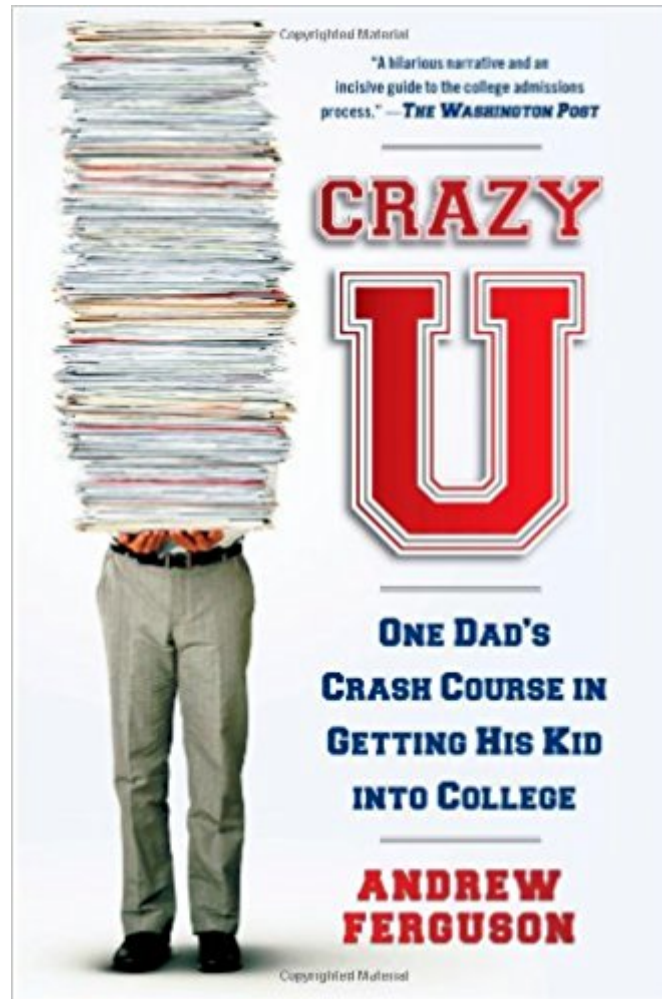


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Crazy U: One Dad's Crash Course In Getting His Kid Into College



Synopsis

Now in paperback: "Both a hilarious narrative and an incisive guide to the college admissions process" | Ferguson's storytelling is irresistible • (The Washington Post). Once a straightforward process, applying to college has evolved into a multi-year ordeal and spawned a multi-billion dollar cottage industry of freelance counselors, tutors, essay coaches, interview advisers, and political activists. In *Crazy U*, Ferguson spends time with the most sought-after private counselor, provides a pocket history of higher education in America, looks at the growth of the college marketing industry, and asks: Why the hell does college cost so much, and how can my kid get in? Writing with humor and humility, Ferguson chronicles his perilous journey through this seemingly impenetrable, hall-of-mirrors process where, it seems, even the slightest misstep could derail his son's future. *Crazy U* doesn't divulge the secrets of getting accepted to a dream school, but it will help readers maintain a measure of sanity as they enter the trenches of college admissions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a professor working at my state's "Big State University" (BSU in Mr. Ferguson's parlance), I see the flip side of the story that Mr. Ferguson presents in this book. I can relate to the issues he discusses, and I feel for his family as they go through the hoops of getting their son into college. This is an outstanding read that hits a great many nails on the head. The writing style is easy, the book is incredibly informative, and it is a pleasure to read. I was struck with how thoughtful this book is. I was expecting it to be funny, and it is, but only because Mr. Ferguson himself is funny. This book never reads as an intentionally funny comedy. It is instead a very temperate and evenhanded

discussion of the joys and pains his family encountered as they went through the inherently arduous process. Perhaps the most enjoyable aspect is his own introspection as he struggles between giving his son freedom/aid and realized he is behaving peevishly, stressed, or neurotic. I think that every father will be able to relate to all of the author's foibles and triumphs. Mr. Ferguson has organized his book chronologically from the beginning realization that his family needed to start thinking about college admissions through his son's orientation into his own BSU. In addition, each chapter contains a detailed and relatively scholarly consideration of the underlying issues and structures of the associated component of the admissions process, so the book is really structured as an annotated discussion of college admissions as opposed to a simple story of, "and then we mailed the applications." Chapter 1 focuses on Mr. Ferguson's efforts to come to grasp that getting into college, especially an elite institution, is more than just sending off a few applications.

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