

21st Century SCHOLARS INDIANA
 TRACK YOUR PROGRESS AT
 ScholarTrack.IN.gov
 STUDENT ID: _____ ISSUING: _____
 PASSWORD: _____

INDIANA'S 21ST CENTURY SCHOLAR SUCCESS GUIDE **12**

Scholars.IN.gov

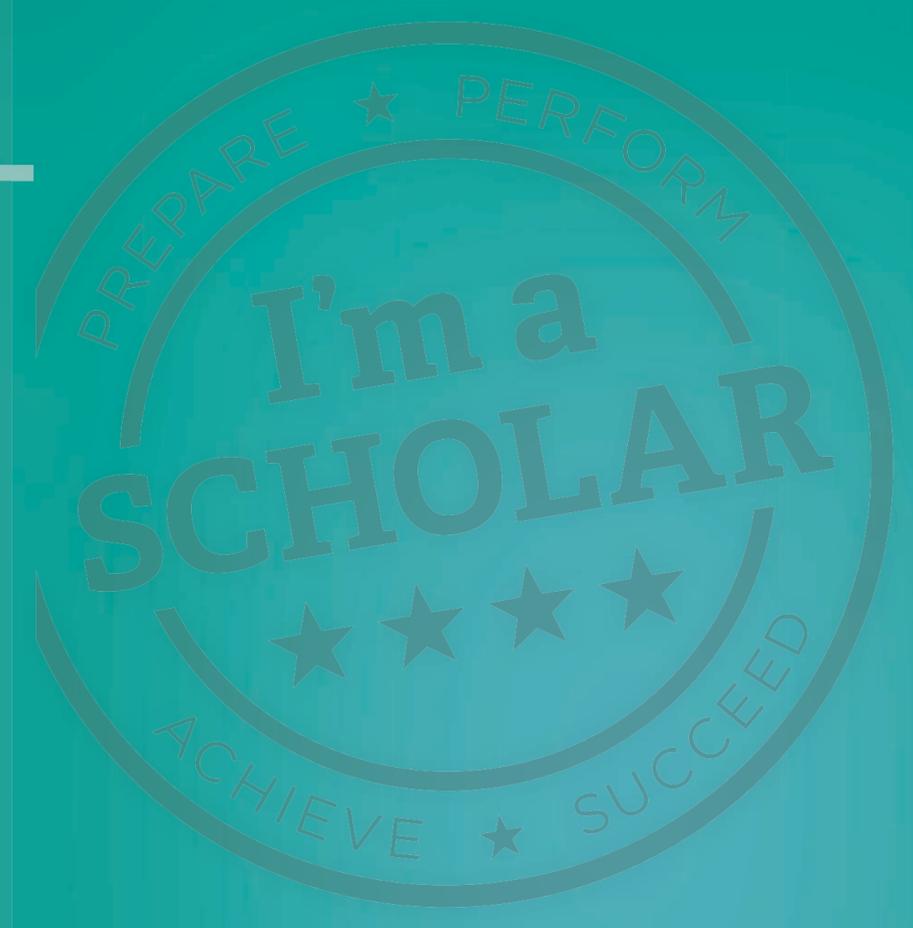


I PLEDGE to graduate with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma from a state-accredited Indiana high school. I will complete the Scholar Success Program in high school and in college that will help me stay on track for college and career success. I will achieve a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. I will not use illegal drugs or alcohol or commit a crime or delinquent act. I will apply for admission to an eligible Indiana college my senior year and apply on time for student financial aid. I aim **TO SUCCEED.**

JULY/2020



INDIANA COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



SCHOLAR SUCCESS GUIDE

GRADE 12

A program of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education



File Your FAFSA



Watch "College Success 101"



Submit your College Application

12



SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS



I PLEDGE TO SUCCEED

FREE TRAINING FOR

SCHOLAR PARENTS.

YOU WANT THE BEST for your child, and you understand that completing education beyond high school will give him or her more opportunities, higher earnings and a better quality of life. Every year the 21st Century Scholarship makes it possible for thousands of young Hoosiers to dream big, afford college and achieve their goals.

Indiana is equally committed to helping **Scholar parents and other adults** get the resources they need to get ahead, too.

WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK SO YOU CAN MOVE FORWARD.

Your Next Step is here to support Hoosiers like you. Whether you need help finding a job, learning new skills, furthering your education or securing emergency aid to get back on your feet, Your Next Step starts here. Visit YourNextStepIN.org to connect to:

- **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Engage with resources to find a new job, explore new careers and get advice from career coaches ready to help you navigate your next step.
- **EDUCATION AND TRAINING:** Learn about opportunities to complete your high school diploma or earn a short-term certificate or college degree, including the Next Level Jobs Workforce Ready Grant, which pays full tuition for short-term, high-value certificates in: Advanced Manufacturing; Building and Construction; Health and Life Sciences; Information Technology and Business Services; and Transportation and Logistics. To learn more about qualifying programs, visit NextLevelJobs.org today.
- **OTHER SUPPORT:** Connect to resources to assist you and your family with unemployment insurance, healthcare access, local childcare, food assistance, housing support and more.

Whether Hoosiers are ready to start a new career, looking to advance their education or skills, or are seeking basic financial help and support, Indiana has their back so they can move forward. Connect to resources at YourNextStepIn.org.



- Room Supplies & Bedding
- Seasonal Clothes
- Laundry Supplies
- Kitchen Supplies & Snacks

- School Supplies & Tech Devices
- Bathroom Supplies & Toiletries
- Medical Supplies
- Prescriptions



TRACK YOUR PROGRESS AT
ScholarTrack.IN.gov
Reveal your ScholarTrack information below

SCHOLAR ID#

USERNAME

PASSWORD



Dear Student,

Congratulations! As a senior you're finishing one step and beginning another. It can be easy to relax in your last year of high school, but it's important not to fall behind. This is the time to stay on top of everything to make sure you're heading in the right direction.

As a 12th-grader, you'll finish your last three **Scholar Success Program** activities. These are all focused on helping you take the steps to go to college next year. You will **submit your college applications, watch "College Success 101" and file your FAFSA.**

In addition to these activities, there are other things you can do to help you prepare.

- ✓ **Continue to apply for scholarships.** Your 21st Century Scholarship will cover up to full tuition and mandatory fees, but additional expenses — room, board, books and living expenses — add up. Many other scholarships you earn can help pay for these expenses. You began searching for scholarships as a junior, but continue applying for these throughout your senior year and beyond.
- ✓ **Up your scores.** You may wish to add an AP or dual-credit course to your schedule to boost your GPA or earn college credit. Think about taking the ACT or SAT one more time this fall to try and improve your scores.
- ✓ **Take leadership roles.** As a Scholar, you've taken on extracurricular activities and gotten workplace experience. Now that you're a senior, you should start to have more leadership opportunities in clubs, sports or work. Take advantage of these opportunities, and colleges will take notice.

And remember: As a 21st Century Scholar, you have committed to the Scholar Pledge to meet academic requirements, complete the Scholar Success Program, and remain drug-, alcohol- and crime-free during high school and college.

This program guide will help you complete your required activities as a senior so that you can stay on track toward graduating high school and succeeding in college and your future career.

Have a great school year!



Teresa Lubbers
Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

PARENTS of Scholars

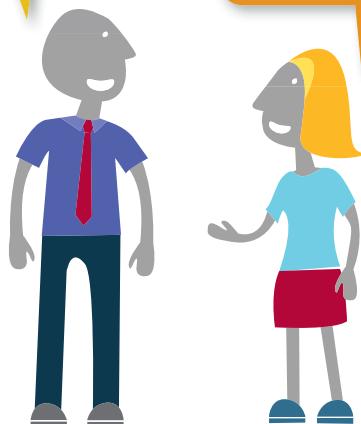
TIPS TO HELP YOUR STUDENT SUCCEED.

There are many ways you can help your child succeed in high school and prepare for college success:

- Review homework with him or her nightly.
- Regularly review online grades and progress reports.
- Meet with teachers and counselors to discuss progress or any concerns.
- Identify a quiet place at home to study and develop a daily homework schedule.
- Talk about creating a budget for college.
- Talk about college and career plans.

SO, HOW'S THE HOMEWORK GOING TONIGHT?

OK. BUT I AM REALLY STUCK ON THIS MATH PROBLEM. DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?



High school is a crucial time in your child's education — so your help and support mean a lot. As a 21st Century Scholar, your child must successfully complete the Scholar Success Program.

What is the Scholar Success Program?

The Scholar Success Program helps students in high school and in college as they prepare for college and career success and stay on track to earn and maintain the 21st Century Scholarship, which helps pay tuition, or the cost of attending classes, at Indiana colleges. In high school, each grade level has three activities, outlined in the chart on the next page, that should be completed by June 30 of that school year. Scholars must complete the specific steps and track their progress online using ScholarTrack.

What is ScholarTrack?

ScholarTrack is the one-stop-shop for Hoosiers' state financial aid needs. Scholars use ScholarTrack to track their completion of the Scholar Success Program. Learn more about creating a ScholarTrack account on page 5. To track activities in ScholarTrack, Scholars should select "Scholar Success Program" under the "State Aid Resources" tab on their dashboard. ScholarTrack is available at **ScholarTrack.IN.gov**.

How can I help my Scholar?

First, read through this guide with your Scholar and help him or her put a plan together for finishing this year's activities. Then check out **Scholars.IN.gov**. Here, you'll find information about each grade level, and a list of partners that can help your child succeed. Plus, you can log in to ScholarTrack with your child and check his or her progress together.

21st CENTURY SCHOLAR PLEDGE REQUIREMENTS

As a 21st Century Scholar, you have taken the Scholar Pledge to meet the following requirements:

- ✓ Complete the Scholar Success Program in high school and in college, which includes activities each year to help you stay on track for college and career success. The chart below shows the 12 activities that you must complete by high school graduation.
- ✓ Graduate from a state-accredited high school with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma and a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- ✓ File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 15 as a high school senior and each year thereafter until you graduate from college.
- ✓ Apply to an eligible Indiana college as a high school senior, and enroll in college as a full-time student within one year of high school graduation.
- ✓ Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards established by your college.
- ✓ Complete 30 credit hours each year you are in college to stay on track toward earning your degree on time.
- ✓ Do not use illegal drugs, commit a crime or delinquent act, or consume alcohol before reaching the legal drinking age.

The **Scholar Success Program** includes activities that will help you stay on track for college and career success.

GRADE	REQUIRED ACTIVITIES		
09	Create a Graduation Plan ¹	Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity	Watch "Paying for College 101"
10	Take a Career Interests Assessment	Get Workplace Experience ²	Estimate the Costs of College
11	Visit a College Campus	Take a College Entrance Exam (ACT/SAT)	Search for Scholarships ³
12	Submit Your College Application	Watch "College Success 101"	File Your FAFSA

1. Plan should be updated annually to keep students on track for high school graduation and college admission.

2. Includes job shadowing, internship, part-time employment, interviewing a professional or related experience linked to a student's career aspirations.

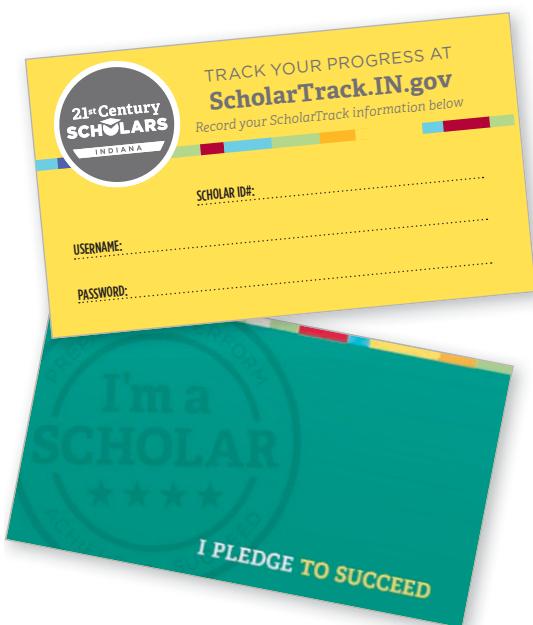
3. Includes any additional scholarship opportunities beyond the 21st Century Scholarship.

My name is Diavion.

I'm a Scholar, and I'm tracking my progress toward a career in media relations. The 21st Century Scholars program has helped me push myself to work hard so I can earn my scholarship.



WRITE YOUR SCHOLARTRACK USERNAME AND PASSWORD ON THE BACK OF YOUR SCHOLAR ID CARD AND KEEP IT WITH YOU.



TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

As you complete the 12th-grade Scholar Success Program activities, log in to your ScholarTrack account at **ScholarTrack.IN.gov** to confirm you've completed the requirements. If you haven't already created your ScholarTrack account and completed your 9th-, 10th- and 11th-grade Scholar Success Program activities, get started now so you don't fall further behind and risk losing your scholarship. All activities must be completed by June 30 of your senior year.

Keep your contact information updated

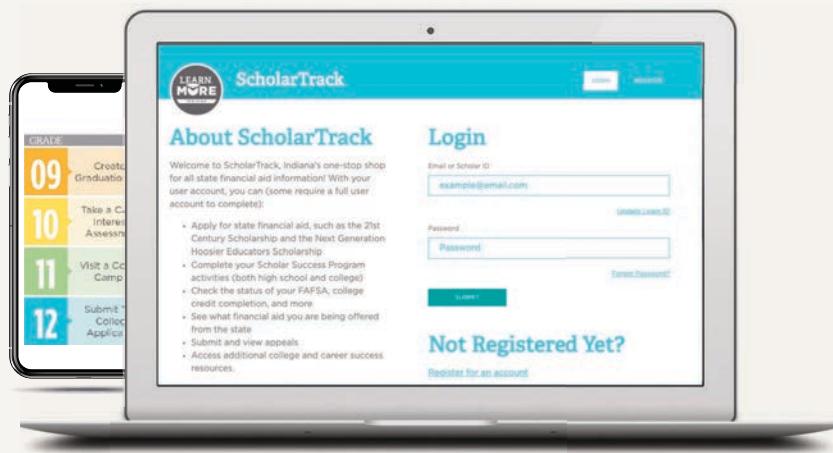
Each year, you will receive information and resources to help you stay on track. Keep your mailing address, email address and phone number up to date to make sure you don't miss anything. If your contact information changes at any point, log in to your ScholarTrack account and make the necessary updates.

Don't have a computer?

If you do not have a computer with internet access at home, use a computer at school, a public library or a friend's house. Or talk to your school counselor, parents or teachers for help finding a computer with internet access. ScholarTrack is also available on your smartphone, too.

STAY ON TRACK WITH SCHOLARTRACK!

Tracking your progress toward earning your 21st Century Scholarship is simple! ScholarTrack will guide you through the Scholar Success Program—required activities you must complete each year to help you prepare for college and career success.



Remember this date!

You must use ScholarTrack to confirm completion of all required activities before June 30 of your senior year of high school to remain eligible for your Scholarship!

Using ScholarTrack in College

Once you graduate high school, you'll use ScholarTrack to keep track of your state financial aid information and complete the College Scholar Success Program. Learn more about these college requirements on page 14.

Is your ScholarTrack account linked to your high school email address? Make sure you change it after you graduate from high school so you can access your account in college.

Where do my scholarship funds go?

Once you have completed all the high school Scholar Success Program activities and enrolled at an accredited Indiana college, the 21st Century Scholars office will send your information to the colleges listed on your FAFSA. The financial aid department will claim the scholarships for each Scholar enrolled and deposit that money into your student account to be used to pay for your college tuition.

Remember, you must enroll at an Indiana college within one year of high school graduation to remain eligible to receive the 21st Century Scholarship.

FINISH STRONG

FILE THE FAFSA BY
APRIL 15 AT FAFSA.GOV.

COMPLETE THE
SCHOLAR SUCCESS
PROGRAM BY **JUNE 30**.

CONFIRM YOU
HAVE COMPLETED
THE ACTIVITIES AT
SCHOLARTRACK.IN.GOV.

EARN YOUR CORE
40 DIPLOMA WITH A
MINIMUM 2.5 GPA.

12

GRADE 12 CHECKLIST

What steps must you take now to achieve your goals?

If you're not sure, that's okay! That's the whole point of the Scholar Success Program: to guide you every step of the way as you prepare for college and career success.

In 12th grade, your Scholar Success Program requirements will keep you on the right track as you submit your college applications, watch a video on how to be successful in college and complete the process of applying for financial aid.

On the next few pages, we'll walk you through each of the steps and direct you to resources to help you check them off your list and continue on your way to success!



Submit your College Application

This is the big one. You won't be going to college if you don't first apply to attend! Think back to your college visits from Grade 11 (and any others that you liked), pick the colleges you want to apply to, check for any application fees, get everything together and apply! See pages 8–9 for more information.



Watch “College Success 101”

This video is like a cheat sheet to your first year at college. From explaining things like registering for classes and getting your books, to where to eat and how to get involved on campus, “College Success 101” can help you navigate the questions you have about the college lifestyle. Find out more on pages 10–11.



File Your FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is how the federal government determines how much financial assistance you may be eligible for. You'll need to fill one out to receive any financial aid from a college — even if you won't receive government grants. Learn more on pages 12–13.



My name is Diego.

I'm a Scholar, and I'm interested in a career in interior architecture design and graphic design.



What are you doing to prepare for college?

I'm in an architecture pathway in school. When I graduate high school, I'll have my certification in Revit, which is a software program used in architecture.

What are you most looking forward to about college?

The experiences. I'll be the first person in my family to go to college [also called a first generation college student], and I know there will be a lot of opportunities open to me.

What's the biggest benefit of the 21st Century Scholars program?

It's helping me pay for college. Between the 21st Century Scholarship and other scholarships I'm going to receive, college is affordable for me and my family. College wouldn't have been possible without this scholarship.

Submit your college application

A college application is a request for admission into a college or university. While your grades are certainly a major focus, schools want to learn about your character, your work ethic and how you've prepared for college.



Where should you start?

- Narrow down your list. Use the summer to plan which colleges you'll apply to. See LearnMoreIndiana.org/Indiana-college-map for a list of Indiana colleges, and visit Scholars.IN.gov/students/college for a list of incentives Indiana colleges offer 21st Scholars.
- Find out the deadlines for the colleges you are applying to. Set deadline reminders on your cell phone, in your planner and on a wall calendar at home.
- Meet with your school counselor at the beginning of the year to make sure you have met — or will meet — all the admissions requirements. Do you have AP or dual credits? Talk to your counselor or visit TransferIN.net to learn how those will transfer.
- Make a list of application requirements and documents you'll need to complete the application. Make a timeline of important dates and deadlines for each college.

Ready to apply?

Although college applications vary, most have similar requirements. You'll need to check with the individual colleges you are applying to for their application requirements. These could include:

BASIC INFORMATION. Things like your name, address, phone number, birth date, Social Security number, parent/guardian information and high school.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT. Request a transcript from your school counselor, or you can send your transcript electronically to colleges for free using Parchment (exchange.parchment.com).

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION. These may be from teachers, coaches, mentors or other adults in your life. Be sure to give these individuals plenty of advance notice — at least three weeks.

8 TIPS FOR CRAFTING YOUR BEST COLLEGE ESSAY

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES SUCH AS THE ACT AND/OR SAT. Depending on the school you are applying to, you may be asked to submit ACT or SAT scores — or both. Check with your counselor to see about the best way for you to report your scores.

ESSAY, PERSONAL STATEMENT OR WRITING SAMPLE. After drafting your essay, ask your English teacher or another adult to proofread it for content and structure as well as grammar, spelling and punctuation.

LIST OF EXTRACURRICULAR AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES AND ACADEMIC HONORS. Include any scholarships, awards, and other recognitions you have received during your high school years.

FEES. Most schools require a fee to process a student's application. Many Indiana colleges and universities offer automatic fee waivers for 21st Century Scholars. Check colleges' admissions web pages to see if they offer fee waivers and contact them if you can't find any information.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS. Certain institutions or programs/ majors within them may require other application components, such as a music performance piece, art portfolio or an interview. Check with individual schools for additional requirements.

Before you submit an application:

Make sure your application is 100 percent complete before you submit it. Ask a teacher, school counselor or mentor to review your application. Proofread your application thoroughly, especially any writing sections.

After submitting your application:

Contact the schools you've applied to, and make sure all parts of your application were received. Depending on the school, you may also be able to confirm receipt of your application online.

COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENT!

Go to **ScholarTrack.IN.gov** and log in to your account to answer a few questions that confirm you've completed this activity.

1. GET STARTED BY BRAINSTORMING. Brainstorming about your personality traits and defining your strengths is a good place to begin.

2. LET YOUR FIRST DRAFT FLOW. Don't worry about making it perfect. Just get your ideas flowing and your thoughts down on paper.

3. DEVELOP THREE ESSAY PARTS. Write an introduction that sets up your essay, a body explaining the main idea with examples and a conclusion that summarizes everything.

4. BE SPECIFIC. Give your essay focus by figuring out how the question relates to your personal qualities.

5. FIND A CREATIVE ANGLE. Everyone grows up differently and has individual passions. Show what makes you a great candidate by writing about your unique perspective.

6. BE HONEST. Don't write what you think the admission officers want to hear. Let your true personality show through.

7. GET FEEDBACK. Ask your family, friends or teachers if your essay makes sense. Consider their feedback and make changes, but keep your voice.

8. PROOFREAD AND MAKE CORRECTIONS. Read your essay over carefully to check for errors. Ask someone who hasn't seen it yet to take a look as well.

SOURCE: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays/8-tips-for-crafting-your-best-college-essay>

12

Watch “College Success 101”

The “College Success 101” video prepares you for college — showing how you can succeed academically and get the most out of campus life.

Before you watch the video:

Make a list of questions you have about college — from academics and finances, to housing and student life. Write down your questions before you watch the module. As you watch, jot down any answers you learn, as well as additional questions that come to mind or things you wish to remember.

You’ll need internet access to watch “College Success 101.” If you don’t have a computer with internet access at home, use a computer at school, a friend’s house or a nearby public library. You can also watch it on your smartphone.

While you watch the video:

Log in to your ScholarTrack account at **ScholarTrack.IN.gov**, select “Scholar Success Program” under the “State Aid Resources” tab and click the link for “College Success 101” to watch the video.

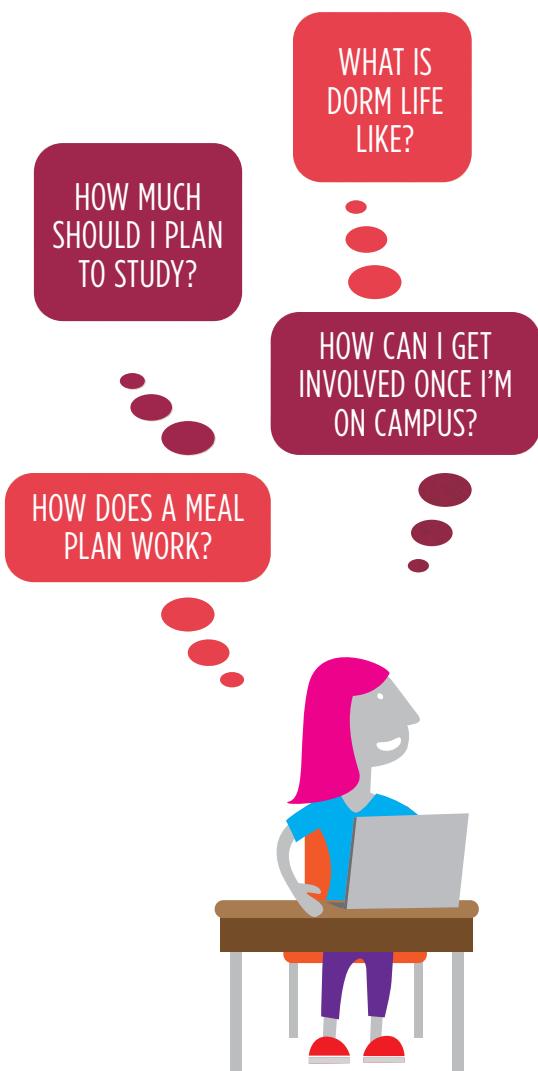
You’ll need to answer some questions about the video in ScholarTrack — you may want to do this as you watch. Write down the answers to any of the questions you brainstormed earlier and any information in the video you find helpful.

After watching the video:

Find the answers to your own questions about the transition to college. You can approach your school counselor, teachers and mentors with questions. Don’t hesitate to contact staff at the college or university you plan on attending or the Financial Aid Support Center at **888-528-4719** or **Scholars@che.IN.gov**.

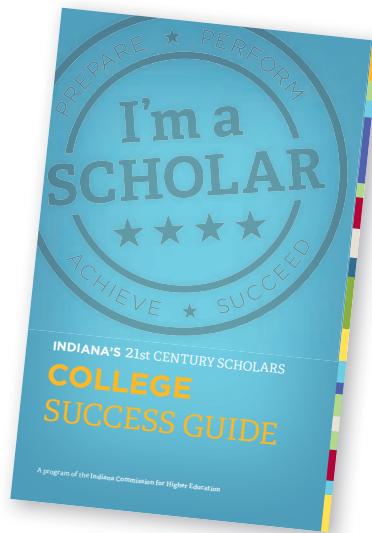
Planning ahead:

Just like in high school, there are requirements you’ll have to meet in college to maintain your scholarship. Get a jump start by learning more about these requirements on page 14.



YOU SHOULD BE RECEIVING A COLLEGE SUCCESS GUIDE FROM YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR SOMETIME THIS YEAR.

THIS RESOURCE OFFERS ANSWERS TO MANY OF THE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS YOU MIGHT HAVE AS YOU TRANSITION TO COLLEGE. YOU CAN ALSO FIND THIS GUIDE ONLINE AT SCHOLARS.IN.GOV/STUDENTS/COLLEGE.



Other ways to be successful in college:

TAKE A FULL SEMESTER OF CLASSES. You must complete 30 credit hours per year to remain eligible for your scholarship. You can choose to take some classes over the summer. Talk to your advisor for more information.

SEARCH OUT FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS. These are designed to help new students have meaningful college experiences. Be sure to ask about summer bridge programs, orientation weeks, first-year seminar courses and other programs.

THINK ABOUT YOUR MAJOR. You don't have to know your major when you start college, but having an idea of what interests you — such as medicine or business — will help you choose a college that offers degree programs that fit your goals.

GET INVOLVED ON CAMPUS. Joining a club, volunteering, playing sports or finding a work-study job on campus are all ways to meet new people and stay connected.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES. Visit Scholars.IN.gov/students/college to view the Scholar Incentives Guide, a list of colleges in Indiana and the opportunities and resources they provide 21st Century Scholars.

COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENT!

Go to ScholarTrack.IN.gov and log in to your account to answer a few questions that confirm you've watched the video.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT DEGREES YOU PLAN TO EARN?

Depending on what you want to do after college, you may need to follow a certain degree path. There are several to choose from. You can get to know more about the types of degrees at LearnMoreIndiana.org!

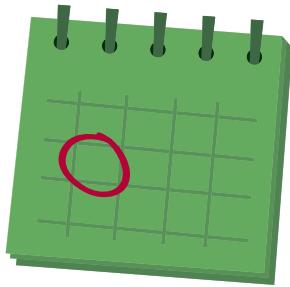


12 File your FAFSA

In Grade 12, you must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible to receive your 21st Century Scholarship and any other state, federal or college aid.

When does the FAFSA need to be completed?

The FAFSA becomes available October 1, and all FAFSA forms must be received by the federal processor by **April 15** in order to be eligible for state financial aid, including your 21st Century Scholarship. Your scholarship will not be available until all corrections are made on your FAFSA. Remember that some colleges set financial aid deadlines earlier than April 15. Be sure to check with the financial aid office at the schools you apply at to learn about their deadlines.



Get everything together.

You'll need the following information to complete your FAFSA:

- You and your parents' Social Security numbers.
- Alien registration numbers or permanent residence cards, if you or your parents are not U.S. citizens.
- Your driver's license number, if you have a driver's license.
- You and/or your parents' federal tax returns (IRS forms 1040EZ, 1040A, or 1040 and/or W-2s).
- You and/or your parents' current bank statements, business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock or other investment records, and any other untaxed income information.
- Student and parent FSA IDs (available at fsaid.ed.gov), if you plan to complete and submit your FAFSA online.
- A list of colleges you are interested in attending. You can submit your FAFSA to up to 10 colleges, so you can file it before you determine which school you would like to attend. The colleges that you list on your FAFSA will use the information you provided to determine your eligibility and send you an award letter that will tell you how much financial aid they can offer you.



GET HELP FILLING OUT YOUR FAFSA!

There are lots of free resources designed to help you complete your FAFSA. Check with your school counselor for information about school financial aid nights and other FAFSA events in your area.

COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

During this event, financial aid professionals will be on hand to help Indiana seniors and their families complete and file the FAFSA. To find a College Goal Sunday event near you, check with your school counselor or visit CollegeGoalSunday.org.

INVESTED

InvestEd will help any Hoosier family fill out the FAFSA completely free of charge. Find out more about INvestEd at INvestEdIndiana.org.

FAFSA ON THE WEB WORKSHEET

The official FAFSA website, FAFSA.gov, has lots of help available, including a worksheet that walks you through everything you'll need.

Getting your FSA ID

In order to sign the FAFSA electronically, you and a parent or legal guardian will first need to obtain an FSA ID from the U.S. Department of Education. You and one of your parents or legal guardians can apply for one at fsaid.ed.gov. (Note that when using an e-mail address to create an FSA ID, both the student and parent must use different e-mail addresses.) Once verified (1-3 days) you will be able to use your FSA ID to access your personal information on Federal Student Aid websites. Be sure to build this time into your planning to complete the FAFSA by April 15.

When you are ready to file the FAFSA:

The FAFSA is expected to take approximately 30 minutes. Having the information and documents described on page 12 on hand will help make the process as smooth and efficient as possible.

Go to FAFSA.gov or download the **MyStudentAid** app. You will need to "Start a New FAFSA" and then log in using your name (which must match the name on your Social Security card), Social Security number and date of birth. Next, create a password. The sections of the FAFSA you will need to complete include:

- Student demographic information
- Selection of up to 10 schools you would like to attend
- Dependency status
- Parent demographic information
- Financial information
- Sign and submit

Within a few weeks of submitting your FAFSA, you will receive an email or paper Student Aid Report (SAR) from the U.S. Department of Education. The colleges you selected on your FAFSA will review your information and use it to determine your eligibility for different types of aid. These colleges will then send you an award letter displaying your financial aid package.

COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENT!

Go to ScholarTrack.IN.gov and log in to your account to answer a few questions that confirm you've completed this activity.



COLLEGE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Your time in college will be filled with opportunities and challenges

Fortunately, there are resources, like the **College Scholar Success Program**, designed to help you succeed in college and your future career. Each year of college, in order to maintain your scholarship, you must complete four annual *College Performance* requirements. Additionally, you must choose one activity from both the *College Engagement* and *Career Preparation* categories.

And, don't forget...

After you complete these activities, log into your **ScholarTrack** account at **ScholarTrack.IN.gov** to report your progress. Visit **Scholars.IN.gov** for more information.



College Scholar Success Program

YEAR	REQUIRED ACTIVITIES			
	ALL 4 ANNUALLY COLLEGE PERFORMANCE	1+ PER YEAR COLLEGE ENGAGEMENT	1+ PER YEAR CAREER PREPARATION	
FIRST YEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 30 Credits Per Year <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) <input type="checkbox"/> File Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)[†] <input type="checkbox"/> Identify 1 Mentor/Champion** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge Program • New Student Orientation/ Transfer Student Orientation* • First-Year Experience/ Seminar • Learning Community • Campus Involvement* • Study Abroad/Study Away* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational Interview • Job Shadow/Career Assessment • Professional Resume • Portfolio • Internship* (or equivalent) • Student-Faculty Research* 	
SECOND YEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 30 Credits Per Year <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) <input type="checkbox"/> File Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)[†] <input type="checkbox"/> Identify 1 Mentor/Champion** 			
CONTINUING TO A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM***				
THIRD YEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 30 Credits Per Year <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) <input type="checkbox"/> File Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)[†] <input type="checkbox"/> Identify 1 Mentor/Champion** 			
FOURTH YEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 30 Credits Per Year <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) <input type="checkbox"/> File Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)[†] <input type="checkbox"/> Identify 1 Mentor/Champion** 			

[†]Filing the FAFSA during the fourth/senior year is only necessary if the student intends to continue to additional education, such as graduate school.
^{*}Activity may be repeated/sustained for multiple academic years to satisfy 21st Century Scholarship renewal requirement.

^{**}All 21st Century Scholars—with support from Indiana colleges and the state—will identify at least one personal mentor/champion who will help guide and support them through college completion and into the workforce.

^{***}Students continuing to a four-year program must complete requirements through graduation.

RESOURCES

We know the road to college can be confusing, which is why Indiana has created this guide, as well as many other resources, to help you succeed in high school and prepare for college.

School Counselors

The first people you can turn to for help are your school counselors. They have been through the process before, helped many other students like you and can connect you to the assistance you need.

Scholars.IN.gov

The 21st Century Scholars website is a comprehensive resource for you and the Scholar Success Program. If you need more information about the program requirements discussed in this guide, visit **Scholars.IN.gov/students/high-school/#12th-grade**.

Financial Aid Support Center: 888-528-4719

Call the Financial Aid Support Center if you have any questions about your scholarship or the 21st Century Scholars program. Or you can email us at **Scholars@che.IN.gov**.

Regional Outreach Coordinators

For answers to your questions contact your regional Outreach Coordinator. To locate your Outreach Coordinator, visit **Scholars.IN.gov/contact-us**.

Learn More Indiana

Learn More Indiana has answers to your questions about planning, preparing and paying for college completion and career success. Visit **LearnMoreIndiana.org** to get started.

Social Media

Follow us on social media for updates throughout the year, including college and career resources, events all around Indiana and student spotlights featuring students just like you.

Facebook: **Facebook.com/LearnMoreIN**

Instagram: **@LearnMoreIndiana**

Twitter: **Twitter.com/LearnMoreIN**

YouTube: **YouTube.com/LearnMoreIN**

ONCE I GET TO COLLEGE,
ARE THERE COUNSELORS
TO HELP ME?

IN COLLEGE, YOU'LL HAVE
ADVISORS TO POINT YOU IN
THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

HOW DO I KNOW WHO
MY ADVISOR IS?

MOST COLLEGES ASSIGN
THEM, BUT YOU CAN ALSO
VISIT YOUR COLLEGE'S
STUDENT CENTER OR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OFFICE.



FAQS

How do I maintain the Scholar Pledge and keep my scholarship?

To maintain eligibility for your scholarship, you must meet the following requirements:

- Complete the Scholar Success Program in high school and in college, which includes activities each year to help you stay on track for college and career success. High school activities should be completed by June 30 of your senior year.
- Graduate from a state-accredited high school with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma and a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 15 as a high school senior and each year thereafter until you graduate from college.
- Apply to an eligible Indiana college as a high school senior, and enroll in college full time within one year of high school graduation.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards established by your college.
- Complete 30 credit hours each year you are in college to stay on track toward earning your degree on time.
- Do not use illegal drugs, commit a crime or delinquent act, or consume alcohol before reaching the legal drinking age.

What should I do if I change schools or my contact information changes?

It's important that you receive notifications and updates from the 21st Century Scholars program to make sure you're on track to complete the requirements in high school and in college. Update your information in your ScholarTrack account at ScholarTrack.IN.gov.

Do I have to file the FAFSA every year in high school?

No. You must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) during the year you graduate high school and each year thereafter until you graduate from college.

If I graduate early, can I still use the 21st Century Scholarship?

Yes. If you plan to graduate following your junior year, you need to notify your school counselor so he or she can inform the 21st Century Scholars program. You should complete all 12 high school Scholar Success Program activities, including filing the FAFSA by April 15 of your junior year. If you plan to graduate early, learn about the Mitch Daniels Early Graduation Scholarship at LearnMoreIndiana.org/statefinancialaid.

Can I use my scholarship to pay for dual-credit classes while in high school?

No. The scholarship is only available once you have graduated high school.

If my GPA falls below 2.5 for a semester, will I lose the scholarship?

You must achieve an overall, cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale upon graduation from high school. A cumulative GPA is the average of all your grades during all your semesters of high school. Even if your cumulative GPA falls below 2.5 some time during your high school career, you are still eligible for your scholarship as long as your GPA is at least 2.5 at the time of graduation.

Can I receive the scholarship if I complete a high school equivalency exam (like a GED or TASC) or complete home school?

No. You must graduate with a Core 40 diploma from an eligible high school recognized by the Indiana Department of Education.

What happens if I don't complete the Scholar Success Program on time?

You must verify you've completed the three grade-specific activities via ScholarTrack by June 30 of each academic year. Failure to complete your activities may put you at risk of losing your scholarship. You must complete all of the activities by June 30 of your senior year to be eligible to receive the scholarship.