

Senior Bulletin #1
September 18, 2020

TESTING

There are several test administrations of both the SAT and the ACT yet available during the first semester. If you have had trouble securing an SAT date due to cancellations, please try registering for the ACT. The SAT and ACT are administered at various local high schools. The cost for the SAT is \$52; the ACT costs \$55. You do not need to take the optional essay for either test. Registration is available online at: SAT: www.collegeboard.org and ACT: www.actstudent.org. *Test fee waivers are available in the guidance office for students who qualify for free- or reduced-lunches and for students who are 21st Century Scholars. See your school counselor for a waiver.*

School Code: 151082

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Test</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
	SAT	
October 3		Late Registration September 22 (fees apply)
November 7		October 7
December 5		November 5
	ACT	
October 10		September 25
October 17		September 25
October 24		September 25
October 25 (Sunday)		September 25
December 12		November 6
February 6		January 8

Notes Regarding Testing

1. If you are pursuing the **Academic Honors Diploma** and you are **not** taking two AP/college classes, you must earn at least 1250 SAT (minimum score of 590 on Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing and 560 on Math) or a 26 ACT composite
2. Be sure to have your test score sent all schools you are applying to. Even if you have your scores sent to a school, it does not mean you cannot apply test-optional. If you indicate you are applying test-optional on the application, the college will not consider your scores in the admission process.
3. If you are registered or will register with the NCAA Eligibility Center to participate in Division I or II college athletics, they are not requiring test scores this year to determine eligibility.
4. If you plan to participate in college athletics at the NAIA level, you must register with the NAIA and have your test scores sent directly to them. The NAIA school code for the SAT and ACT is 9876.

TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS

As a result of many test administration cancellations, many colleges have implemented a Test-Optional policy for admission. Test-Optional means you decide if your test scores will be used in the admission process for that particular school. For test-optional schools, we recommend that you read each school's explanation of the policy on their admissions webpage. Pay special attention to the statistics posted regarding the average SAT and ACT scores of admitted freshman students. This will help you know how your test scores compare to those of admitted students. If you indicate that you do not want your test scores used in the admission process, the academic focus of your application will be on the level of rigor of the courses you have taken, how you have performed in courses related to your intended major, grade trends (consistency, improvement) and your overall GPA. If you need help deciding whether to use your test scores or not, please talk to your school counselor.

COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK – NEXT WEEK!!

September 21-25 is celebrated as National College Application Week. In Indiana, this initiative is called College Go Week, and it is designed to encourage high school seniors to work on and submit college applications. In recognition of this week, *the following schools will be waiving their application fee: IU Fort Wayne, Purdue Fort Wayne, IUPUI, Huntington University, Indiana State University, University of Southern Indiana, Vincennes University, and Wabash College.* The following schools' online applications are always free: Anderson University, Bethel College, Butler

University, DePauw University, Earlham College, Franklin College, Grace College, Goshen College, Hanover College, Holy Cross College, Indiana Tech, Indiana Wesleyan University, Ivy Tech, Manchester University, Marian University, Saint Mary's College, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Taylor University, Trine University, University of Evansville, University of Indianapolis, University of St. Francis, and Valparaiso University.

COLLEGE APPLICATION TIMEFRAMES

As you have probably encountered, colleges and universities use a variety of processes to admit students. Below are a few of the terms used regarding application types and timeframes. If you have questions regarding the best time to apply to a specific school, please consult your counselor.

Rolling Decision (ROLL): Applications are processed as they are received. Notification of a decision will be within a couple of weeks to months, depending on the time of year. Schools that use this application process typically have a pre-determined set of academic standards students must meet.

Early Decision (ED): This is a legally binding application period and is the earliest possible application period. Students may apply to only **one** school ED and should apply only if they are absolutely committed to attending that school if admitted. Some selective schools may further restrict students from applying to any other school during their Early Application period. Be sure to read and understand each school's policy. An ED form must be signed by the student, a parent, and the counselor and submitted at the time of application.

Early Action (EA): This is the earliest non-binding application period. The deadline for EA is usually in November, and notification of a decision is usually in December. Schools that use this application employ a holistic approach and determine the standards for admission based on the quality of the applicant pool as a whole.

Restrictive Early Action (REA): Students applying Restrictive Early Action to a school *may not* apply to any other college or university during their *binding Early Decision* process. Some selective schools may further restrict students from applying to any other school during their Early Application period. Be sure to read and understand each school's policy. Notre Dame utilizes Restrictive Early Action.

Regular Decision (RD): This is the later, non-binding application period. The deadline for RD is usually December 31 or later, and notification is in March or April. Schools that use this application employ a holistic approach and determine the standards for admission based on the quality of the applicant pool as a whole.

VIRTUAL COLLEGE VISITS

We will not be hosting college representatives in the building this semester to visit with prospective students. Therefore, many representatives are hosting virtual meetings. It is important that you take the time to attend these meetings, if possible. In most cases, these college reps are the people who will be reading your application when you apply to their institution. Not only do you get information regarding a school, but you also are demonstrating your level of interest in that school. Attending virtual events hosted by colleges is always a good use of your time. Please pay attention to your Canvas notifications regarding upcoming events.

DUAL-CREDIT COLLEGE CLASSES FOR SENIORS

If you are taking a dual credit class through PFW next semester, including ENG 131 Reading, Writing, and Inquiry, PHIL 110 Intro to Philosophy, and/or CS 112 Survey of Computer Science, you need to complete the application process for PFW's Collegiate Connection program. (If you are currently in a PFW class this semester, you are already admitted and do not need to apply again.) The application is available at <https://www.pfw.edu/offices/cc/apply/>. Read the instructions on each page and be sure to complete the **Course Request Form** after you have submitted your application. You will also need to submit a parent permission form, which is available at <https://www.pfw.edu/offices/cc/docs/Parent-Permission-Form-2020-2021.pdf>. **Cost for the ENG131 and CS 112 classes is \$75, and cost for the PHIL 110 is \$315.30. Fees will be due to PFW by the second week of class in January.**

Students may also take dual-credit courses through **Ivy Tech**. Ivy Tech courses cost approximately \$450, plus the cost of books and tech fees. Visit <https://www.ivytech.edu/fortwayne/> for more information and to apply.

Indiana Tech offers an Early Start program for high school students to take courses for \$25 per credit hour, or \$75 per course, plus the cost of books. A variety of general education courses are available online and in traditional classroom

settings. You can complete your application now at www.IndianaTech.edu/EarlyStart. **Be sure to use an email address that you check frequently.**

COLLEGE BOUND STUDENT/ATHLETES

Students planning to play NCAA Division I or II athletics need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center after the completion of the junior year. **Register online at <http://eligibilitycenter.org>.** The cost to register is \$90. Fee waivers are available for students who used a fee waiver to take the SAT or ACT, and you may request one when registering. Please let Miss McGuire know when you have submitted a request for a fee waiver. Carefully read the rules and regulations the NCAA has established regarding prospective college athletes and the eligibility standards. **Due to the pandemic and numerous testing issues, the NCAA is not requiring SAT and ACT scores for eligibility consideration this year.** If you have any questions, please see Miss McGuire.

Students who plan to participate in athletics at the NAIA level must register with the NAIA at www.playnaia.org. The fee to register is \$80. Once you have registered, submit the NAIA transcript request form to the guidance office. Students who qualify for free/reduced lunches may receive a fee waiver to register. See Miss McGuire for a waiver. You must also have your standardized test scores sent to the NAIA using code 9876 when registering for the SAT or ACT. **To be eligible to play NAIA athletics, you must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 AND an SAT score of 970 (EBRW+ Math) OR an ACT score of 18.**

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The **University of Cincinnati** has established an Indiana/Ohio Reciprocity Agreement, which will allow students living in Allen, Adams, DeKalb, Steuben, Noble, or Wells counties to attend at Ohio-resident tuition rates. This is an annual savings of approximately \$14,500. (The offer excludes students enrolling in the nursing program or college of pharmacy's doctor of pharmacy program.) After being accepted to U of C, students must submit the required documentation to receive in-state tuition. SAT/ACT test scores must be sent directly from the testing agencies to Uof C. For more information, visit <https://admissions.uc.edu/tuition-aid/kyin.html>.

The **Midwest Student Exchange Program** is a tuition reduction program that makes attending our-of-state colleges and universities more affordable for non-resident students. States with participating schools include Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Visit <http://msep.mhec.org> for a list of participating institutions.

Scholarship Name: Indiana State University Gongaware Scholarship

Criteria: Plan to attend Indiana State University to major in business, have a GPA of 3.5 and SAT of 1140 OR ACT of 23.

Amount: Full tuition, a laptop computer, and \$3,000 stipend to be used for professional development (study abroad)

Deadline: December 15. For information on this and all other ISU scholarships for incoming freshmen, visit <https://www.indstate.edu/scholarships/freshman/gongaware>.

Scholarship Name: Coca-Cola Scholarship

Criteria: 3.0 GPA and extensive community and extracurricular activity involvement

Amount: \$4,000 - \$20,000 over four year

Deadline: apply online at <https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/ccsf> by October 31

Scholarship Name: Indiana University Merit Scholarships – these scholarships are awarded to high-achieving students who apply for admission to Indiana University by the priority deadline of **November 1, 2020**. All required documents and forms must be submitted by this deadline. Students may submit additional SAT and ACT scores for further scholarship consideration through **January 15, 2021**. Be sure to have your test scores sent directly to IU from the testing agencies. Students who meet initial eligibility criteria will be invited to complete the online Selective Scholarship Application (SSA). Notification of a student's eligibility to apply for Selective Scholarships will be offered via email and in the admission packet.

Scholarship Name: Purdue University Merit Scholarships

All students who complete the Purdue admission application by **November 1, 2020** and who are admitted, will be considered for scholarships. These awards are limited in number and the award process is competitive. All information associated with the admission application is reviewed for scholarship consideration. The following factors are considered in the awarding of scholarships: Grades in **core academic coursework** and strength of the high school curriculum; Grades

in coursework that are critical to success in intended major ; SAT or ACT scores ; Evidence of commitment to the academic program to which the student has applied; Application essay; Evidence of leadership, service, and other accomplishments, activities, and awards; Personal background and experiences; and Letters of recommendation.

Scholarship Name: Horatio Alger Scholarship

Criteria: Applicants must demonstrate critical financial need (such as being enrolled in the free/reduced lunch program), plan to attend college to earn a bachelor's degree, and display integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity.

Amount: \$10,000-35,000

Deadline: application is available at scholars.horatioalger.org and is due on October 25.

Scholarship Name: Elks National Most Valuable Student Scholarship

Criteria: Plan to pursue a post-secondary education

Amount: \$4,000 – 60,000 over four years

Deadline: application is available at www.elks.org/enf/scholars/mvs.cfm and is due by November 15.

ONLINE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES

Do not limit your scholarship search to those publicized in the Senior Bulletins. 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 the website of any college to which to apply for scholarship opportunities for incoming freshmen.
2. Naviance has a National Scholarship Search link 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.weeklyscholarshipalert.com, www.collegeprowler.com, www.college-scholarships.com, www.cappex.com, www.studentscholarships.org, www.scholarshipexperts.com, and www.findtuition.com.

Never pay for a scholarship search nor to apply for a scholarship.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Families of seniors attending college next year should plan to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to secure need-based aid. Need-based financial aid includes loans, grants, and work-based study options. The filing window for the FAFSA in Indiana is October 1, 2020 - April 15, 2021. The FAFSA is submitted online and is available at fafsa.ed.gov. FAFSA requires parent and student tax information from 2019.

The Bishop Dwenger Guidance Department typically hosts an in-person financial aid night for the parents of college-bound seniors in October. This year, many of the local financial aid experts will be hosting virtual information sessions. We will pass information along as it becomes available. A financial aid night will be hosted by Questa Education Foundation on **Thursday, September 24 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**. Topics include the Questa Scholars Program (a local loan forgiveness opportunity), a FAFSA presentation, and a Q & A session. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.questafoundation.org/events>

SENIOR INFORMATION SHEET

If you have not yet completed your Senior Information Sheet, please do so as soon as possible. The Senior Information Sheet can be found in Canvas under the Guidance Department module in BDHS Seniors. Your school counselor needs this information to complete sections of the Common App. Transcript requests to Common App schools will not be submitted until you complete this sheet.

TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

This is a reminder that when you are applying to a school using the Common Application, you must be sure to MATCH your Common App account with your Naviance account. You must also be sure to indicate that you're submitting the application via Common App. If you do not take these steps, **WE CANNOT SEND YOUR TRANSCRIPT TO ANY OF THOSE SCHOOLS.** If you need any assistance with the use of Naviance or the Common App, please see your counselor. Be sure to bring your laptop with you.