



SCHOLAR SUCCESS GUIDE GRADE 12

A program of the **Indiana Commission for Higher Education**



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.

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.

12 PARENTS of Scholars

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 prepare your child for college and career success while staying on track to earn and maintain their 21st Century Scholarship by using ScholarTrack. The 21st Century Scholarship helps pay tuition, or the cost of attending classes, at Indiana colleges and universities.

What is ScholarTrack?

ScholarTrack is a tool that Scholars use to track their completion of the Scholar Success Program. In high school, each grade has different required program activities that need to be completed by June 30 of that school year. Learn more about the Scholar Success Program and create a ScholarTrack account with your child using the QR code below!

Visit ScholarTrack



<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars>

How can I help my Scholar?

Read through this guide with your Scholar and make a plan together for finishing this year's activities.

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.
- ✓ All grade-level activities must be completed by June 30 following the end of the school year.

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	Watch "Estimate Your College Costs"
11	Visit a College Campus	Take a College Entrance Exam (ACT or 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.

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GRADE 12 CHECKLIST

What steps must you take now to achieve your goals?

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

In the following pages, we'll walk you through each step and direct you to resources to help you check them off your list and continue your way to success!



Submit your College Application

You won't be going to college if you don't first apply to attend. Here you'll choose the college you want to attend, get everything together for your application and apply!



Watch "College Success 101"

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 might have about college life.



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 it out to receive any financial aid from your school, including your 21st Century Scholarship.

STAY ON TRACK WITH SCHOLARTRACK

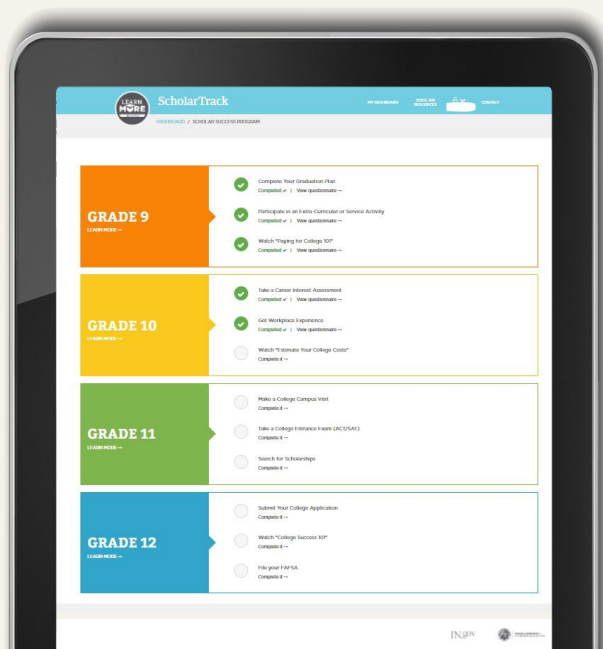
ScholarTrack is an online tool that will guide you through the Scholar Success Program. You'll be able to manage your progress throughout high school and college and find resources to help you complete the requirements.

Keep your contact information updated

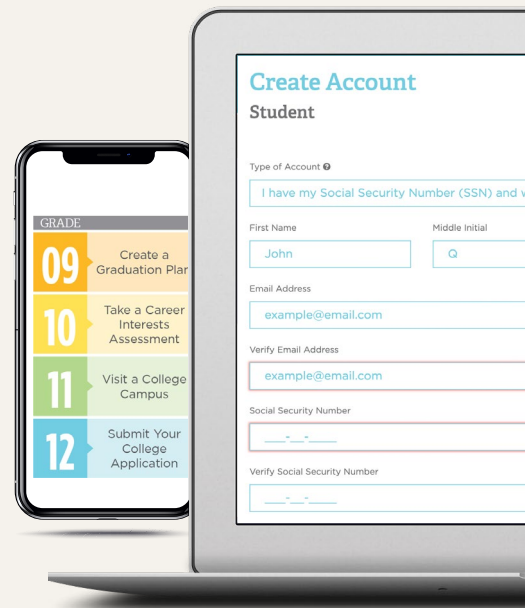
Each year, you will receive information and resources to help you stay on track. If your contact information changes or you change schools, log in to your ScholarTrack account and make the necessary updates.

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, friend's house or talk to a parent or teacher/counselor for help finding internet access. ScholarTrack is also available on your smartphone.



GET STARTED ON SCHOLARTRACK



ScholarTrack.IN.gov

GET STARTED

Go to **ScholarTrack.IN.gov**. Register for an account and select "I am a student." Students should be prepared to enter their name, date of birth, email address and Social Security Number (SSN) or Scholar ID.

CREATE AN ACCOUNT

Students can create a full or limited account. Full accounts, which require a SSN, grant access to all of ScholarTrack. Limited accounts, which require a Scholar ID, only grant access to the Scholar Success Program. Upgrade to a full account by adding a SSN at any time.

START TRACKING

From the dashboard, select "Scholar Success Program" under the "State Aid Resources" tab and complete the required Scholar Success Program activities in each grade of high school.

Submit your College Application

Applying to a perspective school is one of the biggest steps you'll take to achieve your career goals.

Where should I start?

To start the process, you'll need to create a short list of schools you want to attend. After you have an idea of the schools you want to attend,

- 1. Make** a list of application deadlines and requirements for each school you are interested in attending.
- 2. Meet** with your school counselor to ensure you have met all the admissions requirements. Also, if you took AP or dual credit courses, talk to your counselor and visit TransferIN.net to learn how those will transfer.

The Application

While college applications vary, most have similar requirements. Below is a list of basic application requirements, but make sure to check with your specific school's needs.

BASIC INFORMATION. This includes things like your name, address, phone number and your parent or guardian's information.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT. You can request this from your school counselor or electronically for free using Parchment (exchange.parchment.com).

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION. These may be from teachers, coaches, mentors or other adults in your life.

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES. Depending on the school you are applying to, you may be asked to submit ACT or SAT scores.

ESSAY, PERSONAL STATEMENT OR WRITING SAMPLE. Your writing is one way for college admissions staff to get to know you personally.

Get started

- 1. LOG IN** to your ScholarTrack account at **ScholarTrack.IN.gov** and select "Scholar Success Program" under the "State Aid Resources" tab.
- 2. CLICK** on "Visit a College Campus" and preview the questions you'll need to answer about your activity.
- 3. APPLY** to your short list of interested schools. Any time during the process, talk to your parent/guardian, counselor or school's admissions department if you have any questions.
- 4. RETURN** to your ScholarTrack account and follow steps 1 and 2 to submit your answers after your campus visit.

Complete the requirement



<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars>

Additional resources to help submit your college application



Applying to Schools

<https://learnmoreindiana.org/college/applying-to-schools/>



Tips for Writing an Effective Application Essay

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college/your-college-application/write-your-essay/tips-for-writing-an-effective-application-essay>

12 Watch “College Success 101”

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

What are examples of ways I can be successful in college?

TAKE A FULL SEMESTER OF CLASSES. You must complete 30 credit hours per academic year to remain eligible for your 21st Century Scholarship. Talk with your academic advisor for more information.

EXPLORE FIRST-YEAR PROGRAMS. These programs help new students settle into campus life and have meaningful college experiences.

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

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES. Schools have a variety of resources students can use. Visit [Scholars.IN.gov/students/college](https://scholars.in.gov/students/college) to view the resources your school provides specifically for being a 21st Century Scholar.



Get started

1. **LOG IN** to your ScholarTrack account at **ScholarTrack.IN.gov** and click “Watch ‘College Success 101’”.

Complete the requirement



<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars>

After watching “College Success 101”

Talk to your school counselor or teachers if you have any questions about transitioning to college or being successful in college. You can also contact staff at your college or university you plan on attending or the Financial Aid Support Center at **888-528-4719** or **Scholars@che.IN.gov**.

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File your FAFSA

Filing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, makes you eligible to receive your 21st Century Scholarship and other state, federal or college aid.

When does the FAFSA need to be completed?

The FAFSA opens on October 1, and the federal processor must receive all FAFSA forms by April 15 to be eligible for Indiana state financial aid, including your 21st Century Scholarship. Remember that some colleges set financial aid deadlines earlier than **April 15**. Check with the financial aid offices at the schools you apply to for deadline information.

Getting everything ready

The FAFSA takes approximately 30 minutes to fill out. Having all the information and documents you'll need ready will help make the process as smooth and efficient as possible.



Getting your FSA ID (Parent and Student)

<https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out>



Document needed to file the FAFSA

<https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out#gathering-the-documents-needed-to-apply>



Guide to filling out the FAFSA

<https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out#getting-help>

Get started

- 1.** **LOG IN** to your ScholarTrack account at **ScholarTrack.IN.gov** and select “Scholar Success Program” under the “State Aid Resources” tab.
- 2.** **CLICK** on “File your FAFSA” and preview the questions you’ll need to answer about your activity.
- 3.** **FILE** your FAFSA by visiting <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Remember, you and your parent/guardian have sections to fill out.
- 4.** **RETURN** to your ScholarTrack account and follow steps 1 and 2 to submit your answers after completing your FAFSA.

Complete the requirement



<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars>

Need help with your FAFSA?

Never pay for help! There are free resources available to help you complete your FAFSA.

Talk to your school counselor about school financial aid nights and FAFSA events.

INvestED offers help filling out the FAFSA to any Hoosier family - Visit INvestEdIndiana.org

FAFSA On the Web offers walk-through guides and worksheets to help you through the process - Visit <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out#getting-help>

Contact 21st Century Scholars Financial Aid Support Staff

Phone: 888-528-4719 | Email: Scholars@che.IN.gov

RESOURCES

School Counselors

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

Contact Scholars.IN.gov

Website: [Scholars.IN.gov/students/high-school/#12th-grade](https://scholars.in.gov/students/high-school/#12th-grade).

Phone: 888-528-4719

Email: Scholars@che.IN.gov

Regional Outreach Coordinators:
[Scholars.IN.gov/contact-us](https://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 and post-high school education and career resources.



Facebook.com/LearnMoreIN



[@LearnMoreIndiana](https://www.instagram.com/@LearnMoreIndiana)



Twitter.com/LearnMoreIN



[@learnmoreindiana](https://www.tiktok.com/@learnmoreindiana)



YouTube.com/LearnMoreIN

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 your senior or last year of high school and each year (minus your last year) that you are enrolled in 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 they 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 are still eligible for your scholarship as long as your cumulative GPA is at least 2.5 on a 4 point scale at the time of graduation. A cumulative GPA is the average of all your grades during all your semesters of high school.

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 at least 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. Your scholarship cannot be awarded until all activities are complete.

Am I still eligible for my scholarship if I take a gap year?

Yes, but you must be enrolled in a post-secondary education institution no later than a year after you graduate high school.



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/2022



INDIANA COMMISSION for
HIGHER EDUCATION