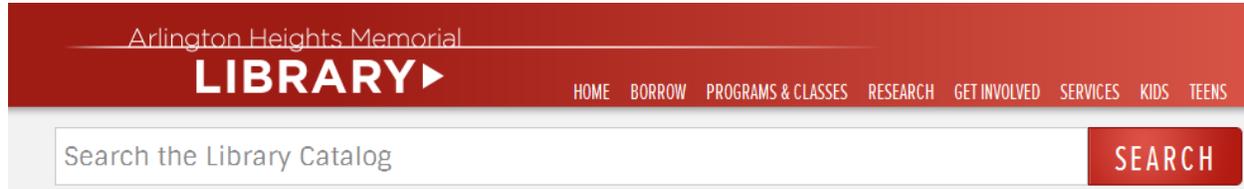


Arlington Heights Memorial Library

College Prep for Parents



Start at our library website: <http://www.ahml.info>

Part 1: Testing

1. From our library website, click on **Research → Databases**. Under Database Subjects, select **Online Learning**.
2. **Testing & Education Reference Center** Prepare for standardized (ACT, SAT, etc.) and job-related tests. Includes college/scholarship search tools, resume builder and career exploration tools.
3. **Tutor.com** Live tutors online to help with math, science, English, social studies etc., as well as standardized tests (ACT, SAT, GRE, etc.) and career help (1-on-1 resume reviews, etc.)
4. **Learn4Life** Instructor led, 6 week-classes that you would ordinarily have to pay money to complete. College Prep classes have instructors that provide feedback, Q+A for a designated period of time after each lesson.

Part 2: Finding a School

1. Go back to the library website and select **Research → Databases > Online Learning**. The **Testing & Education Reference Center** has a valuable college search feature. Under **College Prep Tools**, select **College Search**.
2. Click on **Undergraduate School Search**.
3. Here you can search with many different criteria. Check the boxes for **Basics** and **Academics**.
4. Can you find a public university in the Midwest with less than 2,000 students that offers 4-year Bachelors degrees? How about one that offers a degree in American History?
5. The library also has many print titles that can help you investigate colleges. Go back to our library website and type "**best colleges**" into the search box.

6. This brings up a list of several titles. If you want to find a title on the shelf, write down the **call number**. Notice that most titles have similar call numbers. If the particular title you want is not available (All Copies Checked Out), you can browse that area for similar titles.
7. Some potentially good titles include:
 1. **Best Colleges** from U.S. News & World Report (378.73/America's)
 2. **Best College For You** (378.161/PYTEL,B)
 3. **The Best Value Colleges** (378.73/BEST 2013 ed)
 4. **Best Answers To The 201 Most Frequently Asked Questions About Getting Into College** (378.161/SHANLEY,M)

Part 3: Financial Aid

1. We also have many books that can help you with financial aid questions. Do another search on our library website for **college financial aid**. This brings up a list of titles.
2. Since financial aid information often needs to be timely, you can **Sort** this list by **Pub date: Newest**. Just as with the college books, you can find these by writing down the call number.
3. Some titles include:
 1. **The Financial Aid Handbook : Getting The Education You Want For The Price You Can Afford** (378.3/STACK,C)
 2. **Getting Financial Aid** (378.3/COLLEGE 2014 ed)
 3. **The Complete Idiot's Guide To Financial Aid For College** (378.3/RYE,D)
4. We also have two library databases that can help you with financial aid. Our **Testing and Education Resource Center** (see above) has a link to **Scholarship Search** (under **College Prep Tools**.)
5. Another **Online Learning** database, called **Atomic Training** offers training videos on how to fill out your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid.) To use this database, you will need to create an account. Once you have access, click on **Online Workshops**, and then **Completing a FAFSA Form**.
6. There are also many free websites that can help you complete a FAFSA or provide financial aid information, such as
 - <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
 - <http://finaid.org>
 - (Be careful with sites like **www.fafsa.com**, as they will charge you for help.)
 - Most colleges have their own financial aid department and website, for example: <http://public.elmhurst.edu/finaid> or <http://undergradaid.northwestern.edu/>.
7. If you have any questions, please ask an AHML staff member!