When the first edition of The Shaping of American Higher Education was published it was lauded for its historical perspective and in-depth coverage of current events that provided an authoritative, comprehensive account of the history of higher education in the United States. As in the first edition, this book tracks trends and important issues in eight key areas: student access, faculty professionalization, curricular expansion, institutional growth, governance, finance, research, and outcomes. Thoroughly revised and updated, the volume is filled with critical new data, recent information from specialized sources on faculty, student admissions, and management practices; and an entirely new section that explores privatization, corporatization, and accountability from the mid-1990s to the present. This second edition also includes end-of-chapter questions for guidance, reflection, and study.

"Cohen and Kisker do the nation’s colleges and universities a much needed service by authoring this volume. The highly regarded histories of American higher education have become badly dated. They ignore the last quarter century when American higher education was transformed. This volume provides comprehensive information on that era."
— Art Levine, president, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, and author, When Hope and Fear Collide: A Portrait of Today’s College Student

"The second edition of The Shaping of American Higher Education is a treasure trove of information and insight. Cohen and Kisker provide us with astute and straightforward analysis and commentary on our past, present, and likely future. This book is invaluable to those seeking to go to the heart of the issues and challenges confronting higher education."
— Judith S. Eaton, president, Council for Higher Education Accreditation

"Arthur Cohen and his collaborator have now updated his up-to-date history of American higher education. It remains masterful, authoritative, comprehensive, and incisive, and guarantees that this work will stand as the classic required resource for all who want to understand where higher education came from and where it is going. The new material gives a wise and nuanced perspective on the current crisis-driven transformations of the higher education industry."
— John Lombardi, president, Louisiana State University System

"The Shaping of American Higher Education is distinguished by its systematic approach, comprehensive coverage, and extensive treatment of the modern era, including the first years of the twenty-first century. In this second edition, Arthur Cohen and Carrie Kisker are especially adept at bringing historical perspective and a balanced viewpoint to controversial issues of the current era."
— Roger L. Geiger, distinguished professor, The Pennsylvania State University, and author, Knowledge and Money

The Authors


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The Shaping of American Higher Education
The Shaping of American Higher Education

Emergence and Growth of the Contemporary System

Second Edition

Arthur M. Cohen
with
Carrie B. Kisker
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Arthur M. Cohen has been professor of higher education at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) since 1964; he became emeritus in 2004. He received his B.A. (1949) and M.A. (1955) degrees in history from the University of Miami and his Ph.D. degree (1964) in higher education from Florida State University. He was director of the ERIC Clearinghouse for Community Colleges from 1966 to 2003 and president of the Center for the Study of Community Colleges from 1974 to 2007. Cohen has served on the editorial boards of numerous journals. His most recent book is *The American Community College* (5th ed., 2008), coauthored with Florence B. Brawer.

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Preface to the Second Edition

Several shifts in higher education’s support and functioning warrant a new edition of this book. In particular, the trends toward privatization, corporatization, and accountability all gained momentum in the last decade, and their effects within the academy have been far reaching. American higher education has also been affected by the housing and stock market collapses of 2008–2009, which left such losses in the economy that they triggered a major recession and forced institutions already operating on reduced levels of state funding to slash their budgets by double-digit percentages, search for more corporate and philanthropic support, and shift more of the cost of instruction to students and their families.

This edition of The Shaping of American Higher Education: Emergence and Growth of the Contemporary System exhibits a few modifications in the system’s history based on recent scholarship. But most of the changes from the first edition concern the era from 1994 to 2009, which is treated in a new chapter. Sources for this volume remain the same: contemporary periodicals, National Center for Education Statistics databases, and several recent books on students, faculty, institutions, finances, and other aspects of the enterprise.

Among the people who assisted in preparing this volume: UCLA Professor Richard L. Wagoner helped plan the work, contributing especially to the chapter on contemporary faculty; Zack Ritter, a UCLA graduate student, managed the bibliography and assisted in tracking down sources; Florence Brawer, coauthor of The American Community College, provided editorial comments; Martin Cohen contributed data on college libraries; Harry Kisker provided useful
feedback on much of the new chapter; and Bill Bleich suggested the Electronically Modulated Interactive Learning Environment (EMILE) discussed in Chapter Six.

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Preface to the First Edition

This book had its origins in the History of Higher Education course that I have taught for many years in UCLA’s Department of Education. Few of the students who enroll each term have much prior knowledge of American history, and fewer still are aware of the roots of collegiate institutions. As the course evolved, it became apparent that it had to both encompass the entire scope of higher education since the Colonial Era and to set the developing colleges in the context of their times—all within the span of a ten-week quarter. Furthermore, the review of 350 years of continuous expansion in enrollments, staff, curriculum, finance, and all other aspects of the system had to be organized so that it would not overwhelm the students. The matrix described in the introduction to this volume has helped serve that purpose.

The volume’s chief contribution is its synthesis of the Mass Higher Education Era (1945–1975) and the Contemporary Era (1976–1998); most of the trends that had developed earlier matured during these periods. Contemporary periodicals, data collected by the National Center for Education Statistics, and a few essential books provided most of the information undergirding the work. Many examples from California are included because I have spent my entire academic career as a University of California professor and am therefore most familiar with that state. Also, several of the directions that American higher education has taken in the past fifty years first appeared there.

Many people helped prepare the manuscript. Several students in the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies assisted. Erika Yamasaki took charge of the tables. Dan Zeidman reviewed legislation and court decisions affecting higher education