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Definition of extracurricular adjective from the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary not part of the usual course of work or studies at a school or collegeShe’s involved in many extracurricular activities.Topics Education1Oxford Collocations DictionaryExtra-curricular is used with these nouns: See full entry See extracurricular in the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary What you do outside of the classroom is almost as important as what you do in it. Your extracurricular activities will set you apart from other academically qualified college candidates. But which ones are the best for highlighting your talents and strengths? Below are some impressive extracurricular activities across various categories ranging from STEM to sports that you can add to your resume and boost your chances of admission to your dream school! How important are Extracurriculars in Admissions? Extracurricular activities account for about 30% of a college application. But their impact on your admissions chances is a bit more nuanced than that. Most highly selective colleges use the Academic Index to screen applicants. This metric represents academic factors like grades and test scores. Students must meet the college’s minimum standards before the admissions committee will take a closer look at their application. However, colleges receive applications from thousands of students who reach their Academic Index threshold, so how do they make their final decisions? That’s where extracurriculars enter the picture! These activities, along with other qualitative materials, like essays, will make students stand out. Curious how your Academic Index and extracurriculars will affect your admissions chances? Our free chancing engine takes into account GPA, test scores, extracurriculars, and other data to predict your chances of admission at over 1600 colleges across the country. We’ll also let you know how you stack up against other applicants and how you can improve your profile. How Do Colleges Evaluate Extracurriculars? Not all extracurriculars are created equally. There is a system CollegeVine and admissions committees use to evaluate extracurriculars based on their uniqueness and the level of dedication or skill they demonstrate. Extracurricular activities can be divided into four tiers. Tier 1 Extracurricular Activities These are usually rare and demonstrate exceptional talent, achievement, or merit. Winning a prestigious national award, sitting first chair in an all-state orchestra, and starting a nonprofit that gains national attention are examples of tier 1 activities. Tier 2 Extracurricular Activities While somewhat more common than tier 1 activities, tier 2 activities still demonstrate exceptional achievement. Admissions committees simply encounter these activities more frequently than they do those in tier 1. For example, you might serve as student body president, make it to state tournaments for tennis, or you could win a local or regional contest. Tier 3 Extracurricular Activities These activities are more frequently found on students’ applications, but they’re still worth including since they demonstrate applicants’ interests outside of the classroom. This tier includes smaller leadership positions in school clubs like treasurer or distinctions in a sport like player of the week or junior captain. Tier 4 Extracurricular Activities Tier 4 describes the activities that are most commonly seen by admissions committees. Although less impressive than the other tiers, these activities do play a role in helping colleges see what kind of student and person they would be admitting. This tier includes general membership in clubs and organizations, volunteering regularly, or taking music classes or other types of lessons for several years. The activity itself is less important than your commitment to it. Tier 1 and 2 activities that demonstrate a real passion should be prioritized, but, of course, it’s unlikely that you’ll have more than a couple of those on your resume. Should You Be Well-Rounded or Specialized? Contrary to popular belief, being well-rounded doesn’t necessarily make you stand out to college admissions officers. It’s a pervasive myth that you need to be well-rounded to get into a good college. In reality, students are more likely to stand out with a well-developed specialty, also known as a spike. This depth, instead of breadth, can showcase your commitment, passion, and potential to contribute uniquely to the college community. Furthermore, you can enhance your spike with juxtapositional depth. It’s a term that describes the blending of two different specialties into a single activity, which can make you even more memorable to the admissions committee. For example, if you’re an athlete who loves to write, you might combine these interests by finding a niche in sports journalism, such as starting a column for your high school newspaper. Or, if you’re a musician with a passion for helping your community, you could teach music lessons to children at your community center. Another example could be a student passionate about both software and sports. They could develop an app to track stats for their school’s teams, or they could start a coding club that creates software to help local sports clubs with their logistics. How Many Extracurriculars Do You Need? There isn’t a fixed number of extracurricular activities that an applicant must have on their list. While competitive applicants often have 8-10 activities, this is merely an average, not a requirement. Doing more activities isn’t necessarily better. The impact and tier of the activities outside of the classroom are most important. Additionally, remember that many activities, like sports, are seasonal; you definitely don’t need to be doing 8-10 activities all at once! Remember, your extracurriculars should showcase your talents, interests, and commitment. If you take on too much, your grades could suffer—as could your mental health. Learning to prioritize certain activities and manage your time is a valuable skill, not only for college applications but also for life beyond high school. 73 Impressive Extracurriculars for College The following are extracurriculars you could consider joining depending on your interests. Remember, the most impressive extracurriculars are those with juxtapositional depth that connect two of your interests, so if you see something you like in the Medicine and Music category, why not start your own activity and bridge your two interests together! STEM International Biology Competition Math Olympiad (1st place) Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science Research Science Institute Science Olympiad (president) Telluride Association Summer Program Hackathon programs (and winning an award) Computer science internships Robotics programs (and winning an award) Creating custom websites for businesses Founding a science, technology, engineering, or math club at your school Organizing a community-wide STEM fair or event Arts Congressional Art Competition International Thespian Honor Society Juilliard Summer Dance Intensive National Art Honor Society (award) National YoungArts Week Scholastic Art Award Teaching art lessons Painting a mural for your city Organizing a local arts festival or exhibition Directing a play or film Starting a local art class for children or adults Medicine Doctors Without Borders high school program (leadership position) HOSA - Future Health Professionals Medical Explorers Medicine-related internship Volunteering in a clinic Doing research Founding a medical science club at your school Organizing a health fair in your community Launching a public health awareness campaign Politics Doors to Diplomacy Competition (award) Model Congress (president or award) Model UN (president) Senate Page Program Starting a Junior Statesmen of America chapter Volunteering for a political campaign Founding a political discussion or debate club at your school Starting a blog or podcast that discusses current political issues (and getting a good amount of traction) Athletics Captain of a competitive sports team Coaching a competitive team High-ranking, recognized athlete Running a half marathon Scholar-athlete award programs (usually run by states or districts) Founding a new sports team or club at your school Organizing a community sports event, like a fun run or charity game Launching a fitness or wellness initiative in your community Writing Interning at a publication NCTE Achievement Award Newspaper (editor) Publishing your work in a national publication Quill and Scroll Scholastic Writing Award Starting a creative writing club at your school Publishing a book or ebook Hosting a community poetry reading or writer’s workshop Music All-state band or orchestra Demonstrated exceptional skill in a difficult or less common instrument (e.g. oboe) Director or leader of a music ensemble, band, or orchestra Starting an in- or outside-of-school music group or ensemble Tri-M Music Honor Society Organizing a community concert or music festival Starting a school radio station or podcast featuring student music Teaching music lessons to children in your community Community Service Amnesty International (leadership role) Key Club (leadership role) Mentoring peers or younger students through a formal program Starting a nonprofit Starting a volunteering club Organizing a large-scale fundraising event for a local charity Creating a community garden or other environmental project Launching a tutoring or mentorship program for younger students. Looking for more ideas? Check out CollegeVine’s complete list of extracurricular activities. Remember, colleges are interested in how you’ve demonstrated leadership, initiative, and growth through your extracurricular activities. The more you’ve taken on responsibility or achieved a high level of expertise, the more impressive the activity will be to admissions officers. Your activities should reflect your genuine interests and the things you’re passionate about. College admissions officers can often tell if an activity is just padding for your resume, and they’re more interested in what you’re truly excited about. It’s okay to explore a variety of activities early in your high school career, but as you progress, try to focus more on the ones that you’re truly passionate about. The #1 High School Extracurricular Database adjective (3)View synonyms for extracurricularoutside the regular curriculum or program of courses.football, orchestra, and other extracurricular activities.outside one’s regular work, responsibilities, or routine.Informal outside the conventional bounds of propriety or ethics.Does his wife know he has an extracurricular girlfriend?taking place outside the normal school timetableextracurricular activitiesbeyond the regular duties, schedule, etc"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Examples have not been reviewed. On Thursday the government announced plans for a new School Sport Partnerships and Enrichment Framework for schools to ensure all young people have equal access to high-quality sport and extracurricular activity.“We just used to go to school, nothing extracurricular, but now you have to send your kid to swimming, you have to send them to drawing, you have to see what else they can do.“This is all so he can coddle his sulky, wild teenage son while expecting Carrie to limit all extracurricular cuddles to her adopted kitty. Shoe.Revelry’s Companion Crossbody Bag is the best of all worlds—comfortable, smell-proof, and waterproof—letting you carry your flower, snacks and essentials without alerting everyone to your extracurricular activities.cheating www.thesaurus.comillicit extractor fanextraditableBrowse#aabccddeeffghhijkkllmmnnnooppqrrsstuuuvvwxxyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day! © 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC How do you like to spend your time after school? Did you know that how you choose to spend this time could be one of the most important ways you shape your future? Extracurricular activities are a critical component of your college application, and you need to impress colleges with your own band Tri-M Music Honor Society Performance Art Love to ham it up! You’ll find there are many outlets both in your school and in your community to get on a stage and make an audience laugh and cry. Comedy Club Choreography Classic Film Club Dance Film Production Club International Thespian Society Miming Puppetry Slam Poetry Club High School Theater Group Community Theater Group Religious You can usually find these groups in your community. Roleplaying/Fantasy Did you know your love of fantasy can also be an extracurricular activity? Participating in one of these groups can show a dedication to many different creative skills. The Civil War Reenactors Dungeons and Dragons Club Gamers Club LARPing (Live Action Role Playing) Renaissance Faires Social Activism These groups may have chapters in your school or in your community. If there’s a cause you’re passionate about, seek out the local group that supports it. Special Interest You will often find these groups in your school or supported by the community. If you have a special interest in something that you can’t find a local group for, consider creating one or join a national group. You can communicate with other people who have the same interest online, and attend meet-ups throughout the year. Boy Scouts Chess Club Equestrian Club Entrepreneurship Club Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Girl Scouts Horticulture Club Model Railroads Quilt Making Speech and Political Interest If you have a knack for recognizing faulty logic and destroying opponents’ arguments, try one of these clubs. Many schools will sponsor these groups and some of them are competitive on local and national levels. Sports and Recreation You probably already know about the sports teams at your schools, but there are also many opportunities to participate outside of those. Try doing extramural sports, join a club league in your community, or consider coaching a youth team. Baseball and softball Basketball Bodybuilding Cheerleading Climbing Club Cycling Dance Team Fencing Football Golf Gymnastics Hiking Club Hockey Intramural Sports Lacrosse Martial Arts Ping Pong Club Quidditch Clubs Skate Board Club Skiing Soccer Swimming Tennis Track & Field Ultimate Frisbee Club Volleyball Water Polo Yoga Club Technology A love of technology can take you far. If you have strong knowledge in a particular area, try sharing with the online community. The bonus of these activities is that anyone with an internet connection can do them—no need for a school-sponsored club! Blogging Personal Web Site Social Media YouTube Channel Volunteer There are a lot of ways to make a difference in your local community. Look for volunteer groups in your school, your church, or elsewhere in your neighborhood. There are many websites, such as Volunteer Match, that can help you find a local community service project that is of interest to you. Final Word If none of the above activities are for you, you’re still in luck. Why? You can always create your own extracurricular activity! Did you know that almost any hobby can be turned into an extracurricular activity? Starting a business or a website, volunteering, or any unusual hobby can be turned into something that you can write about for college. And if it’s unique enough to not be on this list, you can be sure that it will be something new for the college admissions committee, as well! What matters most is that it’s an outlet for your passion, creativity, and leadership. So instead of thinking you don’t do anything interesting, take the opportunity to find a new passion, or to turn something you already love into an activity you can share with the world. If you think there’s something new we left off that you want to see something added to this list, leave a comment below. What’s Next? Now that you know what extracurriculars look like, read about how to write about extracurriculars on your college application. Did you know that you can use community service work to help pay for college? Check out our step-by-step guide on how to win community service scholarships. Want your extracurriculars to really stand out? Check out our guide of three amazing extracurricular examples that are sure to impress colleges. Also found in: Thesaurus, Idioms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. (èk'strə-kə-rík'yə-lər)adj.1. Being outside the regular curriculum of a school or college: Sports and drama are the school’s most popular extracurricular activities.2. Being outside the usual duties of a job or profession: The attorney’s work for the legal aid society was extracurricular.3. Informal Extramarital.American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (èk'strə-kə-ríkjə-lər) adj.1. (Education) taking place outside the normal school timetable: extracurricular activities. 2. beyond the regular duties, schedule, etcCollins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (èk strə kə'rík yə lər) adj. 1. outside the regular program of courses: extracurricular activities. 2. outside one’s regular work or responsibilities. 3. informal, extramarital. Random House Kernerman Webster’s College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.Not included in the regular curriculum of a school, college, or university.Dictionary of Unfamiliar Words by Diagram Group Copyright © 2008 by Diagram Visual Information Limited Adj.1.extracurricular - outside the regular academic curriculum; "sports and drama are popular extracurricular activities"outside - relating to or being on or near the outer side or limit; "an outside margin".2.extracurricular - characterized by adultery; "an adulterous relationship"; "extramarital affairs"; "the extracurricular activities of a philandering husband"illicit - contrary to accepted morality (especially sexual morality) or convention; "an illicit association with his secretary"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc. [èk'strə-kə-ríkjə-lər] ADJ (Scol) [activities] → extra-scolaireCollins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005 [èk'strə-kə-ríkjə-lər] adj [activities] → parascolaireCollins English/French Electronic Resource. © HarperCollins Publishers 2005 adj → außerhalb des Stundenplans; extracurricular activity (esp hum; in spare time) → Freizeitaktivität f (hum)Collins German Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005. © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007 [èk'strə-kə-ríkjə-lər] adj (Scol) → parascolasticoCollins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition © HarperCollins Publishers 1995 Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster’s page for free fun content. Link to this page: More and more schools in Singapore are breaking with tradition and arranging more flexible timetables to allow students four days of core-course studies and one day of extracurricular activities, the Straits Times reported, according to a United Daily News report on Monday.Minister of Education and Technical Training Tarek Shawki -- Still image YouTube/MBC Masr CAIRO -- 27 December 2018: For years, Egyptian students have mainly relied on the extracurricular books published by private publishing houses, a phenomenon seen by officials as one of the obstacles hindering the quality of education in Egypt; hence, steps have been taken to combat it.There were 167,103 participant sessions recorded within the 2017/18 academic year, and a total of 8,567 extracurricular sessions were delivered as part of the Active Schools programme.Secondary education teachers will be in school on Monday to prepare for the new school year, but will abstain from extracurricular activities and hold a vote on Wednesday on whether to go on strike, unions said on Saturday.To promote extracurricular activities among schoolchildren, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation has introduced a once-a-week "Bag-free Day" in the city's primary and secondary schools.

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