* **Joining an on-campus club can provide personal, social, and professional benefits.**
* **Clubs can help you find community, make friends, network, and have fun.**
* **In most cases, you should join 1-2 on-campus clubs and make real commitments.**

Joining an on-campus club or organization often comes with an array of personal and professional benefits for college students. Many students participate in [extracurricular activities](https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/best-extracurriculars-college-applications).

Joining or [starting a club](https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/how-to-start-college-club/) can provide you with a sense of community, soft skills, networking opportunities, and just a good way to spend your free time. Discover the benefits of joining clubs in college and the different types of clubs you can participate in.

What Types of College Clubs and Organizations Are There?

A good way to get a sense of the breadth and depth of on-campus clubs and organizations at your school is to attend the club fair. Most schools offer this event during the [first week of classes](https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/your-first-week-on-campus/), usually at a central campus location like the student union or the quad.

Each group usually sets up a booth or table, and you can stop by and talk to leadership to ask about what the group does and how often they meet.

There are many different types of clubs and organizations, including club sports, academic groups, and [fraternities and sororities](https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/is-greek-life-worth-it/). No matter what you're interested in, you should be able to find some sort of fit at the club fair.

7 Reasons to Join a Club or Organization in College

There are personal, professional, and social reasons to participate in campus life. Below are seven benefits of joining a club or organization.

1. It Can Help Boost Your Resume

In "[The Defining Decade](https://megjay.com/the-defining-decade/)," author Meg Jay writes about identity capital — or the currency we use to pursue jobs and relationships.

When she was [interviewing for jobs](https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/first-job-interview-tips) a few years after college, employers rarely asked her about her education. Instead, they asked her about her time working for Outward Bound, leading high school students on trips into the backcountry.

The lesson? Extracurriculars like clubs are a great way to [make your resume pop](https://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/resume-cover-letter-guide). Most employers want to see you're [involved in campus](https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/ways-to-get-involved-on-campus) life beyond your classes.

2. You'll Get to Meet New People

Clubs and organizations offer you the opportunity to meet new people. While it's easier to connect with the people who live around you in your dorm, it can be tough to strike up conversations with other students in your classes.

If you join a club, you already share an interest or passion with other members. This makes it easier to form a [friendship and find new people](https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/how-to-make-friends-in-college) to spend time with.

3. You Can Find or Build a Community

When you join a club or organization, you often join a community built around a shared interest or passion. For example, you all may love Ultimate Frisbee, or cup stacking, or business.

You will have practices, meetings, or other sessions where you gather together. You will have shared experiences. Especially if you are new to campus, joining a club or organization can provide you with an instant community and friend group.

4. You'll Develop New Skills

By joining a club, you can develop both hard and [soft skills](https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/top-soft-skills-for-the-workplace). You'll develop the hard skills that the club centers around — throwing a frisbee or salsa dancing, for example. You can also develop collaboration and communication skills, both of which many employers want to see in job candidates.

If you have the chance to eventually serve in a leadership position with the club, you can hone your leadership and managerial skills.

5. You'll Get to Work With Diverse Groups of People

In many cases, clubs are made up of diverse groups of students who happen to share a common interest. You can meet different types of people through clubs and organizations, perhaps even a more diverse set of people than you encounter in your dorm or your classes.

6. You Can Build a Network

By joining a club or organization, you can gain access to a new network of people, which can benefit you both personally and professionally. In addition to making friends, you can meet people who will go on to work in a variety of industries.

You can call upon them for connections, job opportunities, and other networking benefits after you all graduate.

7. It's Fun!

The main reason to join a club or organization? It's fun! In an ideal world, college isn't all about business. It's a time to explore, meet people, and try new things. Clubs and organizations can provide you with those opportunities.

How Many Clubs and Organizations Should You Join in College?

In most cases, when [joining an on-campus club](https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/key-to-choosing-student-clubs/) or organization, you should prioritize depth over breadth. Don't join seven clubs and never show up at any meetings.

Instead, join one or two clubs that truly interest you and that you can commit to over an extended period of time.

Furthermore, keep in mind that you still have to go to classes, do your homework, and keep up with your major. You don't want to spread yourself too thin or overload yourself with clubs and organizations, leaving no time for your studies.

Students are busy. Between classes, work, homework, family and other commitments, there can be a lot to balance. So why would we suggest you add another thing to that list by joining a student organization? Because it can impact your career and student experience now, and after college. You’ll develop strengths and skills that could have a positive and broad impact as you enter the workplace — something that the [Bentley-Gallup Force for Good survey](https://www.bentley.edu/gallup) identified as important: most Americans surveyed said that a business’ social impact is paramount.

##### RELATED: Explore more findings in the [*Bentley-Gallup full report.*](https://www.bentley.edu/files/gallup/Bentley-Gallup_Force_for_Good_Report_final.pdf)

Take a look at these 12 reasons why you should join a student organization while getting your graduate degree.

**1. You’ll learn more about yourself.**

Joining a student organization presents many opportunities to learn more about yourself, your goals and your strengths. You can learn from how other students handle certain situations and test your current knowledge. You can also find out what you’re good at, whether that’s multitasking, staying organized, generating ideas or serving others. This self-awareness will be beneficial in your future career.

**2. You gain a sense of community.**

[Banmai Huynh ’24](https://www.linkedin.com/in/banmaihuynh) has found positive connections through the [Bentley Asian Students Association](https://bentley.campusgroups.com/basa/home/) (BASA). Regular Sunday night meetings, for example, provide time for members to share stories, enjoy social time or talk about issues.

“When the country experienced a rise in Asian hate crimes in spring 2021, it was good to be together and work to raise awareness,” recalls Huynh, who is on the BASA executive board. “We had a lot of heartfelt conversations and became closer.”

**3. You can be a voice.**

A Bentley-Gallup Force for Good Survey found that most Americans think business and government have a lot of power to make a positive impact but they’re falling short of their potential. Joining a mission-driven student organization like the Student Government Association is a platform for future business leaders to advocate, be a voice for others and influence positive change.

**4. You’ll develop soft skills.**

Soft skills are essentially “people skills” — they’re the skills that allow us to effectively interact with others, like communication, attitude and work ethic. Participating in a student organization not only teaches you these skills, but also helps you broaden and improve those you already have. You’ll learn the best way to communicate with both individuals and large groups, and you’ll gain emotional intelligence as you develop new relationships.

**5. You’ll learn how to work with a team.**

Knowing how to work well with a team is an essential skill for any career. Being in a student organization teaches you how to do this by putting you in situations where you are required to take advice from others, as well as give your own.

[Tyler-Gary Louis ’23](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tyler-gary-l-a66631128/) is president of Bentley’s Black United Body (BUB) and served as director of the sold-out 2022 BUB Fashion Show. Working with a diverse team to create and manage the show was impactful.

“When you’re spending countless hours working with your team on something you are all passionate about, you build a bond that is indescribable and will last after we graduate from Bentley,” Louis says. “You learn from so many different opinions and personalities that it reminds you why you’re doing it in the first place.”

**6. You’ll get networking opportunities.**

Another great benefit of student organizations is the opportunity to network. Meeting new students, making connections, and building relationships will all help down the line when you’re looking for a job. Many organizations are professionally focused and host events with alumni or panel discussions with local professionals.

**7. You can use the skills you’ve learned in class.**

Being part of an organization allows you to put all those things you’ve been learning in class to the test in real-world situations. You’ll get to learn what works and what doesn’t, and you’ll be able to take that knowledge back to the classroom, and then, of course, along with you in a future career. The Bentley Consulting Group, for example, provides members with consulting case and interview prep, consulting networking events and real-world consulting projects that allow its members to fully experience what it is like to be a consultant.

**8. You’ll learn to engage with diverse groups of people.**

Chances are that the organization you choose to participate in will include a diverse group of people — and you’ll be faced with the same situation in the working world. And according to the Bentley-Gallup Survey, Gen Z believes that businesses should be promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. A student organization is an opportunity for you to learn how different people respond and react to certain situations. Those that focus on identity and advocacy – such as the Africana Student Association, La Cultura Latina and Students Advocating for Gender Equity – could help you develop skills to promote an inclusive work culture now and at your future employer.

**9. You’ll gain leadership skills.**

Becoming a leader or an officer in an organization will help you develop leadership skills that will be invaluable in all areas of life. Louis says his role as BUB president requires a combination of leadership, advocacy and community.

“I enjoyed identifying people’s strengths to build an executive board of students who are authentically passionate about change and community,” he says. “Serving as president presents a visible platform for me to help people bring their best selves to the table and think outside of their comfort zone. College is a time to discover who you are and what intrigues you.”

**10. You’ll get a break from your studies — and have fun.**

Concentrating on schoolwork is obviously important during college but giving your mind a break is necessary (and beneficial). While taking part in club activities, you’ll be able to socialize with like-minded individuals and learn as much from them as you would your schoolwork. Bentley’s hip-hop dance group CRAZE, for example, has built it into their mission to be “a fun, energetic, hip-hop dance group” committed to a healthy and active lifestyle and self-expression.

**11. You’ll expand your résumé.**

There’s no arguing that organizations and activities look good on a résumé. Showing employers that you participated in, or (better yet) lead, a student organization, they’ll know that you’re hardworking and can handle multiple responsibilities. Students on the [Campus Activities Board](https://bentley.campusgroups.com/cab/home/), for example. organized and managed a sold-out Spring Day event in 2022 featuring concert headliners Diplo and Jack Harlow. Tessie Lammle ’15, who is now a talent music agent at United Talent Agency in Beverly Hills, says that working on these kinds of on-campus music performances can help students make inroads with booking agents and understand the process.

**12. You’ll give back to the community.**

According to the Bentley-Gallup Survey, 55% of Americans believe business has a positive impact on society. Many student organizations provide opportunities to give back to the community, whether through acts of service, sponsoring events or hosting charity drives. Not only is this good for society, but it will teach you how a future business can give back, too.

No matter where your academic journey takes you, look for ways to get involved in student organizations. If you are a Bentley student or are interested in becoming one, check out our [full list of student organizations here](https://www.bentley.edu/university-life/campus-life/student-organization-directory).

In addition to getting a good education, one of the major benefits of being a college student is the friendships you’ll establish with your classmates. However, the demands of being a post-secondary student can be incredibly time consuming. Most often, this leaves students with very little time to devote to socializing.

On the other hand, there is an alternative way students can meet new people without infringing upon their studies. This involves them joining a campus club.

At Hocking College there are [**more than 20 different on-campus organizations**](https://www.hocking.edu/get-involved) students can get involved in. Whether you’re interested in rekindling a favorite hobby, exploring the natural beauty of Southeast Ohio or giving back to the community, you’re bound to find a club at Hocking that will help you connect with other students who share your interests.

Besides making new friends, joining a campus club will benefit you in the following manners:

1. SHARPENS YOUR PEOPLE SKILLS

College is usually the first time that students are without parents or long-time friends, so joining a club can be really beneficial in the sense that students learn to branch out and make new friends again.

These types of groups are also beneficial because college will bring together a more diverse group of people, meaning students will learn about how to interact with different cultures.

2. DEVELOPS YOUR TEAM WORK SKILLS

Whoever said "Team work makes the dream work," wasn't kidding. When students work together in a club, they inadvertantly develop their teamwork skills that look great on a resume.

3. GIVES YOU OPPORTUNITIES TO NETWORK

Depending on your field, joining a campus club that relates to your degree will put you in a great position to network with those in the same industry as you. Be sure to connect with everyone you meet on a [**networking site**](http://linkedin.com/), such as LinkedIn, to ensure that you can reach back out if you're ever looking for a job or reference.

[**Not sure how to set up a LinkedIn account?  
Visit the Career & University Center, located on the first floor of John Light Hall**](https://www.hocking.edu/career-services)

4. ENHANCES YOUR RESUME

One of the best reasons to join a campus club is to build your resume. Employers love to see that you were involved in things outside of the classroom.

According to a Forbes article by Matt Symonds, "When it comes down to the wire, dedication to [**volunteerism and/or interesting activities might make the difference**](https://www.forbes.com/sites/mattsymonds/2014/05/07/how-extracurriculars-can-make-you-extra-special/#11d94af85356)."

5. ESTABLISHES A SUPPORT SYSTEM



When moving away to college, you're not only leaving behind your family and friends, but also your support system. Joining a club will allow you to bond with new people and establish a support system right on campus.

6. BETTER BALANCE OF WORK & PLAY TIME

Balancing your time between work and play is an important skill for students to learn before entering the workforce. According to [**the Australian Institute for Business**](https://www.aib.edu.au/blog/balance-wellbeing/work-life-balance-is-important/), having a work-life balance leads to fewer burnouts, fewer health problems, and when you are at work, you are more focused and productive.

7. ENJOY A BREAK FROM YOUR STUDIES

According to research available from the [**Learning Corner at Oregon State**](https://success.oregonstate.edu/sites/success.oregonstate.edu/files/LearningCorner/Tools/taking_breaks_from_studying.pdf), studies indicate that students should take a break from studying after about 45-60 minutes of deep concentration or between subjects.

8. DECREASES YOUR STRESS LEVELS

[**Socialization is an important component of stress reduction**](https://www.mentalhelp.net/articles/socialization-and-altruistic-acts-as-stress-relief/)and because humans are social-beings, it is crucial that college students find some way to socialize on campus whether through a student club, study group, intramural sports, etc.

9. MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

Some clubs have the ability to impact the community through volunteerism and/or community events. If you like making a difference, then joining the right club will allow you to get that feel-good feeling.

Studying in a UK university can be challenging. With an enormous amount of classes, seminars, lecture tutorials and exams life can be harsh and lonely. You may find yourself away from the community, friends and social groups. [These feelings](http://www.ukuni.net/articles/5-difficulties-international-students-uk) can overwhelm you and your struggle in making new friends.

However, if you join a club, the process of making friends is not something that difficult. Below are enlisted the reasons why you should join a community/society in a college.

**You can get exposed more!**

Joining a club or a society will enable you to connect to a peer group who shares similar interests as you. You will get an insight into other countries culture, values, thinking process and views. The connections that you make here can also possibly lead to life-long relationships.

**It enriches your life as a student.**

Being a part of a club or a society helps you to gain knowledge, skills and experience in leadership, communication, problem-solving, group development and management, finance, presentation and public speaking. You will feel the change in yourself.

**You'll grow faster than you think.**

You will undoubtedly learn new skills. In a diverse group, you will be able to experience personal growth. You will be able to discover your passion, your skills and experiment with areas of expertise

**It's the best way to meet people.**

Being an active member of society solves your biggest issue in the UK and the issue of finding people and networking. With all the packed schedule, the benefit of being a member of a community allows you to learn something along with bonding with people and have fun.

**The experience will make your CV more interesting.**

And of course, it is a great experience to put on your [CV](http://www.ukuni.net/articles/quick-and-easy-guide-writing-good-cv). After your graduation, when you apply for jobs, you will stand out amongst your peers. Your academic scores won't stand out alone. You need extra-curricular to decorate your CV.

**It's one of the best ways to travel.**

From cultural galas to volunteer trip, you never know what experiences are waiting for you on the other side of the road. The more you participate, the more experience you will gain. Being part of a community provides you with that.

**It provides you with a great opportunity to network.**

This can be an amazing platform to meet potential employers. You will be able to participate in all of the networking events. These connections will be invaluable for you in the near future.

Go ahead. Join some clubs. Make some memories. It's your year and your time.