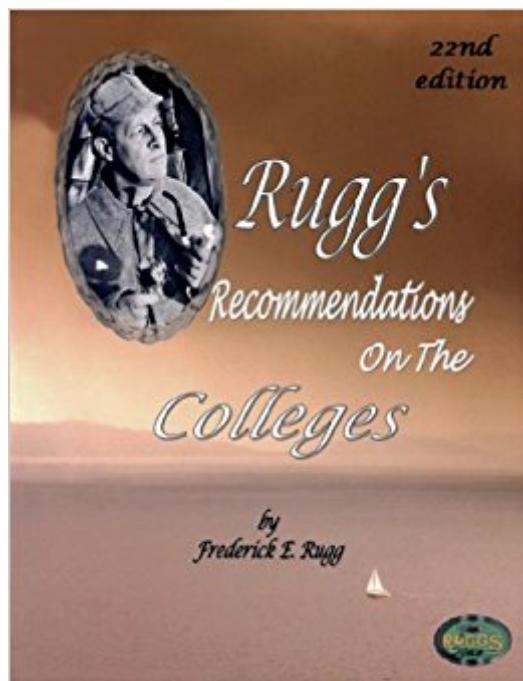


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# Rugg's Recommendations On The Colleges (22nd Edition)



## **Synopsis**

This books lists quality undergraduate departments at quality colleges. Author Rugg slices the loaf of college choices.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Fred Rugg has been everywhere that matters to the college selection process. This book is a great place to start." -- Vern Vargas, College Coordinator, Moreau Catholic High School, January 3, 2005"Rugg details academia by major, might, and miscellany-the place for college-bound students to begin their journey." -- Writers Notes Magazine, July, 2004"Start with this great sourcebook." -- College Bound, Evanston, IL , April, 2004

Fred Rugg is a writer,speaker and workshop presenter. Unlike virtually all other guidebook people, Rugg is one of the true professionals, having directed secondary college programs for 20 years in all types of communities. A 1967 Applied Math graduate from Brown University, Rugg is the holder of advanced degrees. A native of New England, he has been based in Colorado & Florida, and now resides in California. As always he is independent of the colleges.

I am a College Planning Advisor in Lake County, Florida and have used Rugg's Recommendations for over 10 years now. I have used it successfully in the Madison, WI area, Denton, TX area and

now central Florida. By using the Tier 1 & Tier 2 recommendations for majors coupled with the average ACT and/or SAT scores at specific colleges and universities that Fred also includes and then adding information from some other data bases that I have, approximately 75% of my students who desired to go to private schools (as opposed to their respective state universities) have gone for less than or equal to the prices of those state universities. So, in essence, Rugg's Recommendations has played a huge part in parent's savings many thousands of dollars on their college costs.

Yes, it's dated. But, still, it's a great guide for finding colleges by major, and a good supplemental tool for the college counselor's office.

I do agree that guidance counselors probably do need a copy of this book, and the author was wise to avoid the increasingly discredited practice of re-ranking schools each and every year. It's perfectly reasonable to list colleges in general selectivity categories, which he does, but more and more people are realizing that schools don't change markedly in the period of one year and the annual ranking lists are simply bad journalism. However, I feel that this book is not as useful as Fiske's Guide To Colleges. Rugg's basically groups under each major a very long list of schools that are purported to be strong in that field. It's not a very stylish book, but it's effective and no-nonsense. Here's the problem: If you pick any major (say art) and then find a school that is strong in that field (say Vassar) you're probably going to want to know a lot more information about Vassar and the only thing Rugg's will tell you is whether its student population is small, medium or large, and if you search through the back of the book you may find what other majors are strong at Vassar and their average SAT score. That's pretty much it. Fiske also includes a similar list of majors and schools that excel in each field near the front of the book. Then each college is profiled in depth similar to books such as The Princeton Review Guide to Colleges. (Fiske is also better than Princeton Review for recommending strong departments.) One thing to note is that Fiske covers about 300 of the most prestigious and best-known colleges which is great but not exhaustive. If the schools you're interested in aren't included in Fiske then Rugg's can probably still help because it lists about a thousand schools. Barron's Profiles of American Colleges also includes over a thousand schools and offers much more information on each school than Rugg's. However, with Barron's I do think you will need to at least browse through Rugg's because Barron's frequently only lists "most popular majors" as opposed to most recommended.

I am a high school guidance counselor working with college applications and college seeking students at a large college prep high school. In the true sense of the word, "Rugg's" makes my job a lot easier. He is able to crystalize information regarding college majors, specialities, entrance requirements, and geographic elements into easy and obtainable informational bits. I can obtain school names for kids interested in certain area of study. The research for the details is still left to me, but Rugg's quick finding book allows me to gather in the details through research of my own. I would not be able to even begin to know where to look in many cases without this book. Considering that there are some 3700 colleges and universities in the US, he does a remarkable job of sifting through what you need to know to begin your research.

No pictures of students sitting on the grassy area in front of the ivy covered brick building. Plain and simple, who has the best major programs, period. Every colleges claims they have a fantastic math, art, etc... department. Rugg's is the book that gives you some idea of how good a certain major program is at a particular college. So if you are looking for a top physics program with a strong art program, you can find it. Ruggs is the go to book, it rates the major not the school's glossy brochure. Undecided? you can use Ruggs to find the schools that have strong programs in the 4 areas you are interested in so if your first major choice doesn't work out, you can change majors without having to change school. This book got us to our top 10 choices for schools based on area of interest.

Most of us know (or think we know)the top schools around the U.S. But if your high school student already has a solid interest in a particular major, this guide will open your eyes to possibilities you never knew existed. Rugg's extensive research finds those smaller regional and private schools which excel in a particular field but do not get the same publicity as the big name universities. If your child is leery of taking on a campus of 40,000 students or doesn't want to be 2,000 miles from home, this guide will help you find outstanding institutions of all sizes and in nearly every part of the country. Our son will be pursuing some area of computer science, and we found many highly-rated schools in this guide which were completely new to us. What is also interesting is to look at the listings for some majors and see what "name brand" schools are missing from the list. Don't assume that just because a particular college or university is of general high quality that it truly excels in the field your child wants to study!Give your college-bound child a **REAL** choice and eliminate much of the guesswork by using Rugg's.

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