

February Senior Bulletin

February 9, 2026

Financial Aid – 2026-27 FAFSA

Families of seniors attending college next year should plan to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) **2026-27** to secure need-based aid. Need-based financial aid includes loans, grants, scholarships, and work-based study. The filing window for the **2026-27 FAFSA** in Indiana is October 1, 2025 - April 15, 2026. Please note that colleges/universities typically have an earlier deadline. It is recommended that FAFSA be completed as early as possible. The FAFSA is submitted online and is available at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> and requires parent and student tax information from 2024. To complete a **2026-27 FAFSA**, you will need a student and a parent FSA ID, one for each. Create these at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>. Once you have your FSA IDs you are ready to complete FAFSA at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Below is information regarding FAFSA completion support.

Watch the Video on How to Create your FSA ID: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTb7hMVtzco>

Watch the Video on How to Complete the FAFSA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=875Rbg6uca0>

PFW FAFSA Completion Events: Throughout the next several months, PFW will offer individual support to families completing the 2026-27 FAFSA, regardless of which college the student plans to attend. This is a service PFW provides to the community. Also, the student and a parent will need to each get an FSA ID prior to attending. For more information and to register to attend any of the upcoming events, visit https://apply.pfw.edu/portal/fafsa-events?_ga=2.178535974.30593742.1761571969-1305279878.1724686937.

College Goal Sunday: College Goal Sunday is a state-wide initiative to help families complete the 2026-27 FAFSA. One-on-one help is provided, and Spanish speaking experts will be available. College Goal Sunday will be held on Sunday, February 22 at Ivy Tech at 3800 N Anthony Blvd. from 2:00-4:00. Families are asked to bring 2024 tax return forms, FSA IDs, and any other relevant information with them.

Financial Aid – CSS Profile

There are several private colleges that require you to file a **CSS Profile** in addition to the FAFSA. CSS Profile registration forms are available online at www.collegeboard.org. Please note that there is a fee to submit the CSS Profile.

Net Price Calculator

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

Types of Financial Aid

After you submit your FAFSA, the colleges you listed will soon be sending a Financial Aid Award letter to you. This will include the financial aid package the college is offering you. Please carefully read all the information and respond according to their requests. Make sure you fully understand the types of aid you are being offered and discuss with your parents what you should accept or decline. You are not obliged to accept all

that you are offered.

Types of financial aid typically offered

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

Work-study – secured employment on campus

Loans – money that is borrowed that must be paid back, with interest

Loans

To cover the cost of your education, you may need to secure loans. A loan is a sum of money that you borrow and must eventually pay back, with interest. Any debt accumulated throughout your college career must be paid back to the lender. Keep this in mind when you are accepting/declining the loans offered to you. Visit the website <http://www.finaid.org/calculators/loanpayments.phtml> to help you determine what the monthly payments will be for your loans. Below is an example of the overall cost of borrowing \$25,000.

Loan Balance:	\$25,000.00
Loan Interest Rate:	6.53%
Loan Fees:	0.00%
Loan Term:	10 years
Minimum Payment:	\$50.00
Degree Program:	Bachelor's Degree
Total Years in College:	4 years
Average Debt per Year:	\$6,250.00
Monthly Loan Payment:	\$284.54
Number of Payments:	120
Cumulative Payments:	\$34,110.29
Interest Paid	\$9,110.29

When borrowing money, always remember to:

Max out your federal aid before you consider the private option. Federal aid often comes with lower interest rates and more favorable lending terms, so fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if you haven't already. **The FAFSA deadline is April 15!**

Know how much to borrow. One of the most expensive mistakes you can make is borrowing too much money. Budget for all your costs and know that borrowed money should ONLY be used for school-related necessities, not for trips, entertainment, or clothing.

Keep your expected costs down. The less money you plan on spending, the less money you have to borrow. The rule here? Make a budget and stick to it.

Know your borrower's benefits. Private lenders offer various benefits to borrowers. Some provide interest rate discounts for enrolling in auto-repayment or for students who've made a certain number of on-time consecutive payments. Some lenders even cut your premium by a percentage point or two when you graduate. The key here: know what's offered ahead of time and calculate those benefits into your total cost.

Scholarships

The following scholarships are currently available through the guidance office. Please see Mrs. Stefanek for paper applications. **You are responsible for meeting the deadlines.**

Scholarship Name: Marian University Diocesan Employee Family Guarantee

Criteria: Must be the dependent of an employee who works full-time for the Catholic diocese, including parishes, schools, and social services.

Amount: Half-tuition for four years

Deadline: application is available at <https://www.marian.edu/admissions/financial-aid/first-year-scholarships/scholarships/diocesan-employee-family-guarantee>.

Scholarship Name: PHP (Physicians Health Plan) Scholarship

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

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

Deadline: The paper application is available at <https://public.powerdms.com/PHPNI/documents/1717019> and must be postmarked by February 20.

Scholarship Name: Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship

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

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

Deadline: Instructions for the application process are available at <http://www.in.gov/che/4680.htm>. You are required to create a Full Account with Scholar Track. If you are a 21st Century Scholar, you will use your current Scholar Track account, but you must change it to a Full Account. The application is due on February 28.

Scholarship Name: Ducks Unlimited Scholarship

Criteria: Must be a member of Ducks Unlimited and have a 2.8 GPA and plan to pursue a post-secondary education.

Amount: \$500-10,000

Deadline: The application is available at <https://www.ducks.org/get-involved/youth-programs/du-varsity/du-national-scholarship-application> and is due on March 1.

Scholarship Name: AFA Teen Alzheimer's Awareness Scholarship

Criteria: Must submit an essay or video describing out Alzheimer's has impacted you and/or your family.

Amount: up to \$5,000

Deadline: The application is available at www.alzfdn.org/scholarship and is due on March 1.

Scholarship Name: Paul and Madelyn Sagstetter Scholarship

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

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

Deadline: The application portal is available at www.csascholars.org/sagstetter and all materials must be received by March 5. After your application is submitted, you will be given a list of additional documents that must be submitted by mail or email, including your transcript. All materials must be received by March 5. As soon as possible, but no later than February 20, please let Mrs. Stefanek know that you will need a transcript. **Please note that the funds for this scholarship may not be awarded until the fall of 2026.

Scholarship Name: BBB Students of integrity Scholarships

Criteria: Varies by scholarship. Please read the criteria as posted on the website.

Amount: \$2,000

Deadline: The scholarships are available at <https://www.bbb.org/local/0352/students-of-integrity.html> and are due on March 8.

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

Criteria: Must have a 2.75 GPA if you plan to attend a 4-year college or a 2.5 GPA if you plan to attend a 2-year college. I must plan to attend a college in Indiana.

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

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

Scholarship Name: John H. Noll Scholarship

Criteria: This scholarship is designed for the average student. You must have a GPA between 2.0 and 3.5. Financial need is also considered.

Amount: Varies by student; renewable up to four years. Multiple scholarships will be awarded to BD students.

Deadline: The application is available at <http://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/johnnoll/> and is due on March 18.

Scholarship Name: Notre Dame Federal Credit Union Scholarship

Criteria: Applicant or parent of applicant must be a member of the Notre Dame Credit Union. Must plan to attend any accredited college or university.

Amount: \$1,500

Deadline: The application is available at www.NotreDameFCU.com/scholarship and is due on March 20.

Scholarship Name: Evans-Moss Scholarship

Criteria: 3.6 GPA; strong moral character, extracurricular activities, and demonstrate financial need

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

Deadline: The application portal is available at www.csascholars.org/moss and must be submitted by March 23. After your application is submitted, you will be given a list of additional materials that must be submitted by mail, including your transcript. All materials must be received by March 23. As soon as possible, but no later than March 13, please let Mrs. Stefanek know that you will need a transcript and class rank verification letter for your application. ****Please note that funds for this scholarship may not be awarded until fall of 2026.**

Scholarship Name: EH Kilbourne Scholarship

Criteria: 3.6 GPA; demonstrate leadership skills, good moral character and religious affiliation, and plan to pursue a 4-year degree

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

Deadline: The application portal is available at www.csascholars.org/kilbourne and must be received by

March 23. After your application is submitted, you will be given a list of additional materials that must be submitted by mail or email, including your transcript. All materials must be received by March 23. As soon as possible, but no later than March 13, please let Mrs. Stefanek know that you will need a transcript and class rank verification letter for your application. **Please note that the funds for this scholarship may not be awarded until the fall of 2026.

Scholarship Name: Eugene Kimmel Scholarship

Criteria: 3.6 GPA; be a Catholic high school student planning to attend any four-year college or university

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

Deadline: **The application portal is available at www.csascholars.org/kimmel and must be submitted by March 23. After your application is submitted, you will be given a list of additional materials that must be submitted by mail, including your transcript. All materials must be received by March 23. As soon as possible, but no later than March 13, please let Mrs. Stefanek know that you will need a transcript and class rank verification letter for your application. **Please note that the funds for this scholarship may not be awarded until fall of 2026.**

Scholarship Name: IU Credit Union Scholarship

Criteria: Applicant must have at least a 3.25 GPA and applicant or parent of applicant must be a member of the IU Credit Union. Must plan to attend any accredited college or university.

Amount: \$1,500

Deadline: Visit https://www.iucu.org/personal/pdf/High_School_Student_Application_2026-2027.pdf. **The application is on March 28.**

Scholarship Name: Gertrude B. Eckrich Scholarship

Criteria: Students attending a Catholic high school who plan to attend a Catholic college or university. Students must also be members of the Roman Catholic faith to apply.

Amount: Varies; multiple scholarships will be awarded

Deadline: **BD will have multiple recipients for this scholarship. Applications are due by April 1. This is due during our Spring Break, so plan accordingly. Create an account to complete the application at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=cfgfwscholarships>. Click on the Apply button in the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayn box to get started.**

Scholarship Name: Indiana Sheriffs' Association Scholarship

Criteria: Applicant must plan to pursue an education and career in a law enforcement field and must be a member of or the child/grandchild of a member of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association. If you are not currently a member of the association, an application for membership is available with the application for the scholarship.

Amount: \$750; 40 scholarships will be awarded statewide

Deadline: **The application is available at <https://indianasheriffs.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/ISA-Scholarship-Application-2026.pdf> and is due April 1, which is during Spring Break.**

Scholarship Name: National Catholic College Admission Association (CCAA) Scholarship

Criteria: Plan to attend a CCAA member school. Most Catholic colleges are members, but a complete list of members can be found at the website listed below.

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: **The application is available online at <http://www.catholiccollegesonline.org/students-parents/financial-aid/nccaa-scholarship.html>. Applications must be submitted by April 1, which is during Spring Break.**

Scholarship Name: Grace Hogan Scholarship

Criteria: Scholastic achievement, character, financial need, and potential to achieve a college education will be considered

Amount: Varies; multiple scholarships will be awarded

Deadline: BD will have multiple recipients for this scholarship. Application is available online at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=cfgfwscholarships> and is due on April 1. This is due during our Spring Break, so plan accordingly. Click on the Apply button in the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne box to get started.

Scholarship Name: Marie C. Koester Scholarship

Criteria: Must attend a Catholic high school and plan to attend the University of St. Francis.

Amount: Varies

Deadline: BD will have multiple recipients for this scholarship. Application is available online at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=cfgfwscholarships> and is due on April 1. This is due during our Spring Break, so plan accordingly. Click on the Apply button in the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne box to get started.

Scholarship Name: Robert C. Batchelder, DDS Scholarship

Criteria: Must have a 3.0 GPA and plan to attend either IUFW, IUPUI, or IU Bloomington to pursue a career in the dental field.

Amount: \$5000

Deadline: Application is available online and is due by April 1, which is during Spring Break. To access the application visit <https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=cfgfwscholarships>. Click on the Apply button in the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne box to get started.

Scholarship Name: Fort Wayne Firefighters Fraternal Benefit Association Scholarship

Criteria: Must be the child or stepchild of an active or pensioned Fort Wayne Fire Department employee.

Amount: Not yet determined

Deadline: Visit <https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=cfgfwscholarships>. The application is due by April 1, which is during Spring Break. Click on the Apply button in the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne box to get started.

Scholarship Name: Central Catholic High School Alumni Association Award

Criteria: Must submit an essay regarding what your Catholic education has meant to you.

Amount: \$500

Deadline: Paper applications are available in the guidance office and are due April 15.

Scholarship Name: Joan and William Brandt Memorial Scholarship

Criteria: Must plan to pursue an education and career in the healthcare profession. Essay required.

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: Paper application is available in the guidance office and is due by April 15.

Scholarship Name: Ivy Tech Scholarships

Criteria and Amount: Varies

Visit <https://www.ivytech.edu/financial-aid/scholarships.html> for instructions for how to apply.

Scholarship Name: Ivy Tech NEIFAME – Northeast Indiana Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education

Criteria: Have an interest in working while earning a degree in Advanced Manufacturing at Ivy Tech. This opportunity will connect students with employers in the community that will provide financial support,

mentoring, and paid work experience while the student is pursuing a two-year degree.

Deadline: Visit <https://neinfame.com/> for more information and to apply.

Scholarships Awarded by Colleges and Universities

Once you've been admitted to a college or university, exhaust all possibilities for scholarships and financial aid offered through that school. Most schools offer merit scholarships based on your academic record submitted for admission. However, there are also other scholarships offered that may require supplemental applications. Search the financial aid and/or scholarship portions of the school's website for departmental, talent, service, and leadership scholarships for incoming freshmen. The scholarships offered by the colleges and universities tend to be generous and renewable for up to four years. Below are links to the scholarship webpages for local and common colleges.

Purdue Fort Wayne - <https://www.pfw.edu/admissions-financial-aid/financial-aid/types-financial-aid>

Ivy Tech Fort Wayne - <https://www.ivytech.edu/tuition-aid/financial-aid/scholarships/>

University of Saint Francis - <https://www.sf.edu/cost-and-aid/scholarships/>

Indiana Tech - <https://financialservices.indianatech.edu/scholarships/undergrad/>

Ball State University - <https://www.bsu.edu/admissions/financial-aid-and-scholarships/types/scholarships>

Indiana University Bloomington - <https://scholarships.indiana.edu/future-scholars/iu-scholarships/index.html>

Purdue University - <https://admissions.purdue.edu/costsandfinaid/freshman.php>

Where to Find Scholarships

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

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

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

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

Clubs/organizations to which parents belong: Many organizations offer scholarships/grants to members' dependents. Check with club officers or the national/state chapter.

Online Scholarship Opportunities

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

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

www.fastweb.com

www.collegeboard.org

www.college-scholarships.com

www.cappex.com

www.scholarships.com

www.learnmoreindiana.org

www.finaid.org

www.commonapp.org

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