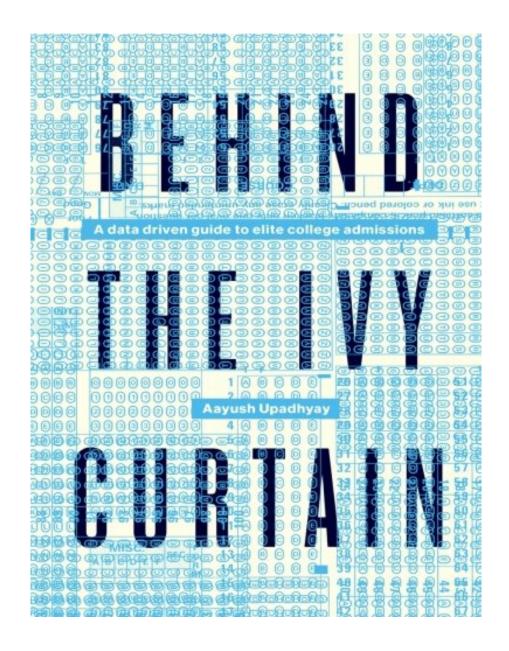


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About the Author

I'm a recent Yale graduate who works as a Product Manager at Google in San Francisco. I love programming, sports, laughing, and writing. I care a lot about education and explaining complex concepts in a simple way. My first book, Behind the Ivy Curtain, is about analyzing real admission outcomes at top colleges and helping people figure out what works and what doesn't. I want to write more books that help people achieve their goals. If you have ideas, or just want to chat, feel free to reach out to me at topcollegeadmit@gmail.com Best, Aayush

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This book uses real data from nearly 5,000 students to discuss what works and what doesn't for Ivy League admissions, and presents a plan that any student can use to maximize their chances of getting accepted to a top school. I analyzed SAT/ACT/GPA/test scores as well as qualitative things like extracurriculars and recommendations/essays from the College Confidential forums to build up a database of profiles and admission outcomes. The book is intended for high school students and parents who want to learn more about what happens "behind the scenes" in the admissions process and what things make an applicant competitive and what is just a waste of time. Professional college consultants charge thousands of dollars for this information, and here's your chance to get the same advice for just \$5. Much of the information is available online buried deep in forums and comments over the years. I first found this world as a high school sophomore and soaked in as much knowledge as I could and became the first kid from my school to attend an Ivy League school (Yale). I was eager to share my information and advise other kids on the admissions process, and this book is my way to pass on that knowledge to the rest of the world. The three unique things about this book: 1. It discusses what happens after you submit your application, so you understand how you're evaluated. 2. It analyzes data from thousands of students (via College Confidential forum posts) to see what was effective. Some schools have systems to do this, but to date nobody has parsed data from all over the world to analyze outcomes over several years (2009-2014). 3. It summarizes all this up to give you clear, actionable advice on what to focus on to maximize chances of admission to a top school.

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Unsurprising but helpful advice from someone who has been there.

By Paul Mastin

As the father of a high school junior, I have a front-row seat for the pursuit of the college dream. Like many

kids near the top of their high school class, my son is a shoo-in for acceptance to the vast majority of colleges in the U.S. But when it comes to competitive scholarships and acceptance to that small percentage of elite schools, the odds are not in his favor. Truth be told, the odds are against anyone getting into some of the elite colleges, with acceptance rates in the single digits.

Into that fray enters Aayush Upadhyay, a recent Yale grad who has crunched some numbers and has valuable insights for high school students whose sights are set on the Ivy League. In Behind the Ivy Curtain: A Data-Driven Guide to College Admissions, Upadhyay breaks down admissions data culled from collegeconfidential.com to give applicants some insight into what matters for those seeking to join the ranks of the Ivy League.

None of Upadhyay's conclusions will shock the reader. The higher the rank, the higher the test scores, the better the chances for admission. He sheds some light on some of the more subjective elements, like extracurriculars (multiple years in one activity tends to beat short tenures in multiple activities), but, again, nothing too surprising.

Upadhyay's analysis and conclusions are worth reading for applicants to Ivy League schools. I was left with the feeling that unless GPA, class rank, and test scores aren't top-notch, the rest of the application will never matter. Behind the Ivy Curtain feeds into the growing perception of ambitious high school students that admission to an Ivy League school is the only route to success in academics and life. I hope my son and others like him will realize that while Ivy League schools may provide a great academic experience, there are plenty of other schools around the country where excellent academics, excellent professional development and networking, excellent character building, and excellent life experiences can be found.

Thanks to the author for the complimentary electronic review copy!

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Bravo!

By Zack Reneau-Wedeen

Combining quantitative analysis with qualitative experience, Behind the Ivy Curtain presents an information-dense overview of the college admissions process for high-achieving students and their parents.

For students aiming at top colleges, Behind the Ivy Curtain helps answer questions such as:

- * How many AP exams should I take?
- * What score do I need on the SAT / ACT?
- * What role does my guidance counselor play in the admissions process?
- * How does a college admissions committee handle my application?
- * Do I need to go to a private or public school?
- * Should I try to be recruited as an athlete?
- * How important are extracurriculars vs. a top GPA?
- * How should I approach the essay portion of the application?

Upadhyay's casual and simplifying voice makes it an easy read (~2 hours start to finish). The data is there for you to dig into, but the takeaways are also neatly summarized if you'd rather not. I recommend Behind the Ivy Curtain to all kids applying to college, and their parents. It's a small investment of time, and there's a lot of useful stuff in there.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

information-packed read is probably the one of the best two hours you can spend on college admissions research

By Prachie Banthia

Upadhyay's short, information-packed read is probably the one of the best two hours you can spend on college admissions research. It gives students data-backed answers to questions everyone asks, like "Should I retake the SAT?" or "How important are those volunteer hours?". The quantitative bent definitely makes this book different from others, so for the more analytical student the information is both easier to parse and more convincing. Upadhyay's writing style is casual and concise, making the book entertaining while being informative.

This book is definitely most useful when read as a high school underclassman who is serious about getting into some of the best schools in the country. It gives a lot of advice about how to use your high school years, so reading it as a college senior, while still useful for the essay and testing-taking sections, doesn't give you opportunity to change behavior based on all the statistics and ideas covered.

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