

What Can I Do to Prepare for a College Scholarship?

- **Merit-based** scholarships look at your accomplishments (i.e. GPA and community involvement)
 - **Need-based** scholarships are awarded according to financial need
 - **Overcomer** scholarships are awarded to students who have struggled with adversity and persevere
1. High GPA – work hard from 9th grade until graduation. It is extremely difficult to improve a poor GPA.
 2. Take challenging classes in preparation for college entrance – however, be mindful of course load and avoid jeopardizing GPA.
 3. Take ACT and SAT test preparation courses and practice tests in 10th and 11th grades. Recommended to take at least 2 tests by end of junior year (or by September) in senior year.
 4. Become involved in school activities or organizations
 - a. School Yearbook or Newspaper
 - b. Student Government
 - c. Member/Officer in Club
 - d. Participate in Sports
 - e. Participate in Academic Decathlon, National Honor Society, HOSA, BAM, Cheerleading, Drill Team, etc.
 5. Volunteer
 - a. Serve food at a Homeless Shelter
 - b. Collect clothing or goods
 - c. Volunteer at children’s day care
 - d. Raise money for charity
 - e. Volunteer with any organization
 - f. Help candidate running for political office
 - g. Visit elderly in Nursing Home or Care Facility
 - h. Tutor students
 - i. Be active in church youth group
 6. Part-time and summer jobs will sometimes be considered extra-curricular activities. Keep track of awards and duties from your job. Start a resume.
 7. Your ability to overcome personal, educational, social, economic, and physical barriers or challenges is often considered indicative of your ability and desire to succeed.
 8. Obtain at least 2 Letters of Recommendation. These should be from teachers, advisors, coaches, etc. Make copies of these and keep them for future scholarship applications.
 9. Search for scholarships early. If you are too young to be eligible, review requirements and work to add those to your student resume. Document deadline and contact information and bookmark for future application.
 10. List all your accomplishments and continue adding to your list. Include detailed descriptions of projects and hours of service.