

## 10 College Application Mistakes to Avoid from Admission officers



### 1-Failing to Read Directions

Robert Barkley, Clemson University's director of undergraduate admissions, says some U.S. applicants misunderstand a prompt asking International students to provide their student visa information.

"In one case, we got Bank of America. And where we asked for the number of the visa, we got the credit card number. We were not impressed," he says.

### 2-Not Taking Ownership of Applications

"It doesn't tell us that a student is interested if we get 15 phone calls from Mom," says Tom Weede, vice president for enrollment management at Butler University.

"We want families involved. But the student needs to take the lead," he says.

### 3-Submitting a Lengthy Resume

"No 17-year-old should be submitting a three-page resume," says Leigh A. Weisenburger, dean of admission and financial aid at Bates College.

"It just rubs me the wrong way when students submit a resume rather than filling out the activity portion of the application," she says.

### 4-Not Proofreading Applications

"Julie Taymor, who wrote and directed 'The Lion King,' is a graduate of Oberlin, and we had a student who was really passionate about [Taymor's] work and wrote a really well-done essay about it. But she neglected to proof it, and throughout she referred to the musical as 'The Loin King,'" says Debra Chermonte, Oberlin College's dean of admissions and financial aid.

### **5-Repeating Yourself**

"In the application, real estate is so valuable!" says Amy Jarich, assistant vice chancellor and director of undergraduate admissions at the University of California-Berkeley

Each part of your essay should focus on a new idea, not rehash the same old thought.

### **6-Writing a Generic Essay**

Don't write an essay with the intention of simply changing the college or university name for each version.

"Demonstrating true interest and care can make a difference on the margin. And when you're talking about universities that admit under 20 percent of applicants, you may need it," says Chris Munoz, vice president for enrollment at Rice University.

### **7-Overemphasizing Extracurriculars**

Experts recommend demonstrating the personal significance of chosen extracurricular activities and focusing on quality over quantity.

"We want to know where a student's passions lie, and genuine interests tend not to appear suddenly in senior year," says Sarah Richardson, director of admissions and scholarships at Creighton University.

### **8-Not Checking Class Requirements**

Make sure you take the required classes before graduating from high school.

"There's nothing more disappointing than to review an application of a student who might otherwise be competitive for admission and realize she is ineligible

because she didn't take the required courses," says Kelly A. Walter, associate vice president and executive director of admissions at Boston University.

### **9-Waiting Until the Last Minute**

"Many students who submit on the date of the deadline assume that everything transmitted and was received," says Julie Shimabukuro, director of admissions at Washington University in St Louis.

"We try to give a few days' grace period, but colleges and universities expect you to confirm that your application has been received and that it is complete," she says.

### **10-Lack of signatures**

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College application time is busy and comes with no end of stress. When you have one application after another, it becomes difficult to stay organized and keep track of everything that matters. For many students, this means the most straightforward part of the college application goes unnoticed: signatures. Every year, colleges remark on the striking number of students who send in amazing applications entirely devoid of signed names and checked boxes. This problem is easy to fix, so don't let being in a rush hurt your chances of acceptance!

**Tags: personal statement, application essay, essay, mistakes, college, application, common mistakes, application mistakes**

