

**More Than Just an**  

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**Education**

We have all heard of the frustrations of newly graduated college students who are looking for a job but still are in need of “required years of experience”. Involvement in college clubs and organizations can be a great way to start gaining impressive skills and hands-on experiences that will help you catch the eye of a future employer. College participation (even at a community college) matters! It can set the stage of building connections in your personal and professional life. Here are some ways that getting involved on campus gives you the chance to make college more than just an education.

# Build Your Skills

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Working with others helps you build your soft skills such as leadership, teamwork, communication and prioritization. Clubs and organizations can give you the opportunity to develop the hard skills you may or may not learn in class.

# Build Time Management Skills

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Being involved in clubs or organizations along with your academic responsibilities will allow you to practice your discipline and time management. This is a handy skill to have in your personal life, but also something that your future employers will be looking for. Employers like to know that applicants will be able to juggle many responsibilities at once.

# Learn to Collaborate

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Participation encourages teamwork and opportunities to step up and lead your peers, manage projects and work through any obstacles.

# Find Friends

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College can be tough because you are suddenly thrown into an environment that is totally new to you. Clubs and organizations can help connect you with other people.

Friendships form effortlessly when you share similar interests or passions with like-minded peers. By meeting more people you will feel a sense of community which will make you feel happier and more at home.

# Networking Opportunities

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Clubs and organizations allows you to branch out, broaden your horizons, and meet students outside of your immediate circle of friends. These connections can serve you well after you graduate and help with future career opportunities.

# Build Self-Confidence

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Students who can balance school and extracurricular activities can walk away with a better understanding of their own capabilities. This can help you build your self-assurance needed to take on more challenges in life.



# Well-Rounded College Experience

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Getting involved gives you a chance to put yourself out there and try something new.

Activities can spice up the “norm” of a school day and will help you make the most out of your college experience.

# Increase Your Marketability

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You will get a lot out of your involvement on campus but the benefits don't stop once you graduate. The skills you develop and the experience you gain add up and look good on a resume once you begin your job search after graduation. Your community participation can set you apart from the crowd when you're vying for your dream job.

# Relieves Stress

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Even though clubs are another thing to do on top of your classes, they actually reduce stress because they are often fun activities that you enjoy doing and not just an obligation.

# More Focused

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In college, students may find themselves with some free time in which they feel like they can push off assignments. However, when students join clubs they have more a structured schedule because they know they have to be at a certain place at a certain time. This helps focus on work during free time due to having other responsibilities at a later time.

# Diversify!

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Being involved is an ongoing process. Involvement on campus shouldn't be solely restricted to permanent groups. Be on the lookout for temporary activities too, like service projects or campus event planning.

Student organizations can be an important part of your growth during your college career. Not only do they provide resources that can help you succeed, they can give you some of the best friendships of a lifetime. Clubs and organizations in college can give you access to opportunities you won't find anywhere else. Don't just plan on arriving on campus only to lounge around your dorm. Get out and explore all the opportunities your college has to offer. It can turn a set of old buildings into a new home.