personally, I think it is not worth purchasing but is worth a look (your eyes can take it for at least a few minutes). The book does list some very interesting colleges which will get you thinking that there really is a wide variety of colleges out there, and that you are not limited to attending Huge State University nor the University of Elitists. You really can, by searching high and low, find a college which you will enjoy attending. Also take a look at **COLLEGES THAT CHANGE LIVES** by Loren Pope.

While Asher's advice and opinion may seem a bit heavy-handed or biased to some, he does provide a unique perspective about the college experience, from admissions all the way to post-graduation. The author went beyond the usual "K.Y.O.O.T." principle (Keep Your Options Open, Tiger) and described some pretty unique individual schools and programs. Most notably, he gives mention to the Robert E. Cook Honors College, a program about which people in some higher-level institutions are beginning to speak with respect and admiration. I would recommend this book to any college-bound student who may want to look beyond the usual horizons and try something different.

When I was looking into colleges, it would have been invaluable to have Cool Colleges to help me find the college that was right for me. Luckily, I stumbled upon one of the many colleges included in this book on a "college search road trip" with my parents. Asher does a great job describing colleges around the country that appeal to the "hyper-intelligent, self-directed, late blooming, and just plain different" students looking for a college to go to that will fit their unique personalities. This book paints a picture through interviews, lists, and essays of college life at each institution. You are sure to find a college in this book that is uniquely you.

The layout of the book will leave you bug eyed. It is extremely difficult to read. There are things

written along the sides and the bottom. I wasn't sure where the page began and ended. There is absolutely nothing in there about "cool" colleges. You will find an entire chapter devoted to Ivy League schools. What a revelation that will be! There was also a review of a "college" for high school students and then 3 pages listing all the colleges that those students were accepted at. Three pages!!! Seriously?? I wish I could give it a 0 star rating. They should be happy I gave them a 1 star. Save your money. There are way better books out there.

Unlike many pretentious books designed to assist in choosing a college, this one is both a great read as well as helpful. Asher presents a very down-to-earth perspective of many of the colleges, making them seem like real institutions of learning, rather than just a great name. And, there is something for every college-bound student in this book. The formatting of this text is interesting and fun and the notes along the pages contain some great tips and ideas without being overly "busy." If you are serious about choosing a college that's a right fit for you, I would definitely recommend this book.

Gives lists of many, many colleges and very basic information. Only a few colleges get a page or two. There are many more books out there that give you more info. With a bit of research I was actually able to get more info off of the internet free.

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