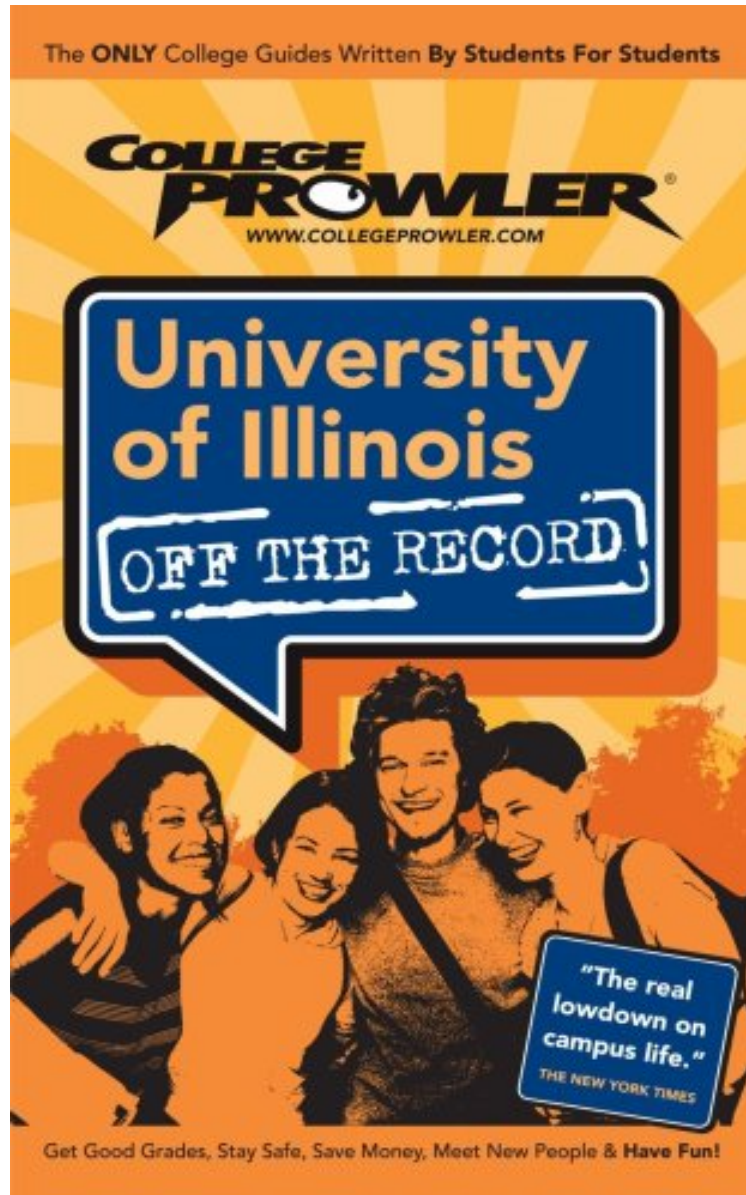


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University of Illinois: Off the Record - College Prowler (College Prowler: University of Illinois Off the Record)

Bridget Sharkey

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Bridget Sharkey : University of Illinois: Off the Record - College Prowler (College Prowler: University of Illinois Off the Record) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised University of Illinois: Off the Record - College Prowler (College Prowler: University of Illinois Off the

Record):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. University of Illinois: Off the Record-College Prowler By Susan Willingham Great way for a student beginning their search to see a peer's opinion about a school and this can be a helpful review after visiting the campus to see if you concur. It can become expensive if you do this for more than a few schools. A large anthology is helpful but heavy to hold and the size of this makes it convenient. I think they are overpriced for the information received but it is one of the few non-intimidating formats in an already pressured situation. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very good, tho brief notes, about U of I By Ray in Virginia I bought the guide for my nephew who will be entering U of I this fall (2008). I read most of it, and found it helpful, easy to read, and important in that it addressed unpleasant issues such as drugs and campus safety in a matter-of-fact way. In places, it could have offered some more detail, but the short chapters will appeal to busy students (and their parents).

Introduction from the Author When you grow up in Illinois, you hear about the University of Illinois from about the time you can crawl. If you don't have family there, your friends generally do, or maybe your grade school teacher graduated from there. U of I is a familiar place to most Illinois high school students, both in personal ties and in distance. Located in Central Illinois, the University is almost equidistant from Southern Illinois as Northern Illinois, meaning that whether you grew up near St. Louis or near Chicago, it is only a couple of hours away. Not only is U of I close to home for Illinois natives, it also offers comfortable and welcoming surroundings. While some people imagine themselves as Felicity, off to tackle the dangers of New York City alone, the reality is that most of us U of I students come from rural neighborhoods. Most of the students grew up next to cornfields and barns, even if those fields were only an hour away from the Arch or the Sears Tower. U of I has all the people and the excitement that a big city would have, minus the pollution and crime. In fact, the only pollution in the air comes from the cow barns north of campus. Although students sometimes complain about living in the middle of cornfields, they are still very comfortable and relaxed in their surroundings. Even if they may choose to tackle big city living after graduation, few regret having spent their college years on a safe yet exciting campus. Of course, academics are the main reason for the University's success. Its engineering and business schools rival colleges across the nation, and their agriculture department is understandably very popular. A degree from the University of Illinois holds both prestige and promise, which is something I realized from the pleased responses people make when they hear what college I attend. A respected degree at a public tuition cost is not easily found, but for those of us in the state, it is only a short drive away. The University of Illinois is certainly not right for everyone, however. Maybe you want to go to a small school. Maybe you want to go to school in an urban metropolis. Maybe you are looking for an art school and not a state school. Whatever the case, this guidebook is intended to show you, as honestly as possible, the pros and cons of this university. Bridget Sharkey, Author University of Illinois

"This is the kind of information kids really want to know before they pick a college." --Michelle Slatalla, The NY Times, March 9, 2006 "...get viewpoints on a variety of topics from the student body, which is where the Prowler gets its roar." --Melissa Kaplan, Boston Globe, May 23, 2004 "There is information on which schools have packed computer labs, which dorms are studious or riotous, ..." --Ben Gilbert, The Washington Post, April 27, 2004 About the Author Welcome to College Prowler During the writing of College Prowlers guidebooks, we felt it was critical that our content was unbiased and unaffiliated with any college or university. We think it's important that our readers get honest information and a realistic impression of the student opinions on any campus that's why if any aspect of a particular school is terrible, we (unlike a campus brochure) intend to publish it. While we do keep an eye out for the occasional extremist the cheerleader or the cynic we take pride in letting the students tell it like it is. We strive to create a book that's as representative as possible of each particular campus. Our books cover both the good and the bad, and whether the survey responses point to recurring trends or a variation in opinion, these sentiments are directly and proportionally expressed through our guides. College Prowler guidebooks are in the hands of students throughout the entire process of their creation. Because you can't make student-written guides without the students, we have students at each campus who help write, randomly survey their peers, edit, layout, and perform accuracy checks on every book that we publish. From the very beginning, student writers gather the most up-to-date stats, facts, and inside information on their colleges. They fill each section with student quotes and summarize the findings in editorial reviews. In addition, each school receives a collection of letter grades (A through F) that reflect student opinion and help to represent contentment, prominence, or satisfaction for each of our 20 specific categories. Just as in grade school, the higher the mark the more content, more prominent, or more satisfied the students are with the particular category. Once a book is written, additional students serve as editors and check for accuracy even more extensively. Our bounce-back team a group of randomly selected students who have no involvement with the project are asked to read over the material in order to help ensure that the book accurately expresses every aspect of the university and its students. This same process is applied to the 200-plus schools College Prowler currently covers. Each book is the result of endless student

contributions, hundreds of pages of research and writing, and countless hours of hard work. All of this has led to the creation of a student information network that stretches across the nation to every school that we cover. Its no easy accomplishment, but its the reason that our guides are such a great resource. When reading our books and looking at our grades, keep in mind that every college is different and that the students who make up each school are not uniformas a result, it is important to assess schools on a case-by-case basis. Because its impossible to summarize an entire school with a single number or description, each book provides a dialogue, not a decision, thats made up of 20 different topics and hundreds of student quotes. In the end, we hope that this guide will serve as a valuable tool in your college selection process. Enjoy!