

# WHAT DO COLLEGES LOOK FOR?

Should schools encourage students to join more extra curricular activities rather than emphasize GPA so heavily?

**3.0** unweighted GPA baseline for most state universities

**1000** average score for combined SAT categories for most state universities

**21** 50th percentile overall ACT score for most state universities

## TIPS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- GPA is not everything; do not stress over a few poor grades on a high school record.
- Colleges look for rigor; one should challenge oneself, but should not push too hard.
- Get involved in lots of activities and clubs, and become a captain or officer.
- If you have a job or internship, emphasize it in an application. Work shows one's ability to work in a team and under stressful situations.
- Do not be afraid to brag. Colleges want to see involvement, awards and accomplishments.

To show versatility of extra curriculars, get involved in these three types of activities.



**THE PERSONALITY ACTIVITY.** When colleges see a personality activity, they get to see one's interests. While colleges like to see one's work ethic and academic strengths, showing them passions and hobbies also helps them determine if one is a good fit for their school.

EXAMPLES: Sports teams, band, yearbook, chess club, cheer



**THE ACADEMIC ACTIVITY.** Colleges love to see academic activities to see a student's academic strength and enrichment outside of the classroom. It helps show interest in a certain field or major and can lead to more opportunities for networking.

EXAMPLES: Math Club, Quiz Bowl, computer programming



**THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITY.** One of the most important aspects to any college application is involvement in the community. It helps develop critical thinking and problem solving skills and shows one's ability to work as an individual and as a team member.

EXAMPLES: Key Club, National Honor Society, internships