

# What Can I Do to Prepare for a College Scholarship?

**Merit based scholarships** look at your accomplishments (i.e. G.P.A. and community involvement). **Need based scholarships** are awarded according to financial need. Listed below are some ways that you can earn merit:

1. A high Grade Point Average (G.P.A.)
2. Take as many challenging classes as possible in preparation for college entrance.
3. Take the PLAN and PSAT in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. Take the ACT and/or SAT in the Fall semester of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade if necessary.
4. Become involved in school activities or organizations, for example:
  - \* school's yearbook or newspaper
  - \* Student Council
  - \* member/officer for a club
  - \* participate in school sports
  - \* participate in Academic Decathlon, National Honor Society, VICA, Cheerleading, Drill Team, etc.
5. Do some volunteer work in the community:
  - \* serve food at a homeless shelter
  - \* volunteer at a children's day care center
  - \* raise money to give to your favorite charity
  - \* become an American Cancer Society volunteer
  - \* walk precincts for your favorite politician
  - \* visit the elderly in nursing homes
  - \* tutor other students
  - \* be active in your church youth group

Part-time and summer jobs will sometimes be considered extra-curricular activities. Your ability to overcome personal, educational, social, economic, and physical barriers or challenges is often considered indicative of your ability and desire to succeed.