

## **January Senior Bulletin**

January 12, 2026

### **Admissions Decisions**

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

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

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

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

### **First Semester Transcripts**

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

### **Financial Aid – 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](https://apply.pfw.edu/portal/fafsa-events?_ga=2.178535974.30593742.1761571969-1305279878.1724686937).

## **Financial Aid – CSS Profile**

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

## **Financial Aid Award Letters**

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

### **Types of financial aid typically offered**

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

***Work-study – secured employment on campus***

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

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

## **Scholarships**

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

***Scholarship Name:*** 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.

***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 21<sup>st</sup> 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:*** Beacon Credit Union Scholarship

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

***Amount:*** \$2,500

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

***Scholarship Name:*** Lawrence A. Ackerman Scholarship

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

***Amount:*** \$2,000

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

**Scholarship Name:** PHP (Physicians Health Plan) Scholarship

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Deadline:** Student must complete a FAFSA before submitting this application. The application is available at <https://www.questafoundation.org/traditional-scholars-program>. The application window is open from January 15-March 15.

**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 the amount of funds available.

**Deadline:** The application portal is available at [www.csascholars.org/sagstetter](http://www.csascholars.org/sagstetter) and must be received by March 5. 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 5. As soon as possible, but no later than February 20, please let Mrs. Stefanek know that you need a copy of your transcript. \*\*Please note that the funds for this scholarship may not be awarded until the fall of 2026, after you have started your college career.

**Scholarship Name:** E.H. Kilbourne Scholarship

**Criteria:** 3.60 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](http://www.csascholars.org/kilbourne) and will open on January 22. The application and supplemental materials 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 10, 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, after the start of your college career.

**Scholarship Name:** Evans-Moss Scholarship

**Criteria:** 3.60 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](http://www.csascholars.org/moss) and will open on January 22. The application and supplemental materials 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 10,

**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:*** Eugene Kimmel Scholarship

***Criteria:*** 3.60 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](http://www.csascholars.org/kimmel) and will open on January 22.

***The application and supplemental materials 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 or email, including your transcript. All materials must be received by March 23. As soon as possible, but no later than March 10, 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, after you have started your college career.***

***Scholarship Name:*** Marian University Diocesan Employee Family Guarantee

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

***Amount:*** Half-tuition for four years

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

### **Net Price Calculator**

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

### **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](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

[www.college-scholarships.com](http://www.college-scholarships.com)

[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

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

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

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