

TOP 10 COLLEGE APPLICATION MISTAKES

Senior year is hectic, but don't let the frenzy affect the quality of your college applications. Take your time, pay attention to detail and plan ahead so you can meet the deadlines.

Following are some of the top responses from counselors and admissions staff who shared the most common mistakes on college applications.

1. **MISSPELLINGS** – This is a big pet peeve of admissions people. If you misspell on something as important as the application, it shows that either you don't care or you aren't good at spelling. Some students even misspell their intended major.
2. **GRAMMATICAL ERRORS** – It isn't good enough to just spell check. Proofread for grammatical errors.
3. **FORGOTTEN SIGNATURES** – Make sure you sign and date the form. Often students overlook it if it's on the back of the form. Make sure all spaces are completed.
4. **READ CAREFULLY** – County vs. Country? If the form asks what County you live in, the United States should not be the answer.
5. **LISTING EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES THAT AREN'T** – Those that make the list include sports, the arts, formal organizations and volunteer work. Talking on the phone and hanging out with friends don't make the cut.
6. **NOT TELLING YOUR COUNSELOR WHERE YOU'VE APPLIED** – Let your Counselor know which colleges you're applying to, and ask to review your high school transcript before it's sent to colleges. Sometimes transcripts have errors.
7. **WRITING ILLEGIBLY** – First impressions count, so take your time and use your best handwriting. It will make a better impression.
8. **SELECT A PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS** – Using an email address that friends might laugh about, but colleges won't. Keep your fun address for friends, but select an address using your name for college admissions.
9. **NOT CHECKING YOUR EMAIL REGULARLY** – If you've given an email address, the college will use it. You don't want to miss out on anything because you didn't read your email.
10. **LETTING MOM OR DAD HELP YOU FILL OUT YOUR APPLICATION** – Admissions people know if your parents help, whether you have two different styles of handwriting or if your admissions essay sounds more like a 45-year-old than a 17-year-old. It's fine to get advice, but do the work yourself.