



CHASE YOUR INTERESTS AND FIND YOUR PASSION

by the student editors of ***FIND YOUR PASSION IN COLLEGE***,
a *Students Helping Students*™ book

We all go to college for different reasons: to learn something, to meet people, to get a degree, to learn how to skim huge reading assignments, to grow, or to grow up. But from our own experiences and from talking to our friends and other students, it seems that many of us go to college to learn more about ourselves and what we might want to do with at least some of our lives. The question “What are you going to do after graduation?” makes us cringe—especially when repeated by our relatives for the hundredth time—but we are all pretty interested in answering it.

There are many ways to approach this question. You can look for a career path that seems interesting/secure/well-paid. You can decide to go to grad school and delay having to answer the question for a few more years. Or you can rephrase the question into one that we think is more important: “What am I interested in?” No, not every interest can be turned into a job that pays the bills, and paying the bills is something that most of us have to think about after graduation. But if you ask people out there in the real world whether the tougher thing is to find your passion or a job, we bet that nine out of ten will pick passion. You can always figure out how to make a living or find a job, but college is a pretty unique time to find what you’re interested in—without the pressure of having to pay the bills with it or committing to it for a long time.

So, what’s the best way to use this precious college time to find your passion? Take interesting classes, meet tons of different people, talk to your professors, and let your roommate talk you into joining her for a poetry reading. These are all great and you should take as much advantage of each as possible. But we found from our own experiences and from interviewing dozens of students for this book that one of the best ways to find out what interests you and what you might want to pursue further, is by getting involved in the myriad of activities, clubs, and organizations outside of class.

Have you always wanted to give acting a shot? Audition for a theater production and find out if you’ve got what it takes. If you act in a play and can’t stand it, you can quit and try something else without the problems you’d face if you went to graduate school for theater for two years and then realized that acting wasn’t your thing. Maybe you worked on your high school newspaper and there was a part of you that always wondered what it would be like to become a journalist after you graduated. By writing for your college paper you can learn more about journalistic technique and the basics of newspaper publishing.

So give it a shot. Go after your interests, get involved, do something. This is the time to see if you really love juggling or if you really would like to be a reporter. Go for it!

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For more helpful tips and proven strategies from students and recent grads on exploring as many extracurricular activities as possible, thinking about activities in relation to career possibilities, gaining leadership roles, and much more, visit www.StudentsHelpingStudents.com and buy the *Students Helping Students*™ guide titled ***FIND YOUR PASSION IN COLLEGE***, available at bookstores and online stores, such as Amazon.com.