Hobart High School College Application Guide

UPDATED JULY 2022

Hobart High School College Planning Guide

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Contact Information for High School Counselors



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Contact Information for High School Counselors

Jo Receive Jext Messages from the School Counseling Office:

CIGSS Of 2023

Text @brickies23 to 81010

CIGSS OF 2024

Text @brickies24 to 81010

CIGSS OF 2025

Text @brickies25 to 81010

CIGSS OF 2026

Text @brickies26 to 81010

The School Counseling Office will use Remind to send out reminders, but it is always best to check Email and Canvas for original emails.

Tasks to be Completed by the End of 9th Grade:

Read LEARN MORE magazine

Take some time to read through your Learn More magazine. It's all about thinking about your career, planning for college and how you can pay for it all. You will receive a copy each year from HHS, but if not, you can also download a copy in English and Spanish.

Review and update your high school graduation plan

Counselors will come to your classrooms during the first semester to make sure your graduation plan reflects your college and career goals. Your counselor keeps a copy so you can review it together and make any adjustments in your class schedule as soon as possible. Learn more about graduation plans here.

Explore careers

Use the resources on www.learnmoreindiana.org to learn about different careers, explore your interests and take a career assessment. You can also learn about what degrees are required for different careers. <u>Visit the career section</u> and learn more about which future sounds right for you.

Participate in extracurricular activities

You're finding your way around your classes, but be sure to participate in activities both in and out of school. These activities will let you explore what you like doing, they'll help you meet great friends, and they'll help add experience to your college applications. Learn more about extracurricular activities here.

Research Indiana colleges

Learn about the different kinds of colleges around Indiana and the types of degrees that they offer. You can start making a list of colleges that you might be interested in attending based on your career goals. Visit the college section to <u>learn more</u>.

Talk to your parents about money

Start saving for college now! Talk to your parents about opening an Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings Plan. If you already have an account set up, great job! You can help your parents save by setting aside allowance, birthday money or money you've gotten from a job that can go into your account. You can login or sign up for an account at GollegeChoiceDirect.com.

21st Century Scholars: Complete your requirements

If you're a 21st Gentury Scholar you will need to complete three activities each year as part of the Scholar Success Program. Track your progress online and complete the requirements by creating a Scholar Track account here.

Tasks to be Completed by the End of 10th Grade:

Read LEARN MORE magazine

Take some time to read through your Learn More magazine. It's all about thinking about your career, planning for college and how you can pay for it all. You will receive a copy each year from HHS, but if not, you can also download a copy in English and Spanish.

Review and update your high school graduation plan

Counselors will come to your classrooms during the first semester to make sure your graduation plan reflects your college and career goals. Your counselor keeps a copy so you can review it together and make any adjustments in your class schedule as soon as possible. Learn more about graduation plans here.

Take the PSAT

As a sophomore, you will take the PSAT on All Test Day in October. It's a free test for Indiana sophomores that will help you get ready for college entrance exams. A high score could even potentially open up scholarship opportunities. Learn more about entrance exams here.

Take a career interests assessment

A Career Interest Assessment is an online tool that asks you a series of questions to help identify careers that align with your interests and goals. First, you should think about your interests and skills. You can explore your interests, find out your personality style and learn about career clusters - all by researching careers here. The easiest way to assess your interests is to access Indiana Career Explorer.

Get workplace experience

Real-world experience is a great way to get a better sense of what a certain job or workplace is like. Plus, you'll learn about responsibility, time management, and how to act in a professional environment. Learn how you can get workplace experience here.

Talk to your parents about money

Start saving for college now! Talk to your parents about opening an Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings Plan. If you already have an account set up, great job! You can help your parents save by setting aside allowance, birthday money or money you've gotten from a job that can go into your account. You can login or sign up for an account at CollegeChoiceDirect.com.

21st Century Scholars: Complete your requirements

If you're a 21st Century Scholar you will need to complete three activities each year as part of the Scholar Success Program. Track your progress online and complete the requirements by creating a Scholar Track account here.

Tasks to be Completed by the End of 11th Grade:

Read Indiana NEXT

Take some time to read through Indiana NEXT: it's a guide to life after high school. You should have gotten a copy from your school counselor, but you can also view a copy here.

Review and update your high school graduation plan

Counselors will come to your classrooms during the first semester to make sure your graduation plan reflects your college and career goals. Your counselor keeps a copy so you can review it together and make any adjustments in your class schedule as soon as possible. Learn more about graduation plans here.

Take the SAT (March of Junior Year)

As a junior, you should sign up to take your college entrance exams. Strong test scores will look good on your college applications, and may help you qualify for scholarships. In the fall, you will take the PSAT/NMSQT. Learn more about entrance exams here. Speak to your school counselor to find out if you're eligible for fee waivers, which could qualify you to take your exams for free or at a reduced rate.

Visit colleges you're interested in

By now, you hopefully have an idea of the colleges you might want to attend. If not, no worries, visit the <u>college section</u> to learn more about which colleges might fit with your interests. This year you should plan visits to colleges you think you may want to attend. Review the <u>map of Indiana colleges</u> and the <u>list of Indiana college degree programs</u> to help you make a list of your top schools. Make sure to select colleges that will help you achieve the career goals you're going after. To see which colleges offer virtual tours, visit <u>here</u> and begin touring.

Calculate the cost of college

Start thinking about the type of college you want to attend, how many years you might be in school, and how much you have saved so far. You can plug this information into the <u>College Scorecard</u> to help you compare college costs. Knowing the cost will make it easier to plan on how you'll pay for your education.

Search for Scholarships

College is expensive. You should pursue as many scholarship opportunities as possible to help cover these costs. Search for local Indiana scholarships, as well as national scholarships. Many free scholarship search sites are available online to help you search for national scholarships. You can find more information about financial aid and scholarships.

21st Century Scholars: Complete your requirements

If you're a 21st Century Scholar you will need to complete three activities each year as part of the Scholar Success Program. Track your progress online and complete the requirements by creating a Scholar Track account here.





Family Action Plan: 11th Grade

Junior year marks a turning point. This is because for most students and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear. Here are some things you can do this year to support your child and provide the best options.

■ Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised by how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading Understanding College Costs.	Explore financial aid options. These include grants and scholarships, loans, and work-study programs that can help pay for college costs. Find out more about how financial aid can make college affordable.
FALL	
Make sure your child meets with the school counselor. This meeting is especially important this year as your 11th grader starts to engage in the college application process. Learn more about the counselor's role in applying to college.	Help your junior get ready for the PSAT/NMSQT° in October. This is a preliminary test that helps students practice for the SAT° and assess their academic skills. Juniors who score well on the test are also eligible for scholarship opportunities. Find out more about the PSAT/NMSQT.
Help your child stay organized. Work with your 11th grader to make weekly or monthly to-do lists to keep on top of the tasks required to get ready for applying to colleges. For more time management tips, see 8 Ways to Take Control of Your Time.	☐ Encourage your child to set goals for the school year. Working toward specific goals helps your high school student stay motivated and focused.
WINTER	
Review PSAT/NMSQT results together by logging in to the student score reporting portal. Your child's score report shows what they should work on to get ready for college, lists Advanced Placement* courses that might be a good match for them, and connects them to free, personalized SAT practice on Khan Academy* based on their results.	Discuss taking challenging courses next year. Taking honors courses or college-level courses as a senior can help your child prepare for college work—and these are also the courses that college admission officers like to see. Learn more about advanced classes.
Help your child prepare for the SAT. Many juniors take the SAT in the spring so they can get a head start on planning for college. See which other tests your high school junior may need to take.	

WINTER (CONTINUED)	
Encourage your junior to consider taking SAT Subject Tests™. Many colleges require or recommend taking these tests to get a sense of your child's skills in a certain academic area. In general, it's best to take a Subject Test right after taking the relevant course. Learn more about SAT Subject Tests.	 □ Encourage your child to take AP° Exams. If your 11th grader takes AP or other advanced classes, have you child talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May. Read more about the AP Program. □ Encourage your child to opt in to the College Board Opportunity Scholarships. Your child can earn scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 by completing individual college planning steps. When they complete all six steps, they'll be eligible for a \$40,000 scholarship.
SPRING	
Search together for colleges that meet your child's needs. Once you have an idea of the qualities your junior is looking for in a college, help your child enter these criteria into College Search. There your child can create a list of colleges to consider applying to.	Help your child make summer plans. Summer is a perfect time to explore interests and learn new skills—and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Help your high school student look into summer learning programs or find a job or internship.
Help your child research scholarships. This form of financial aid provides money for college that doesn't need to be repaid. Learn more through College Board Scholarship Search.	☐ Visit colleges together. Make plans to check out the campuses of colleges your child is interested in. Use the Campus Visit Checklist to learn how to get the most out of these experiences.
Attend college fairs and financial aid events. These events allow you to meet with college representatives and get answers to questions. Your child can ask the school counselor how to find events in your area. Check out the College Fair Checklist for more information.	Visit cb.org/opportunity to learn more.

Visit **bigfuture.org** for more information.





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@collegeboard

Tasks to be Comple	ted by the End of 12th Grade:
	rough Indiana NEXT: it's a guide to life after high school. You from your school counselor, but you can also view a copy here.
uation plan reflects your o	r classrooms during the first semester to make sure your grad- ollege and career goals. Your counselor keeps a copy so you can ke any adjustments in your class schedule as soon as possible.
The college you are hoping entrance exams. If you wa	to attend could have minimum scores they are looking for on ant to try for a higher score before you submit your applicatests. Read more about entrance exams here.
This is the year when you you make your list, review	ake a list of your top colleges apply, so it's important to know where you'll want to go. To help the map of Indiana colleges and the list of Indiana college de- that the colleges you select will actually be able to help you
	own the colleges you plan to apply for, work on researching the or each one. Review a list of steps to help you with the applica-
_	eadline to file your FAFSA. You will have to do this before you an overview of the process is available here.
If you're a 21st Century S	Complete your requirements Cholar you will need to login to your ScholarTrack account to Cess Program requirements in order to receive your scholarship.





Family Action Plan: 12th Grade

Senior year is a whirlwind of activity. It's a big year for your child—balancing schoolwork, extracurricular obligations, and the college application process. Use the suggestions below so you and your child can meet these challenges.

SUMMER	
 ✓ Visit colleges together. If you haven't already, make plans to check out the campuses of colleges that interest your child. Use the Campus Visit Checklist to learn how to get the most out of these experiences. ✓ Ask how you can help your senior finalize a college list. You can help your 12th grader choose which colleges to apply to by weighing how well each college meets their needs. Learn how to finalize a college list. ✓ Find out a college's actual cost. Once your 12th grader has a list of a few colleges of interest, use the Net Price Calculator together to discover the potential for financial aid and the true out-of-pocket cost—or net price—of each college. ✓ Encourage your child to get started on applications. Together you can get the easy stuff out of the way by filling in as much required information on college applications as possible. Read about how to get started on applications. 	 Help your child decide about applying early. If your senior is set on going to a certain college, they should think about whether applying early is a good option. Now is the time to decide because early applications are usually due in November. Read about the pros and cons of applying early. Gather financial documents: To apply for most financial aid, your child will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You'll need your most recent tax returns and an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA, which opens October 1. Encourage your child to opt in to the College Board Opportunity Scholarships. Your child can earn scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 by completing individual college planning steps. When they complete all six steps, they'll be eligible for a \$40,000 scholarship. Visit cb.org/opportunity to learn more.
FALL	
☐ Encourage your child to meet with the school counselor. This year, your 12th grader will work with the counselor to complete and submit college applications. Learn more about the counselor's role in applying to college.	Get your child ready for college admission tests. Many seniors retake college admission tests, such as the SAT°, in the fall. Learn more about helping your 12th grader prepare for admission tests.
Create a calendar with your child. This should include application deadlines and other important dates. Your child can find specific colleges' deadlines in College Search. Your child can save colleges in a list to get a custom online calendar that shows the deadlines of those colleges.	Help your child find and apply for scholarships. Your high school student can find out about scholarship opportunities from the school counselor and how to request and complete scholarship applications and submit them on time. Learn more about scholarships.

FALL (CONTINUED)	
 Offer to look over your senior's college applications. But remember that this is your child's work, so remain in the role of adviser and proofreader. Respect your child's voice. Complete the FAFSA. The government and many colleges use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to award aid. Now it's easier than ever to fill out this form because you can automatically transfer your tax information online from the IRS to the FAFSA. Read How to Complete the FAFSA to learn more. 	 Complete the CSS Profile™, if required. If your child needs to submit the CSS Profile to a college or scholarship program, be sure to find out the priority deadline and submit it by that date. Read How to Complete the CSS Profile. Encourage your child to set up college interviews. An interview is a great way for your child to learn more about a college and for a college to learn more about your child. Get an overview of the interview process.
WINTER	□ E
 Work together to apply for financial aid. Have your child contact the financial aid offices at the colleges of interest to find out what forms students must submit to apply for aid. Make sure your child applies for aid by or before any stated deadlines. Funds are limited, so the earlier you apply, the better. □ Learn about college loan options together. Borrowing money for college can be a smart choice—especially if your high school student gets a low-interest federal loan. Learn more about the parent's role in borrowing money. 	 Encourage your senior to take SAT Subject Tests™. These tests can showcase your child's interests and achievements—and many colleges require or recommend that applicants take one or more Subject Test. Read more about SAT Subject Tests. Encourage your child to take AP® Exams. If your 12th grader takes AP or other advanced classes, have your child talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May. Read more about the AP Program.
SPRING	
 ☐ Help your child process college responses. Once your 12th grader starts hearing from colleges about admission and financial aid, you need to help your child decide what to do. Read about how to choose a college. ☐ Review financial aid offers together. Your 12th grader will need your help to read through financial aid award letters and figure out which package works best. Be sure your child pays attention to and meets any deadlines for acceptance. Get more information on financial aid awards. 	Help your child complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance. These steps should be taken once your child has decided which college to attend: review the offer, accept that college's offer, mail a tuition deposit, and submit other required paperwork. Learn more about your high school senior's next steps.

Visit **bigfuture.org** for more information.





Graduation Requirements Class of 2023 & Beyond

Graduation Requirements	Graduation Pathway Options
High School Diploma	Meet the statutorily defined diploma credit and curricular options. More info on page 5
Employability Skills	Students must complete at least one of the following: Project-Based Learning Service-Based Learning Work-Based Learning More info on pages 6-7
Postsecondary- Ready Competencies	 Students must complete at least one of the following: Honors Diploma ACT SAT ASYAB State- and Industry-recognized Credential or Certification Career-Technical Education Concentrator AP/Dual Credit courses or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Exams More info on pages 8-9

More information can be found in the Pathway Guide!

Standardized Tests: SAT

In the School City of Hobart, we begin testing students in the SAT Suite of Assessments as early as 9th grade. These in-school tests are given on specified dates, picked by the College Board. The SAT, which is a college admissions test, is given at Hobart High School in spring of the junior year and is optional in the fall for seniors who wish to take it again. In addition to those dates, students can sign up to take the SAT on an approved Saturday test administration. Spring of junior year is when CollegeBoard recommends students take their first SAT, but it can be taken earlier if desired.

What's on the SAT?

Reading

- All Reading Test questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- Some passages are paired with other passages.
- Informational graphics, such as tables, graphs, and charts, accompany some passages—but no math is required.
- Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.
- The Reading Test is part of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section.

Writing and Language

- All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- Some passages are accompanied by informational graphics, such as tables, graphs, and charts—but no math is required.
- Prior topic knowledge is never tested.
- The Writing and Language Test is part of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section.

Math

- Most math questions will be multiple choice, but some—called grid-ins—ask you to come up with the answer rather than select the answer.
- The Math Test is divided into two portions: Math Test-Calculator and Math Test-No Calculator.
- Some parts of the test include several questions about a single scenario.

Source: Collegeboard.org

Standardized Tests: ACT

The ACT contains four multiple-choice tests—English, mathematics, reading, and science—and an optional writing test. These tests are designed to measure skills that are most important for success in post-secondary education and that are acquired in secondary education. The score range for each of the four multiple-choice tests is I-36. The Composite score is the average of the four test scores rounded to the nearest whole number.

What's on the ACT?

English

The ACT English test puts an examinee in the position of a writer who makes decisions to revise and edit a text. Short texts and essays in different genres provide a variety of rhetorical situations. Passages are chosen for their appropriateness in assessing writing and language skills and to reflect students' interests and experiences.

Mathematics

The ACT mathematics test assesses the skills students typically acquire in courses taken through grade II. The material covered on the test emphasizes the major content areas that are prerequisites to successful performance in entry-level courses in college mathematics. Knowledge of basic formulas and computational skills are assumed as background for the problems, but recall of complex formulas and extensive computation are not required.

Reading

The ACT reading test measures the ability to read closely, reason logically about texts using evidence, and integrate information from multiple sources. The test questions focus on the mutually supportive skills that readers must bring to bear in studying written materials across a range of subject areas. Specifically, questions will ask you to determine main ideas; locate and interpret significant details; understand sequences of events; make comparisons, comprehend cause-effect relationships; determine the meaning of context-dependent words, phrases, and statements; draw generalizations; analyze the author's or narrator's voice and method; analyze claims and evidence in arguments; and integrate information from multiple texts.

Science

The ACT science test measures the interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problemsolving skills required in the natural sciences. The test presents several authentic scientific scenarios, each followed by a number of multiple-choice test questions. The content of the test includes biology, chemistry, Earth/space sciences (e.g., geology, astronomy, and meteorology), and physics. The questions require you to recognize and understand the basic features of, and concepts related to, the provided information; to examine critically the relationship between the information provided and the conclusions drawn or hypotheses developed; and to generalize from given information to gain new information, draw conclusions, or make predictions.

Writing (Optional!)

The optional ACT writing test is an essay test that measures writing skills taught in high school English classes and entry level college composition courses. The test consists of one writing prompt that describes a complex issue and provides three different perspectives on the issue. You are asked to read the prompt and write an essay in which you develop your own perspective on the issue. Your essay must analyze the relationship between your own perspective and one or more other perspectives. You may adopt one of the perspectives given in the prompt as your own, or you may introduce one that is completely different from those given. Colleges may view student essays using the free ACT Essay View tool.

Source: actstudent.org

SAT and ACT Test Dates

SAT 2022-2023 Test Dates// Register online at collegeboard.org.		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation and Late Registration
August 27, 2022	July 29, 2022	August 16, 2022
October I, 2022	September 2, 2022	September 20, 2022
November 5, 2022	October 7, 2022	October 25, 2022
December 3, 2022	November 3, 2022	November 22, 2022
March II, 2023	February 10, 2023	February 28, 2023
May 6, 2023	April 7, 2023	April 25, 2023
June 3, 2023	May 4, 2023	May 23, 2023

ACT 2022-2023 Test Dates// Register online at actstudent.org.		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
September 10, 2022	August 5, 2022	August 19, 2022
October 22, 2022	September 16, 2022	September 30, 2022
December 10, 2022	November 4, 2022	November II, 2022
February II, 2023	January 6, 2023	January 20, 2023
April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023	March 24, 2023
June 10, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 19, 2023
July 15, 2023	June 16, 2023	July 7, 2023

Tentative 2023-2024 SAT Test Dates

Tentative 2023-2024 ACT Test Dates

TBD TBD

Sending SAT and ACT Test Scores

Sending SAT Scores

Before Scores Are Released

You can send four free score reports to colleges every time you register for the SAT. This is the fastest way to send scores to colleges and scholarship programs—and there's no fee. You can use your free score reports up to 11:59 p.m., U.S. Eastern Time, nine days after the test.

If you're eligible for an SAT fee waiver, you can send as many score reports as you want for free.

After Scores Are Released

If you're sending scores after you get them, per score report. But if you're using a fee waiver, your score reports are still free after you get your scores.

Sending Your Scores

Online: Sign in to your College Board account (This is the recommended method)

By mail: Complete and mail the <u>Additional Score Report Order Form</u>

By phone: Call Customer Service at 866-756-7346 (toll free)

Sending ACT Scores

We get it—things change. While we still automatically send your scores from the ACT test to the places you requested when you registered, something may have changed since then. Maybe you've got your eye on a new college, have a chance at an unexpected scholarship, or accidentally left off the university you toured last semester.

You can have your ACT scores sent to other colleges and scholarship agencies, even after you test. Requests are processed after your tests have been scored and all scores for your test option—the ACT or the ACT with writing—are ready.

Ordering Options

- Online request—create or sign in to your <u>ACT Web account</u>. You must pay by valid credit card.
- Order by phone at 319.337.1270.

Download a PDF copy of the request form.

Applicable Fees

Fees for Regular Report (effective through 8/31/2020)

Tested after 9/1/2017 - \$13.00 per test date per report

Fee Waivers for the SAT or ACT

Test	Fee
SAT	\$60
ACT with writing	\$88
ACT	\$63

Fee waiver codes can be picked up from the School Counseling Office or from your school counselor. You must be on free/reduced lunch or part of the 21st Century Scholars program to receive a testing fee waiver.

SAT Fee Waivers

Available to low-income 11th and 12th grade students in the U.S. or U.S. territories.

You're eligible for fee waivers if you say "yes" to any of the following:

- You're enrolled in or eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- Your annual family income falls within the <u>Income Eligibility Guidelines</u> set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.
- You're enrolled in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families.
- Your family receives public assistance.
- You live in federally subsidized public housing or a foster home, or are homeless.
- You are a ward of the state or an orphan.

What Fee Waivers Cover

Free Tests and Feedback

- 2 free SATs
- 2 free Question-and-Answer Service (QAS) or Student Answer Service (SAS) reports
- Unlimited score reports to send to colleges
- Waived application fees at participating colleges
- No late registration fees for free tests (if you're in the U.S. or U.S. territories)

ACT Fee Waivers

If you are testing on a national test date and can't afford the registration fee for the ACT or ACT with writing, you may be eligible for an ACT Fee Waiver.

Fee waivers cover **only** the basic registration fee and late fee for your test option on a national test date, including up to four college choices. After registration, the student can request up to an additional 20 regular score reports for free. Waivers do not cover test date or test center changes, standby fee, additional score reports, or any other services.

You must meet all of the following requirements:

- I. Currently enrolled in high school in the 11th or 12th grade.
- 2. Be testing in the US, US territories, or Puerto Rico.
- 3. Meet one or more indicators of economic need listed on the ACT Fee Waiver form (Free/Reduced Lunch or 21st Century Scholar)

If you are eligible, you may use a maximum of **two** separate fee waivers total. The waiver is used once you register, even if you do not test on the requested test date.

What is Test Optional?

A test-optional admission policy means applicants can choose not to submit SAT or ACT scores and be considered for admissions.

Here are some sample test optional policies from sample universities in Indiana:

Ball State University is a test-optional institution, which means you may decide whether you want to provide your SAT or ACT score as part of your application.

Not providing scores will not count against you when reviewing your application for admission. Instead, it gives you the ability to decide how to most accurately portray your academic strengths when applying to Ball State.

We adopted this approach to our admissions review process in August 2018 because we:

- recognize the importance of GPAs and high school curricula as a predictor of long-term student success
- believe a test-optional policy will allow us to provide access for and reach students who
 might not perform well on standardized tests but perform well in the classroom
 know that standardized testing is not always the best indicator of students' potential for college success, and we want students to feel that their applications to Ball State truly show
 their strengths

IU Bloomington has adopted a test-optional admissions policy beginning with the 2021 terms. The test-optional admissions policy allows students to choose at the point of application whether to have SAT or ACT test scores considered as part of the application.

Research indicates that for most students, high school GPA paired with test scores provides the best prediction of academic success at Indiana University. However, for some students a standardized test score may not show all that they are capable of and tell the full story of their potential. Review the information below to learn more and decide on the best path for you.

Beginning with first-year and transfer undergraduate applicants for the fall 2021 semester, the **Butler University** Office of Admission will not require ACT and/or SAT scores for admission to the University. More information can be found here.

VS) HE H-SAT

- Fewer Geometry Questions
- More Time per Question
- No-calculator Math Section



- Lots of Geometry
- Faster Paced
- Tough Science Section



TIMING & SCORING



Reading 65m

Writing

35m

points

Math 25m (No Calculator)

Math (Calculator) 55m

200 - 800

200 - 800 points

1-36

1-36

1-36

1-36

35m

Reading

45m

English

60m

Math

35m

Science

Total Points

400 - 1600

1 - 36

Total Points

Time per Question







Time per Question









MATH

Number of Questions

SAT ACT

58 60

Time Per Question

ACT

SAT

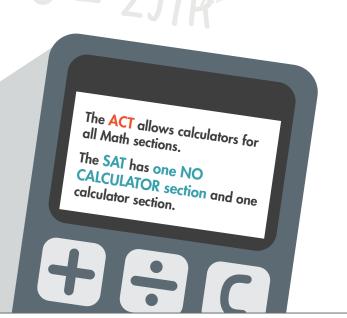
SAT

83s

Formulas

The SAT provides a reference table of common formulas.

The ACT does not provide formulas for reference.

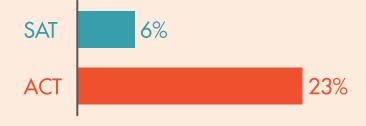




The SAT Math section includes **45** multiple choice questions and **13** student-produced response questions (i.e., fill-in questions).

Geometry Focus

The ACT has a much greater emphasis on Geometry. In contrast, the SAT focuses more on Algebra, word problems, and "Data Analysis" questions that ask you to incorporate information from tables and charts into your calculations.



READING



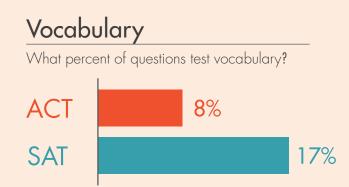
Time Per Question

ACT 53s SAT

75s

Total Time

Number of Questions



Do the Reading sections have **Graphs and Charts?**

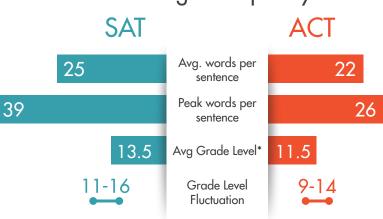
SAT

Yes, relating to two passages



No, only on the Science section

Passage Complexity



*Flesch-Kincaid readability assessment

Number of Passages











Topics Covered

- Literature
- Science (2)
- History/Soc. Studies (2)

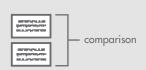








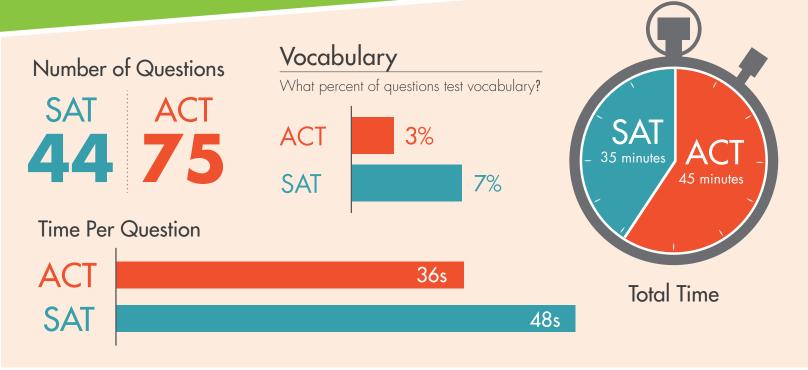




- Prose/Fiction
- Humanities
- Social Science
- Natural Science



WRITING/ENGLISH

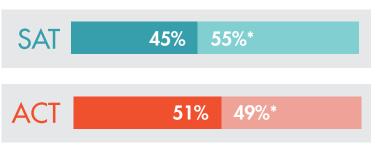


Do the Reading sections have **Graphs and Charts?**





GRAMMAR VS. RHETORICAL SKILLS



*The difference between the 49% Rhetorical Skills on the ACT and 55% on the SAT feels even greater in practice, as the questions on the SAT require a fuller understanding of the passage.











OFFICIAL SAT PRACTICE

A Parent's Guide: Getting Your Teen Ready for the SAT



START



Choose an SAT° test date. Review upcoming test dates and registration deadlines online at **sat.org**. Register early to guarantee your child's spot on that test date and receive timely reminders leading up to the test.

4 MONTHS BEFORE TEST DAY



Sign up for Official SAT Practice at satpractice.org. Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy* is FREE for all students and the best way to prepare for the SAT. Created by Khan Academy and the makers of the SAT, Official SAT Practice offers thousands of practice questions, video lessons, quizzes and tests, and more.



Link College Board and Khan Academy accounts for a personalized SAT study plan. When your child signs up for Official SAT Practice, make sure their Khan Academy account is linked with their College Board account. This sends your child's PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, PSAT/NMSQT®, or SAT scores to Khan Academy to create a customized SAT study plan. A child who doesn't have any test scores can take diagnostic guizzes to receive the study plan.



Download the Daily Practice for the SAT app. Accessible at Google Play and iTunes app stores, this free app gives your child a question a day to build skills on the go.

2-3 MONTHS BEFORE TEST DAY



Create a practice schedule on Official SAT Practice, and stick to it. We recommend that students practice on **satpractice.org** 15–30 minutes per day 6–8 weeks before the test. A child who can't practice every day should start earlier or practice more on certain days. Check out the new Coach Tools (**khan.co/2yZGPh4**) to learn how to become your child's Coach and monitor progress on Official SAT Practice.



Take a full-length practice test. Taking a practice test on Official SAT Practice is a perfect way for students to see what their test day experience will be like.

2 WEEKS BEFORE TEST DAY



Take another full-length practice test. Two weeks before every SAT test date is known as **Official SAT Practice Test Day**. On this day, students registered for the SAT should take another full-length practice test at **satpractice.org** to check their progress. This lets students build self-assurance and see exactly where to focus over the next two weeks to get the best possible score.



Review test day requirements. Visit **sat.org/takingthetest** for SAT test day requirements to make sure your child has everything they need to be ready on test day.

1 DAY BEFORE TEST DAY



Plan ahead. Triple-check the night before that your child packs everything needed and knows how to get to the test location. See that your child gets a good night's sleep.

ON TEST DAY



Relax and be confident. Encourage your child to eat a good breakfast, take it easy, and feel positive. Practice pays off!

For more information, visit **satpractice.org**.

The ACT is Changing

Here's what you need to know to stay ahead of the game.

Coming in September 2020



Computer-Based Testing (CBT)

Students registering for a full ACT can opt to take the test online, rather than on paper, and when they do, the results will be available in two days rather than two weeks.



Superscore Reporting

ACT now endorses superscoring - the practice of combining a student's best individual section scores into a new composite score - and will send superscored reports to colleges.

Coming in 2021



Section Retesting

Students who have taken a full ACT can choose to retake individual sections (up to three at time) using the computer-based version of the test.



Remote Testing

Students who choose remote testing will be able to test online at home or in another location with a remote proctor.

What this means for students

These changes are big news for students who now face even more decisions than before. Turn to Applerouth's **ACT Changes Game Plan** on the other side of this document to help you take advantage of the opportunities that these changes offer.



The college admissions testing landscape is changing rapidly. Sign up for our newsletter at **Applerouth.com** for free updates and events that will help you stay ahead of the game.

FAQ

How will this affect my accommodations if I have a diagnosed learning difference?

- Many accommodations will be easy to implement online (e.g., 50% extended time) and some will be built into the platform for all students to use (e.g., a highlighter).
- If you have an accommodation, like multi-day testing, that can't be offered on a national test date you'll have to stick with the paper test for now.

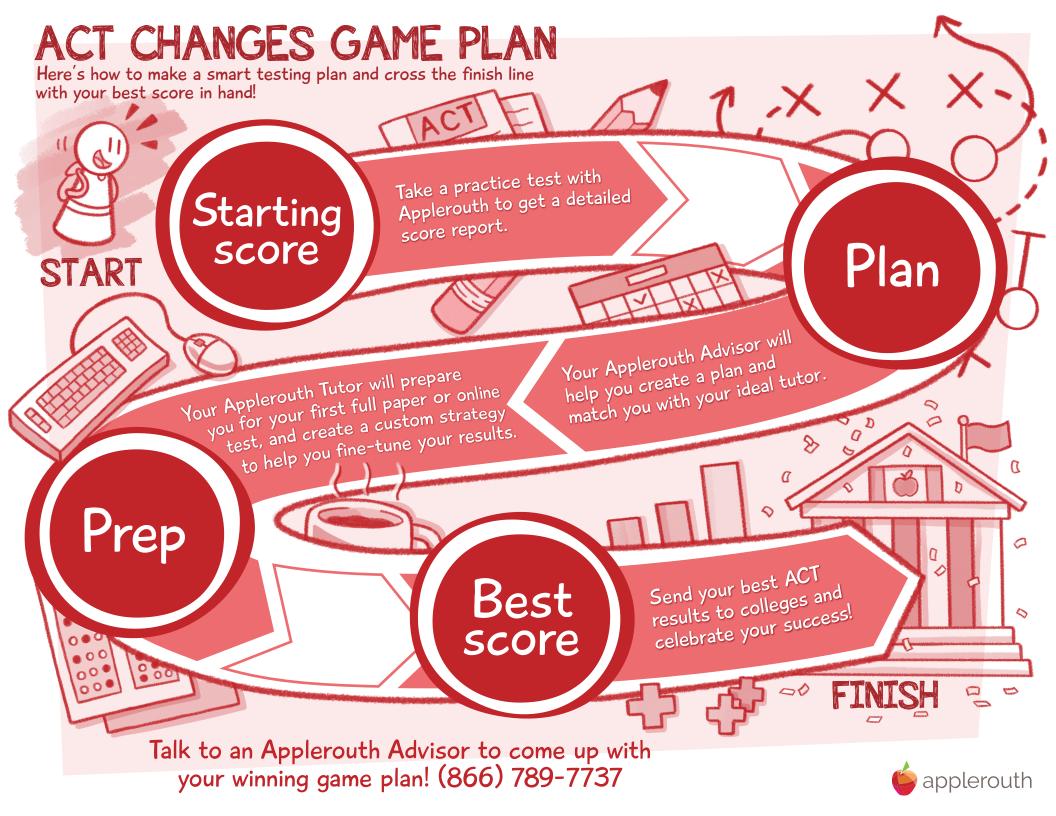
How do these changes affect international students?

- The ACT has been computer-based at international test centers since 2018.
- Barring any delays due to COVID-19, superscored reports are expected to become available to international students this September.

How will colleges respond?

- Individual schools will have to determine whether they will accept superscores and section retests when the time comes.
- If you opt to send a superscored report, ACT will automatically include your highest full battery test score, so the report will include acceptable scores for all colleges.

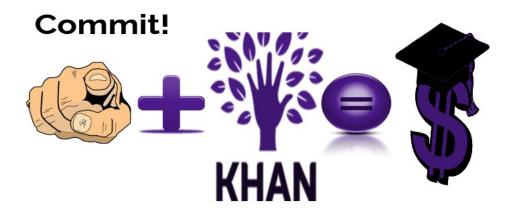






Got your PSAT results back?...GREAT! Now, let's do something with them!!!





Prepare for the SAT Exam with Khan Academy!

- Tired of being treated like everybody else?
- 2. Want it your way, as Burger King says?
- 3. Want to earn scholarships and save cash?
- 4. Well, then use the Khan Academy!
- 5. Go to https://www.khanacademy.org/sat
- Create a free account using your school gmail, or use your account!
- Link-up your College Board account with Khan to receive help EXACTLY where you need it!
- 8. Your PSAT scores will set your levels!
- 9. See your English teacher for help!!!

Khan Academy & College Board did a study with 250,000 students.

Here's what they found:

Students who studied for 20 hours through the personalized lessons on Khan Academy showed an average 115-point increase between their earlier and preliminary PSAT/NMSQT exam and the actual SAT that colleges use to help decide admission offers, according to a study from the two groups. That improvement was reportedly double the average increase of students who did not use the Khan tutorials. A perfect score on the two parts of the SAT would be 1600 total.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

Scholarship Newsletter

Every two weeks, the School Counseling Department will send out a scholarship newsletter through email. It will also be posted in Canvas. This newsletter is not exhaustive of all available scholarships, but it is definitely a starting point for students. Several scholarship websites are linked on the Resources page of this document.

Local Scholarship Book

The Local Scholarship Book is made available to seniors prior to the break in December and is typically due at the end of January. Students can only win one scholarship from the book and are eliminated after they are chosen. All scholarships from the book are presented at the Senior Honors Convocation in May.

<u>Urban League Scholarship Fair</u>

In September of each year, the Urban League of Northwest Indiana hosts a scholarship/college fair open to all students in NWI. Students who wish to attend will bring copies of their transcripts and other requested items and are often given admissions decisions on the spot, as well as scholarship offers from local universities and other institutions around the country. The list of schools participating will be published prior to the event. The Urban League also offers their own scholarships available each spring.

Lilly Scholarship

The Lilly Scholarship, which is run through the Legacy Foundation, is a full-tuition scholar-ship to an Indiana university or college, plus a book stipend offered to six students in Lake County. Each high school can nominate only one student. This process is very competitive and an interview process is required. Applicants are scored on academic performance, demonstrated leadership skills, personal & public obligations, character, essay, interview, and demonstrated financial need.

Legacy Foundation Scholarships

The Legacy Foundation holds scholarship funds for multiple organizations across Northwest Indiana. Students fill out one common application and can apply for multiple scholarships at once.

CollegeBoard Opportunity Scholarships

Earn entries in monthly drawings for \$500 and \$40,000 scholarships by completing steps to plan for college. The sooner you start and the more steps you complete, the more chances you'll have to win. Every month, BigFuture selects two \$40,000 winners and hundreds of \$500 winners who complete one or more steps.

FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE

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Start or continue saving money for your education, and work with a trusted adult to set up a savings account like a 529
Direct Savings Plan.

Spring Junior Year:

- Begin searching for scholarships by:
 - Talking to your school counselor about scholarship options.
 - · Reviewing community foundation scholarships so you can begin to make yourself a better applicant your senior year.
 - Registering on national search sites.
- Investigate the costs and possible aid at each of the schools you're interested in using their net price calculator.

 INvestEd provides links and tools to help at INvestEdIndiana.org/NPC
- Create a resume and apply for summer jobs. Find a job in an area related to your career interest, if possible.

Summer after Junior Year:

- Save as much money as possible from your summer job and put it into savings. Money saved now means borrowing less later.
- Begin discussions with a trusted adult regarding options available to cover education costs.
- Look for volunteer opportunities to enhance your scholarship applications.

Fall Senior Year:

- Continue discussions with a trusted adult about the financial options available to cover costs, as well as continuing scholarship searches. Find tips at: Newstedlndiana.org/scholarships
- After October 1, fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at FAFSA.gov. To be eligible for State of Indiana aid, the FAFSA must be filed by April 15th. Note: Some colleges may have an earlier deadline.

Winter Senior Year:

- Continue searching and applying for scholarships. In fact, keep looking for scholarships until you have completed your degree or program. This is free money that doesn't have to be paid back, which means less you have to borrow.
- Follow up with the schools you are applying to and confirm that they have received your FAFSA. Ask about any additional financial aid forms that may be required.
- Confirm your federal, state and institutional eligibility for scholarships and grants. Use the Finalizing Financial Aid document available at INvestEdIndiana.org/finalizing for guidance.

Spring Senior Year:

- Review your financial aid offers and compare costs using our College Cost Comparison worksheet available at INvestEdIndiana.org/NPC
- ☐ Finalize your funding plan with the Financial Aid Office and complete all paperwork prior to orientation.



MAXIMIZING FREE MONEY

Free money is a key component of wisely paying for education after high school.

Grants

Grants are typically based either on a student's financial need as determined by an application or the program they are pursuing. Find out more at INvestEdIndiana.org/grants



Including: Pell, SEOG, TEACH



Determined by school's financial aid office



Including: Frank O'Bannon, 21st Century Scholars, Workforce Ready Grant

Invested Tip: Access ScholarTrack to monitor your state grant eligibility!



Scholarships

Scholarships are based on all kinds of factors like career interest, volunteer activity, family heritage, academic standing, talents & abilities, and so much more!

Scholarship Keys to Success:

- ▶ **Get Started.** It's never too early to start searching for scholarships.
- ▶ **Plan.** Set aside time weekly for online searches and working on essays.
- ▶ **Ask around.** Check with your school counselor, local community foundation, places of employment, and college websites.
- ▶ **Look ahead.** Review possible scholarships for eligibility criteria and deadlines. Looking at these requirements early will give you time to become the best applicant.

▶ **Patience.** Searching for scholarships requires continual effort. Stay diligent and keep applying.



For additional tips visit

INvestEdIndiana.org/scholarships

Scholarship Search Help

FREE search engines:

- fastweb.com
- unigo.com/scholarships
- cappex.com/scholarships

Places to check:

- School Counselor
- Community Foundation
- College/University
- Civic Organizations
- Place of Employment
- Local Businesses
- Church Groups

- ➤ It's never too soon to begin searching and applying for scholarships.
- ➤ Get organized with a binder and calendar to keep track of applications, essays and deadlines.
- ➤ Balance your search time and application submissions between local options and national search engines.
- ➤ If a search site asks you to create a profile, take the time to answer the questions and fill in as many details as possible. Use as many personal qualities, hobbies, skills, or talents as you can.
- ➤ Beware of scams. Never pay a fee to do a scholarship search or give out financial information.
- ➤ Don't be afraid of essays, just get started and ask for feedback. Concisely communicate your challenges, successes, goals and contributions.
- Pay attention to the details regarding scholarship requirements and deadlines.
- > Spend a couple of hours each week on scholarship searches and submitting applications to increase your opportunities and minimize stress.
- ➤ Continue your search for scholarships through college.

More tips and information available on our website at: INvestEdIndiana.org/literacy/scholarships

Contact INvestEd with any questions!
Email: Outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org

Phone: 317-715-9007 INvestEdIndiana.org



THE FAFSA

The starting point to access federal, state and institutional money.







Who?

- ▶ Any high school senior
- Anyone planning to continue their pursuit of a degree or certificate in the upcoming school year



What?

- Use our Creating Your FSA ID resource to create your account.
- ► Check out our FAFSA Checklist for a list of documents to help you file.

Find these resources and more at: INvestEdIndiana.org/resources





- ▶ Opens **October 1st** each year
- ▶ Check with colleges for their specific deadlines.
- ► The deadline is **April 15th** for State of Indiana grants.



Why?

- ▶ The FAFSA calculates a student eligibility index used by financial aid offices to determine what funds you can receive for the next school year.
- ► Estimate your index using the calculator on our website at: INvestEdIndiana.org/FAFSA

How?

Mobile app download: **MyStudentAid**







FAFSA Checklist **☑**

Create your FSA ID and start your FAFSA!

☐ Create student & parent Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at StudentAid.gov/FSAID

	D	Parent's FSA I	ט	
Username: Usern		Username:	me:	
Password:		Password:		
Email:		Email:		
Mobile Phone:		Mobile Phone:		
Challenge Question Answers: Challenge Quest		tion Answers:		
1.	2.	1.	2.	
3.	4.	3.	<u>4.</u>	
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Helpful informa	tion when filing the l			
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□ Date of Birth □ Social Securit □ Tax return			24	
Date of Birth Social Securit Tax return W2's	y Number/Alien Regist		APR	
Date of Birth Social Securit Tax return W2's Current bank	y Number/Alien Regist	ration Number	APR	

Contact INvestEd with any questions! Email: Outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org

☐ Federal work study earnings

☐ Child support paid or received

☐ Veterans non-education benefits

☐ Money received or paid on your behalf

Phone: 317-715-9007 INvestEdIndiana.org



FAFSA deadline

for State of

Indiana grants

Finalizing Financial Aid

→ After Filing the FAFSA

Review Student Aid Report (SAR) on FAFSA website (<u>fafsa.gov</u>) to view comments by the federal processor identifying errors or additional steps you need to take. Note: Any changes to the FAFSA must be signed with the appropriate FSA ID(s) and submitted.
Register for ScholarTrack on the State of Indiana website (<u>scholartrack.in.gov</u>) and review details associated with your state grant eligibility.
Contact each college/university for which you are accepted and still considering to determine if they need any additional information and respond by each deadline.

DEADLINES!

Colleges/Universities may have different deadlines regarding information they need - so ask!

Selected for Verification?

Verification is a process required by federal regulations. The college/university financial aid office must confirm elements of your FAFSA, which may include but are not limited to:

✓ Tax Information

- ✓ Number attending college (excluding any parent)
- ✓ Number in the household
- Child support paid

Check your Student and Report (SAR) and ScholarTrack each time you update and resubmit your FAFSA.

Also look for any additional information requests fromeach college/university.

Compare and Finalize Financial Aid Award Packages

Use INvestEd's College Cost Comparison Worksheet on INvestEdIndiana.org to compare award letters.
Review borrowing options using INvestEd's Student Loan Comparison Sheet available on INvestEdIndiana.org
Talk with each college/university's financial aid office regarding the steps required to accept your awards, obtain work study jobs, and secure loans.

Contact INvestEd with any questions! Email: Outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org

Phone: 317-715-9007 INvestEdIndiana.org



EDUCATION LOANS

After you have exhausted all FREE money avenues, education loans may be an option.

Key elements when evaluating loan options:

- ► Know who the borrower is for each type of loan. Is it the student, the parent, or is a cosigner involved?
- **Know the costs.** Do the loans have fees and are the interest rates variable or fixed?
- ▶ **Know when interest begins to accrue.** Does the loan debt begin to grow immediately?
- ▶ **Know when repayment begins.** *Is there a grace period or does repayment start once the loan is disbursed?*
- **Know who you are borrowing from.** Are the loans from the government, a bank or a nonprofit organization?

Federal Direct Student Loan

- Subsidized
- Unsubsidized

Types of Education Loans

Federal
Parent
Loan (PLUS)

Private Student Loans

INvestEd Tip: Check out our Loan Repayment Calculator as you evaluate your loan options and understand the potential repayment! INvestEdIndiana.org/understanding

Get more information on our Student Loan Comparison chart at INvestEdIndiana.org/resources

INCOME SHARE AGREEMENTS

Another way to fund some of your education and repay later based on your income.

What is an Income Share Agreement (ISA)?

The college provides an award to the student to help cover some college costs. A student signs an agreement with the college to repay a percent of their income for a set period of time after attendance or graduation.

Many factors impact ISA criteria including student program and projected income. While not all colleges offer this program, for some it will be an alternative to private student loans or federal parent loans.





TYPES OF AID

Amounts shown are awarded annually and are subject to change

Federal Grants: Money that doesn't have to be paid back

FEDERAL PELL GRANT

Up to \$6,195 for the 2019–20 award year

For undergraduates with financial need who have not earned a bachelor's or professional degree. For details and updates, visit **StudentAid.gov/pell-grant**.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG)

Up to \$4,000

- For undergraduates with exceptional financial need.
- Federal Pell Grant recipients take priority.
- Funds depend on availability at school.
 - For details and updates, visit **StudentAid.gov/fseog**.

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN Service Grant

Up to \$6,195 for the 2019–20 award year

For undergraduate students who are not Pell-eligible, and their parent or guardian must have died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11. For details and updates, visit

Student Aid.gov/iraq-afghanistan.

TEACH GRANT

Up to \$4,000

For undergraduate. postbaccalaureate, and graduate students who are completing or plan to complete course work needed to begin a career in teaching. To receive a TEACH Grant, a student must agree to teach for four years in a high-need field at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency that serves low-income families. If a student doesn't complete the teaching service requirement, all TEACH Grants the student received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that must be repaid, with interest. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/teach.

Federal Work-Study: Money is earned through a job and doesn't have to be repaid

Your total work-study award depends on

- when you apply,
- your level of financial need, and
- your school's funding level.



Federal Student Loans: These are loans that accumulate interest; they must be repaid.

	Direct Subsidized Loan	Direct Unsubsidized Loan	Direct PLUS Loan
Who is it for?	For undergraduate students who have financial need. A student must be enrolled at least half-time.	For undergraduate and graduate or professional students . A student must be enrolled at least half-time. Financial need is not required.	For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students . A student must be enrolled at least half-time. Financial need is not required.
What is the annual award amount?	Up to \$5,500, depending on grade level and dependency status.	Up to \$20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for the same period), depending on grade level and dependency status.	Maximum amount is the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received.
What is the interest rate?	Interest rates for new Direct Subsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to undergraduate students during the 2019–20 award year have the rate fixed at 4.53% for the life of the loan.	For undergraduate students : Interest rates for new Direct Unsubsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to undergraduate students during the 2019–20 award year have the rate fixed at 4.53% for the life of the loan. For graduate or professional students : Interest rates for new Direct Unsubsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to graduate or professional students during the 2019–20 award year have the rate fixed at 6.08% for the life of the loan.	Interest rates for new Direct PLUS Loans can change every year. Loans made during the 2019–20 award year have the rate fixed at 7.08% for the life of the loan.
Where do I go for more details and updates on loans?	StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub	StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub	StudentAid.gov/plus

READY TO FILL OUT THE FAFSA® FORM? GO TO FAFSA.GOV!

I completed the FAFSA® form. Now what?

After you submit your FAFSA form, you'll receive a *Student Aid Report* (SAR) that summarizes the data you submitted. If you provided a valid email address in your application, you'll receive an email with instructions on how to access an online copy of your SAR within three days (if you apply at **fafsa.gov**) or three weeks (if you mail in a paper FAFSA form).

When you receive your SAR, review it to make sure you didn't make any mistakes on your FAFSA form.

- If you don't need to make any changes to the information listed on your SAR, just keep it for your records.
- To find out how to correct mistakes, or to update your tax data or other information in your FAFSA form, visit **StudentAid.gov/fafsa/next-steps/accept-aid** or contact the school to which you are applying.

The information in your SAR will be provided to the schools you listed on your FAFSA form. You will receive an aid offer from the schools at which you were accepted for admission.

What's an aid offer and how much aid will I get?

If you applied for admission to a college or career school you listed on your FAFSA form, that school will get your FAFSA information. The school will calculate your aid and send you an aid offer (often electronically).

Most schools will wait to send you an aid offer only after they accept you for admission. The aid offer will tell you how much aid you're eligible to receive at that school and will include the types and amounts of financial aid you may receive from federal, state, private, and school sources. This combination of help from different sources is your financial aid package. How much aid you receive depends on some factors, including

- cost of attendance (for each school);
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC)—the EFC does not represent a dollar amount but, instead, it's a number used to calculate how much financial aid you're eligible to receive based on your FAFSA information;
- year in school; and
- enrollment status (e.g., full-time, half-time, etc.).

You can compare school aid offers and see which school is most affordable once financial aid is taken into account. Contact the school's financial aid office if you have any questions about the aid being offered to you. For more information on how aid is calculated, visit **StudentAid.gov/how-calculated**.

HOW WILL I RECEIVE MY AID?

Your college or career school—not the U.S. Department of Education—will distribute your aid. In most cases, your federal student aid will be applied directly to your school account. The financial aid staff at your school will explain exactly how and when your aid will be disbursed (paid out).

DO I HAVE TO REPAY MY LOANS?

Yes. Student loans, unlike grants and work-study, are borrowed money that must be repaid, with interest, just like car loans and home mortgages. You cannot have these loans canceled because you didn't like the education you received, didn't get a job in your field of study, or are having financial difficulty. So think about the amount you'll have to repay before you take out a loan and only borrow the amount you need. Learn more about loan repayment at **StudentAid.gov/repay**.



DON'T LET YOUR INTEREST CAPITALIZE!

If you have unsubsidized or PLUS loans, then interest accumulates on these loans before you begin repayment (e.g., while you are in school). Consider paying interest on your federal student loans while you're in school, and during grace, deferment, and forbearance periods to avoid capitalization (the addition of unpaid interest to the principal balance of your loan). Capitalization increases your loan balance, and interest will then accrue on that higher principal amount.

What else do I need to remember when

APPLYING FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID?



Your FAFSA information has to be correct to ensure that you receive your aid promptly and in the right amount. Always respond to (or act upon) any correspondence your school sends you—and meet all deadlines.

Contact the school if you're interested in school or state grants.

FREE HELP IS AVAILABLE

Free help is available any time during the application process. Online help is available while you complete your application at **fafsa.gov**. You can also get free information and help from your school counselor, the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend, or the U.S. Department of Education at **StudentAid.gov** or 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). You should never have to pay for help!

Stay Connected







Access your federal student loan information at **StudentAid.gov/login**.

CONTACT US 1-800-4-FED-AID

(1-800-433-3243); TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing: 1-800-730-8913

U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) Box 84 Washington, DC 20044-0084





Letters of Recommendation

Some Dos and Don'ts for Letters of Recommendation

DO ask early! By giving plenty of time to the recommender, you are allowing them plenty of time to write about YOU. You should ask your recommender at least 10 days in advance.

DON'T be afraid to remind your recommender of your deadlines. We all get busy and sometimes a reminder is helpful!

DO ask first! By asking the recommender first, you give him or her the opportunity to decline, which may be better for you in the long run. It is also just polite to ask.

DO provide a link to your digital portfolio or a list of activities you have been involved in or jobs you have held. The more you tell the recommender, the more they can comment on.

DON'T forget to say "Thank you"! Writing a letter of recommendation takes time and saying thank you can go a long way.

DO ask the recommender for a copy for your files in case you need to access the letter again. If the recommender does not want to hand you a copy, ask them to save the letter on their device for the future.

DO ask someone who knows you well, but not a family member.

DO read the application to find out what types of recommendations they would like. Some applications want an academic recommendation from a core teacher and some specify that it can come from a counselor, coach, employer or administrator. Read the application carefully.

DON'T add a recommender to an application or Common App without asking. The email will go directly to the recommender and they won't be looking for it. It is much more polite to ask first, then send the email.

Letters of Recommendation

Introduction

After your teachers agree to write you letters of recommendation, it is helpful to provide them with context. To do this, write each teacher a note which outlines the colleges where you are applying, the deadlines for each of the letters of recommendation, and a few specific points that you would like for them to highlight. And remember, they don't have to write these letters – so thank them for their time! Included below is a sample note written by a student to a teacher confirming a request for a letter of recommendation.

Sample Note to Provide to Recommending Teachers

Hi Ms. Henderson,

Thank you so much for agreeing to write a college letter of recommendation on my behalf!

As I mentioned, I am applying to eight colleges! Six of the colleges use the Common App, and you can submit one copy of your letter of recommendation for all these schools by logging into the "Recommender" section of the Common Application website (https://www.commonapp.org/Login(Opens in a new window)). For the other two colleges, I have included a post-marked envelope where each letter of recommendation needs to be sent. I am applying Early Action to UNC Chapel Hill, and the deadline for their letter of recommendation is October 15th. For the remainder of the schools, I am applying regular decision with a recommendation letter deadline of January lst.

The reason that I asked you to be my recommender is because I loved your AP English class, and because you are familiar with my academic abilities. In your letter of recommendation, I'd appreciate if you focused specifically on how I performed in your class (since the guidance counselor is writing a letter to discuss some of my outside of class endeavors). To help you get started, I want to highlight a few areas where I believe that I stood out:

- I submitted a rough draft of a research paper analyzing the major themes contained within "The Great Gatsby." You tore the draft apart, and I spent substantial time reworking the final essay based on your recommendations. Ultimately I received an A- on the paper, which I believe was one of the highest grades in the class.
- In the group project where we researched and presented on an issue for the recent presidential campaign, I
 took on a leadership role in my group to ensure that all our work was completed on-time and at a high level of
 quality. You asked us to rate each of our teammates, and the marks that I received were very positive
 (average of 9/10).
- I volunteered to lead the class discussion on John Donne's "The Flea" which turned into a vigorous debate over the meaning of the poem.
- I served as a volunteer tutor in your class, working with several students after school to help them edit their papers.

I hope these points are helpful as you write the recommendation; however, do feel free to focus on other topics related to my in-class performance that you think are more relevant. And again, thank you so much for your time - I really appreciate it!

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of any help in the process,

Student's Name

This excerpt is taken from Khan Academy Sal Khan has created an entire college admissions course available for free to you. Visit https://www.khanacademy.org/college-careers-more/college-admissions if you are interested in learning more!

Writing the College Essay

When you apply to college, you'll need to complete an essay as part of your application. This is your opportunity to show admission officers who you are and to provide information about yourself that didn't fit in other areas of your application. The essay also reveals what you can do when you have time to think and work on a writing project.

The number one piece of advice from admission officers about your essay is "Be yourself." The number two suggestion is "Start early." Check out these other tips before you begin.

Choose a Topic That Will Highlight You

Don't focus on the great aspects of a particular college, the amount of dedication it takes to be a doctor or the number of extracurricular activities you took part in during high school.

Do share your personal story and thoughts, take a creative approach and highlight areas that arent covered in other parts of the application, like your high school records.

Keep Your Focus Narrow and Personal

Don't try to cover too many topics. This will make the essay sound like a résumé that doesn't provide any details about you.

Do focus on one aspect of yourself so the readers can learn more about who you are. Remember that the readers must be able to find your main idea and follow it from beginning to end. Ask a parent or teacher to read just your introduction and tell you what he or she thinks your essay is about.

Show, Don't Tell

Don't simply state a fact to get an idea across, such as "I like to surround myself with people with a variety of backgrounds and interests."

Do include specific details, examples, reasons and so on to develop your ideas. For the example above, describe a situation when you were surrounded by various types of people. What were you doing? Whom did you talk with? What did you take away from the experience?

Use Your Own Voice

Don't rely on phrases or ideas that people have used many times before. These could include statements like, "There is so much suffering in the world that I feel I have to help people." Avoid overly formal or business-like language, and don't use unnecessary words.

Do write in your own voice. For the above example, you could write about a real experience that you had and how it made you feel you had to take action. And note that admission officers will be able to tell if your essay was edited by an adult.

Ask a Teacher or Parent to Proofread

Don't turn your essay in without proofreading it, and don't rely only on your computer's spell check to catch mistakes. A spell-check program will miss typos like these:

- "After I graduate Form high school, I plan to get a summer job."
- "From that day on, Daniel was my best Fried."

Do ask a teacher or parent to proofread your essay to catch mistakes. You should also ask the person who proofreads your essay if the writing sounds like you.

Adapted From The College Application Essay by Sarah Myers McGinty.

This excerpt is taken from bigfuture.collegeboard.org. Visit https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays/tips-for-writing-an-effective-application-essay-college-admissions to read the entire article and see more information!

College Visits & Interviews

College Visits

- College admissions representatives will come to HHS to visit with students. Visits in 2020-2021 will be virtual and students will be required to sign up ahead of time to participate.
- Students who wish to miss school to visit a college campus will set that up with the college or university, then a parent should notify Student Services of the absence. Students should obtain proof of the college visit and bring it back to Student Services for the absence to be approved.
- Visits to a college campus can be arranged on most college websites. Many colleges also offer virtual visits, which may come in handy. You can call the Admissions Office to set up a tour as well.
- When setting up your tour, it's possible to ask to see a class, if you can eat in the cafeteria, and/
 or meet with a coach or a member of the academic department you are hoping to be accepted
 to.
- We highly recommend visiting colleges so you can get a feel for the campus and the surrounding community.

Things to look for:

- Classroom sizes and teacher-student ratios
- Dorm Rooms
- Athletic/recreational center
- Campus activity
- Social life including clubs, recreational sports, fraternities/sororities and student organizations

College Interviews

Not all students are asked to interview with a college, but if you are, it's important to note the following:

- Do your research on the college and be prepared with a few questions to ask about academics and life on campus
- Know the basics about the college and the majors they offer.
- · Have a list of activities you have been involved in to give to the interviewer
- Practice interviewing first and make sure to dress appropriately
- Be prepared to talk about how you will get involved on campus and with the college
- Always follow up with a thank you note!

College Application FAQs from CollegeBoard.org

When should I start?

The summer before your senior year is the best time to start. Most students do the majority of their application work in the fall of their senior year.

How do I begin?

Find out <u>what goes into an application</u> and begin collecting the materials you need. Create a folder for each college you are applying to. At the front of each folder, put a <u>checklist</u> of what you'll need for the application and when it's due.

How many colleges should I apply to?

To increase your chances of getting in to a selective school—and to account for colleges you may not have considered before—we recommend a balanced list. A balanced list includes at least 3 reach colleges, 2 matches, and I safety school. They should all be colleges you'd be happy to attend.

What are reach, match, and safety schools?

BigFuture introduces test scores as one additional factor to weigh as you refine your list. Think about narrowing your colleges into three categories:

- Reaches: Your SAT or ACT® score is lower than the average score range of last year's freshman class.
- Matches: Your SAT or ACT score is solidly in the same score range as last year's freshman class.
- Safeties: Your SAT or ACT score is higher than the average score range of last year's freshman class.

Should I apply early?

It depends. If you are sure about which college you want to attend, early decision or early action might be the best choice for you. If you're not sure, keep in mind that some early application plans require you to commit early. You may want to keep your options open.

Is it OK to use the same material on different applications?

Definitely. There's no need to write a brand-new essay or personal statement for each application. Instead, devote your time to producing a great version of basic application parts.

Should I apply to colleges if my admission-test scores or grades are below their published ranges?

Yes. The admission scores and grades that colleges show on their websites are averages or ranges—not cutoffs. There are students at every college who scored lower (and higher) than the numbers shown.

Remember that colleges consider many factors to get a more complete picture of you. For example, they look at the types of classes you take, your activities, recommendation letters, your essay and your overall character. Colleges are looking for all kinds of students with different talents, abilities and backgrounds. Admission test scores and grades are just two parts of that complete picture.

Should I even bother applying to colleges I don't think I can afford?

Absolutely. Remember that after financial aid packages are determined, most students will pay far less than the "sticker price" listed on the college website. You don't know if you can afford a college until after you apply and find out how much aid that college will offer you (if you're accepted). Fill out the FAFSA® as early as possible after Jan. I to qualify for the most aid.

Even if the aid package the college offers is not enough, you have options. Many colleges are willing to work with students they have chosen for admission to ensure that those students can afford to attend.

Important Terms

Regular Admission—This is the most common type of admission. This means that a due date is set and all materials must be received by that date. Applications are considered following that posted date.

<u>Early Action-</u> This allows students to apply and be notified of an admissions decision well in advance of the regular notification dates. If admitted, the student does not have to enroll at that particular college (non-binding).

<u>Early Decision</u>—This allows students to apply and be notified of an admissions decision well in advance of the regular notification date. However, if admitted, applicants agree to accept the offer of admission and withdraw all other applications to other schools. Some students will be *deferred*, meaning they are not admitted, but are moved to the regular admission pool for consideration.

Rolling Admission—When students apply rolling admission, the college considers their application as soon as all materials are received. Students applying for rolling admission should submit their applications as early as possible; although most schools accept applications throughout the school year.

Source: Counseling 21st Century Students for Optimal College and Career Readiness; pg. 134-135

Application Websites

Common App: Common App is a non-profit college access organization that helps students apply to college every year. Common App's free college application tool is designed to make applying to college faster and easier. With Common App you only need to use one system to apply to multiple colleges and universities. There are two main parts you fill out: a set of common questions and each college's own specific questions. The best part is you only have to fill out the common questions one time! (https://www.commonapp.org/explore/)

<u>Coalition App:</u> MyCoalition is our set of free, online college-planning tools that helps students start early and stress less on their path to college. With anytime, easy-to-use access, MyCoalition empowers students to learn about, prepare for, and apply to college. But it's not just for students: Counselors, teachers, parents, and anyone else who supports students can use—and benefit from—MyCoalition, too. (https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/)

<u>Universal College Application:</u> A standard application form accepted by colleges that are members of the Universal College Application organization. Students can use this application to apply to any of the more than 20 colleges and universities that accept it. (https://www.universalcollegeapp.com/)

<u>University and College Websites:</u> Some colleges and universities do not participate in either the Common App or the Coalition App. You can find their application for admission on the university/college website and fill it out there. It is always recommended to contact the university/college to find out if they have received all of your materials.

The Benefits and Drawbacks of Applying Early

Early decision (ED) and early action (EA) plans can be beneficial to students — but only to those who have thought through their college options carefully and have a clear preference for one institution.

Early decision versus early action

Early decision plans are binding — a student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college. Early action plans are nonbinding — students receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May I.

Approximately 450 colleges have early decision or early action plans, and some have both. Some colleges offer a nonbinding option called **single-choice early action**, under which applicants may not apply ED or EA to any other college.

ED applicants

- Apply early (usually in November) to first-choice college.
- Receive an admission decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date (usually by December).
- Agree to attend the college if accepted and offered a financial aid package that is considered adequate by the family.
- Apply to only one college early decision.
- Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.
- Withdraw all other applications if accepted by ED.
- Send a nonrefundable deposit well in advance of May I.

EA applicants

- Apply early.
- Receive an admission decision early in the admission cycle (usually in January or February).
- Consider acceptance offer, do not have to commit upon receipt.
- Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.
- Give the college a decision no later than the May I national response date.

Who should apply early?

Applying to an ED or EA plan is most appropriate for a student who:

- Has researched colleges extensively.
- Is absolutely sure that the college is the first choice.
- Has found a college that is a strong match academically, socially and geographically.
- Meets or exceeds the admission profile for the college for SAT® scores, GPA and class rank.
- Has an academic record that has been consistently solid over time.

Applying to an ED or EA plan is not appropriate for a student who:

- Has not thoroughly researched colleges.
- Is applying early just to avoid stress and paperwork.
- Is not fully committed to attending the college.
- Is applying early only because friends are.
- Needs a strong senior fall semester to bring grades up.

Students who want to apply early should fill out NACAC's <u>Early Decision Self-Evaluation Questionnaire</u>, in the Deciding About Early Decision and Early Action handout.

The Benefits of Applying Early

For a student who has a definite first-choice college, applying early has many benefits besides possibly increasing the chance of getting in. Applying early lets the student:

- Reduce stress by cutting the time spent waiting for a decision.
- Save the time and expense of submitting multiple applications.
- Gain more time, once accepted, to look for housing and otherwise prepare for college.
- Reassess options and apply elsewhere if not accepted.

The Drawbacks of Applying Early

Pressure to decide: Committing to one college puts pressure on students to make serious decisions before they've explored all their options.

Reduced financial aid opportunities: Students who apply under ED plans receive offers of admission and financial aid simultaneously and so will not be able to compare financial aid offers from other colleges. For students who absolutely need financial aid, applying early may be a risky option.

Time crunch for other applications: Most colleges do not notify ED and EA applicants of admission until December 15. Because of the usual deadlines for applications, this means that if a student is rejected by the ED college, there are only two weeks left to send in other applications. Students who are applying early should prepare other applications as they wait to receive admission decisions from their first-choice college.

Senioritis: Applicants who learn early that they have been accepted into a college may feel that their goal is accomplished and they have no reason to work hard for the rest of the year. Early-applying students should know that colleges may rescind offers of admission should their senior-year grades drop.

Students and parents can use our <u>Pros and Cons of Applying to College Early</u>, in the Deciding About Early Decision and Early Action handout, to weigh their options.

Does applying early increase the chance of acceptance?

Many students believe applying early means competing with fewer applicants and increasing their chances for acceptance. This is not always true. Colleges vary in the proportion of the class admitted early and in the percentage of early applicants they admit.

Higher admission rates for ED applicants may correlate to stronger profiles among candidates choosing ED. Students should ask the admission office whether their institution's admission standards differ between ED and regular applicants, and then assess whether applying early makes sense given their own profile.

The Ethics of Applying Early Decision

The Common Application and some colleges' application forms require the student applying under early decision, as well as the parent and counselor, to sign an ED agreement form spelling out the plan's conditions.

Keep in mind

- ED and EA program specifics vary, so students should get information as soon as possible directly from the admission staff at their first-choice college.
- ED and EA applicants must take the October SAT or SAT Subject Tests in order for these scores to make it to the college in time.

Source: (https://professionals.collegeboard.org/guidance/applications/early)

Counselors will meet with each student in their senior caseload to review plans following graduation. Those students wanting to attend college should be prepared to discuss their plans and have a list of potential colleges to apply to. The counselors will offer various opportunities to help students fill out applications and many times, the student can schedule time to work on applications in the counselor's office, if desired.

Express Admissions Days are held with Indiana University Northwest and Purdue University Northwest. These Express Admissions Days require the student to schedule an appointment in advance. The student will meet with the admissions counselors from each institution and will be given an admissions decision on the spot. If the student is not admissible, the admissions counselor will give suggestions to the student on various ways to improve their chances.



How the First Year Common App Works

A quickstart guide for students using the first year Common App.







Add colleges

Get started by adding colleges to your list. You can find colleges to apply to in the College Search tab of your Common App account. The College Search tab also has information and links to help you research each college. Almost 900 colleges use Common App! Go to **commonapp.org/explore** to start exploring.

Stay organized

Each college has its own set of specific requirements and supplements. When it comes to tracking this information and staying organized, we're here to help! Use the "Requirements Grid" and each college's "College Information" page to find this information. You can also use Common App On Track, our mobile companion app, to track deadlines, set reminders, and more.

To start your college application checklist, check out our "My College Requirements" worksheet at commonapp.org/ready.

Complete and submit Answering all the questions in

Answering all the questions in the Common App tab is a great way to start your applications. For each college you will:

- Answer college specific questions
- Invite and manage recommenders
- Complete other supplements (if applicable)

After all these sections are complete, you are ready to submit your application! Submission is simple: review, pay (if applicable), and submit.

How does my application get there?

When you submit we combine your responses from the Common App and college specific questions, as well as any supplements, into one form. Your counselor, teachers, and other recommenders complete their reports and evaluations separately.

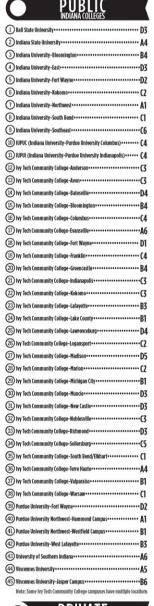
As recommenders submit their forms, they will be sent to the college to be added to your application.

Early Decision and Early Action Calendar

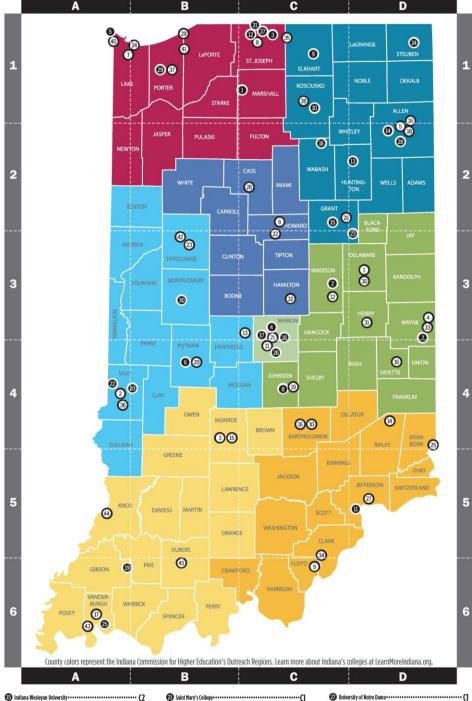
Are you prepared to apply early to college? If you are even considering the option of early decision or early action, here are the steps you need to take right now:

Junior Year			
January-May	 Take the SAT® and/or ACT Visit colleges during spring break 		
May-June	 Take SAT Subject Tests if required Work hard and keep up good grades (Note: Colleges only have your transcript through junior year) 		
	Senior Year		
September- October	 Work on and complete applications Get teachers to fill out recommendation forms File early decision or early action applications according to school deadlines and procedures Take SAT or ACT if necessary (Note: October is the last test date that will make scores available in time for early decision and early action programs) If necessary, register for CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®online or by using a form 		
November	 Continue filing early decision or early action applications according to specific school deadlines Follow up with teacher recommendations Work on regular-decision applications as a backup if you don't get in early decision or early action File the PROFILE form and any other collegebased financial aid forms that may be required of early decision candidates 		

INDIANA COLLEGES



\mathbf{O}	PRIVATE INDIANA COLLEGES*	
Ancilla College	e	······································
2 Anderson Univ	versity·····	
Bethel College	6	······· C1
Butler University	sity	3
6 Calumet Colle	ge of Saint Joseph	A1
6 DePauw Unive	ersity·····	В4
T Earlham Colle	ge	D3
(3) Franklin Colleg	ge	(4
Goshen Colleg	16	
(II) Grace College		······································
Hanover Colle	ge	D5
⚠ Holy Cross Col	llege	1
(B) Huntington Ur	niversity	D2



County colors represent the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's Outreach

A

B

Indiana Wesleyan University

C2

3 Saint Mary's College

C3

4 Saint Mary's College

C3

5 Saint Mary's College

C3

6 Saint Mary's College

C3

6 Taylor University

C3

7 Saint University

C3

7 Saint Mary's College

C4

7 Saint Mary's College

C5

7 Saint Mary's College

C6

7 Saint Mary's College

C7

7 Saint Mary's College

C8

7 Saint Mary's College

C9

8 Martin University

C3

8 University of Education's Outreach

C9

8 University of Indianapolis

8 University of Indianapolis

CAREER PLANNING



COLLEGE SUCCESS









What to Know About Applying Early

If you find a college that you're sure is right for you, consider applying early. Early Decision and Early Action plans allow you to apply early (usually in November) and get an admission decision early (usually by Dec. 15).

Early Decision plans are binding

You agree to attend the college if it accepts you and offers an adequate financial aid package. You can apply to only one college for Early Decision. You may also apply to other colleges through the regular admission process, but if you're accepted by your first-choice college early, you must withdraw all other applications.

Early Action plans are nonbinding

While the college will tell you whether or not you're accepted by early January, you have the right to wait until May I before responding. This gives you time to compare colleges, including their financial aid offers, before making a decision. You can also apply Early Action to more than one college.

Get advice from your school counselor before applying Early Decision. While it may seem appealing to get the process over with early, it might be too soon to know that you've made the right college choice.

Single-choice Early Action is another option offered by a few colleges

This plan works the same way as other Early Action plans, but candidates may not apply early (either Early Action or Early Decision) to any other school. You can still apply for regular admission to other schools and are not required to give your final answer of acceptance until the regular decision deadline.

If you need financial aid, Early Decision might not be a good idea

You shouldn't apply under an Early Decision plan if you think you'll be better off weighing financial aid packages from several colleges later in the spring. While you can turn down an early acceptance if the college is unable to meet your need for financial aid, "need" in this context is determined by formulas, not by your family.

Not every college offers an early plan

More than 400 colleges offer an Early Decision plan, an Early Action plan, or both; but that is less than 20 percent of all colleges.



DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

Fee Waivers for College Applications

College Application Fee Waivers from CollegeBoard

College application fees can really add up, but there's good news for students. Every income-eligible student who takes the SAT with a fee waiver or as part of a district or state program while in high school, can choose from over 2,000 participating colleges and apply for free. These waivers will be delivered online to eligible students.

Why did I receive college application fee waivers?

If you registered for and took the SAT using a fee waiver, or were identified as fee waiver eligible as part of a district or state program, you are automatically eligible to receive college application fee waivers.

I have registered and taken the SAT using a fee waiver. When can I expect to receive my college application fee waivers?

If you are a senior and eligible for college application fee waivers, you will receive them when you get your SAT score. If you are a junior and eligible, you will receive them in the fall of your senior year. In the mean-time, search for colleges that accept application fee waivers.

If I am applying to colleges using the Coalition, Common, or Universal Applications, can I still use a college application fee waiver?

If you have received an SAT fee waiver, you may apply to any Coalition, Common, or Universal College Application college without a fee. Each of these application platforms has a process in place to allow eligible students to have their application fee waived, and generally do not require you to submit your College Board fee waivers.

On the **Coalition App**, students can determine their eligibility for a fee waiver by answering a brief series of questions while creating their Coalition profile. If you qualify for fee waivers from the College Board (or qualify based on any of the other questions), you will automatically bypass the payment screen when you submit your application to a member school.

Similarly, on the **Common App**, you will be asked on the application whether your financial circumstances qualify you for a fee waiver— if you received an SAT fee waiver, you should indicate that in response to this question to have your fee waived. Your high school counselor will be asked to verify your eligibility.

To use your fee waiver on the **Universal College Application**, check the "fee waiver" box on your application and submit your form to the college or university.

For **all other colleges** that participate in the program, submit the application fee waiver forms included in your College Board account directly to the institution.

How many of these college application fee waivers am I allowed to use?

You may use as many college application fee waivers as you need.

Do I need to have my college application fee waivers verified or signed by my school counselor?

No. Students have already had their eligibility verified by their counselor, so these college application fee waivers do not require counselor approval.

If a college application asks if you qualify for a fee waiver, and you do, check "yes" so that your fee is waived.

Sending your High School Transcripts

All seniors should register for an account on <u>Parchment</u>. Any time you apply to a college, you will need to request for your transcript to be sent through Parchment. Once you request it (it's free!), the secretary will upload your transcript and it will be electronically sent to your colleges. The following pages will give more information on how to request a transcript, but the secretary in the School Counseling Office will be your best resource, as well as your school counselor.

When it comes to FERPA, you will be asked to either waive your rights or not to waive them. FERPA requires schools to have written permission from the student (or parent, if the student is under 18) in order to release educational credentials and records. There are some destinations FERPA does not require written permission for - those destinations are available for selection within the Parchment Exchange Database.

Why It's a Good Idea to Waive Your FERPA Right (Blog Excerpt)

As I mentioned above, the typical expectation for letters of recommendation in college admissions is that they are kept **confidential**. Admissions officers give most weight to letters that provide an honest and qualified assessment of the applicant. If you don't waive your FERPA right, you could accidentally signal to admissions officers that you don't trust your recommender or that the recommendation is less candid or genuine.

Your recommender might also get the subtle message that you don't trust him or her. The knowledge that you'll see the letter at some point in the future might cause your recommender to write a more **generic letter**, and thus be less powerful and effective in support of your candidacy.

You won't be penalized for your response, but it's risky to check "no" since you don't know how admissions officers or your recommenders will interpret it. If you still feel uneasy about waiving your FERPA right, keep reading. In the next section, I'll explain why there's no need to worry about your recommendation letters, even if you never get the chance to read them. (Blog)

Registration Codes

All students will receive a registration code at the start of the year to register on Parchment. If you lose this code, you can still create an account. Make sure to use an email that is personal and will be used following high school. You may need to access your transcript down the road and you'll want to be able to access your email in case you need to reset your password.

Secondary School Report

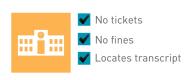
In many cases, the college you are applying to will request a secondary school report from your school counselor. Before completing the Common Application or sending transcripts on Parchment, you must fill out your Senior Year Brag Sheet and provide it to your school counselor so they can include pertinent information about you on those secondary school reports.

Overview

ORDERING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT IS EASY. AND FAST. AND SECURE.









Place your order by telling us which school has your transcript and where you want to send it. We notify the school and they review your order. Once approved, they upload your transcript into our system. We deliver your transcript.

HOW IT WORKS

- 1. Search for your school.
 - Your school has your transcript so the first thing you need to do is tell us the name of your school.
 - It's important to note that we do not hold your transcript. Your school has your transcript, and we tell them that you want your transcript sent somewhere. Therefore, if there is a delay with your order, you may need to speak to someone at your school about it. For example, your order may be placed on hold due to an overdue book. In this case, you would need to contact your school to resolve the issue.
- 2. Send your transcript anywhere.
 - We can send your transcript to any destination worldwide to a college, an employer, or yourself. And we can send it electronically or by mail. If your transcript is not available electronically, your school can prepare it themselves and get it to its destination.
- 3. Track your order.
 - You can track the entire ordering process at Parchment.com. Go to the **Track your transcript** help topic for details.



Register for a Parchment.com account

You must create an account before you can request your transcript.

Go to Parchment.com, click Sign up, and follow the onscreen instructions.

A COUPLE THINGS ABOUT REGISTERING

- If you get an error telling you that a valid password is required, make sure your password is at least 8 characters long and contains both letters and numbers.
- If you are a parent/guardian, you can select if you'd like to create a parent/guardian account. For more information on these accounts, go to the Parent/guardian accounts help topic.

REGISTRATION CODES (HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY)

- If your high school sent you an email to register, click the **Register Your Free Account** button in the email and then follow the onscreen instructions.
- If you have a registration code on a handout that your high school gave you, go to parchment.com/ register and enter the code into the white boxes.



OPT-IN TO SHARE YOUR INFORMATION

During the registration process, you will be presented with a pop-up screen asking if you'd like to share your information with colleges and/or employers looking for people like you. Click **Yes** if you'd like to share your information, or click **No** if you'd rather not.

If you opt-in, this means that we will make some of the information you provide to us available to a variety of colleges and programs. The colleges and programs can then send you information about themselves, so you can see if they fit your plans.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR STUDENTS LIKE YOU

Here's how it works: once you say we are allowed to do so, we will make some of the information you provide to Parchment available to a variety of colleges and programs. Then the academic institutions and employers can send you information about themselves, so you can see if they fit your career and education goals. institutions cannot find you at Parchment unless you choose to opt-in.

- Yes, share the information I provide with those institutions looking to discover me at Parchment.
- No, I do not wish to share my information with institutions or learn about employment opportunities.
- I agree to the Parchment <u>terms of use</u> and <u>service agreement</u>

NEXT



Order your transcript

- 1. Log in to Parchment.com. Or, if you haven't registered yet, go the Sign up page and follow the onscreen instructions to register.
- 2. Click Transcripts.
- 3. You now need to find the school that has your transcript.
 - Enter your school's information and click Search.
- WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER YOUR TRANSCRIPT FROM?

 Search by institution name, e.g. Parchment University, Parchment High School

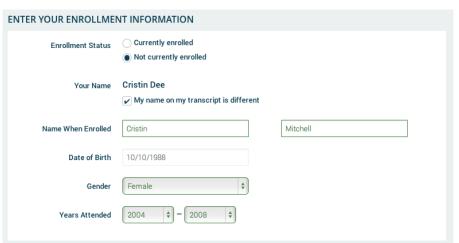
 SEARCH
- If your school is already listed,
 click Send Transcript and go to the Select your destination help topic.
- If you want to add another school, click **Add another institution**. **+ADD ANOTHER INSTITUTION**Enter the school's information and click **Search**.
- 4. When you see your school listed, click Select.
 - If your school does not appear or you see **Transcripts Unavailable**, please contact your school to request your transcript.

TRANSCRIPTS UNAVAILABLE

- 5. If you are able to order transcripts from your school using Parchment, you will be brought to the **Enrollment Information** page.
 - Select if you are currently enrolled or not enrolled.
 - Check the box if the name on your transcript is different to your name today. You will then enter your name when you were enrolled in the text boxes provided.
 - Enter your date of birth if it is not already filled in.
 - Select your gender.
 - Select your gender.

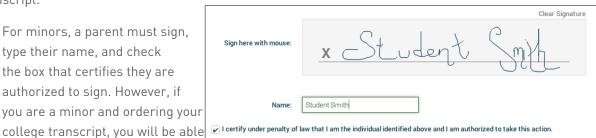
Select the years that you attended this school.

6. Under FERPA Privacy Rights, select whether you'd like to waive your **FERPA** rights to read your letters of recommendation.





- Click Save & Continue.
- 8. Enter your address and phone number, and select Save & Continue.
- 9. On the **Provide Consent Signature** page:
 - a. Use your mouse or stylus to sign your name in the box.
 - b. Type your name into the box and check the box to confirm that you are authorized to order the transcript.
 - For minors, a parent must sign, type their name, and check the box that certifies they are authorized to sign. However, if you are a minor and ordering your to sign.



- c. If you haven't completed high school yet, you will see a box that you can check if you want a copy of your high school transcript stored in your Parchment account.
- 10. Click Save & Continue.
- 11. Now you're ready to select where you want your transcript to go. Go to Select your destination on the next page.



SELECT YOUR DESTINATION

You are ready to tell us where to send your transcript. You can send your transcript to any destination.



- Some schools have a preferred delivery method saved into our system, so you may not be presented with a choice of delivery methods. For example, some schools may only want to receive electronic transcripts.
- Do not edit an address unless you are positive that the changes you are making are correct. You cannot change an address after you place an order. You will have to resubmit your order.
- Use Other Organization or Other Individual to send transcripts to employers, military addresses, or specific individuals/departments at a college.
- You cannot send other admissions documents with your transcript through Parchment. You should speak to your school if you need to submit other documents. They may be able to upload and send these other documents when they send your transcript.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR TRANSCRIPT SENT?

Select from these options and you will be brought straight to that section in this guide.

- Academic Institution (colleges and universities, NCAA, Common App)
- Other Organization
- Yourself
- Other Individual



ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Select Academic Institution to send your transcript to a college, university, NCAA, or Common App. However, if you have received instructions to send your transcript to a specific individual or department, use the Other Individual tab.



- 1. Click Academic Institution.
- 2. Enter the name of the institution and click **Search**.
- 3. When you see the institution, click **Select**.
- 4. Confirm your destination(s) and delivery details.
 - For some institutions, you will only be able to send your transcript electronically or by mail, and you may not be able to change this. Schools within the Parchment network have a preferred delivery method so they can easily and securely receive transcripts. If you were instructed to send your transcript to a particular individual at the institution, you should use the Other Individual tab.



- Next to **Processing Time**, you can select **Send Now** or **Hold for Grades**. You should select **Hold for Grades** if you want to wait until your next semester grades are in before your transcript is delivered.
- If your transcript will be delivered by mail, you can select **Overnight delivery**.
- 5. Click Continue.
 - You can review your order and edit or remove the destination information.
 - If you want to add more destinations, click Add Another Item.
 - When you are ready to complete your order, enter your payment details and click Checkout.
- 6. You can now track your order.

OTHER ORGANIZATION

Use this option to send your official transcript to non-academic institutions, such as an employers.

- 1. Click Other Organization.
- 2. Select a Delivery Method:



- **Electronic Delivery**. Enter the recipient's email address and confirm that it is a valid email address. When the transcript is ready, the recipient will receive an email instructing them how to download it.
- Paper Transcript. Enter the exact address. You can also select Send via Overnight Delivery. We ship
 by FedEx for next day delivery. However, please be aware that FedEx does not deliver on Saturdays or
 Sundays.
- 3. Next to **Processing Time**, you can select **Send Now** or **Hold for Grades**. You should select **Hold for Grades** if you want to wait until your next semester grades are in before having your transcript delivered.
- 4. Click Continue.
 - You can review your order and edit or remove the destination information.
 - If you want to add more destinations, click Add Another Item.
 - When you are ready to complete your order, enter your payment details and click **Checkout**.
- 5. You can now track your order.

YOURSELF

Select **Yourself** to have a copy of your official transcript sent to yourself.

- 1. Click Yourself.
- 2. Select your preferred delivery method:
 - Electronic Delivery your email address will populate.
 - To change the email address, you can type over the email address that is already there.
 - When your transcript is ready, you will receive an email with instructions explaining how to download it.
 - Paper Transcript your address will populate, but you can change it by typing over the address that is already there. You can also select **Send via Overnight Delivery**. We ship by FedEx for next day delivery. However, please be aware that FedEx does not deliver on Saturdays or Sundays.
- 3. Next to **Processing Time**, you can select **Send Now** or **Hold for Grades**. You should select **Hold for Grades** if you want to wait until your next semester grades are in before having your transcript delivered.
- 4. Click Continue.
 - You can review your order and edit or remove the destination information.
 - If you want to add more destinations, click Add Another Item.





- When you are ready to complete your order, enter your payment details and click Checkout.
- 5. You can now track your order.

OTHER INDIVIDUAL

Use this option to send your official transcript to another individual. For example, if you need to send your transcript to a specific person at a college or your employer, you can use this option.



- Click Other Individual.
- 2. Select a **Delivery Method**:
 - Electronic Delivery. Enter the recipient's email address and confirm that it is a valid email address. When the transcript is ready, the recipient will receive an email instructing them how to download the transcript.
 - Paper Transcript. Enter the exact address. You can also select Send via Overnight Delivery. We ship by FedEx for next day delivery. However, please be aware that FedEx does not deliver on Saturdays or Sundays.
- 3. Next to **Processing Time**, you can select **Send Now** or **Hold for Grades**. You should select **Hold for Grades** if you want to wait until your next semester grades are in before having your transcript delivered.
- 4. Click Continue.
 - You can review your order and edit or remove the destination information.
 - If you want to add more destinations, click Add Another Item.
 - When you are ready to complete your order, enter your payment details and click **Checkout**.
- 5. You can now track your order.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 1. Once you place your order, we will notify your school and they will review your order.
 - They can either approve your request or place it on hold. If they place your request on hold, you should contact your school directly to resolve the matter.
- 2. Once approved, your school uploads your transcript into our system and we deliver it to its destination. Or, if your ordered a paper transcript, your school will get it to its destination.
- 3. You can track the process on Parchment.com. Go to the **Track your transcript** help topic for details.



Calculating your Grade Point Average

The intent of this tool is for students to be able to calculate their grade point average on their own and to allow the student to see how their GPA is affected based on the grades they earn. Transcript GPAs are only impacted at the end of each semester.

fx					
	А	В	С	D	
1	Grade	#	GPA PTS	TOTAL	
2	A+		4.33	0	
3	Α	3	4	12	
4	A-		3.67	0	
5	B+		3.33	0	
6	В	3	3	9	
7	B-		2.67	0	
8	C+		2.33	0	
9	С	3	2	6	
10	C-		1.67	0	
11	D+		1.33	0	
12	D		1	0	
13	D-		0.67	0	
14	F		0	0	
15	#credits	9			
16		Total (GPA Points	27	
17		Unwei	ghted GPA	3	
18			WeighPts	3	
19				30	
20		Weig	hted GPA	3.33333333	
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
	+ ≣	Shee	t1 ▼		

How to Use the GPA Calculator:

Add up the number of grades on your transcript for each grade (A+, A, A-, etc) and enter those in the column to the right of the grades.

Once you have finished entering those, you will see your unweighted GPA in the blue box.

Tally your weighted points (see the pathway guide for details) and enter that next to the column that says WeighPts.

You will then see your weighted GPA in the green box.

You can now enter your grades to predict what your GPA could be!

GPA Calculator Link

You must make a copy when prompted



ONE OPPORTUNITY. LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.

If you want to play sports at an NCAA Division I or II school, start by registering for a Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at **eligibilitycenter.org**. If you want to play Division III sports or you aren't sure where you want to compete, start by creating a Profile Page at **eligibilitycenter.org**.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To play sports at a Division I or II school, you must graduate from high school, complete 16 NCAA-approved core courses, earn a minimum GPA and earn an ACT or SAT score that matches your core-course GPA.

CORE COURSES

Only courses that appear on your high school's list of NCAA core courses will count toward the 16 core-course requirement; visit **eligibilitycenter.org/courselist** for a full list of your high school's approved core courses. Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:

DIVISION I

Complete 10 NCAA core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before your seventh semester.



GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates your grade-point average based only on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved core courses.

- DI requires a minimum 2.3 GPA.
- DII requires a minimum 2.2 GPA.

SLIDING SCALE

Divisions I and II use sliding scales to match test scores and GPAs to determine eligibility. The sliding scale balances your test score with your GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher GPA to be eligible. Find more information about test scores at ncaa.org/test-scores.

TEST SCORES

You may take the SAT or ACT an unlimited number of times before you enroll full time in college. Every time you register for the SAT or ACT, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code 9999 to send your scores directly to us from the testing agency. We accept official scores only from the ACT or SAT, and won't use scores shown on your high school transcript. If you take either test more than once, the best subscore from different tests are used to give you the best possible score.





HIGH SCHOOL TIMELINE



- Start planning now! Take the right courses and earn the best grades possible.
- · Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at eligibilitycenter.org/courselist.
- · Sign up for a free Profile Page at eligibilitycenter.org for information on NCAA requirements.



- · If you fall behind academically, ask your counselor for help finding approved courses you can take.
- · Register for a Profile Page or Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org.
- . Monitor your Eligibility Center account for next steps.
- · At the end of the year, ask your counselor at each high school or program you attended to upload your official transcript to your NCAA Eligibility Center account.



- · Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved courses and graduate on time with your class.
- · Take the ACT or SAT and submit your scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center using code 9999.
- · Ensure your sports participation information is correct in your Eligibility Center account.
- · At the end of the year, ask your counselor at each high school or program you attended to upload your official transcript to your NCAA Eligibility Center account.



- · Complete your final NCAAapproved core courses as you prepare for graduation.
- · Take the ACT or SAT again, if necessary, and submit

your scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center using code 9999.

- · Request your final amateurism certification beginning April 1 (fall enrollees) or Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees) in your NCAA Eligibility Center account at eligibilitycenter.org.
- · After you graduate, ask your counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation to your NCAA Eligibility Center account.
- · Reminder: Only students on an NCAA Division I or II school's institutional request list will receive a certification.

How to plan your high school courses to meet the 16 core-course requirement:



- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or additional

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or additional

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or additional

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or additional

For more information: ncaa.org/playcollegesports | eligibilitycenter.org

Search Frequently Asked Questions: ncaa.org/studentfaq

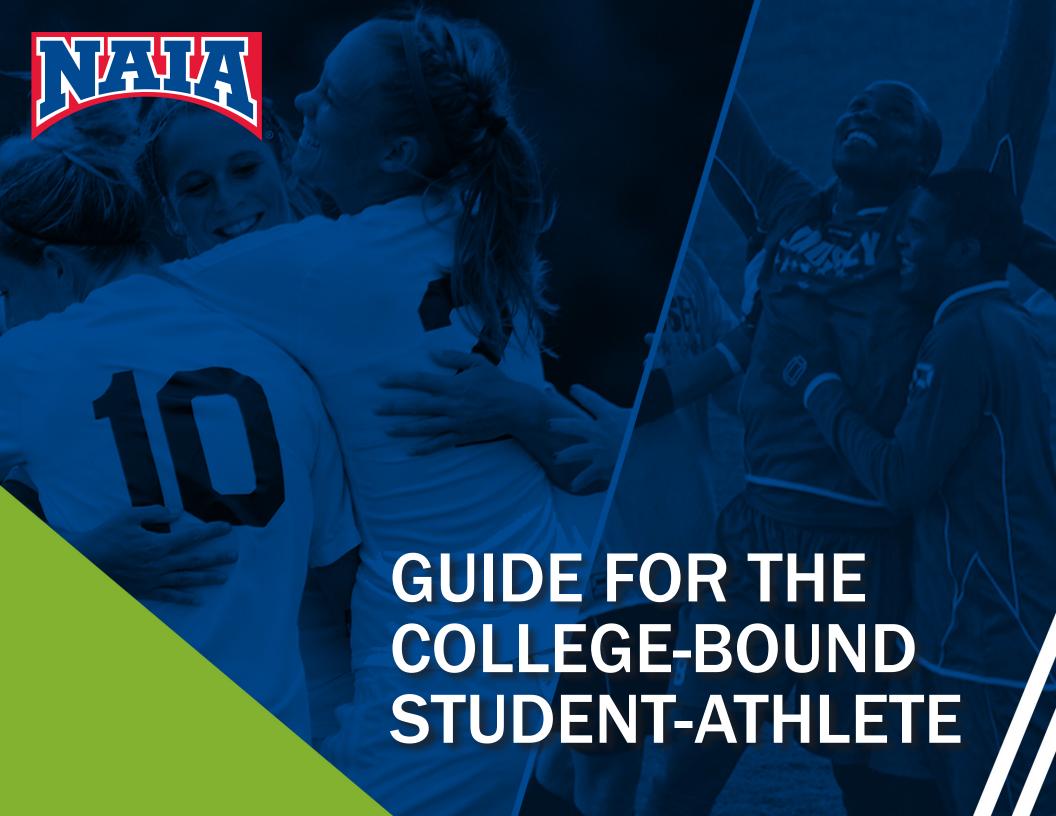
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@playcollegesports



@ncaaec





THE NAIA ELIGIBILITY CENTER



Dear Prospective Student-Athletes,

Welcome to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, an association that boasts a proud tradition of intercollegiate athletics, academic excellence and character values.



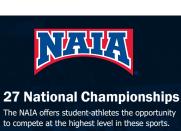
The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., is a governing body of small athletics programs dedicated to character-driven intercollegiate athletics. Since 1937, the NAIA has administered programs and championships in balance with the overall college educational experience. The student-athlete is the center of all NAIA initiatives. Each year more than 77,000 student-athletes have the opportunity to play college sports, earn over \$800 million in scholarships and compete for a chance to participate in 27 national championships.

Today, the NAIA is an association that, above all other things, cares about and is focused on student-athlete success - helping you to attain your education and athletic goals. Our members utilize athletics as a vehicle to transform lives to build better futures.

The NAIA is ready to assist you in taking that important first step in your college sports career. We invite you to register with the NAIA Eligibility Center at PlayNAIA.org.

Since the NAIA's founding in 1937, we are proud of the many accomplishments of our current and former student-athletes and we look forward to the legacy you will establish in the NAIA. Visit us at NAIA.org.

Jim Carr. NAIA President



to compete at the highest level in these sports.

Fall sports

Men's Cross Country Women's Cross Country Football Men's Soccer Women's Soccer Women's Volleyball

Winter sports

Men's Basketball Women's Basketball Men's Bowling Women's Bowling Competitive Cheer Competitive Dance Men's Indoor Track & Field Women's Indoor Track & Field Men's Swimming & Diving

Women's Swimming & Diving

Men's Wrestling **Spring sports**

Baseball Men's Golf Women's Golf Women's Lacrosse (beginning 2021) Men's Outdoor Track & Field Women's Outdoor Track & Field Softball Men's Tennis Women's Tennis Men's Volleyball

Invitational sports

Men's Lacrosse Women's Wrestling

Emerging sports

Beach Volleyball

Women's Flag Football (beginning 2021)

Find NAIA schools that offer your sport at naia.org/sports

NAIA participation experience

In the NAIA, a student-athlete can compete during four "seasons of competition" within the first 10 semesters (or equivalent) in college. A season of competition is charged when you participate in one or more intercollegiate contests whether at the varsity, junior varsity or freshman level, or in elite-level, non-collegiate competition. To compete, student-athletes must be enrolled in at least 12 hours every semester or quarter and be making normal progress toward a bachelor's degree. They must also meet freshman and/or continuing eligibility rules.

What's different about NAIA recruiting?

The NAIA recruiting process for both freshmen and transfers is less cumbersome, with few restrictions on the contact between a student-athlete and a coach. More frequent communication allows the student to become more comfortable with the school and athletics staff.

Once you have started your college experience by enrolling and/or attending classes, representatives from another NAIA school cannot initiate contact with you. This no-contact policy applies even if you have not started classes yet, but have drawn equipment and begun organized practice.

What if you're interested in transferring to an NAIA institution? Because NAIA coaches cannot contact you, you'll need to take that initiative by calling or emailing them. Once contacted, within 10 days the NAIA institution must notify in writing the athletics director or faculty athletics representative at the school where you are currently enrolled. They don't need permission to respond to you, but your current school must be notified that the contact has been made.

Can I visit a campus for a tryout?

Students are permitted a maximum of two days of tryouts throughout their entire career. If a school has a policy for reimbursing all students for such visits, the same can be applied to you as a prospective student-athlete.

What about letters of intent?

As an association, the NAIA does not have a letter of intent program in which students sign a binding agreement to participate in athletics at a particular institution. Student-athletes may sign letters of intent with an individual NAIA school, however, they aren't obligated to attend that institution. That said, some NAIA conferences require their member schools to recognize letters of intent that are signed with other institutions within the conference. Please check with your prospective school to see if any conference programs apply.

Admission standards for athletes

To participate in athletics in the NAIA, you must be admitted to the college or university under admission standards equal to or higher than those applied to the general student bodv.

What about financial aid, scholarships, grants, loans?

NAIA rules on financial aid are straightforward. Each school determines how much aid it awards to an individual student-athlete. Under no conditions may anyone else provide direct financial assistance to any student-athlete. Scholarships, grants-in-aid or student loans are controlled by each institution through the same committee that handles all student loans and scholarships.

Financial aid to student-athletes is limited to the actual cost of:

- Mandatory fees, books and supplies required for courses in which the student-athlete is enrolled
- Room and board based on the official room and board allowance listed in the institution's catalog

Each sport has an overall limit on the amount of financial aid it can award as full or partial grants to students in that sport. For example, the overall limit in baseball is 12. Baseball scholarships can be awarded to any number of students (for example, 1 full scholarship, 10 half awards and 24 quarter awards) as long as the combined total does not exceed 12.

Limits on the total amount of aid that can be given to varsity athletes in each sport:

Football 24	Swimming & Diving 8	Soccer 12
Basketball 8		Tennis 5
Volleyball 8	Softball10	Wrestling 10
Track & Field 12	Competitive Cheer 12	Competitive Dance 10
Lacrosse 12	Men's Volleyball 8	Bowling 5
Cross Country 5	Golf 5	•

Academically gifted students can be exempted from these limits if they meet grade or test score criteria established by the NAIA.

Questions for parents to ask the NAIA institution about financial aid

- your school have?
- Which campus representatives have to sign off on the agreement for it to be valid?
- What will the financial-aid agreement cover? Housing? Food? Books? Tuition?
- How long will the agreement last? A quarter/semester? A full academic year?
- If my son or daughter signs a financial agreement with your institution, can she/ he sign with another school within your conference without penalty?

- What types of financial-aid agreements does If my son or daughter quits the team after the season, will he or she continue to receive the scholarship?
 - If my son or daughter suffers a seasonending injury, will the financial-aid agreement be honored?
 - If my son or daughter becomes academically ineligible, will the agreement be honored?
 - On your campus, who is responsible for checking the student-athlete's eligibility?
 - Is there an academic support program in place for student-athletes on your campus?
 - Do you offer my student's major?

Do I meet the freshman eligibility requirements?

If you will graduate from a U.S. high school this spring and enroll in college this coming fall, the requirements are simple. An entering freshman must:

- Be a graduate of an accredited high school.
- Meet two of the three following requirements. If as an entering freshman you do not meet at least two of the three standards.

MUST MEET TWO OF THE THREE

1. TEST SCORE REQUIREMENT	2. HIGH SCHOOL GPA REQUIREMENT	3. CLASS RANK REQUIREMENT
Achieve a minimum of 18 on the ACT or 970 on the SAT	Achieve a minimum overall high school grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale	Graduate in the top half of your high school class
Tests must be taken on an international testing date prior to the start of the term in which you intend to participate in athletics and scores must be achieved on a single test date. The minimum SAT must be achieved on the Evidence-Based Reading & Writing and Math sections only; the Writing score cannot be used. Minimum score requirements for tests taken prior to May 1, 2019 varied. • For tests taken prior to May 1, 2019 varied. • For tests taken prior to March 1, 2016: 18 ACT, 860 SAT (reading, math) • For tests taken between March 1, 2016 and May 1, 2019: 16 ACT, 860 SAT (evidence-based reading & writing, math)	The NAIA accepts the grade point average determined by the high school, provided it is recorded and awarded in the same manner as for every other student at the school.	If a student's class rank does not appear on the transcript, a signed letter from the principal or headmaster, vice principal or guidance counselor written on the school's letterhead and with the school's official seal, stating the student's final class rank position or percent may be submitted. Exception: Completion of nine institutional credit hours prior to identification at any institution of higher education can be used if no class rank appears on the final official high school transcript. The credit hours must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

Mid-Year Eligibility Opportunity. If you do not meet requirements for an entering freshman, you can satisfy one of the initial requirements in addition to earning 12 institutional credits hours with a grade of "C" or better during your first term of attendance at your NAIA school to be eligible.

Learning disabilities. Students with diagnosed learning disabilities, who do not meet the freshman eligibility requirements, may have their academic profiles reviewed reviewed by the NAIA Learning Disability Advisory Committee at the request of an NAIA institution. The LDAC will then provide recommendations to the National Eligibility Committee to assist with a final decision.

What if I didn't attend a U.S. high school?

The criteria for alternative high school experiences and those outside of the U.S. are determined as follows:

GED Students — must meet two of the three

1. TEST SCORE	2. HIGH SCHOOL	3. CLASS RANK
REQUIREMENT	GPA REQUIREMENT	REQUIREMENT
Achieve a minimum of 18 on the ACT or 970 on the SAT	GED students are recognized as having met the GPA requirement.	(Not applicable)

Home Schooled Students

TEST SCORE REQUIREMENT — Home school students who have a 20 on the ACT or 1040 on the SAT are considered to have met the freshman eligibility requirement.

If a home schooled student completes a home schooling program conducted in accordance with the laws of the student's state of residence, but does not meet the test score requirement, a home school waiver may be requested from the NAIA Home School Committee.

International Students — must meet two of the three

Graduates of high schools outside of the United States or one of the U.S. territories.

1. TEST SCORE REQUIREMENT	2. HIGH SCHOOL GPA REQUIREMENT	3. CLASS RANK REQUIREMENT
Achieve a minimum of 18 on the ACT or 970 on the SAT	Achieve a minimum over- all high school grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale	Graduate in the top half of your high school class
		Exception: Completion of nine institutional credit hours prior to identification at any institution of higher education can be used if no class rank appears on the final official high school transcript. The credit hours must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.
	International students must provide their academic records in both the language of issue as well as word-for-word English translation.	

Note: For detailed information about the process for international students, please see the **NAIA Guide for the International Student-Athlete.**

NAIA Eligibility Center at PlayNAIA.org determines eligibility of all first-time NAIA student-athletes

The NAIA Eligibility Center, at **PlayNAIA.org**, is responsible for determining the NAIA eligibility of first-time student-athletes. Students must receive an eligible decision by the NAIA Eligibility Center prior to competing for the first-time in the NAIA, and all NAIA schools are bound by the center's decisions.

Every student interested in playing sports at NAIA colleges for the first time needs to register online with the NAIA Eligibility Center and receive an eligible determination. This applies to high school seniors and transfers from both two- and four-year colleges.

What information will I need to provide? You'll create a personal profile with the basic facts about your academic history and sports participation to date.

- You'll need your current contact information, previous residences and addresses, high schools attended and history of your sports participation during and after high school graduation.
- When you register for the ACT or SAT, include the NAIA Eligibility Center (9876) on the list of places test scores should be sent.
- Ask your high school counselors to send a final, official transcript that verifies high school graduation, class rank and cumulative grade point average to the eligibility center through the NAIA High School Portal.

What are the costs?

Registration for students from the US/Canada: \$90; International: \$150; Transfer: \$135. This is a one-time, nonrefundable registration fee and includes all services for the student type. Additional fees may be assessed if your student type changes.



The registration fee will be waived for U.S. students with demonstrated need. If you receive a fee waiver for the ACT or SAT test or qualify for the federal free or reduced-cost lunch program, contact your high school counselor, who can provide confirmation of your eligibility for a fee waiver to the NAIA Eligibility Center. Fee waiver confirmations are required to be completed by high school counselors through the online **NAIA High School Portal** regardless of when you graduated high school.



Do I need to register with the NAIA Eligibility Center if I'm registering with the NCAA?

Yes, determining if you meet eligibility requirements for NAIA eligibility is separate from NCAA eligibility certification. The NAIA and NCAA are two separate associations, with two different sets of rules and certification processes.

Early decisions for high school seniors

Students, who have completed their junior year of high school and have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale (2.5 on a 4.0 scale midway through senior year) and the minimum test scores required, may obtain an eligibility determination before graduating from high school. Those students will need to request that their official transcripts after their junior year be sent to the NAIA Eligibility Center and contact ACT or SAT to have their test scores sent directly.

Register with the NAIA Eligibility Center at PlayNAIA.org.

NAIA Eligibility Center

Phone: 816.595.8300 Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central

Contact Us

Address

NAIA Eligibility Center 120 W. 12th Street Suite 700

Kansas City, MO 64105

What are the transfer student eligibility requirements?

If you have taken time off between high school and coming to the NAIA or have attended two- or four-year college, the NAIA considers you a transfer student, regardless of whether you participated in intercollegiate athletics.

If you're a transfer who has never participated in athletics at an NAIA school, you'll need to register with the NAIA Eligibility Center at PlayNAIA.org to have your eligibility determined.

Residency Rules if transferring from a four-year school — If you participated in an intercollegiate contest in your sport at your immediately previous four-year school, you must wait 16 weeks before participating in that sport unless you:

- Have a written release from the athletic department at your most recent four-year college
- Have a minimum 2.0 GPA from all previous colleges combined
- Meet all additional academic requirements and any conference-specific requirements for transfers

Residency Rules if transferring from a two-year school — A student transferring from a two-year school has no residency requirement. If, however, you have participated at a four-year college prior to attending a two-year school, you must have a written release from the athletic department of the four-year institution.

24/36 Hour Rule — Transfer students are required to have completed 24 semester/36 quarter hours of institutional credit in their last two semesters/three quarters of full-time enrollment prior to transferring.

Progress Rule — If you're a transfer student who has already used one or more of your four seasons of competition in college sports, you will need to show completion of the following before you can compete in your second, third, or fourth season:

- Second season: 24 semester/36 quarter total cumulative credit hours
- Third season: 48 semester/72 quarter total cumulative credit hours
- Fourth season: 72 semester/108 quarter total cumulative credit hours (including 48 semester/72 quarter hours in general education or your major field of study)

Who's considered a professional in the NAIA?

In the NAIA, only amateur students-athletes are eligible to participate in a given sport. An amateur engages in athletics contests for educational values, personal pleasure, satisfaction, and for the love of the sport, not for monetary or material gain. If you become a professional in a particular sport recognized by the NAIA, you will be considered a professional in that sport only and are ineligible for intercollegiate competition in that sport.

The following will cause a student to lose amateur standing:

- Signing a contract with any professional team or entering into an agreement to compete in professional athletics, with either a professional sports organization or with any individual or group of individuals authorized to represent the athlete with a professional sports organization
- Participating in any athletics contest as a professional or as a team member where you receive reimbursement, directly or indirectly, exceeding the actual expenses of travel, meals and lodging
- Receiving remuneration for any appearance or advertisement/promotion that references the student's collegiate institution or intercollegiate athletic participation.

Is there an age limit in the NAIA?

No, there is no age limit for participation in the NAIA. Instead, students are restricted to four seasons of competition in a given sport and have 10 university semesters to complete those four seasons of competition.

How long can I compete?

In the NAIA, a "season of competition" is charged when you participate in one or more intercollegiate contests whether at the varsity, junior varsity or freshman level, or in elite-level, non-collegiate competition. Student-athletes can compete during four seasons of competition within the first 10 semesters (or equivalent) they are in college. For transfers, seasons of competition at the previous institution(s) are determined under the rules of the association (such as the NCAA, NJCAA, etc.) under which you competed previously. Non-collegiate competitive experiences are assessed using the **evaluative criteria** to determine potential additional seasons of competition used.

What happens if I suffer an injury during college?

If as a student-athlete you suffer a season-ending injury or illness, NAIA rules provide for a way to deal with the loss of the opportunity to compete. Hardship requests must be verified by the medical doctor who treated you. The injury cannot have occurred in last regular season contest or during postseason, and you cannot have competed in more than a specified number of contests. If granted, hardships restore a season of competition but do not restore any terms toward the maximum 10 semesters/15 quarters.

What if I've competed in my sport outside of college?

Athletes who compete outside the traditional college setting can gain an unfair advantage, and the NAIA addresses this issue with its "competitive experience rule." To ensure that students are competing against those with similar levels of training and experience, the NAIA evaluates a student's competition outside of college. Participation in some leagues or levels of competition can result in a season(s) of competition charged.

Students are permitted to participate in non-collegiate competition during the 12-month period after high school graduation. However, starting on the first day of the 13th month following high school graduation, the "competitive experience rule" applies. The rule applies to students in three main situations:

- Students who take more than one year off between high school and college
- Students who go to college but don't play college sports for one or more years while enrolled
- Students who leave college for one or more semesters after first enrolling

A student can be charged one season of competition for each year of outside competition after the first day of the 13th month following high school graduation. A student will also be charged a season of competition for each year of intercollegiate competition regardless of the date of high school graduation. The NAIA Eligibility Center, supported by ongoing research into both domestic and international competition, determines which leagues or levels of competition in a particular sport are considered countable.

How do I remain eligible during college?

NAIA student-athletes have to be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours at all times and be making progress toward a degree. When you reach junior year (either athletically or academically), you have to maintain a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Your eligibility is reviewed at the end of every term you are in school.

Once in college, your best resource for eligibility questions will be your campus **faculty athletics representative**. The **NAIA Official Handbook** outlines all association rules governing eligibility and it's available online at NAIA.org

Check out your resources

PlayNAIA.org is the source for prospective students who want to learn more about the opportunities to play at an NAIA college or university. Check out the School Search and upcoming official NAIA Showcases where you can show your skills and connect with NAIA coaches. The NAIA Eligibility Center includes information for prospective students, parents, high school and club coaches about NAIA schools, sports and eligibility determination.

- Explore NAIA Conferences.
- NAIA Legislative Services provides resources on NAIA rules and eligibility.
- National Federation of State High School Associations
- International students are encouraged to explore InCredEvals.org to speed up their admissions and eliqiblity processes.



Join us on Facebook.



Learn more about the NAIA student-athlete experience on Twitter.



Follow us on **Instagram**.



Visit the NAIA on YouTube.



What to Bring to your College Advising Appointment

In the spring or summer before college, you will have your first college advising appointment, where you likely set up your classes for the first year of college. This is an important meeting to be on time to and to have the following items/thoughts with you:

- Avoid the rush, and set up an advising appointment well before your scheduled date to register.
- Bring something to write with, whether it is a pen and paper or a laptop to take notes. You don't want to leave the appointment trying to remember what you were told.
- Bring a copy of your high school transcript—this can be accessed under Student Documents in Skyward
- Have a good understanding of the college credits you have earned. You will eventually send your college an official transcript from either Ivy Tech and/or PNW, but you will want to be able to tell the advisor what classes you have taken for college credit.
- ⇒ Prior to the meeting, you could print out an unofficial transcript on your MyIvy account. Directions for accessing MyIvy can be found here.
- You should have a good idea of what you want your college major to be (even if it is undecided) so that the advisor schedules you for the correct classes.
- It's important to make a good impression as this will likely be the person helping you schedule your classes each semester. Put your phone away and listen to what they have to say—you don't want to miss anything important!
- If you have any questions at all, even if you don't think they are relevant to academic advising, bring a list so you can ask them! The advisor should be able to answer them OR tell you where to go to get the answers!
- Arrive early and make sure to thank the advisor before you leave.

Sending Final Transcripts and Scores

Sending your College Credit Transcripts

When you transfer your college credits taken in high school to the college you are planning to attend, it is imperative that you send your official transcript from either Ivy Tech and/or PNW to your new college. This is the only way for them to transfer in your credits. It is recommended you wait until all grades are posted in the spring of your senior year to send the final transcript.

To see how credits should transfer, visit the <u>Core Transfer Library</u> to see how public universities in Indiana will (or will not) accept the credits. If an advisor tells you your credits will not transfer, but the Core Transfer Library says differently, it is okay to ask them to check again and show them what you see. If the class is not on the Core Transfer Library or you are going to a private college/university or out-of-state, it is extremely important to bring a syllabus for the class and sample assignments so you can advocate for your credits to transfer.

PNW: For students who took Drawing and/or Music History Appreciation, your college credits are through Purdue University Northwest. Request your transcript here.

Ivy Tech: For students who took all other college credits while in high school, you can access your unofficial transcript here. To send an official transcript, visit this site and click on the first link. There is a \$5 fee and you may need to create an account. You will also need your C number, which your school counselor can provide to you.

sending your Final High School Jranscript

In May of your senior year, you will need to request to send your final high school transcript to the college you will be attending. This is done through <u>Parchment</u> and you should select "Hold for Grades" if requesting the transcript prior to grades being posted in June. Colleges will not be able to officially enroll you until they receive an official transcript with your graduation date on it.

Sending AP Scores

If you need to send your AP scores to a college, you can do this in your CollegeBoard account or visit this site.

Ivy Tech Programs Worth Checking Out Next Level Jobs at Ivy Tech

What is Next Level Jobs?

Next Level Jobs is a program that gives you the opportunity to earn a **FREE** credential from Ivy Tech, setting you up to take your next step towards a high-paying, high-demand job in Indiana.

Classes start August 24 and Ivy Tech is offering face-to-face, online and virtual.

Get Started Today!

Now, more than ever, getting an education is incredibly important and lvy Tech offers you the opportunity to earn an affordable, in-demand credential.

<u>Apply now for free!</u> It only takes about ten minutes and if you need any assistance during the application process, our team is here to help seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. ET at 888-IVY-LINE or directly via <u>online chat</u>.



What type of job can I get through this program?

Ivy Tech offers many exciting eligible credit certificate and technical certificate programs that are covered as part of the Next Level Jobs program and all are part of these five high-demand job fields where employers are currently looking to fill positions:

Advanced Manufacturing

Building & Construction

Health Sciences

Information Technology & Business Technology

Transportation & Logistics

ASAP Associate Degree Program



lvy Tech Community College's Associate Accelerated Program (ASAP) helps high school graduates earn an associate degree in just 11 months and prepares them to transfer to a four-year college to earn their bachelor's degree.

Coursework is spread over five eight-week terms, and classes are held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. It's a rewarding program—but a rigorous one, that will essentially become a student's full-time occupation until graduation.

Classes are held in small, closely-knit groups known as "cohorts." Classmates will remain with their cohort throughout the program—encouraging, assisting, and depending on each other every step of the way. A dedicated ASAP coordinator helps students identify academic goals, then maps out a clear path they can follow to success, while faculty teams of four teachers per term offer individual attention. Graduates leave with not just an associate degree, but with the skills they need to succeed in further studies—and the workforce.



Resources & Links

College Athletics

NCAA Divisions I, II & III

NAIA

Letters of Recommendation

CollegeBoard Article

U.S. News & World Report Article

College Essay Video-Hanover College

John Hopkins—Essays that Worked

Writing your College Essay

U.S. News & World Report

Financial Aid & Scholarships

Legacy Foundation

Urban League of Northwest Indiana

Sallie Mae Scholarship Search

Fastweb Scholarship Search

Scholarships.com

CollegeBoard Scholarship Search

CollegeBoard Opportunity Scholarships

Cappex

InvestEd

FAFSA

College Essay Guy

The Princeton Review

Admissions Rep Panels

Public Universities

Private Universities

Understanding your College Funding Options

Scholarship Search

Getting your FSA ID

Importance of the FAFSA

Common FAFSA Questions

Finalizing Financial Aid

College Choice 529 Plan

College Goal Sunday

Helpful Websites

Khan Academy College Admissions

Indiana Graduation Requirements

College Admissions Process

College Search Process

SAT

ACT

Learn More Indiana

Hoosier Job Market Data