

College Prep for High School Students

Extracurricular Activities: Valuable Experience

How are your activities related to college and financial aid?

Scholarships: Sponsors often ask for a list of volunteer and extracurricular activities. Gained skills and accomplishments can set you apart from other scholarship applicants.

Colleges: Set yourself apart from other applicants by showing an admissions office more than a high GPA or test score.

What can you do now to enhance the activities you're already involved in?

- * Take on different roles within the organization; identify your strengths and preferences.
- * Keep hard copies of materials from events or projects you help to organize.
- * Maintain a personal record of tasks, responsibilities and achievements.
- * Be a leader/active participant in a few organizations rather than simply showing up to many. Use those organizations as an opportunity to develop leadership skills.

Make the Most of High School

Meet with your counselor. Plan your high school curriculum early to be sure you're covered for college requirements.

Take more rigorous classes. Grades are important, but so is the difficulty of the courses you take. Instead of the easy "A," choose the most academically rigorous courses you can.

Master the basics. Strengthen your reading, writing, math and vocabulary skills for college and scholarship essays, as well as standardized tests.

Explore your interests through your classes. Take classes in a variety of subjects to find out what interests you.

Advanced Placement - Accept the Challenge

What are advanced placement classes?

Advanced placement (AP) courses prepare students for the rigors of college coursework. Many colleges also allow you to use high AP scores earned in high school to fulfill course requirements.

How can I earn college credit?

Check with your prospective colleges to ask about their AP policies, which can differ among colleges. Once coursework is complete, you may take the AP exam for that particular subject. The tests are scored on a scale from 1 to 5. Generally, you need a score of 3 or 4 or higher to obtain college credit.

What are the benefits of taking AP classes?

- Explore more challenging, college-level coursework.
- Improve your college applications. Admissions offices recognize the work and commitment required by AP courses.
- Earn college credit that will allow you to advance more rapidly through your major and general education requirements.
- Save money on tuition. Earning college credit in high school may allow you to graduate early.

What else do I need to know?

- You may also need your high school's assistance in coordinating your exam.
- Some colleges may charge a fee for your AP credits to transfer to college credit.
- The fee for one AP test is \$82. Ask your counselor about payment options.

- * **Check with your teacher, guidance counselor or your high school's AP coordinator for more details.**

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