

# Applying to college can exhaust students

Nov. 1, Jan. 1, May 1. To any average person, these are just dates, but to high school seniors these deadlines are what they've been preparing for their entire high school careers. The

end of high school brings a new beginning, but first seniors must be drowned in a sea of applications and deadlines.

Besides meeting deadlines and sending in applications, seniors must continue to keep their grades up and be involved in extracurricular activities. This is imperative as college acceptance is becoming more and more competitive. Nowadays, everyone is going to college; even overseas students are flocking to American colleges and universities.

Because of the increasing attendance rate in colleges, the average GPA of students being accepted has also increased. For example, Indiana University Bloomington's IU Excellence Scholarships are awarded only to students with a minimum GPA of 3.80 on a 4.0 scale. The minimum required SAT and ACT scores are 1340 and 30, respectively. By working hard and maintaining good grades, thousands of dollars could be saved due to academic and/or merit scholarships. It will all pay off in the end. Guaranteed.

So how can the stress of applying to college be combated? Counselor Mark Clark's advice is to plan ahead and go online to research the schools and their programs. Then, apply online.

"Students need to start early...apply early," he said.

But don't wait until senior year to do the researching. Be ahead of the game and start as soon as possible. It is okay to be a freshman

## Staff editorial

that has already begun his/her college search. The sooner, the better.

Clark said, "Sometimes you need to apply to four or five colleges."

But do not go overboard and apply to every single college that just has that awesome name. It costs money to apply, so it would be smart to only apply to the ones that you have researched and decided are definite possibilities.

So what are some of the most important deadlines and what are they for? Nov. 1 is the deadline for applying early to college, but the regular deadline is between early January and early February. It is very recommended that seniors meet the Nov. 1 deadline. Also, in early January, seniors should start applying for scholarships. There are many scholarships available. They vary from the ones offered at the universities and colleges to the ones offered at the workplaces of the students or their parents.

Jan. 1 is the recommended deadline to complete and submit the FAFSA form, which is a free application for federal student aid.

In April, seniors should make a final decision. Out of all of the colleges that accepted them, they must choose the one where they would like to spend the next four years. This is possibly the hardest deadline and decision yet. Most colleges have a May 1 enrollment deadline.

To all the stressed out high school students, just take a deep breath and stay organized. All of the hard work and preparation will soon pay off. However, try to enjoy the rest of your high school career before you are forced into the "real world."

What is your opinion on the college application process?



[REBEKAH  
FAIRBANKS  
Senior]

"A lot of paperwork that I really don't know how to do."



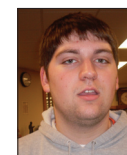
[BRITNEY  
SCHMITT  
Senior]

"Long, tiring, and personal."



[CATIE  
DORGAY  
Sophomore]

"I'm only a sophomore, but I've heard it can be really stressful."



[REED  
PADGETT  
Junior]

"It's better because you don't want just any kid going to college that didn't try in high school."



[HANNAH  
DAVIS  
Freshman]

"It helps the people who try harder get accepted."