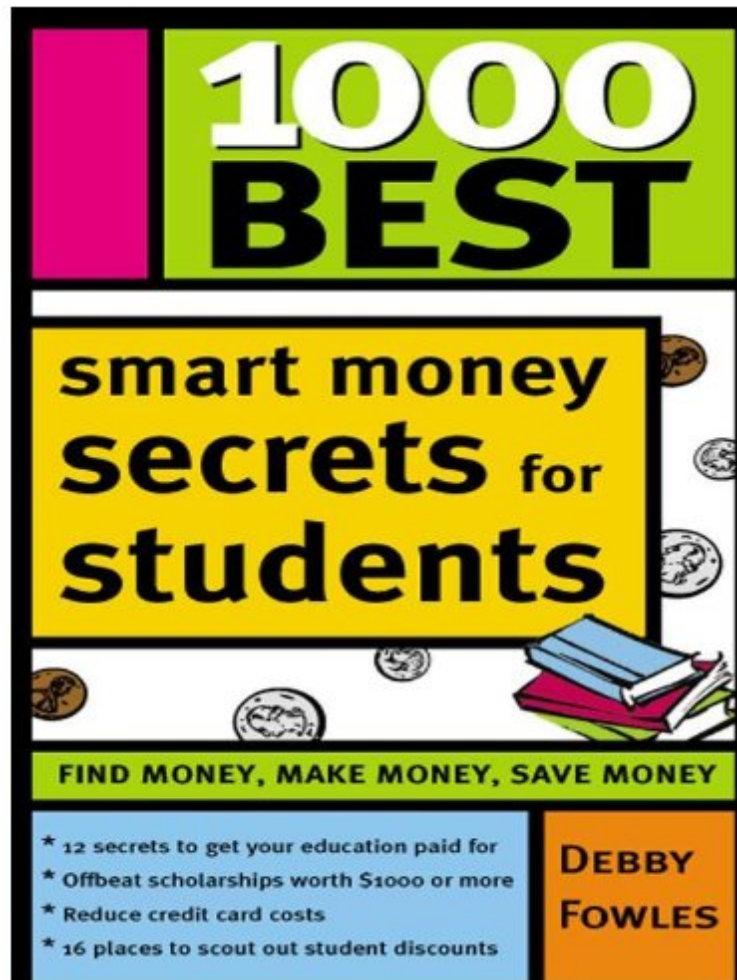


1000 Best Smart Money Secrets for Students

Debby Fowles

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Debby Fowles : 1000 Best Smart Money Secrets for Students before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 1000 Best Smart Money Secrets for Students:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. very disappointedBy ideaseeker1000 secrets? To be honest, I didn't find any secrets. I found about 10 generic ideas that were each repeated with slightly different words 100 times. (Here are the top 4: spend less! don't pay fees! buy things cheap! interest adds up!) Maybe that's effective with some 17 year olds but it made me feel like I wasted my money on this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Helpful To StudentsBy singerg19This book is a basic and easy tool to use for future college students. I bought it later in my college life, so I recommend buying it in your Junior or Senior year of high school. You will be surprised how much money can add up, so get ahead of the game and start saving now! You won't regret it!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. it's really more like 600 Best Money SecretsBy TaylerThis book had some very helpful information, however, it's really more like 600 Best Money Secrets. The author repeated some advice as many as five

times in different sections of the books. The same statistics for how much coffee costs was given twice, the author split up "turn off items you aren't using" into ten different pieces of advice (turn off lights, turn off heat, turn off computer, turn off fans...), and much of the advice was "ask people for advice". It did have a lot of genuinely good ideas and things I hadn't considered, but overall, information was more or less obvious and was repeated several times.

Find \$Make \$Save \$Expert Debby Fowles shows you: Before College-Nine little-known places to look for scholarships-13 tips for winning scholarships-Maximize your eligibility for financial aid-17 secrets to save money on college housing At School-Creative ways to control entertainment costs-12 cash-generating ideas-Textbook websites that will save you money-The secrets of successful budgeting-8 warnings about student loans-Get the best jobs on campus Avoid graduating from school with a mountain of debt!

From School Library Journal Grade 9 Upndash; Aimed at aspiring college students and their families, this book offers great practical money-saving and earning ideas. Topics include managing a student loan, maximizing eligibility for financial aid, and understanding and controlling credit-card use. The suggestions presented are briefndash; often six to eight lines longndash; and are numbered from 1 to 1000. The section on saving money on clothing and laundry alone will recoup the cost of the book. Some sound advice is also offered on reducing the cost of a spring-break vacation and travel in general. The book is well organized and makes for worthwhile reading, but may appeal more to parents than to students. A great gift for graduating seniors.ndash; Kathleen A. Nester, Downingtown High Ninth Grade Center, PA Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Debby Fowles is an accountant, author, freelance writer and small business consultant. As the About.com Guide to Financial Planning since 1998, Debby has written over 150 articles about personal finance. Several of her articles have been published by Fidelity Investments and other online and print publications. Debby served fourteen years as controller and ten years on the board of directors of a rapidly growing biomedical research company near Washington, D.C. She has been listed in several compilations of Who's Who, including Who's Who of Women Executives (National Reference Press), Who's Who (Sterling), Who's Who of Notable American Women, and Who's Who Resistry of Buiness Leaders. Excerpt. copy; Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Maximize Your Financial Aid You've probably read up on Pell grants, work-study, Stafford loans, Alternative loans, and other forms of financial aid until your head hurt, so we won't rehash the basics here. Instead, we'll cover the not-so-well-known tips and tricks for finding financial aid and getting as much mileage out of it as possible, how to make sure you don't disqualify yourself from your financial aid awards, and how to get the U.S. government to help pay for your college education. You'll also learn critical strategies for increasing the amount of financial aid you're eligible to receive. 1. Talk to your parents early about financial aid. Make sure you're on the same page with them about how much financial support they'll be able to provide for college and what each of you will do to get through the financial aid process and meet all the deadlines. Lack of communication with your parents on this subject could cost you lots of money. 2. A heads-up about Early Decision. If you choose this route, you'll know whether you've been accepted to the school of your choice by early winter, but you won't know what your financial aid award is until spring. This means you'll have to accept or reject your Early Decision offer without knowing anything about your financial aid package. If your award is not enough and you can't come up with the balance, you may have to attend another school. 3. If a school that's not your top choice offers more financial aid than your first choice, send a copy of the higher award letter to your first choice and ask if there's any possibility of additional aid so you can afford to attend that college. Sometimes if a school sees that you've been offered more aid elsewhere, they'll try to find more funds for you. This works best if the school is eager to have you as a student (because of your scholastic background, athleticism, talent, or other characteristic). 4. Don't rule out expensive colleges just because you think you can't afford them. Some schools have large endowments and offer larger financial aid packages than others do. You may end up with the same out-of-pocket costs that you'd incur at a less expensive school, or even lower. 5. When evaluating your out-of-pocket costs of attending one school versus another, you need to be able to compare the total costs minus the financial aid package you are offered. To help you make this comparison, ask the financial aid office of each school what the average financial aid award offered to students is each year. The school you think you can't afford to attend may actually end up being cheaper than the one you thought you had to settle for. 6. Before you get too excited about your financial aid package, read all the fine print to make sure the offer is good for all four years of college. More and more schools are placing expiration clauses in their aid packages, so make sure you know exactly how long the school's commitment extends. Even better, get it in writing. 7. If you have a sibling who is in college, consider attending the same school. Some colleges provide tuition discounts for families with more than one student in the same college. 8. The FAFSA deadline is tricky. The earliest you can file is January 1, because the information is based on the prior calendar year, but you won't have your income tax return completed by then. Submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after the deadline, even if it means you have to estimate your income and expenses; you can always correct them later if necessary. It can take up to six weeks for the form to be processed, and you want to be sure it arrives at the schools you've applied to before they begin awarding financial aid, or you may lose out. 9. Make sure you complete the correct

version of the FAFSA. The year on the form should be the academic year for which you're applying for aid (for example, 2005-2006 for the academic year that begins in the fall of 2005). The same applies if you complete the form online. If you use a form with the wrong date, you won't be awarded any financial aid in the year you need it. 10. Filing your financial aid applications (not the FAFSA) with the schools is like filing your income tax return. To reduce your chances of an audit, experts recommend that you file as close to the deadline as possible. Financial aid officers can't begin awarding aid until the priority-filing deadline, and if your application is sitting around while they're waiting, the officers will have more time to go over your application with a fine-tooth comb and find problems. 11. If you volunteer for the Peace Corps, you may be able to have your Stafford, Perkins, and Consolidation loans deferred, and your Perkins loan partially cancelled, while helping less fortunate people in one of seventy developing countries. For each year of service, 15 percent of your Perkins loans can be cancelled. Contact the Peace Corps at 1-800-424-8580 or 1-202-692-1845, or visit www.peacecorps.org. 12. Take steps to maximize your eligibility for need-based financial aid. For example, if you (or your parents) have stashed away money you won't need immediately, consider paying off consumer debt, like credit card balances. Credit card debt is not factored into the financial aid eligibility equation, but assets such as cash are. By depleting your cash balance to pay off debt, you maximize the amount of aid you're eligible for and reduce your interest costs at the same time. 13. If you are planning to buy a new computer or use some of your savings for another major purchase for college, consider doing it before you complete the financial aid forms. Your savings lowers the amount of financial aid you're eligible for; so spending the money early (on college necessities, of course) will increase your eligibility for aid. 14. If you didn't qualify for financial aid, or received very little, but you now have a sister or brother who is about to enter college, reapply. Families with more than one student in college may qualify for aid that their income previously prevented them from receiving. 15. A few states provide free tuition at state schools for qualified Native American Indians. The Association on American Indian Affairs also offers scholarships to Native American students who are from a federally recognized tribe and are at least one-quarter Indian blood. For more information, see www.indian-affairs.org/scholarships/aaia_scholarships.htm.