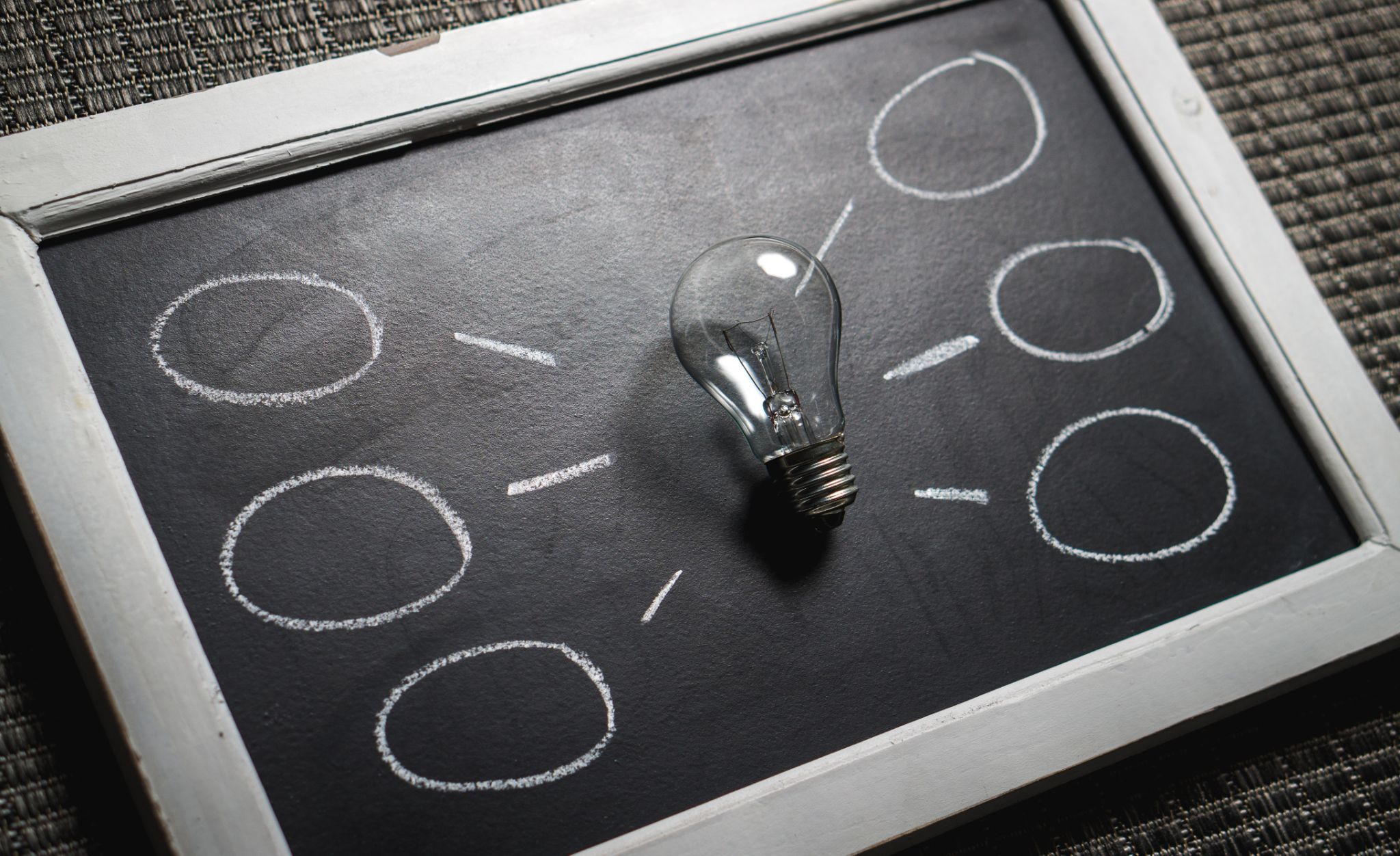
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**Planning for College - What extracurricular activities should I do?**

Success with your college application doesn’t just rely on good grades or a well-written personal statement. Your extracurricular activities can show a college admissions officer a lot about your personality, interests, and commitment and play a huge part in the chances of you being accepted into the college of your dreams. If you think you need to add more extracurriculars to your current schedule, these are some of our top suggestions of the best extracurricular activities to consider when planning for college.

**Sports**

Sports are one of the most popular extracurricular activities, but they showcase a whole variety of skills. Team sports such as football or basketball tell a college admissions officer that you are willing to work as a team, which is an essential life skill for future employment. Sports take a lot of time, energy, and commitment, and especially if you are representing your school or competing at a high level, this can be an attractive addition to any college application. Most sports involve a lot of discipline to get to a certain level, and this is a skill that can be transferred to almost any part of your life. Finally, if you are a captain of your school’s team, make sure you highlight this on your application. Any extracurriculars where you take a leadership role will help you stand out when applying for college this year.

**Internships**

An internship will look fantastic on any college application and shows that you are serious about pursuing a career in a certain field. The dedication and commitment the application process for an internship requires will also stand out on your college application. Internships are incredibly competitive today, and while not everyone is able to get this experience in high school, you’ll be sure to stand out if you have completed an internship. You’ll show a college admissions officer that you are likely to use your time in college very wisely if you’ve already dedicated your free time to an internship.

**Competing on an Academic Team**

Sports aren’t the only type of activity available to high school students today, and if science, chess, or debating is more your scene, these clubs will also stand out on your college application. Participating in a club and team within the academic field shows your inquisitive nature and interest in exploring the world around you. It will showcase your ability to think critically and work within a team to overcome challenges. While you may have competed in these teams from a young age, highlight the most relevant experience and highest accomplishments on your application.

**Theater Clubs and Music Performances**

The performing arts are another field that requires as much dedication and commitment as sports do. Creative activities will help you to stand out on your college application, and a drama performance, dance group, or orchestra membership will be key activities to highlight. Mastering dance, drama, or music skills takes years of practice and dedication, and the college admissions officer will be impressed by your interest in the arts. These types of activities show you are happy to push yourself out of your comfort zone and are confident performing in front of other people. While many jobs don’t involve performing in the same manner as the arts, you’ll often need good presentation and communication skills to share your ideas and projects.

**Work Experience**

Don’t overlook the importance of adding work experience to your college application. Even a part-time or summer job can help you stand out, and it shows you have a strong work ethic, are a team player, and have good time management skills. So many jobs that high school students do develop customer service and people skills, and you’ll find they give you the confidence to meet and interact with new people when you attend college. You’ll find a lot of people don’t have work experience when they head to college, so it will show your willingness to use your time productively and your excitement to enter into the workforce in the future.

**IT Skills**

It may seem like every high school student nowadays has good IT skills, but any skills that are considered out of the norm should be highlighted on your college application. We are not talking about using basic programs or typing, but instead coding, computer programming, graphic design, and editing. These skills show you understand the importance of technology in our world today and how it will influence the job market in the future. These are all crucial skills for a wide variety of majors, and if you are looking to study computer science or something similar, this will show your ability to pick up new skills quickly.

**Activism**

Have you taken part in any activities within high school to support political movements or events? If so, this is a fantastic thing to add to your college application. Being part of the student government, or organizing local events and rallies, shows your commitment to a cause. When you are adding these to your application, ensure you explain why you are passionate about the subject, the awareness you hope to spread, and the activities you have been part of. These will all show your ability to stand up for what you believe in, to follow your passions, and not be swayed by the crowd. Demonstrating these types of leadership skills is crucial for anyone looking to be successful in college.

Adding a few of these extracurricular activities to your college application will completely transform your chances of getting into the college of your dreams. Try to create a well-rounded application that showcases a good variety of skills and interests. As well as listing the extracurriculars you enjoy, you’ll want to showcase the skills these have helped you to develop. A student who has taken the time to participate in a lot of activities in high school is likely to become an integral part of their future college community. This is something that is crucial for college admissions officers to see, as they are always looking to build a welcoming and collaborative environment at their college.