

THE PERFECT PATH TO

STAND OUT EXTRACURRICULARS



MATCH YOUR INTERESTS

Any extracurricular can give you great material for an application if it connects to a potential major or career field. Want to be a vet? Volunteer at the animal shelter! Work in business? Spend some time learning about the stock market, and try investing!

TAKE THE INITIATIVE

Don't be afraid to create an opportunity for yourself: these can be the most fruitful to write about in applications. For example, if you're an athlete but looking for a service activity, connect the two interests and run a drive to collect and donate used athletic gear to an underserved school or community center. Make your impact in a way that speaks to who you are.



COMMIT AND LEAD

While you are always welcome to try new things, colleges are looking for you to deepen your involvement in at least some of the activities you do over time. But leadership doesn't just mean being president of a club. You could spearhead a new initiative, recruit members, or contribute in another way. Optimally, your involvement in activities should grow over the course of high school.



EMBRACE YOUR HOBBIES

Not every activity has to be an organized club or team! Hobbies can make great items for your college application. Anything that you're pursuing on your own, from learning a language to knitting a sweater, getting in shape, or cooking for your family can make a great addition to your resume.



USE YOUR SUMMERS

There are a wealth of summer opportunities out there. Volunteer, get a job, shadow someone in your chosen field, or pick an academic experience like a college-based program. While doing a summer program at Stanford, for example, won't increase your chances of admission there automatically, it may provide you with inspiration for a great college essay or even spark a possible career interest!



DON'T JUST CHECK BOXES

The idea that colleges want only well-rounded students is outdated. A former admissions dean at an Ivy League school recently told us she liked to look for "pointy" students --those who have delved deeply into their interests, whatever those interests may be. You don't need a club, activity, or sport just to have one! Spend your time on what you care about. .



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GO DO SOMETHING YOU LOVE.



QUESTIONS ABOUT FINDING YOUR PERFECT PATH TO COLLEGE?

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