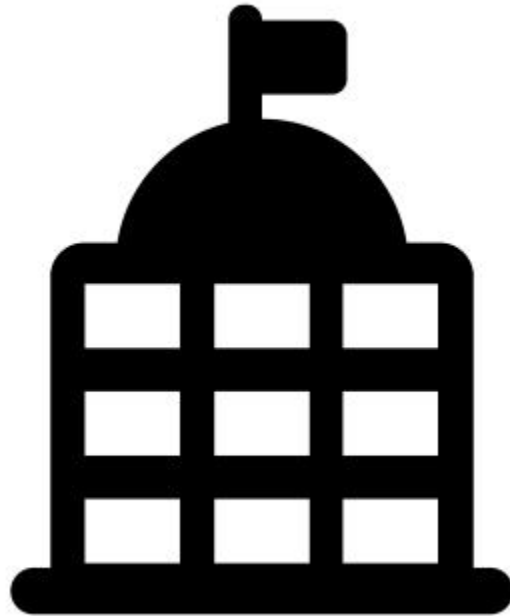


College Applications and the Common College Application Online

By Wes Jackson

Ten Mistakes Students Make on Applications



Ten Mistakes Students Make on Applications (1-3)

- *According to US News, there are ten common mistakes students make on college applications. Here are the following:*
- **1. Failure to follow directions:** We are all guilty of this mistake at some point. This mistake occurs mainly due to rushing (We made have to rush today- not intentional).
- **2. Parents are too involve and handle most of the process:** College want you to handle most of the process yourself. No one respects a person who parents have to hold their hand at 20. Please complete most of the process yourself (at least 2/3 of the process). For college admissions counselors, they frown upon people who have their parents do the work (Notice I said parents not others).
- **3. Sending in a long resume at 17/18:** Most admissions counselors do not buy into the student with a million accomplishments. They want some of your highest achievements . It is wise to just fill out what they require and keep it simple.

Ten Mistakes Students Make on Applications (4-6)

- 4. Forgetting to proofread applications: I am guilty of this one (might show up in my slides- ha ha!!). Try to proofread your applications before submitting them (shows the counselors that you took time on the application- more professional). One huge mistake on your application may go down as incomplete. You do not want this to happen. Pay attention to proofreading your college applications.
- 5. Procrastinating on applications: Everyone does this one as well (do not fall for this one). Try not to wait the last week. Set time at least one month to do an application. Take time (we will bend this one on the common application). First complete what you can and then come back to what is incomplete. Take at least two weeks before submitting an essay (rewrite the essay at least 3 times before submitting).
- 6. Repeating yourself: Do not regurgitate the same information over and over in your essay. Focus on expressing new ideas each time in a steady manner.

Ten Mistakes Students Make on Applications (7-10)

- **7. Ask Questions :** Try not to ask questions such as why is your tuition so high? Or how many hot people go to this school? (There are people who actually ask this). Ask responsible questions like What are some of the research taken place at this University? What is the graduation rate at this College?
- **8. Your essay is bland:** Do not make a “one size fits all” essay. Tailor each essay to the specific college if possible . College admissions counselors sees this type of work as true interest in their college. Remember, you are trying to convey a desire to go to this college.
- **9. Placing too much emphasis on extracurricular activities:** According to the people in charge of admissions, you should chose the extracurricular activities that were personal to you (chose your favorite ones). They want quality over quantity. They desire you start these activities before your senior year. Start early on these extracurricular activities.
- **10. You did not finish the required high school courses before attending college:**
Some students do not finish or complete their required courses (Such as English courses) during their senior year. List the remaining courses if possible on an application during your senior year. If not, mark as complete. (Check each school for requirements-some require two years foreign language for example).

Four things that make College Applicants Stand Out More



Four things that make College Applicants Stand Out More

- **1. Submit Your Application Early:** This advice is a no brainer. Most college admissions committees will look at your application within a few days (a week or less). If you turn it in early, this will give you an advantage in acceptance (shows interest and promptness). Just remember to complete and proofread everything before submitting.
- **2. Be Specific With Details:** Give a step by step with each activity or achievement you list on your applications (remember, do not list too many- Why?).
- **3. Share your Goals:** If you do not know what your career path is, talk about what you are strong in. (Give an example.). Don't just show through words but actions. Show them what you can do.
- **4. Be Yourself:** This is pretty much self-explanatory. Remember, you do not need to make yourself their ideal candidate. You want to show them why you are unique and they need you.

Intro to College Application Basics

JOB APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last Name	First	Date
Street Address	State	ZIP
City	E-mail Address	Desired Salary
Phone	Social Security No.	
Date Available	YES	NO
Position Applied for	If so, when?	
Have you ever worked for this company?	YES	NO

EDUCATION

High School	From	To	Address	Did you graduate?	YES	NO	Degree
High School	From	To	Address	Did you graduate?	YES	NO	Degree
High School	From	To	Address	Did you graduate?	YES	NO	Degree
High School	From	To	Address	Did you graduate?	YES	NO	Degree

Intro to College Application Basics

- **1. High School Transcript:** This will be obtain from a guidance counselor. The transcript includes: Grades received, courses taken, teachers' comments, attendance and tardiness record, as well as effort in studies. It is the most significant document to the college admissions process.
- **2. ACT/SAT Test Results:** ACT company and SAT company will send these scores to the schools you choose. Most colleges have a range for acceptable scores. For example, Harvard average ACT is 32-35 with 8-10 on Writing and the SAT is 710-800 (http://collegeapps.about.com/od/collegeprofiles/p/harvard_profile.htm). Take it at least two times and make sure to take it at two months before applying.
- **3. General Personal Information:** You will be ask you type or print your first name, middle name, last name, home phone number, cell phone number, email address, birth date, social security number, your permanent address, citizenship?, demographic information, and additional information such as parents or legal guardian name and address for emergencies.

Intro to College Application Basics

- **4. Essays:** Many college applications include this page or sheet in the General Information section. Each essay may have a different style and require different content depending on college. Most colleges will ask you; “Why are you interested in _____ College or University?”. Essays can make you or break you.
- **5. Activities:** Colleges like to see a well-rounded individual. These extracurricular activities can be the following: sports, volunteer work, part-time jobs, student government, broadcasting high school news, and band. List a few (not a very long list- depends on application- usually 3-5).
- **6. Letters of Recommendations:** You should get these letters by November (Senior Year). You need at least two to three individuals to recommend you. Religious leaders, teachers, coaches, band director, and employers are the main sources of recommendations. Make two teachers and one not a teacher (unless the band director or coach is a teacher).

Intro to College Application Basics

- **7. Interview:** Some colleges required an interview, but a lot of them do not require it. Dress Professionally and be prepared to answer questions. Questions such as “What are your goals?” and “Why are you interested in this college or university?” are commonly asked.
- **8. Audition/ Portfolio-** You may have to do an audition for Acting or Music. They will usually want some type of portfolio and a video showing one of your performance (very rare but some have ask for this). Dress Professional and practice before going. Ask teachers and guidance counselor what to include in the portfolio.
- **9. Application Fee-** This does not affect your admission (unless you cannot pay- some college waiver this for disadvantage students). The fee can be free or \$10-\$100. Visit their websites to find the cost.

For International Students

- 1. **A Student Visa**: You need to check on a student visa. Generally, you will need a recent photo and completing an **Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application**. You will have to schedule an interview.
- 2. **TOEFL Exam**: You need your most recent scores sent to the school desired.
- 3. **A Financial Document**: This document proves you can pay for college and living expenses.
- 4. **Health Insurance**: You will have to provide your own health insurance.
- 5. **Fill out the application at the University**: Some schools have different application for international students.
- 6. **Make your living arrangements**: Obtain a place to stay at the university you are going to attend that year.
- 7. **Transfer funds to a US bank**: Self explanatory.
- 8. **Course Equivalency Valuation services**: You need to prove course Try WES services!

Intro to Common College Application

- **Common Application:** "A standard application form that is accepted by more than 450 member colleges and universities for admissions. Students can complete the form online or in print and submit copies to any of the participating colleges, rather than filling out individual forms for each school. However, international students will typically need to submit additional application materials unique to each college." (Source: usnews.com).

The Common College Application

Watch this Youtube Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnx6MTfH8cA>
- Copy and Paste link in the address bar.

It is about 20 minutes long.



Start on the Common College Application

- <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- Fill out the general information about yourself.
- Sign up for a time slot (Schedule will be provided).