

The
Princeton
Review®

Finding Best Fit Colleges

Commack High School
College Knowledge Night

Rob Franek, Editor-in-Chief
The Princeton Review
Instagram: [*robfranek_higher_ed*](https://www.instagram.com/robfranek_higher_ed)
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Contact Info



Rob Franek

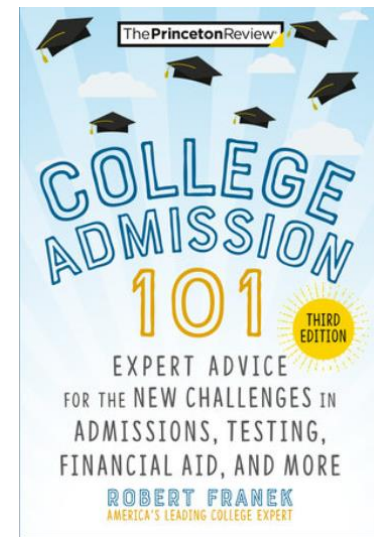
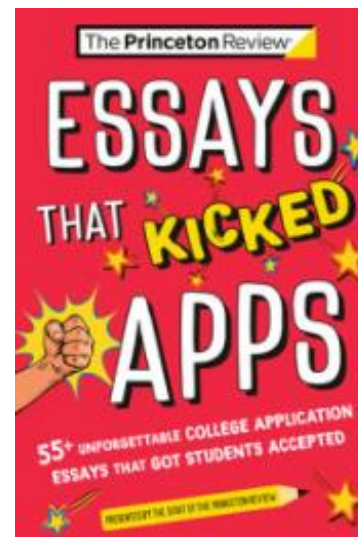
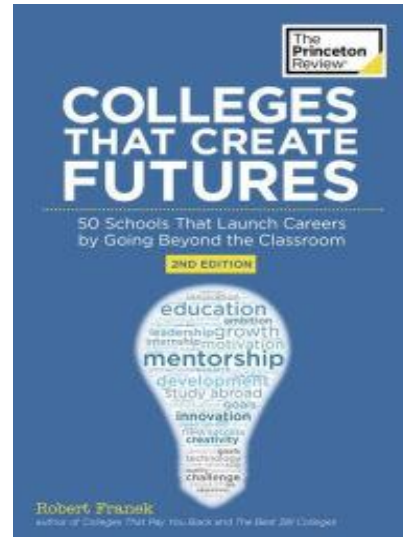
Editor-in-Chief

Author, *The Best 389 Colleges*, *College Admission 101*, *Colleges That Create Futures*

Robert.Franek@review.com

Instagram: [robfranek_higher_ed](https://www.instagram.com/robfranek_higher_ed)

LinkedIn: Robert Franek



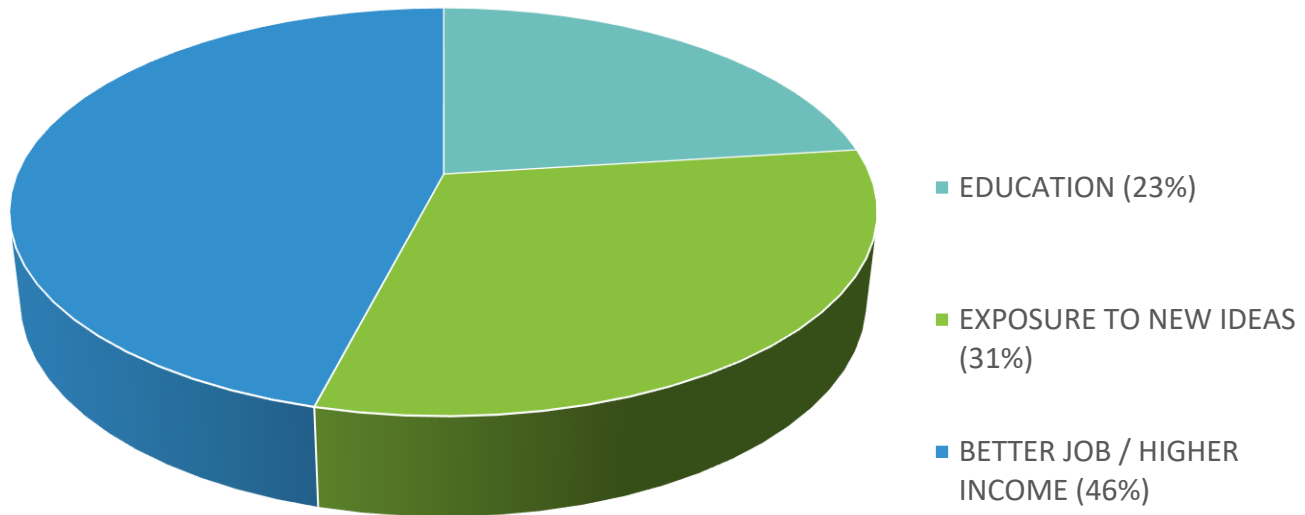
Question:

Is college worth it?

REAL deciding factors

Is college worth it? Students say: YES

- 99% of students and parents view college as worth their investment.
- 46% of respondents chose “better job and higher income”



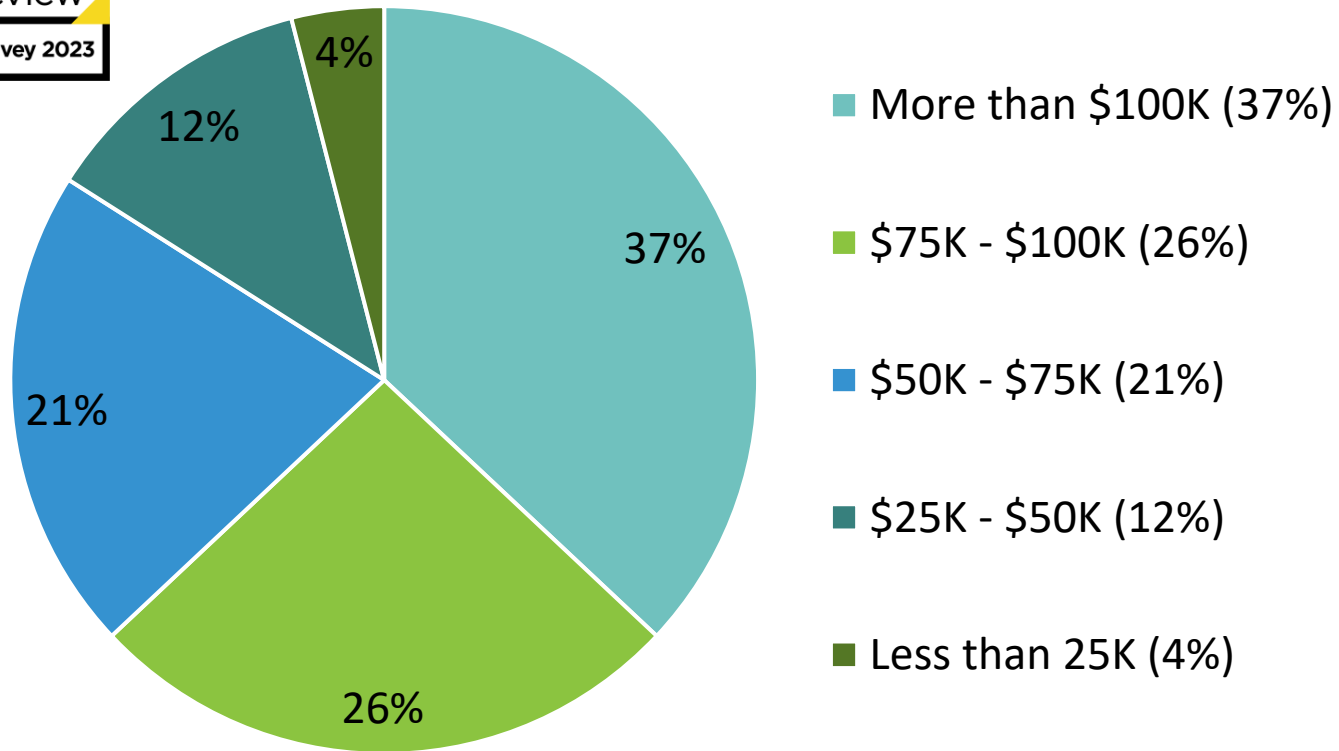
Question:

What's the biggest fear students and their families have around college?

Student & parent worries: Paying for college



What do you think a four-year degree for you (or your child) will cost? (Overall response)



Average cost of college

Total cost of attendance:

- One year at a public college? \$23,250
- One year at a private college? \$53,430

Average student debt at graduation:

- Student debt load for public and private colleges? \$29,400

U.S. Education Debt

- Total Student Debt Outstanding? \$1.7 Trillion

Question:

**Isn't there one best fit school
for everyone?**

Question:

Isn't there one best fit school
for everyone?

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Dream Colleges

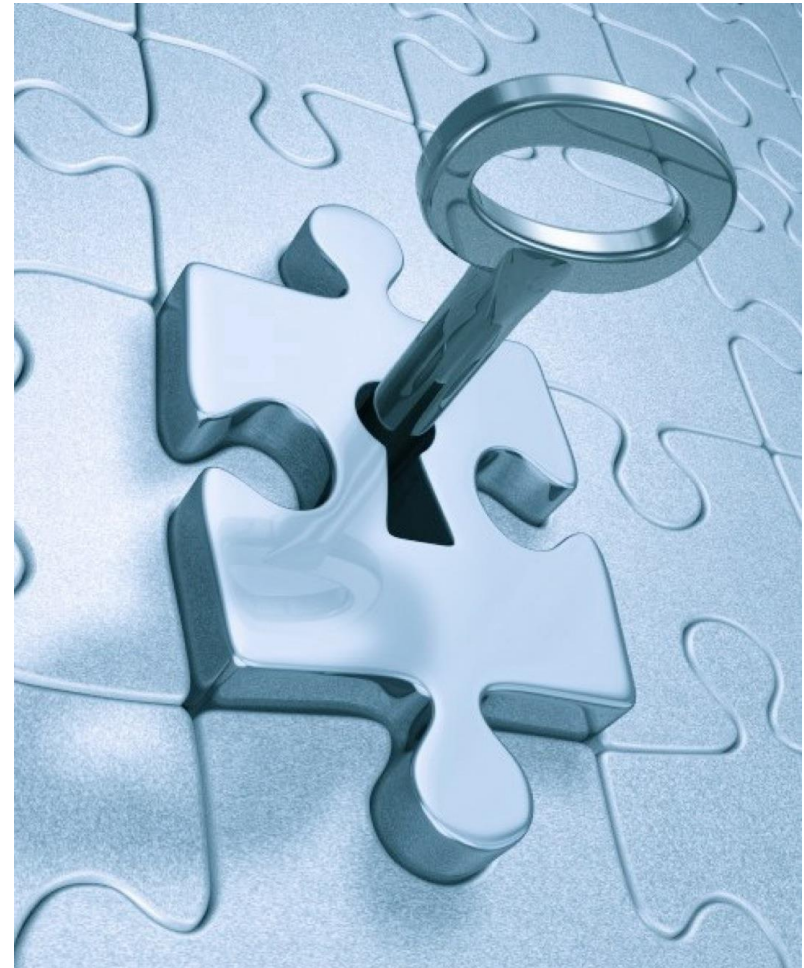
What "dream" college do you wish you (your child) could attend if acceptance and/or cost were not issues?

<u>Students</u>		<u>Parents</u>	
1	MIT	1	Princeton
2	Stanford	2	Harvard
3	Harvard	3	Stanford

Defining Best Fit schools

The Essentials:

- **Academic Fit**
- **Campus Culture Fit**
- **Financial Fit**
- **Career Services Fit**



Finding Best Fit



Most popular ranking lists

- Great Financial Aid – Wash U St. Louis
- Great Professors – Sarah Lawrence
- Great Campus Food – U Massachusetts, Amherst
- Happiest Students – Virginia Tech

31st edition – 50 top 25 ranking lists:

- Nine million student surveys
- Student relay their on-campus experiences
 - DEMOGRAPHICS
 - EXTRACURRICULARS
 - POLITICS
 - QUALITY OF LIFE
 - TOWN LIFE

Question:

If a school is test optional should I still submit my scores?

2023 college administrator survey

- Polled administrators at 300+ colleges nationwide
 - Enrollment forecasts
 - SAT / ACT testing policies
 - AP, IB and dual enrollment
 - Diversity, equity and inclusion programs

- SAT / ACT testing policies:
 - Fall 2023: 89% of respondents overall said **test optional** (but considered scores)
 - 10% said **test blind** or **test free**
 - 1% said **required** test scores

 - Fall 2024: 84% of respondents overall said **test optional** (but considered scores)
 - 10% said **test blind** or **test free**
 - 3% said **required** test scores
 - 3% said have not decided on policy

Test optional – what schools say



Permanently Test-Optional Admissions

“The policy to remove the requirement of submitting SAT or ACT scores will allow admission officers to identify and advocate for students with a strong academic profile who may have previously been viewed as less competitive, based on their performance on a single exam.”

Test optional – what schools say



Test-Optional Admissions Pilot

“We believe this policy provides students with maximum flexibility.... If applicants would like us to consider their exam results as one component of their candidacy, we will do so in a nuanced and contextual way. If students choose not to submit exam results, we will evaluate their candidacy in a nuanced and contextual way without scores.”

Test optional – what schools say



Cornell University®

One-Year (now four) Temporary Test-Optional Admissions

“..we anticipate that many students who will have had reasonable and uninterrupted opportunities to take the ACT and/or SAT will continue to submit results, and those results will continue to demonstrate preparation for college-level work.”

Question:

Will schools reinstate their SAT / ACT requirements?

Question:

What does the Supreme Court's ruling striking down affirmative action mean in college admissions going forward?

Supreme Court ruling – Affirmative Action

Ruling summary

- Colleges & universities may no longer consider race in admission decisions
- College essays may be used to note personal stories (including diversity)

College Administrators Survey

- 95% said race conscious admissions should have been sustained
- Will the ruling impact their ability to enroll diverse classes of students?
 - 53% said it won't
 - 43% said it will
 - 4% said they do not have such enrollment objectives
- Among the 43% of respondents believing the ruling will impact their enrollment objectives
 - 63% of them said their institution has plans in place to mitigate the impact
 - 36% said their school will develop plans to do this
 - 1% said such plans do not exist and are not being considered by their institutions.

Question:

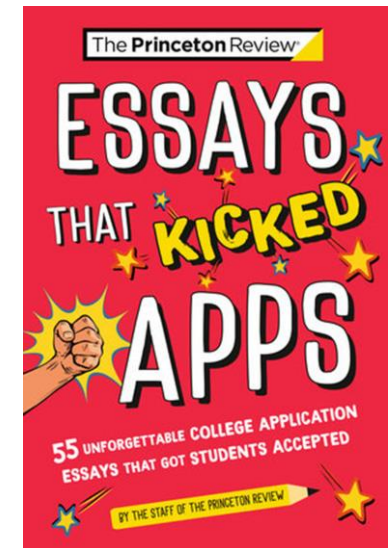
How important is your college essay in admission decisions?

Your character / your story:

- Your essays show something special in your application
- What makes you different from other applicants?
- Tied with extracurricular activities as the third most important piece of your college application

Why you need to stand out:

SCHOOL	APPLICANTS	STUDENTS
Florida State University	65,214	33,593
Harvard College	57,066	7,153
New York University	95,517	28,831
Pepperdine University	11,855	3,708
UC—Berkeley	109,597	32,143
University of Chicago	37,958	7,526
University of Notre Dame	23,642	8,973
Wellesley College	7,665	2,461



AI College Admissions Essay Counseling

Essay resources:

- AI College Essay Review – AI hub – www.princetonreview.com
- Essays That Kicked Apps

Question:

Why did the SAT become digital and will it be easier or harder than the current pencil and paper test?

NEW digital SAT

- College Board announces new digital SAT in January 2022
 - Rollout:
 - International student: Spring 2023
 - PSAT: Fall 2023
 - SAT (U.S. students): March 2024

- Changes you'll see
 - SAT will move from a three-hour exam to two-hour exam
 - New exam will be adaptive
 - Testing fatigue addressed
 - Reading sections will be simplified
 - Calculators may be used for all math questions
 - All SAT will be administered from a test center or in-school SATs
 - Student may bring their own computers / tablets or use those provided
 - Scores back in days versus weeks

- Reactions:
 - Rise in ACT tests
 - Scrambling to take current version of the SAT
 - College Board's SAT fights for relevancy and modernizes

Question:

What is demonstrated interest and how is it important to the college process?

Question 10:

Will I be penalized if a school sees that I took the SAT / ACT multiple times?

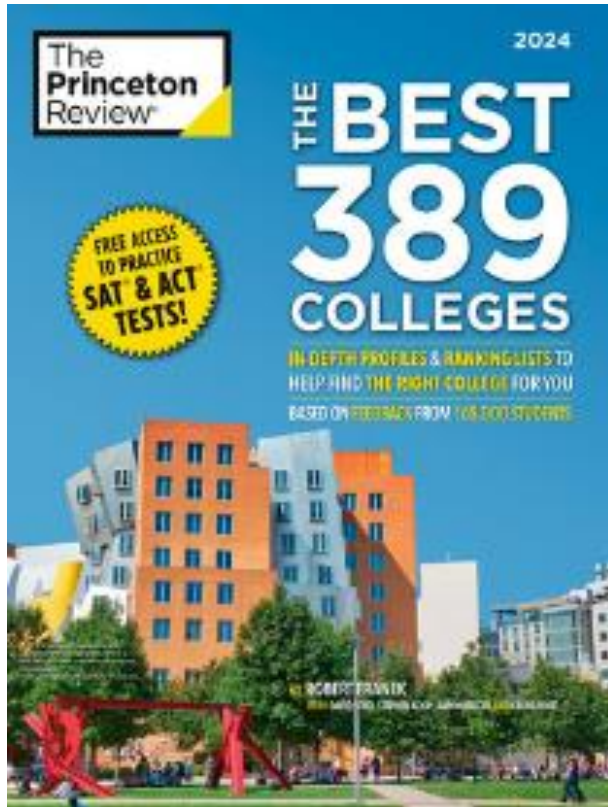
Question 12:

How do I look for scholarships?

Question:

How important is fit (really) in choosing a school?

Finding Best Fit



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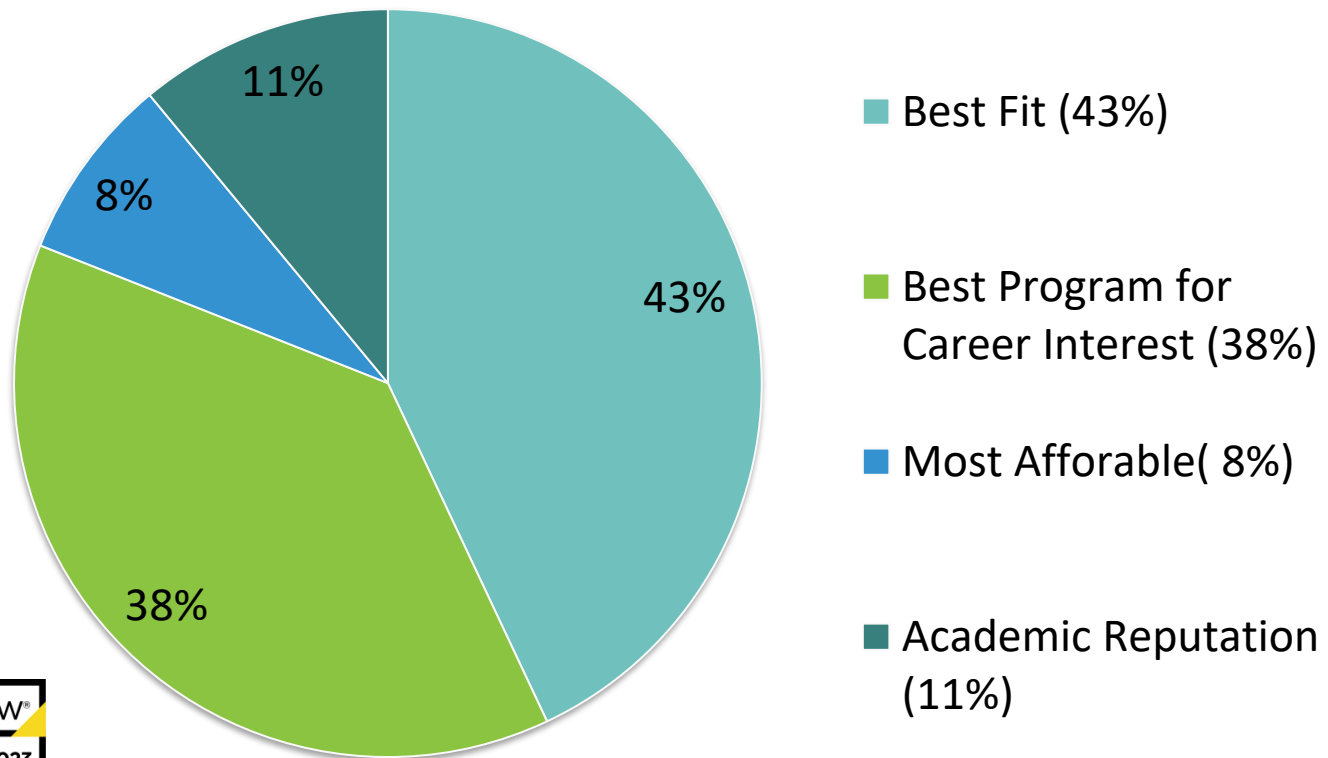
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REAL deciding factors

When choosing a college, what is the most likely deciding factor?

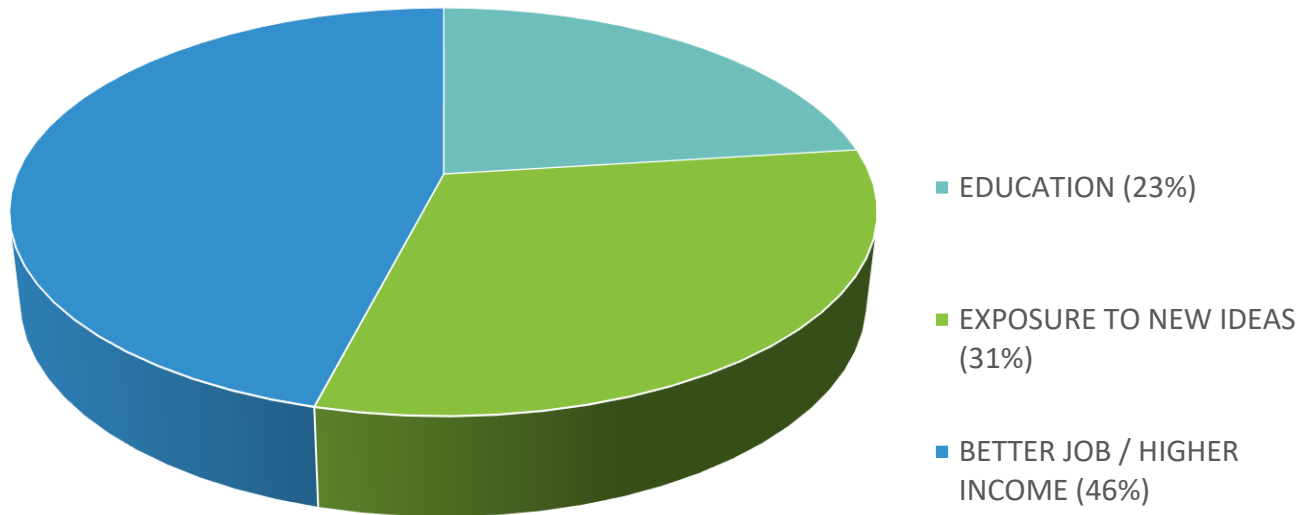
- 43% cited “Best fit”
- 38% cited “Best program for career interest”
- 81% driven by two factors



REAL deciding factors

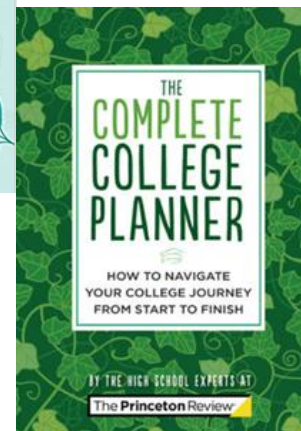
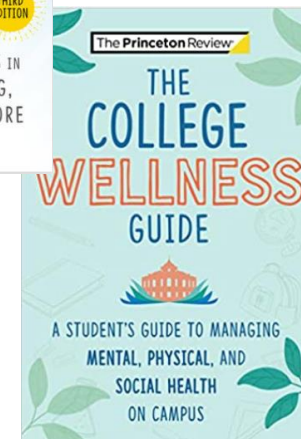
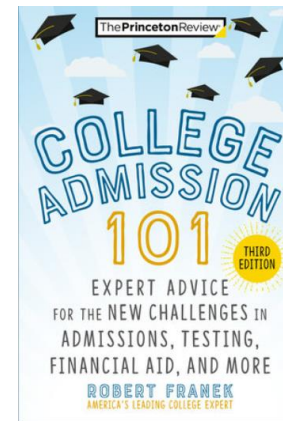
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Counselor, student and family resources

- Follow our YouTube channel for latest updates and advice



Let's stay in contact

Robert Franek

Editor-in-Chief

The Princeton Review

110 East 42nd Street / Floor 7

New York, NY 10017

Robert.Franek@review.com

Instagram: [robfranek_higher_ed](#)

Elyssa Cooke

Outreach Specialist, Long Island

elyssa.cooke@review.com

631.664.3079 (m)