



Post-Secondary Planning Handbook

NAVIGATING THE COLLEGE SEARCH & APPLICATION PROCESS

LAWRENCE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

2025-2026

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Important College Planning Dates for Seniors

August 20-21, 2025

- Postsecondary Planning Presentations
- Individual Senior-Counselor Conferences begin

August 28, 2025

- Senior College Planning Night @ 6:00 PM

September 17, 2025

- Financial Aid Night @ 6:00 PM

September 22-26, 2025

- College GO! Week

October 8, 2025

- SAT School Day Test Administration

October 17, 2025

- Recommended deadline to have ALL college apps submitted to meet priority deadlines
- Individual Senior-Counselor Conferences end

November 1, 2025

- College application priority deadline for several colleges

November 13, 2025

- FAFSA Completion Workshop @ 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

December 2025

- Lawrence Township School Foundation scholarships open
- 2026-2027 FAFSA opens

January 14, 2026

- FAFSA Completion Workshop @ 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

February 4, 2026

- FAFSA Completion Workshop @ 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

March 11, 2026

- FAFSA Completion Workshop @ 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

April 6, 2026

- Senior Exit Conferences begin

April 8, 2026

- FAFSA Completion Workshop @ 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

April 15, 2026

- State of Indiana FAFSA submission deadline

April 23, 2026

- “Finalizing Financial Aid” @ 6:00 PM

May 1, 2026

- Senior Decision Day: Deadline to accept college admittance offer

June 1, 2026

- Deadline to order Final Transcript for Attending College/University

June 4, 2026

- LCHS Graduation

June 30, 2026

- 21st Century Scholars: Scholar Success Program completion deadline

How College Applications Are Evaluated

Colleges and universities do not rely solely on a student's grades, GPA and test scores when making an admission decision on an applicant. College admission officers review a variety of different factors when evaluating applications in order to get a holistic view of the applicant, placing emphasis on the applicant as a whole rather than his or her academic achievements and accomplishments.

Colleges and universities will review the following factors when evaluating one's college application (in no particular order):

- **GPA and grades**
- **Rigor of coursework**
- **Grade trends through the end of the junior year**
- **Strength of the senior year schedule**
- **Scores on standardized tests, such as the SAT and ACT**
- **Extracurricular/Leadership activities**
- **Recommendation letters**
- **Personal statements and/or essays**
- **Demonstrated interest in the college/university**



Evaluating College Applications Is NOT a One-Size-Fits-All Process!

Some colleges and universities may place a greater emphasis on grades whereas others may value standardized test scores more. The application evaluation process will vary from school to school. It is important for applicants to visit admissions websites to review the admission standards for each particular school in order to gauge their competitiveness for admission.

College Planning Checklist

- Register for the SAT and/or ACT if you didn't take a college entrance exam as a junior or want to take one again.**
 - Students who receive free/reduced lunch and/or are 21st Century Scholars are eligible for fee waivers!
- Use your *Naviance* account for college, career and scholarship information.**
- Use the resume builder tool in *Naviance* to record of all of your accomplishments and activities performed throughout high school.**
- Check with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate, fulfill diploma requirements and college admission requirements.**
- Take every opportunity to get to know colleges. Meet with college representatives who visit LC, attend local college fairs, and visit college campuses.**
 - If you are not physically able to visit a college campus, most colleges will provide virtual visit opportunities on their websites.
- Narrow down your list of colleges. Collect information about the application and financial aid process at each school.**
- Create a checklist and calendar to keep track of standardized test dates, college application due dates, and financial aid deadlines.**
 - Make note of the other materials, such as recommendations or essays, you'll need in order to complete your applications.
- Start completing college applications.**
 - Establish whether the college or university uses the Common Application or an application on their website.
- If not using the Common App, order your official transcripts for college applications via *Parchment* for EVERY COLLEGE APPLICATION you submit.**

- Send your official ACT and/or SAT scores to colleges you are applying to (If required).**
- Complete all college applications online by Fall Break (October 17th)!**
- Attend Financial Aid Night on September 17th @ 6:00 PM.**
- Create your student & parent Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at studentaid.gov.**
- File your FAFSA (FAFSA.gov) after December 2025 but before April 15, 2026.**
 - In addition to determining your eligibility for federal funds, many colleges and states use the form when distributing grants.
- Get help completing the FAFSA by attending FAFSA Completion Workshops @ LC.**
 - November 13th, January 14th, February 4th, March 11th, & April 8th.
 - Attend the “Finalizing Financial Aid Night” presentation on April 23rd.
- Start your scholarship search early.**
 - Use the scholarship search tools on *Naviance*.
 - Search for scholarships on *fastweb.com* and *scholarships.com*
 - Be aware of scholarship eligibility requirements and deadlines.
- MAINTAIN YOUR GRADES!! College acceptance is provisional.**
 - It is based on the expectation that you will complete your senior courses with acceptable grades while maintaining your GPA and the credentials that your admissions decision was based on.
 - COLLEGES CAN AND WILL REVOKE AN ACCEPTED ADMISSIONS DECISION!
- Make your college decision by May 1st!**
 - May 1st is the date when the college you plan to attend requires a commitment and deposit.
 - Check with college admission offices on their enrollment deposit policies.
 - Deposits are non-refundable after May 1st.
- Complete the “Class of 2026 Graduation & Scholarship Survey” and indicate where your final transcript needs to be sent.**

Postsecondary Planning HELP SESSIONS



Every WEDNESDAY
August, September,
& October



Counselors will be available to assist with:

- College Applications
- Scholarship Applications
- Essay Writing
- Ordering Transcripts via Parchment
- SAT/ACT Registration
- Registering for College Rep Presentations
- 21st Century ScholarTrack Completion
- And much more!

Before School
Help Sessions

8:00 – 8:40 am

Counseling
Office



After School
Help Sessions

3:50 – 4:30 pm

Counseling
Office



Lawrence Central High School uses *Naviance* to assist students and parents with the management of the college and career planning process. We encourage students and parents to visit *Naviance* often for important updates and messages from the School Counseling Office, and to access links to valuable college and career websites.

There are four main tabs/sections in *Naviance* that students and parents will use: *Colleges*, *Careers*, *About Me*, and *My Planner*.

COLLEGES

- ***College Visit Schedule***
Throughout the school year, college admissions representatives are invited to present information regarding their school to students throughout the school day. Students may sign-up to attend a college rep presentations via the *Naviance* homepage under the “What’s New” section.
- ***SuperMatch™ College Search***
Students and parents can use *SuperMatch™* to personalize their college search by identifying specific criteria, including location, size, tuition, major, and admission standards that are most important to them. Students are able to rank items based on importance and produce a list of top-ranked schools based on their search criteria. Students can then view various school facts and information, as well as access the school’s website, from the provided list of schools.
- ***Scholarships***
Any and all scholarships that the School Counseling Office receives are listed here. Students can access scholarship information, including application requirements and deadlines, and use the scholarship search and scholarship match tools.

CAREERS

- ***Explore Careers & Clusters***
Here students and parents can explore various career clusters which are groups of careers with common features and skills. Students can find information regarding a career cluster’s specific occupations including job descriptions, education and training, tasks and activities, as well as wages information.



SELF-DISCOVERY

- ***Career Interest Profiler***
This tool helps students discover the types of work activities and careers that match their interests. Results from this assessment can be used as a starting point for career exploration.
- ***Personality Type Assessment***
The *Do What You Are*[®] *Self Discovery Personality Type* assessment helps students focus on who they are and what educational path is best for them. After students complete this assessment, they will receive useful personality type information, as well as personalized suggestions for careers and college majors that match their personality.



ABOUT ME

- ***Student Portfolio***
The “About Me” tab houses all of a student’s academic and career information. Students are able to view the results of their personality type and career interest profiler assessments, as well as view any saved career and college search information. Students are also able to view their high school cumulative GPA and class rank.
- ***Resumes***
Students can keep track of their accomplishments and activities throughout high school using this feature. Students build resumes by adding entries when prompted to list their objective, education, work experience, volunteer experience, academic achievements and awards, etc. This tool provides step-by-step instructions and explanations which makes it very easy for students to create a comprehensive resume and update it yearly.



MY PLANNER

- ***Goals***
In students’ success plans, goals can be anything! Students can set a goal to make the honor roll or to become an astronaut or anything else you can think of. It’s a good idea when setting a goal to make it something that needs to be worked toward. Then, use the “next steps” to break it down into smaller parts like “getting an A in math.”
- ***To-do List***
To-dos are actions that need to be completed. Students can relate these actions to a goal that has been made or a college and career task that needs to be completed.

College Application Process

Follow these steps when completing your college applications:

Step 1: Complete college applications online via the university's admissions website or via the *Common Application* (www.commonapp.org).

Step 2: Be sure to submit your application fee payment at the same time you are submitting your online application. Your application will not be evaluated until the university receives payment.

(Students who are 21st Century Scholars and/or receive free/reduced lunch may qualify for an application fee waiver and should see their counselor to request a fee waiver.)

Step 3: Order official transcripts via Parchment www.parchment.com. If you are completing the *Common Application*, ignore this step.

Step 4: If submitting test scores, request that your official SAT (www.collegeboard.com) and/or ACT (www.actstudent.org) test scores be sent to the university you are applying to. Determine if the university requires that test scores be sent by the testing agency.

(IU, Purdue and NCAA require that SAT/ACT test scores be sent directly from College Board or ACT.)

Step 5: If required for a college application, request teacher and/or counselor letters of recommendation at least two weeks prior to any deadlines. Students should also personally speak with the recommending teacher/counselor and provide a resume.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

Many colleges/universities have an application priority deadline of November 1st for maximum scholarship consideration and/or for admission into a specific program/major.

Your college applications should be completed by Fall Break (October 17th) to meet many priority or admission deadlines.

Creating Your Parchment Account

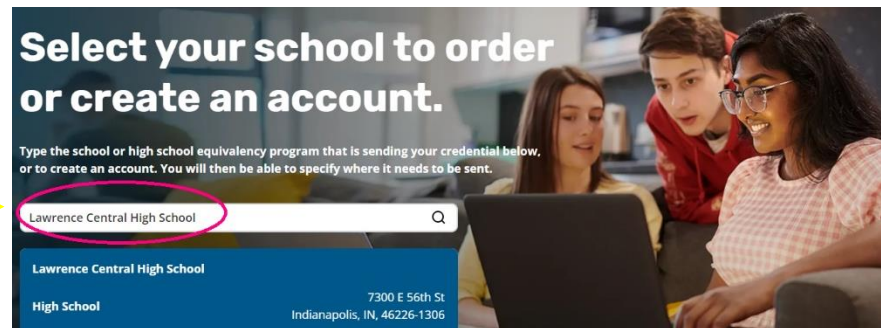
Follow these steps to create your Parchment account to order an official transcript:

From **Parchment.com**:

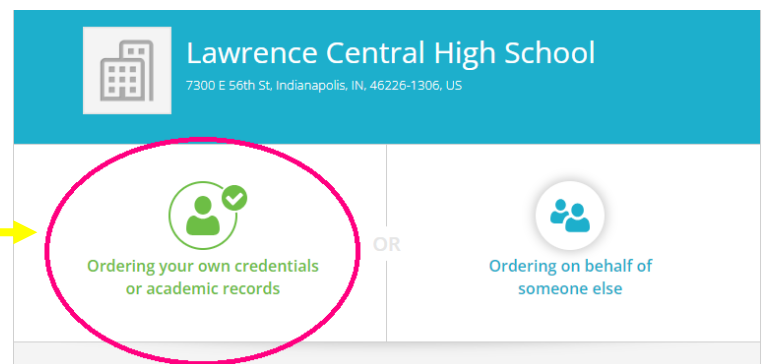
- Click **“Order & Status”**, then select **“Student/Parent Order”**.



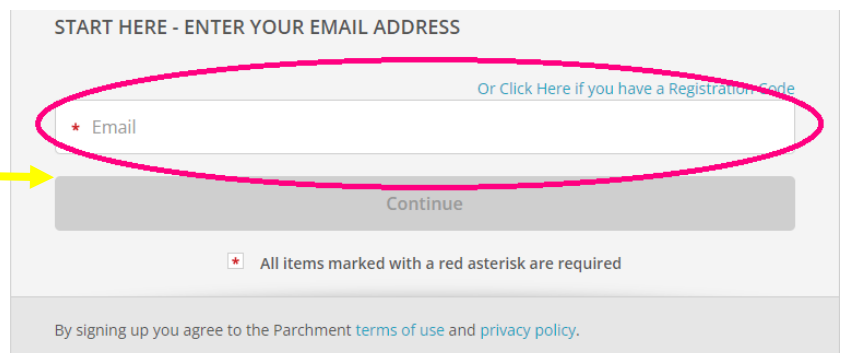
- Type **“Lawrence Central High School”** into the search field and click on our school name.



- Select **“Ordering your own credentials or academic records”** option.



- Enter your **Email Address** and select **“Continue”** to begin the registration process.



- To setup your account, you will be prompted to enter your:

- Personal Information
- Contact Information
- Password

The screenshot shows a multi-step registration form. The first section, 'ENTER YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION', includes fields for First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Month of Birth, Day of Birth, Year of Birth, and Highest Level of Education. The second section, 'ENTER YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION', includes a Cell Phone field, a country dropdown (set to US), and address fields (Address 1, Address 2, City, State/Province, Postal Code). The third section, 'CHOOSE A PASSWORD', has two password input fields. A green button at the bottom is labeled 'CREATE ACCOUNT & CONTINUE'.

- Once all required information has been provided, click “**Create Account & Continue**”

Parchment will send you an email with instructions for verifying your email address. You can either enter in the verification code you received from the email or select “**Verify Your Email Address**”.

Click the button below to verify that this is your email address or enter your verification code into the page you were just on:

The screenshot shows a verification step with a green button labeled 'Verify Your Email Address' and an input field for the verification code. The text 'Enter Your Verification Code:' is visible above the input field.

- Next, you must provide your **Enrollment Information**

The screenshot shows an enrollment form with three main sections: 'Are you currently enrolled?' with a dropdown menu, 'Your first year of attendance' with a text input field, and 'Your Student ID Number' with a text input field.

- Once you’ve provided all the required enrollment information, click “**Continue**”

You are now ready to ORDER YOUR TRANSCRIPT on Parchment!

The screenshot shows the final step of account creation with a checkbox labeled 'Finish creating my Parchment account without placing an order right now.' and a green button labeled 'CONTINUE'. A note at the bottom states: 'All items marked with a red asterisk are required.'

OPTIONAL STEP

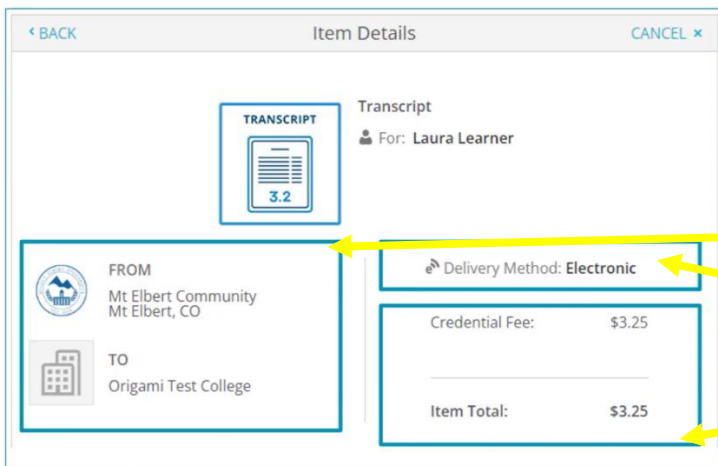
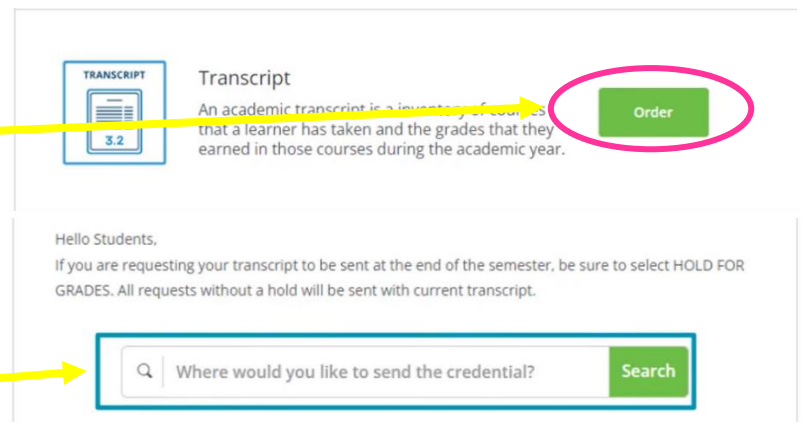
You’ll have the opportunity to select colleges and universities that you’re interested in, and provide your academic interests, academic information and personal information. Again, this is an optional step. YOU DO NOT NEED TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION.

Ordering Your Transcript on Parchment

Follow these steps after you have created your Parchment account to order your official transcript:

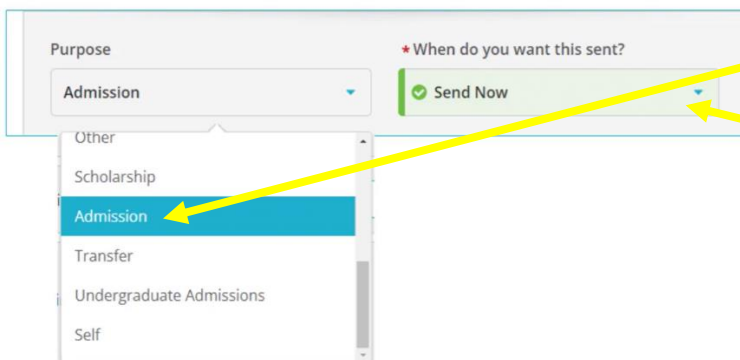
- Begin by selecting the “**Order**” button for the Transcript credential

- Enter the college or university you want your transcript sent to and hit “**Search**”



Once you’ve searched and selected your college/university, you’ll land on an Item Details page


- The top section shows the **institution** you want your transcript sent to, the **delivery method** and the **credential fee** (paid by LCHS).



- Then you’ll need to select “**Admission**” from the dropdown as the purpose of your request
- The “**Send Now**” selection will default for the time you want your transcript sent.

Please review the information below pertaining to the type of consent that is required to complete this order.

Most Recent Signature Consent On File Clear & Sign Again



Full name as signed above: **Laura Learner**

I consent to the disclosure of the credentials and any provided attachments to the delivery recipient, each as provided above, and for the purpose identified by me above.

CONTINUE

* All items marked with a red asterisk are required to submit this form.

Finally, at the bottom of the Items Details page, you will need to consent to the order.

- Sign **your signature** in the box with your mouse or finger...
- Type **your name** in the text box below your signature...
- Before you can select “Continue” you must **check the box** certifying under penalty of law you are who you say you are.
- Once you’ve consented to the order, select “**Continue**”

If you’re under 18, a parent or guardian must complete this consent section.


- The parent/guardian must **sign off** here and **certify** that they are the individual indicated below.

PLEASE NOTE: A parent or legal guardian must complete this consent section.

Learners under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian complete this section to certify that legal consent has been given as required under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) authorizing the release of the learner’s records.

Please review the information below pertaining to the type of consent that is required to complete this order.

Most Recent Signature Consent On File Clear & Sign Again



Full name as signed above: **Joy Moore**

I certify under penalty of law that I am the individual identified above and am authorized to take this action.

Order Summary BACK CANCEL x

Your order has not been placed yet. Please review and complete the order below. Here’s your order summary Sample Collapse All

FOR	Name, Sample		\$0.00
ITEM	Transcript		\$4.40
FROM	Horseshoe Community		-\$4.40
TO	Sample Name		

Add another item for Sample Name

Total Credential Fees	\$4.40
Total Subsidized	-\$4.40
Order Total	\$0.00

COMPLETE ORDER

You’ll then be taken to the Order Summary page to confirm that the information provided is correct.

- If you are ordering your transcript for only one college/university, select “**Complete Order**”.
- If you need to order another transcript for a different college/university, select “**Add another item for...**”.

*****After Your Order is Placed*****

A confirmation email containing your DID (order) number is sent to the email address associated with your Parchment account. Your request lands in LC’s Parchment Transcript Services account for our review. Once we approve your order, Parchment process your order and sends your transcript.

College Rep Presentations & College Campus Visits

A lot of preparation should go into your plans for a college or university visit. Visiting a university before committing to attend gives you the opportunity to evaluate the environment and culture of the campus. Visits should include your parents/guardians if possible.

College Rep Presentations at Lawrence Central

Every year, more than seventy college representatives will visit LC to hold informational sessions with students during the school day. In order to attend these sessions, you must register for the visits, notify your teachers, and then sign out of class with the teacher's permission. The list of participating schools is updated weekly and should be checked by students on a regular basis.

College Rep Registration Process:

1. Log into your *Naviance* Account
2. Select the **Colleges** link at the top of the page
3. Then select **College Visits**
4. Choose the rep presentations you want to attend, select **Register Now**
5. Select **View Details** to screen shot your confirmation
6. Notify your teacher that you are planning to attend a college rep presentation (prior to day of event)
7. Use the screen shot of registration confirmation as your pass. Permission to attend is at your teacher's discretion!



College Campus Visits

Visiting a college campus is one of the best ways to determine if you can see yourself attending that school. Being able to tour the campus, visit the dorms, check out the dining halls, sit in on a class that interests you, etc. will help you select the college that is the best fit for you.

Seniors are allowed two excused absences for college visits. Every effort should be made to make your visits during vacations, breaks and other non-school days, but it is understood that sometimes appointments for interviews, tryouts, scholarship testing, etc. must be scheduled during school hours. Once a visit has been scheduled, students should pick up a **Prearranged Absence Form** from the attendance office at least 3 days prior to the campus visit.

What to Expect & What to Ask On a College Visit

Campus visits can range from a quick hour to an overnight stay, from a casual guided tour to a formal presentation. Be sure to ask how long the whole visit will take so you can be prepared.

Most campus visits will include the following:

- **An information session.** An admission representative talks to you or your group about the college before the campus tour.
- **A campus tour.** These are usually led by current students. You'll see the main parts of the campus and have a chance to ask questions.

At many colleges, you can also arrange to do the following:

- Attend a class.
- Meet with a professor.
- Meet with an admission officer.
- Meet with a financial aid officer.
- Attend a club meeting or a sports practice session.
- Eat in the dining hall.
- Spend the night in a dorm.



Questions to Ask on a College Campus Visit

- *What is the average class size?*
- *How widely used are teaching assistants on your campus?*
- *What opportunities are there for undergraduate research?*
- *Do you have a learning community or other freshman experience?*
- *What percentage of financial need does the school typically meet?*
- *What is the average merit award?*
- *What work-study opportunities are there?*
- *What is your four-year graduation rate?*
- *What percentage of freshmen return for sophomore year?*
- *What type of tutoring program do you have?*
- *What kind of learning disability resources do you have?*
- *How many students at the college get internships?*
- *What percentage of students study abroad?*
- *What type of career services do you have?*
- *What kind of dorm choices are there?*
- *What percentage of students live on campus?*
- *What percentage of the study body belongs to a sorority or fraternity?*
- *What activities are offered to students?*
- *What clubs do you have on campus?*

College Comparison Worksheet

COLLEGE NAME			
Location —distance from home			
Size —enrollment —physical size of campus			
Environment —type of school (2- or 4-year) —school setting (urban, rural) —location & size of nearest city —co-ed, male, female —religious affiliation			
Admission Requirements —deadline —tests required —average test scores, GPA, rank —notification			
Academics —your major offered —special requirements —accreditation —student-faculty ratio —typical class size			
College Expenses —tuition, room and board —estimated total budget —application fee, deposits			
Financial Aid —deadline —required forms —percentage receiving aid —scholarships			
Housing —residence hall requirement —food plan			
Facilities —academic —recreational —other			
Activities —clubs, organizations —Greek life —athletics, intramurals —other			
Campus Visits —when —special opportunities			

College Admissions Testing: SAT and ACT



WHICH TEST DO I TAKE?

You should find out which admissions test or tests are required by the schools you are interested in, then register for those tests. You can get information about college entrance requirements from school counselors, college admissions websites, and college admissions representatives. Most colleges and universities will accept both the SAT and ACT. Typically, students who are stronger in math and science prefer the ACT and students who are stronger in English prefer the SAT. The SAT consists of four tests, with the SAT Essay being optional: the Reading Test, the Writing and Language Test, and the Math Test. The ACT consists of four tests plus an optional essay: the English Test, the Science Test, the Math Test, and the Reading Test.

WHEN SHOULD I TAKE THE SAT & ACT?

Students take the PSAT during their sophomore and junior years to prepare for the SAT and ACT. It is recommended that students take their first ACT and SAT during the spring of their junior year and re-take the exam(s) in the fall of their senior year to improve their test scores. For most 4-year colleges/universities, students will need to have taken at least one SAT or ACT in order for their applications to be processed.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Students can register online for the ACT at www.actstudent.org and for the SAT at www.collegeboard.org. Information regarding costs of the exams, how to register for an exam, how to report your scores to colleges, and testing dates/locations are provided online. During registration be sure to list four universities/colleges that you want your test scores sent to for free! If you are a student who participates in the free/reduced lunch program or meets income eligibility guidelines, you may qualify for an ACT and/or SAT fee waiver. See your counselor to request a fee waiver.

WHAT DOES "TEST-OPTIONAL" MEAN?

As you begin to apply to colleges and universities, you may come across schools who have adopted a test-optional admissions policy. The test-optional admissions policy allows students to decide whether or not to have their SAT and/or ACT scores considered as part of their application for admission. It is important to note that even though a post-secondary institution may have a test-optional admissions policy, many colleges and universities will utilize SAT/ACT scores when determining scholarship eligibility and admission into certain academic programs/schools within the university or college. So, it is essential for applicants to educate themselves on the test-optional policies of each school to which they apply and weigh its benefits against its limitations before deciding whether or not to submit standardized test scores as a part of their application for admission.

2025-2026 ACT and SAT Test Dates

ACT Testing Dates		
Register online at: www.actstudent.org		
Test Date	Regular Deadline Fee Waiver Deadline	Late Deadline (add \$40 late fee)
September 6	August 1	August 19
October 18	September 12	September 30
December 13	November 7	November 24
February 14	January 9	January 23
April 11	March 6	March 24
June 13	May 8	May 29
July 11	June 5	June 24

Cost: \$68 ACT-No Writing, \$93 ACT-With Writing * Fee Waivers Available

SAT Testing Dates		
Register online at: www.collegeboard.org		
Test Date	Regular Deadline Fee Waiver Deadline	Late Deadline (add \$38 late fee)
August 23	August 8	August 12
September 13	August 29	September 2
October 4	September 19	September 23
November 8	October 24	October 28
December 6	November 21	November 25
March 14	February 27	March 3
May 2	April 17	April 21
June 6	May 22	May 26

Cost: \$68 * Fee Waivers Available

Students who qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch or are 21st Century Scholars can receive 2 ACT and 2 SAT FEE WAIVERS!
(available in counseling office)

ACT and SAT Test Prep

ACT Academy™

ACT Academy™ is a free online learning tool and test practice program designed to help you get the best score possible on the ACT test, and be well on your way to college and career success.

Through video lessons, interactive practice questions, full-length practice tests, educational games, and other materials targeted to your academic needs, ACT Academy provides you with a personalized study plan based on your previous scores from The ACT® test, PreACT®, Official ACT practice tests, or in-platform diagnostics.

ACT Academy features:

- Personalized resources
- Accessible anytime/anywhere there is an internet connection
- Both a full length ACT test option as well as ACT test sections
- Educational games to drive mastery of content

<https://academy.act.org/>

Khan Academy™

The College Board has partnered with Khan Academy® to give you free, personalized practice you can access anytime, anywhere.

Don't miss out on these practice tools:

- Personalized recommendations for practice on the skills you need to attend to most
- Thousands of questions, reviewed and approved by the people who develop the SAT
- Video lessons that explain problems step-by-step
- Full-length practice tests
- Practice tests in assistive technology compatible (ATC) and MP3 audio formats for students who need them

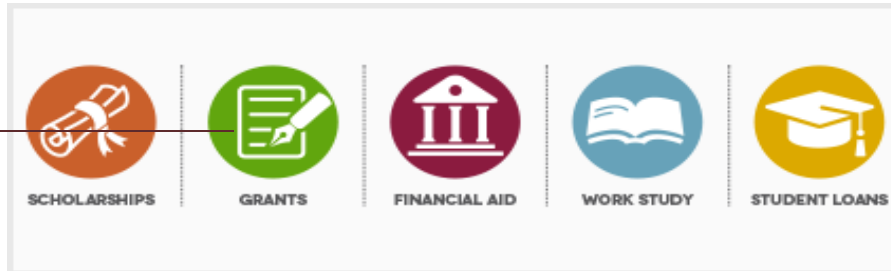
Make practice part of your routine—anyplace, anytime. Answer a question a day on the *Daily Practice for the New SAT* app and get immediate feedback. The free app makes it easy to:

- Answer an exclusive, official Reading, Writing and Language, or Math question.
- Reveal a hint if you're stuck.
- Read answer explanations and learn from your mistakes.
- Keep at it—daily practice can only sharpen your skills.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/digital-sat>

Financial Aid Guidelines

Students may receive money from grants, scholarships, loans or work-study programs to help pay for college. Since not all students qualify for financial assistance, it is wise to have your own plan in place for paying college costs.



When applying for financial aid, follow these suggested guidelines:

1. After applying to the colleges of your choice, review the Financial Aid/Scholarships page of each college website and request all current information and applications for need-based and/or merit scholarships. Additionally, you should inquire about work/study opportunities.
2. Begin your search for scholarships online and through resources available in the community (be wary of scholarship searches requesting up-front fees – this information should be free).
3. Beginning October 2025, complete the FAFSA online at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov). **All FAFSA forms MUST be submitted between October 1st and April 15th. The earlier the form is completed, the more state and federal money there is available.** FAFSA forms received after April 15th lose the opportunity for aid from the State of Indiana.
4. In order to complete the FAFSA, you need an FSA ID. To create the FSA ID, go to: studentaid.gov. The FSA ID is used to electronically sign Federal Student Aid documents, access personal records, and make binding legal obligations (like accepting federal loans). **Parents and students each need their own FSA ID.** This ID replaces the federal PIN used in the past.
5. Attend one of LC's FAFSA Completion Events for parents and students in **November 13th, January 14th, February 4th, March 11th, and April 8th**. Any family needing assistance is invited to bring their paperwork and work with an expert to complete their FAFSA on the spot. **LC will also host a "Finalizing Financial Aid" event on April 23rd.**

After submitting the FAFSA, it's a waiting game until the colleges send out their financial aid packages in late spring. An aid package may include one or more of the following: scholarships, grants, work-study or loans. **Please note that, unlike the first three items, loans *MUST* be repaid.**

LCHS FINANCIAL AID NIGHT: September 17th @ 6:00 PM

Searching for Scholarships

The GOOD NEWS is that there are scholarships available for qualified students. In the past two years, LC students have brought in almost 50 million in scholarship dollars! However, it takes a great deal of work to win these scholarships. Here are tips for finding them:

1. The School Counseling Office will announce all scholarships that are sent to us. All scholarships are listed in *Naviance*. All students and parents with a *Naviance* account can access scholarship lists and will receive updates as new scholarship opportunities become available.
2. Most of our announced scholarships have online applications. Those that require a paper application will be available in the School Counseling Office.
PLEASE NOTE: Scholarship deadlines may fall before the actual scholarship due date when individuals have to be selected by the LC Scholarship Committee. Please adhere to the LC posted deadline.
3. There are MANY scholarship search engines. Here are ones that our students have used, and more may be posted on the LCHS Counseling website:
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>, www.fastweb.com, www.scholarships.com,
www.uncf.com, raise.me, goingmerry.com
4. All scholarships will require you to file the FAFSA. You and your parents need to file the FAFSA as soon after October 2025 as possible. The final deadline is April 15, 2026.
5. Estimate your college costs by visiting www.indianacollegecosts.org.
6. Colleges list their own scholarships on their websites. Continue to check the scholarships and financial aid pages of the postsecondary institutions you're interested in attending.
7. Create a separate email address dedicated to college planning and scholarship searches. Pick two days during the week to check what scholarship opportunities you've been emailed about, note the requirements and deadlines and **MAKE A PLAN TO APPLY!**
8. Most scholarships will require some sort of personal statement or essay on why you deserve the scholarship you're applying for. Start writing a generic personal statement now that you can revise and tailor toward a specific scholarship application when needed.
9. Some scholarships may require letter of recommendations. Think of two to three adults who can speak toward your academic achievements, character, personal development and any co- or extra-curricular accomplishments you've earned. Be sure to give your recommender at least **TWO WEEKS** to write a strong, compelling recommendation letter for you.
10. ***Scholarship information is FREE.*** You can search for no cost on the internet, at school, and in your local library. If you ever have a question about a scholarship please contact your counselor.

21st Century Scholars

All high school seniors enrolled in the 21st Century Scholars program must complete the following steps to maintain eligibility for the 21st Century Scholarship.



- **Complete the Scholar Success Program by June 30, 2026**
Senior Scholars must complete the Scholar Success Program, 12 activities designed to help students stay on track for college and career success, and track them in their *ScholarTrack* account by June 30, 2026 to earn their Scholarship. Visit <http://scholars.in.gov/> for more information.
- **File the 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 15, 2026**
Senior Scholars must file a completed 2026-2027 FAFSA by April 15, 2026. The FAFSA must be signed by both the student and a parent or legal guardian using individual FSA IDs. The FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature. The FAFSA can be completed at FAFSA.gov. The FAFSA becomes available October 2025 and must be received by the federal processor by April 15, 2026 to maintain Scholarship eligibility. Please note: Senior Scholars must complete the 2026-2027 FAFSA even if they do not plan to enroll in college until the fall 2027 term.
- **Make corrections/updates to 2026-2027 FAFSA by May 15, 2026**
Scholars filing a FAFSA will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) via the email address listed on their FAFSA or delivered to their home address if an email address was not listed. Scholars and parents must review the SAR carefully and make all necessary updates/corrections by the May 15 deadline by visiting FAFSA.gov and logging in to the completed FAFSA using their FSA ID.
- **Achieve a cumulative high school grade-point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 point scale**
Senior Scholars must graduate from high school with at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale. Scholar GPA is automatically reported to the State by their high school.
- **Earn a Core 40 diploma**
Senior Scholars must earn a minimum of a Core 40 diploma from a state-accredited Indiana high school. Other diploma options include Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors and the International Baccalaureate diploma.
- **Apply for admission to an eligible Indiana college, university or technical school**
All high school seniors enrolled in the 21st Century Scholars program are required to apply for admission to an eligible institution of higher education during their senior year of high school. A list of eligible institutions can be found at <http://scholars.in.gov/eligible-colleges/>.
- **Enroll as a full-time student**
Only 21st Century Scholars enrolled as full-time students at an eligible institution can receive the Scholarship, and Scholars must earn 30 credits per year. Senior Scholars graduating during the spring 2025 term must enroll as full-time students no later than the fall semester of 2027 to maintain Scholarship eligibility.

21st Century Scholar students should verify your enrollment information and make updates to any personal information online: <http://scholars.in.gov/>

NCAA Eligibility

Registration Process

A student athlete intending to participate in Division I or Division II athletics as a freshman in college must be registered with and be certified as eligible by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse.

The student athlete should apply for certification his/her junior year in high school. Applications must be completed online at www.eligibilitycenter.org using a credit card or fee waiver for students who received a previous waiver for the SAT or ACT.

Please contact NCAA Customer Service at 1-877-262-1492 between the hours of 8:30 am – 6:00 pm (Monday – Friday) if you have any further questions. Student-Athletes should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center during their junior year if they are being recruited.

NCAA Division I Academic Requirements

- 1) Complete 16 core courses:
 - 4 years of English
 - 3 years of Mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
 - 2 years of Natural/Physical Science (1 year of lab)
 - 1 year of additional English, Mathematics, or Natural/Physical Science
 - 2 years of Social Science
 - 4 years of additional courses (from any aforementioned area, foreign language, or comparative religion/philosophy)
- 2) Ten of the 16 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester (senior year) of high school.
 - Seven of the 10 core courses must be English, math or science.
- 3) Full eligibility: Must have a minimum core-course GPA of 2.3 with a score of 900 (SAT) or 75 (ACT)
Partial eligibility: Must have a minimum core-course GPA of 2.0 with a score of 1020 (SAT) or 86 (ACT)
 - Grades earned in the 10 required courses required before the senior year are “locked in” for purposes of GPA calculation.
 - A repeat of one of the “locked in” courses will not be used to improve the GPA if taken after the seventh semester begins.
- 4) Meet the competition sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/SAT score. Visit the NCAA Eligibility Center website at www.eligibilitycenter.org for specific GPA/testing requirements.
- 5) Graduate from high school.



NCAA Eligibility (cont'd)

NCAA Division II Academic Requirements

- 1) Complete 16 core courses:
 - 3 years of English
 - 2 years of Mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
 - 2 years of Natural/Physical Science (1 year of lab)
 - 3 years of additional English, Mathematics, or Natural/Physical Science
 - 2 years of Social Science
 - 4 years of additional courses (from any aforementioned area, foreign language, or comparative religion/philosophy)

- 2) Have a minimum core-course GPA of 2.0 with a score of 820 (SAT) and 68 (ACT).

Please Note:

- PLATO classes **do not** count toward Division I eligibility determination.

- NCAA Division III students must gain admission to the college, but **do not** have to register with the Eligibility Center.

- NAIA students must register at www.playnaia.org prior to college enrollment, and must have their SAT/ACT scores sent to the NAIA Eligibility Center using the code **9876**. In order to be eligible with NAIA, a student must complete 2 out of the following 3:
 - Have a 2.0 GPA
 - Graduate in top 50% of class
 - Have a minimum 940 on SAT (math & verbal) or minimum 18 composite on the ACT

SAT & ACT Scores

All SAT and ACT scores must be reported directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center by the testing agency. Test scores that appear on transcripts will not be used.

- When registering for the SAT or ACT, use the code of **9999** in the section designated for sending test results to colleges and scholarship agencies to make sure the score is reported to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

- If you have already taken either of these tests but failed to send your scores, you will need to request to have scores sent directly from the testing agency. Rushed reporting is available for meeting deadlines, but there is always an additional fee involved.

Additional Post-secondary Options

Community Colleges

Community colleges are public institutions offering continuing education, granting certifications, diplomas, and associate degrees. After graduating from a community college, some students transfer to a four-year liberal arts college or university for two to three years to complete a bachelor's degree.

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Ivy Tech Community College is Indiana's only full-fledged community college, offering more than 150 programs in the following schools (and offering more than 100 transfer programs with in-state and out-of-state schools):

- School of Business, Logistics, & Supply Chain Management
- School of Public Affairs & Social Services
- School of Information Technology
- School of Arts, Sciences & Education
- School of Health Sciences
- School of Nursing
- School of Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering & Applied Science



<http://www.ivytech.edu>

Ivy Tech offers hands-on experience with some of the state's most advanced technologies and training facilities, plus the convenience of more than 1,000 online classes, and the attention that comes with a small average class size of 22.

Ivy Tech has more than 40 locations, and teaches classes in more than 75 communities. They have grown to become the largest public postsecondary institution in Indiana—and the largest single-accredited statewide community college system in the entire country.

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Vincennes University is Indiana's first college and was founded on the principle that quality education must be affordable and accessible. Situated on the banks of the Wabash River, the campus is over 200 acres offering more than 200 academic programs from 6 colleges within the University:

- College of Business & Public Service
- College of Health Science & Human Performance
- College of Humanities
- College of Science, Engineering & Mathematics
- College of Social Science, Performing Arts & Communication
- College of Technology

Vincennes University is state-supported with campuses in Vincennes and Jasper and additional sites such as Indianapolis, Lebanon, and Gibson County. The Vincennes campus is the only residential campus and features 7 residence halls housing nearly 1,700 students.

Additional Post-secondary Options (cont'd)

Trade Schools

A trade school is a type of educational institution designed to provide technical skills required to perform the tasks of a particular and specific job. Trade schools are traditionally distinguished from colleges by their focus on job-specific training to students who are typically bound for a skilled trade, rather than providing academic training for students pursuing careers in a professional discipline.

Most local trade, business and medical schools are considered proprietary and are for profit. It is always wise to check with the Better Business Bureau (317-488-2222) regarding any history of complaints.

Employment or Training Opportunities

Consider the following resources when looking for employment or training opportunities after high school graduation:

- [Indiana Department of Workforce Development](#)
317-232-6702
- [Indiana Next Level Jobs](#)
866-591-5018
- [Job Corps](#)
800-733-JOBS

Apprenticeship Programs

Apprenticeships allow you to earn college credits and get on-the-job training in one of the fields listed below. This is a great opportunity to learn a valuable trade and possibly earn your associate's degree at the same time.

Insulators

1220 East Epler Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46227
Phone: (317) 786-3216
Email: info@insulators18.com
Website: www.insulators18.org

Boilermakers Local #374

760 N. Union Street
Hobart, IN 46342
Phone: (219) 845-1000
Fax: (219) 845-1065
Website: www.local374.org

Bricklayers Local #4

8455 Moller Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46268
Phone: (800) 322-2830
Fax: (765) 683-9225
Website: www.baclocal4.org

Indiana Council of Carpenters

771 Greenwood Springs Dr.
Greenwood, IN 46143
Phone: (807)-5729
Fax: (317) 807-5729
Website: www.ikorcc.com/local/301

Plasterers, Cement Masons & Shop Hands

3205 E. Thompson Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
Phone: (317) 972-4720
Website: plcmlocal692.org

Indianapolis Electricians

1751 S. Lawndale Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46241
Phone: (317) 270-5282
Website: www.electricaltraininginstitute.org

Glaziers Local Union 1165 Joint Apprenticeship & J

6501 Massachusetts Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
Phone: (317) 542-7565

Iron Workers Joint Apprenticeship

5600 Dividend Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46241
Phone: (317) 635-4766
Website: www.iw22jac.org

Operating Engineers

4277 East CR67.
Anderson, IN 46017
Phone: (765) 378-0013
Website: www.iuoe103training.org

Indiana Laborers and Training Trust Fund

439 Patton Hill Rd.
P.O. Box 758
Bedford, IN 47421
Phone: (812) 279-9751
Website: www.indianalaborers.org

Plumbers, Pipefitters & HVAC

1521 Brookville Crossing Way
Indianapolis, IN 46239
Phone: (317) 856-6426
Fax: (317) 856-0591
Website: www.ualocal440.org

Roofers

2702 South Foltz Street
Indianapolis, IN 46241
Phone: (317) 484-8990
Website: www.indyroofers.com

Sheet Metal Workers

2828 E. 45th Street
PO Box 20530
Indianapolis, IN 46220
Phone: (317) 549-6013
Website: www.smw20.com

Armed Forces

The military provides qualified high school graduates with the opportunity to pursue specialized technical training as well as receive college tuition assistance either during or after enlistment.



Indiana Air National Guard
Phone: 800-TO-GO-ANG
Indiana Army National Guard
Phone: 317-247-3300



United States Air Force Reserve
Phone: 317-576-0491



United States Air Force
Phone: 317-576-0491



United States Coast Guard
Phone: 502-969-4006 x3929



United States Army
Phone: 888-550-ARMY



United Sate Marines Corps
Phone: 317-549-6123



United States Navy
Phone: 317-849-1643



United States Naval Reserve
Phone: 317-272-0013

College & Career Resources

Career Exploration

- [Naviance](#): Career Interest Inventories and Personality Assessment
- Learn More Indiana: <http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/>
- Indiana Job Skills: <http://www.indianaskills.com/>

College Search

- [Naviance SuperMatch](#): Under the Colleges Tab within Naviance
- College Board Big Future: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- National Center for Education Statistics College Navigator: <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Local College Fairs

- **Metropolitan Indianapolis College Fair (IU – Indianapolis Campus Center)**
September 10th from 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- **Hamilton County College Fair (Fishers High School)**
September 11th from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
- **Indy Westside College Fair (Ben Davis High School)**
September 10th from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM



LC Counselor Connection Newsletter

Want to learn about important events, special programs and the latest updates and news from colleges? Be sure to check out the bi-weekly LC Counselor Connection Newsletter at <https://secure.smores.com/n/8r1fh>.

College & Career Resources (cont'd)

Volunteer Opportunities

The motivation to volunteer can be the desire to pass along one's expertise to others, help those who are less fortunate, improve one's knowledge in a field of academia, assist non-English speaking families or simply feel good about your contributions to society. Some of the opportunities available in your community to become a volunteer are listed below:

Children's Museum, www.childrensmuseum.org or 317-334-3832

Lead hands-on educational and craft activities, monitor admission lines, etc.

Community Hospital, www.ecommunity.com or 317-355-5503 (EAST), 317-621-5289 (NORTH), 317-621-8688 (HEART)

Visit patients, answer call lights, play with children in pediatrics, etc.

Humane Society of Indianapolis, www.indyhumane.org or 317-872-5650

Volunteers for animal walking, socializing and kennel cleaning

Indianapolis Public Library, www.imcpl.org or 317-275-4046

Assist with the summer reading program or other duties; Only select branches use volunteers

Indianapolis Zoo, www.indianapoliszoo.com or 317-630-2041

Educate the public about animals or assist zookeepers

Volunteer Connection, www.uwci.org or 317-921-1271

Clearinghouse for volunteer opportunities at United Way agencies

Wellington Theatre Arts Group, 317-255-3279

Provides ushers for 19 theatres, art venues and organizations

Wheeler Mission, www.wmm.org or 317-635-3575

Volunteer servers for their kitchen

Emergent Leadership Institute, www.helpindyonline.com

Connects teens with more than 100 nearby volunteer opportunities

Remember that your volunteerism in the community not only makes you a better person, but may also meet criteria for scholarship money. Some corporations and organizations that require volunteer service hours in their selection process are:

- Best Buy Children's Foundation
- Castleton Sq. /Simon Youth Foundation
- Coca-Cola Scholars program
- Target All-Around Scholarship
- Sam Walton Community Scholarship
- And many more.....

www.bestbuy.com/scholarships

Castleton Square Service Counter

www.coca-colascholars.org

www.target.scholarshipamerica.org

www.walmartfoundation.org

College Catalogue Vocabulary

Types of Colleges

Junior or Two-year Colleges – award associate degrees; have some programs that transfer to four-year schools; have open admission; usually prepare students for technical careers
Examples: Ivy Tech, most Vincennes programs

Liberal Arts Colleges – award associate and bachelor degrees; combine broad education in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences; usually private
Examples: Marian, Wabash, Hanover

Universities – award associate, bachelor, masters, & doctorate degrees; generally larger & offer more majors & more research facilities; usually but not always public (partially supported by the state)
Examples: I.U., Purdue, Ball State, Butler

Proprietary Schools – award certificates and associate degrees; usually privately owned and operated for a profit; offer specialized programs
Examples: International Business College, Kaplan College, Lincoln Tech

Admission Types

Open – admit nearly all interested students who have a high school diploma or GED
Examples: Ivy Tech, Vincennes

Selective – admit students who meet explicit requirements; requirements vary from school to school
Examples: Ball State, Indiana University, Purdue University, University of Indianapolis

Highly Selective – more, sometimes far more, students meet admission requirements and apply than can be accepted; students cannot be sure of admission due to competition
Examples: Notre Dame, Harvard

Other Admission Terms

Rolling Admission – students are admitted or denied as soon as their applications are processed, usually in four to six weeks, until the class is full; most universities have rolling admission
Examples: I.U., Vincennes

Early Decision/Early Action – offered by some competitive colleges and universities; applications required by a specific date in the fall; students are offered or denied admission shortly thereafter

Early Decision – is binding and students admitted ED to a university must attend that university and withdraw all other college applications

Early Action – is non-binding. Early Action students are given an admissions decision early, but are not required to commit to that university

College Catalogue Vocabulary (cont'd)

Types of Degrees

Associate – requires completion of a two-year course of study

Bachelor – also called “baccalaureate”; requires completion of 4-year course of study; graduate receives B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) or B.S. (Bachelor of Science) degree depending on the major area

Graduate – requires completion of a course of study beginning after the bachelor degree
Examples: M.S. or M.A. (Masters of Science or Masters of Arts), M.D. (Medical Doctor), Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy)

Curriculum

Curriculum – courses offered by the school

Common or Core Curriculum – courses all students take, regardless of their major

Major – subject that students do most of their work, especially during the last two years of college

Transfer – either a student who comes to a college after previous study at another college or the courses he/she took at the 1st college; Normally, courses with a grade lower than “C” do not transfer

Credit Hour – the amount of credit given for a course meeting one hour a week for a semester or quarter; typically, a 3-hour course would meet three times per week

Admission Exams

ACT – college admissions test that assesses English, mathematics, science and reading skills; the writing section is optional but recommended (many colleges will require a writing score)

SAT – college admissions test that assesses critical reading, mathematical, and writing aptitudes

Test-Optional – test optional policies give applicants the choice of whether or not to submit their standardized test scores (ACT or SAT) with their application for admission.

Credit by Examination – a program through which some colleges grant course credit based on results of specific tests; these include SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT, CLEP (College-level Examination Program), AP (Advanced Placement), or other examinations

College Academic Calendars

Traditional Semester – 2 approximately equal terms in the school year; courses also offered in summer

Quarter – 3 equal terms of approximately twelve weeks each; the summer can be a fourth quarter

Trimester – calendar year divided into 3 equal terms; the third trimester replaces summer school
4-1-4 – 2 equal terms of approximately sixteen weeks each with a 4-week interim term

College Catalogue Vocabulary (cont'd)

Financial Aid

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – the initial document necessary to apply for financial aid; must be completed and submitted online by April 15 in Indiana; everyone should complete the FAFSA online at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) even if the family does not expect to receive financial aid

Grants – awards based on financial need which do not require repayment; available through the federal government, state agencies, and colleges/universities

Scholarships – awards based on merit, talent, need, or other stated criteria; do not require repayment

Student Loan Program – program by which students can borrow money most often at a low interest rate; some loans may not require repayment until the student graduates or leaves the school

Parent Loan Program – a program by which parents can borrow from a bank or other lending institution for their student's education; repayment generally begins immediately

Work-Study Program – government-supported program which provides part-time jobs to students to help pay college expenses; jobs are awarded to the student by the college's financial aid office

Financial Aid Package – a combination of scholarships, grants, loans and work-study determined by the financial aid office of the college/university and offered to the student and parents