

TIPS AND TRICKS

Extracurriculars Edition

- **Why Extracurriculars:**
 - Show who you are **outside the classroom**.
 - Highlight **leadership, initiative, and passion**.
 - **Depth (commitment + impact)** is valued
 - Help **explore interests** and sometimes even discover your future major.
- **Step 1: Start with Your Passions**
 - Think about your intended major
 - Business → DECA, BPA, entrepreneurship clubs.
 - Pre-Med → HOSA, hospital volunteering, science research
 - Computer Science → Coding club, robotics, hackathons
 - Law/Political Science → Debate, Model UN, Student Gov
 - Align at least one activity with your **future goals** to show direction
- **Step 2: Build Variety**
 - Aim for 3–5 strong activities across different categories:
 - Academic/Professional: Clubs or competitions related to your major.
 - Community Service: Volunteering, tutoring, or nonprofit involvement.
 - Leadership: Club officer, team captain, founder of an initiative.
 - Creative/Personal Passion: Dance, art, writing, music, etc.
 - Athletics/Health: Sports, fitness, or wellness activities.
- **Step 3: Depth**

- Commit to fewer activities but **grow within them** (member → officer)
- Stay consistent: 3 years in one club with leadership is stronger than 10 scattered clubs
- **Step 4: Make an Impact with Extracurriculars**
 - Track impact with numbers: # of participants, \$ raised, % increase, audience reach, etc.
 - Use free tools: Canva (design), Google Sites (website), Trello/Notion (project management), LinkedIn (sharing), Instagram/Facebook/TikTok (marketing)
 - Seek Leadership: Start as a member, but look for opportunities to lead, mentor, or organize
 - Create Projects: Add value by launching fundraisers, events, or campaigns within your club
 - Collaborate: Partner with other organizations for bigger initiatives
- **Step 4: Make an Impact with Community Service**
 - Pick causes that matter to you: (Ex: If interested in education → tutor, if interested in healthcare → volunteer at hospital)
 - Show consistency: long-term service at one place is more meaningful than random one-time events
- **Final Tips**
 - **Start Early:** Join in 9th grade if possible — more time to grow.
 - **Experiment, Then Focus:** Try a few in freshman/sophomore year → narrow down by junior/senior year.
 - Quantify and Qualify: “Reached 200 students” / add outcomes: “helped raise awareness,” “inspired younger students,” etc.
 - Scale it: Turn a one-time idea into something sustainable (annual event, online resource, toolkit)