

## The Pros and Cons of Extracurricular Classes Activities

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*An Excerpt from Homeschooling in High School for Higher Education by David P. Byers Ph.D.*

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If the goal is for your child to go to college, it is important to consider the minimum requirements (subjects and credits) your child has to complete in order to qualify for admission. These may vary by school, but generally they include: 3-4 credits in high school mathematics with an emphasis on algebra; 3-4 credits of English with an emphasis on reading and writing; 3-4 credits of social studies with at least one credit devoted to American History and/or American Government; 3-4 credits of natural science with at least one course having a hands-on lab, and; 2-3 credits of one foreign language with “proof” of a lab for practicing speaking and listening to the language.

Beyond the courses required for admission, any other courses that your child takes in high school will more than likely be considered by a college or university to be “extra”. So, if you have your child study religion, music, art, physical education, or he/she actively pursues a hobby or other interest as part of your educational program, you may have a well-rounded child, but these courses and activities don’t directly apply toward the academic admission requirements and therefore, may or may not come into play when being the school considers your child for admission.

If you have the minimum admission requirements covered and covered well, then by all means have your child take extra classes or have him/her participate in sports, employment, volunteer work, apprenticeships, and other activities that require extra effort, participation, and leadership. Be sure to document all of this information as well and include it in your admission application/packet.

Sometimes the decision the school makes to enroll one student over another when they are equally qualified academically is based on what a student did—work or activities—that went above and beyond the minimum requirements of high school. This is not always the case, but it does happen. Remember, colleges want students who are going to be successful academically, but they also want students who will participate in school activities, and who will represent the school well after graduation. Besides, extracurricular activities are a great way to break up the monotony of studying! Happy learning!

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