

January Senior Bulletin

January 15, 2025

Admissions Decisions

Colleges and universities grant a variety of admission decisions. Below are a few defined terms to help you understand the decisions you may receive. If you have questions, please see your counselor.

Admitted: Congratulations! You have been accepted to the college and you could attend, if you choose.

Denied: You have been denied admission to the college. This decision is usually final, and you need to seek other opportunities.

Deferred: If you have been deferred by a Rolling Decision/Priority Deadline school, you will need to provide updated academic information for further consideration. This includes new SAT/ACT scores and/or first semester grades. If you do not provide updated academic information, you will likely not be granted admission. If you have been deferred by a school during Early Action, Restrictive Early Action, or Early Decision, you will be deferred to the next application period, which is Regular Decision. You will need to let your counselor know to send a Common App Mid-Year report, which will include your first semester grades. A final decision will be granted at the end of that application period, usually in March or April.

Waitlisted: This decision is usually granted at the end of Regular Decision in the spring. If you are added to a waitlist of a college, you may remain in consideration for admission until late May or June. There is no guarantee that admission will ever be offered. Remaining on a waitlist is optional. If you would like to remain on a waitlist, communicate your continued interest to your admissions counselor. If you decide to attend another college, remove your name from other schools' waitlists.

First Semester Transcripts

If a college or university has requested your first semester grades/mid-year report, please complete a paper transcript request form and submit it to the guidance office. Please do not make your request for an updated transcript through Naviance. We will start to send updated transcripts next week. **Also, please update your Naviance account to indicate the schools you have applied to and the results of the admission decisions.**

Financial Aid – FAFSA

Every year, a lot of financial aid goes unclaimed because families think they will not qualify to receive need-based aid. Therefore, the Indiana Department of Education is requiring the families of all graduating seniors in the class of 2025 to complete the **2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. Need-based financial aid includes loans, grants, and work-based study. The official filing window for the 2025-26 FAFSA in Indiana is December 1, 2024 - April 15, 2025. (Please note that colleges may have earlier deadlines. Do your research.) FAFSA is submitted online and is available at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. FAFSA requires parent and student tax information from 2023.

To complete a **2025-26 FAFSA**, you will need a student and a parent FSA ID, one for each. Create these at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>. Watch the Video to Create your FSA ID: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTb7hMVtzco>. Once you have your FSA IDs you are ready to complete the FAFSA at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. It is recommended that you complete your FAFSA as early as possible, so you can receive full financial aid consideration and receive award letters from colleges in a timely manner. For more information to help you get ready for the **2025-26 FAFSA**, visit <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/fafsa-support>.

The **2025-26 FAFSA** is designed to be shorter and more user-friendly than in previous years. However, some families may still need assistance with completing it. Below are local FAFSA completion events available to offer support.

Various Evenings - Thursday, January 16 – February 18 | PFW FAFSA Completion Events

PFW's Financial Aid Office offers help to all students in the community. You do not have to attend PFW to receive assistance. Click on the link below for available dates and to register.
<https://apply.pfw.edu/portal/fafsa-nights>

Monday, February 10 | 6:00 PM | Bishop Dwenger Library

No registration needed. An overview of financial aid will be followed by a FAFSA completion event.

Sunday, February 23 | College Goal Sunday | 2:00-4:00 | Ivy Tech Community College

No registration needed. Spanish speaking volunteers will be available.

Financial Aid – CSS Profile

There are several private colleges that require you to file a **CSS Profile** in addition to the FAFSA. The CSS Profile is available online through the College Board website at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/?navId=gf-css>. Please note that there is a fee to submit the CSS Profile. Again, please verify each school's specific financial aid form requirements and deadlines.

Financial Aid Award Letters

For those of you who have already filed the FAFSA, the colleges will send Financial Aid Award letters to you once it has been processed by the federal government and the colleges. This will include the financial aid package the college is offering you. Please carefully read all information and respond according to their requests. Make sure you fully understand the types of aid you are being offered and discuss with your parents what you should accept or decline. You are not obligated to accept everything that you are offered.

Types of financial aid typically offered

Scholarships/Grants - money that is awarded to you that does not need to be paid back

Work-study – secured employment on campus

Loans (parent and student) – money that is borrowed that must be paid back, with interest

If you have specific questions regarding the award letter, contact the financial aid office of the college directly.

Scholarships

The following scholarships are currently available through the guidance office. If a web address is listed, the scholarship is to be completed or accessed online. If there is no web address listed, the application is available in paper format. See Mrs. Stefanek in the guidance office for paper applications. Regardless of the application format, please be sure to meet the deadlines stated below.

Scholarship Name: Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship

Criteria: Must plan to pursue a degree to become a teacher at an Indiana college and plan to teach in the state of Indiana following graduation. Must have a 3.0 GPA.

Amount: up to \$10,000, renewable for up to four years

Deadline: **Instructions for the application process are available at <http://www.in.gov/che/4680.htm>. You are required to create a Full Account with Scholar Track. If you are a 21st Century Scholar, you will use your current Scholar Track account, but you must change it to a Full Account. The application is due by January 31.**

Scholarship Name: Beacon Credit Union Scholarship

Criteria: Must be a member of Beacon Credit Union at the time of application.

Amount: \$2,500

Deadline: The application and more information is available at <https://www.beaconcu.org/beacon-foundation/#scholarship>. The application is due by January 31.

Scholarship Name: Lawrence A. Ackerman Scholarship

Criteria: Must plan to pursue an education and career in the stewardship of animals.

Amount: \$2,000

Deadline: To download the paper application, visit <https://kidszoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/ackerman.pdf>. The application must be submitted by February 1.

Scholarship Name: PHP (Physicians Health Plan) Scholarship

Criteria: Plan to pursue a career in a health-related field and have a least a 3.0 GPA; 1000 word essay required

Amount: \$1,000 - \$3,000

Deadline: The paper application is available at <https://public.powerdms.com/PHPNI/documents/1717019> and must be postmarked by February 21.

Scholarship Name: Paul and Madelyn Sagstetter Scholarship

Criteria: 2.0 GPA; demonstrate leadership skills, good moral character and religious affiliation, and plan to pursue a 4-year degree

Amount: Scholarship is renewable. The amount awarded varies by demonstrated financial need, so you must have submitted your FAFSA to apply.

Deadline: The application portal is available at www.csascholars.org/sagstetter and must be received by March 10. After your application is submitted, you will be given a list of additional materials that must be submitted by mail or email, including your transcript. All materials must be received by March 10. As soon as possible, but no later than March 1, please let Mrs. Stefanek know that you will need a a copy of your transcript. **Please note that the funds for this scholarship may not be awarded until the fall of 2025, after you have started your college career.

Scholarship Name: BBB Students of integrity Brotherhood Mutual Scholarship

Criteria: Plan to attend a Christian college or university in Indiana. Essay regarding how you live a life of integrity and exhibit high ethical behavior.

Amount: \$2,000

Deadline: Paper applications are available in the guidance office and are due back to the guidance office by March 10.

Scholarship Name: BBB Students of Integrity Paul Davis Scholarship

Criteria: Plan to attend a college or trade school. Essay regarding how you live a life of integrity and exhibit high ethical behavior.

Amount: \$2,000

Deadline: Paper applications are available in the guidance office and are due back to the guidance office by March 10.

Scholarship Name: BBB Students of Integrity Charly Butcher Scholarship

Criteria: Plan to pursue a degree in Communications or Education. Essay regarding how you live a life of integrity and exhibit high ethical behavior.

Amount: \$2,000

Deadline: Paper applications are available in the guidance office and are due back to the guidance office by March 10.

Scholarship Name: BBB Students of Integrity Indiana Tech Scholarship

Criteria: Plan to pursue a degree at Indiana Tech. Essay regarding how you live a life of integrity and exhibit high ethical behavior.

Amount: \$2,000

Deadline: Paper applications are available in the guidance office and are due back to the guidance office by March 10.

Scholarship Name: Questa Scholars - Loan Forgiveness -**This is a great way to borrow money!**

Criteria: Must have a 2.5 GPA and plan to attend a 4-year or a 2-year college in Indiana.

Amount: up to \$5,000 may be borrowed per year (\$20,000 maximum); 50% of the loan will be forgiven if the student maintains a 2.75 college GPA and lives in Northeast Indiana after college graduation for five years. Students who attend Anderson University, Grace College, Huntington University, Ivy Tech, Manchester University, University of St. Francis, Indiana Tech, Indiana Wesleyan University, Taylor University, Trine University, and Purdue University Fort Wayne may have another 25% of the loan forgiven. This is a great local program, and all qualified students are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: Student must complete a FAFSA before submitting this application. The application is available at <https://www.questafoundation.org/traditional-scholars-program>. Funds are limited, so students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted through March 15.

Scholarship Name: E.H. Kilbourne Scholarship

Criteria: 3.75 GPA; demonstrate leadership skills, good moral character and religious affiliation, and plan to pursue a 4-year degree

Amount: Scholarship is renewable. The amount awarded varies by demonstrated financial need, so you must have submitted your FAFSA to apply. Multiple scholarships will be awarded to BD students

Deadline: The application portal is available at www.csascholars.org/kilbourne and will open on January 22. The application and supplemental materials must be received by March 31. After your application is submitted, you will be given a list of additional materials that must be submitted by mail or email, including your transcript. All materials must be received by March 21. As soon as possible, but no later than March 15, please let Mrs. Stefanek know that you will need a transcript and class rank verification letter for your application. **Please note that the funds for this scholarship may not be awarded until the fall of 2025, after the start of your college career.

Scholarship Name: Evans-Moss Scholarship

Criteria: 3.75 GPA; strong moral character, extracurricular activities, and demonstrate financial need

Amount: Varies by demonstrated financial need, so you must have submitted your FAFSA to apply. Multiple scholarships will be awarded to BD students.

Deadline: The application portal is available at www.csascholars.org/moss and will open on January 22. The application and supplemental materials must be submitted by March 21. After your application is submitted, you will be given a list of additional materials that must be submitted by mail, including your transcript. All materials must be received by March 21. As soon as possible, but no later than March 15, please let Mrs. Stefanek know that you will need a transcript and class rank verification letter for your application. **Please note that funds for this scholarship may not be awarded until fall of 2025.

Scholarship Name: Eugene Kimmel Scholarship

Criteria: 3.75GPA; be a Catholic high school student planning to attend any four-year college or university

Amount: Scholarship is renewable. Amount awarded varies by demonstrated financial need, so you must have submitted your FAFSA to apply. Multiple scholarships will be awarded to BD students.

Deadline: The application portal is available at www.csascholars.org/kimmel and will open on January 22. The application and supplemental materials must be submitted by March 31. After your application is

submitted, you will be given a list of additional materials that must be submitted by mail or email, including your transcript. All materials must be received by March 31. As soon as possible, but no later than March 15, please let Mrs. Stefanek know that you will need a transcript and class rank verification letter for your application. **Please note that the funds for this scholarship may not be awarded until fall of 2025, after you have started your college career.

Scholarship Name: Parkview Opportunity Scholars Program

Criteria: Plan to earn an approved two-year degree from Ivy Tech and then work at Parkview for at least one year. There are a large variety of approved programs such as nursing, accounting, construction, and computer science.

Amount: Up to \$5,000 per year in forgivable loans. Renewable for up to two years.

Deadline: **The application is available at <https://www.questafoundation.org/parkview-opportunity>. The application is due by June 30.**

Scholarship Name: Marian University Diocesan Employee Family Guarantee

Criteria: Must be the dependent of an employee who works full-time for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, including parishes, schools, and social service agencies.

Amount: Half-tuition for four years

Deadline: **The verification form is available at**

<https://www.marian.edu/admissions/assets/documents/2024-25-diocesan-family-grant.pdf>.

Scholarships Awarded by Colleges and Universities

Once you've been admitted to a college or university, exhaust all possibilities for scholarships offered through that school. Most schools offer merit scholarships based on your academic record at the time of application. However, there are also other scholarships offered that may require supplemental applications. Scour the financial aid and/or scholarship portions of each school's website for departmental, talent, service, leadership scholarships, etc. for which you may be qualified. The scholarships offered by the colleges and universities tend to be generous and renewable for all four years.

Net Price Calculator

Net Price Calculators (NPC) are available on a college's website to allow you to enter information (financial and/or academic) about yourself to find out what students like you paid to attend that institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account. If you have an account with the College Board (SAT/AP), you may also use <http://studentnpc.collegeboard.org/>. The purpose of the NPC is to provide students with an advanced idea of what the bottom-line cost of attendance to a specific college may be.

Where to Find Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded by colleges, businesses, organizations, and individuals. The criteria for scholarships vary, depending on the objective of the sponsor. Places to seek scholarships include:

Colleges: Colleges offer several types of scholarships: merit/talent, departmental, athletic, and academic. Scholarship information should be available on the Financial Aid portion of the school's website. Some scholarships are automatic and are awarded at the time of application for admission. Others may require supplemental applications, interviews, and/or auditions. Exhaust all possibilities of scholarships offered through the colleges. These scholarships tend to be generous and renewable for up to four years.

Parents' places of employment: Many businesses and corporations offer scholarships to their employees' dependents. Check with human resources.

Student's place of employment: Many businesses and corporations offer scholarships to their employees. Check with human resources.

Clubs/organizations to which parents belong: Many organizations offer scholarships/grants to

members' dependents. Check with club officers or the national/state chapter.

Online Scholarship Opportunities

There are countless websites to help you search for scholarships. The scholarship search process is yearlong and ongoing. The sooner you start, the better.

1. Check each potential college's website for scholarship opportunities for incoming freshmen.
2. Naviance has three scholarship search features under the Scholarships and Money heading under the Colleges tab.
3. A few recommended websites for general scholarship searches are:

www.fastweb.com

www.collegeboard.org

www.college-scholarships.com

www.cappex.com

www.scholarships.com

<https://learnmoreindiana.org/cost/>

www.finaid.org

www.commonapp.org

Please note, you should never pay for a scholarship search nor to apply for a scholarship.