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Graduation Bucket List: 10 Things to Do in Your Final Year of High School

Halfway checkpoint

2022 is coming to an end, and with 2023 approaching, now's the time to reflect on your year so far and **plan ahead for your final months of high school**. Whether you want to boost your academics, extracurriculars, or both, get started now and **take advantage of what's left of your time in high school!**



Why you should put in the extra effort now

You're probably busy putting the final touches on your university or college applications, but these last few months of high school are important. In just six months, you'll graduate and move on to the next chapter in your life, so **here's why you should put in some extra effort for the time you have left:**

1. Direct access to teachers who know you well

Connecting with your teachers in high school is much easier than in post-secondary. Your teachers see you every day in a small classroom, so they know your personality and work ethic. This makes them **great resources to have** for reference letters. So, make sure you reach out to them before the school year ends.

2. Plethora of activities and opportunities

Your high school will most likely be smaller than your university or college, so this means you'll have access to **greater opportunities to get involved!** Join clubs at your school to build your resumé (or even better, create your own club), participate in school intramurals or sport teams, and get involved in fundraisers.

3. Connect with friends

High school is a unique experience where you get to see your friends every day in almost all of your classes. Once you get to university or college, your friends will have different schedules, classes, and activities than you. So, take advantage of this time and **create long-lasting bonds and special memories with your friends**. Go to as many events with your friends as possible.

Things You Should Try Before You Finish High School

Now that you feel inspired, here's a list of some **things you should check off your bucket list before you graduate** high school:

1. Start or join a club

Clubs are a great way for you to make new friends and discover opportunities. You'll learn essential skills like communication, collaboration, teamwork, and leadership. You can also either rise into a leadership position, or you can create and manage a club of your own. This will **help scholarship admins and employers get to know a bit more about you** when you include these on your resumé.

2. Take an elective course you're interested in

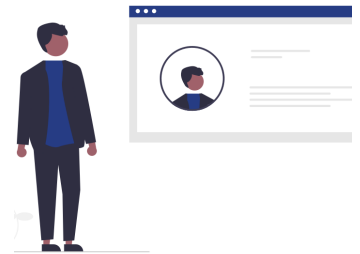
You can really learn a lot about yourself when you select your elective classes. If you're interested in art, literature, science, or anything else, take a class in it! Don't worry if your friends aren't in the class — this is an **opportunity for you to learn more about yourself**. Who knows, you may find your new passion!

3. Talk to your school counsellor

Your **school counsellors have a lot of resources that can help you** throughout the year. They can help you weigh your pros and cons for deciding which school to go to, learn how you can boost your resumé, discover tips for writing scholarship applications, and any other advice you may need.

4. Start a blog, website, or journal

Blogs and websites are great spaces for you to **showcase topics you've wanted to write about or any skills and passions you have**. Whether you're interested in painting, coding, photography, or something else, these can potentially be used as a portfolio for programs and jobs you apply to. Journaling is also a great habit to get into. You'll have a space to work through your emotions, track daily events, and mark down special occasions. You'll be able to look back years later and reflect on your time in high school.



5. Get to know a teacher outside of class

Your teachers are great people to use for recommendations, as they've gotten to know you over the years and have seen your work. But, **the better your teacher knows you, the better their reference letter for you can be!** So, make sure you take the time outside of your class to get to know them a bit more. Teachers can also **become great mentors!** They have a **vast network** of people that they can connect you with.

6. Attend a school event

With school back in-person this year, there are plenty of things going on! You could attend a school spirit assembly, cheer for your school at a sports game, attend a school dance, or whatever else that's going on. Get your friends together and make it a fun group event! You'll **cherish the memories you make together!**



7. Volunteer for something you're passionate about

Most high schools will require you to complete a certain number of volunteer hours, but volunteering is also a great addition to your resumé. **Find something you're passionate about and make a difference.** For example, if you like animals, volunteer at your local humane society. Volunteering can help you discover interests and potential careers you've never thought of.

8. Establish your strategies to reduce stress

With six months left of school, you still have plenty of exams and assignments to get through. **Start figuring out what helps ease your stress** so you can use these skills in university and college! You could try meditating, listening to music, exercising, etc. Find what works for you!

9. Learn a new skill (cooking, coding, etc.)

Take a class or get involved in a club that'll help you learn a new skill! Whether you want to learn how to cook, code, or play chess, these activities can be **great conversation starters and resumé boosters, and can even help you make friends** with people who have similar interests.

10. Apply for scholarships

You may think it's too early to apply for scholarships while you're still in high school, but many universities and colleges have scholarship deadlines in March, April, or May. You can use this time to **track down your references, take note of what you've achieved, develop your resumé, and write your scholarship essays.** It's never too early to start your scholarship hunt!

Enjoy the rest of the year

As 2022 concludes, you can start making all your plans to **make the most out of 2023 and your final months in high school!**

