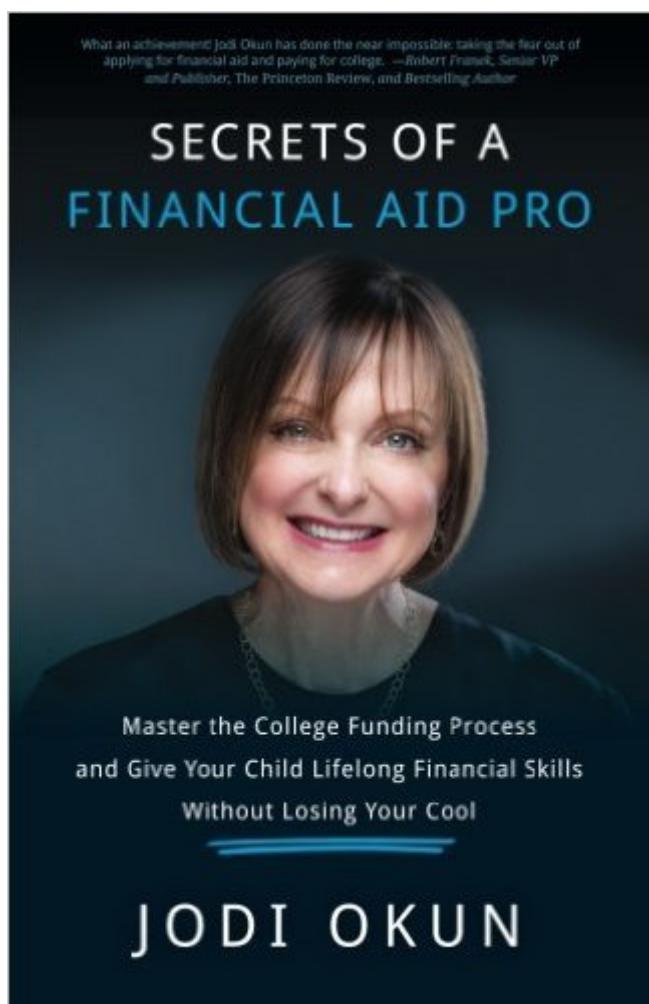


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# Secrets Of A Financial Aid Pro: Master The College Funding Process And Give Your Child Lifelong Financial Skills Without Losing Your Cool



## **Synopsis**

With insight and humor, Jodi Okun takes you inside the often murky world of paying for college. First as a financial aid consultant at Occidental and Pitzer colleges, and then in her own successful consulting business, College Financial Aid Advisors (CFAA), Jodi learned firsthand the struggles families endure to find financing and pay for college. In **SECRETS OF A FINANCIAL PRO**, she demystifies the process and presents sensible solutions any family can use as they go through what can be a complicated and intimidating affair. No matter where you are in the college financial aid process, this book will be an invaluable resource. Understand what you should be doing--and when you should be doing it--to set yourself up for the best possible outcome when managing the cost of a college education. Learn how to find and apply for every type of financial aid, including FAFSA, grants, scholarships, and loans. Find out how to give your student the financial skills they'll need for life--it all starts in college by helping them manage expenses and money.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Ms. Okun offers unique perspectives about the student financial aid process: from that of a former financial aid administrator, a financial aid consultant and a parent. Her insights and personal experiences paint a reassuring portrait for students and their families who are trying to understand the often-confusing process of paying for college. Ms. Okun offers readers practical advice and easy-to-follow steps to financing a college education and the financial skills to use throughout their lives. This is an easy-to read and informative resource all parents (regardless of their income level) should read before beginning the college search and financial aid processes.

I recently purchased this book because my daughter is a junior in high school and we wanted to have a better understanding of the financial aid process. I felt the book was very informative and easy to understand. I liked how the chapters started with real life personal stories about different families the author has worked with. The book also provided information on searching for scholarships and detailed the different types of loans available. I would recommend this book to anyone who has children in high school.

As soon as the book was available a few weeks ago, I ordered it and was excited to delve into the mysteries of the financial aid process that Jodi reveals. Was I disappointed? NO WAY. This book should be on the mandatory reading list for all parents of college-bound students, even if college is years away for your family. In her book, Jodi shares how the steps you take NOW can help your family's financial situation when the time comes to apply for financial aid. Have a student already in college? You also need this book, as it contains specific advice on maximizing your financial aid chances no matter what level your student currently is in school. Highly recommend! Monica Matthews, College Scholarship Expert at [...]

This is a must-have for anyone with college-bound children or anyone who advises them. Jodi has over 10 years of financial aid experience helping students and their families figure out how to pay for college, and it shows. This is for anyone who finds themselves wondering where to start and what path to take. She helps with all aspects of the financial aid/paying for college process, including a timeline of what to do, how to do it, and when to start. She breaks down the types of financial aid and how to find and apply for them, which is critical because so many families leave money on the table every year. She also tackles the hard-to-answer questions that really aren't addressed online or in the "FAQs." And as a great bonus, she gives advice for students (and the parents trying to teach them) to learn how to manage their finances, which helps set them up for life. It's hard to find this level of information in one place (I have tried!).

I work as a volunteer for a community organization that provides services to high school students in under privileged communities where financial aid is a necessity for students to attend college. Students and parents often do not have the information they need to navigate and take full advantage of financial aid opportunities and understand the potential pitfalls of poor money management. The result being that bright students may not attend college at all or have to drop out

before graduating due to financial reasons. Ms. Okun's book is a tremendous resource for both students and parents. She has translated her vast experience into a wonderful guide that clearly explains financial aid terminology and processes and provides money management guidance to help families understand, talk about, and plan for college financial issues before, during, and after students attend college.

I wasn't necessarily looking for a step-by-step guide to financial aid because I've already got a pretty good handle on that. What I needed was something that was more of a "big picture" approach to money, finance, college, and raising children who can make smart financial decisions. This book by Jodi Okun, *Secrets of a Financial Aid Pro*, fits the bill perfectly. You can tell that she is drawing from a wealth of experience not just as a financial aid advisor, but also as a caring mom. It sometimes feels like I need a college degree just to understand some of the other books which try to explain this process, but Jodi makes it feel like I can do this. She includes real-life stories so I know I'm not alone, has sound advice about financial aid, and also shows how these college decisions can lead to better money choices for students and their families.

This is a MUST read book for any parent (or student!) of high school age kids that are planning to go to college. Jodi clearly and concisely lays out the exact steps you must follow to make sure all your financial aid forms are filled out correctly and on time. I wish I had this book a year ago when we were getting our first child ready for college, but you can make sure it will be my bible over the next 3 years when my second son graduates!

Jodi Okun takes a complicated topic and makes it easy to understand through relatable stories and information that is accessible to anyone. As a writer she's terrific, as a college financial aid advisor she's the best. If you have a child heading to college, this book is invaluable.

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