

September Senior Bulletin

September 16, 2026

Indiana College Application Week September 21-25

To encourage students to apply to college early, many schools waive their application fee during College Application Week. Following are the participating schools:

Anderson University, **Ball State University should be able to select fee waiver option in both Common App and directly to the institution app**, Butler University, Depauw University, Grace College, Hanover College, Huntington University, Indiana State University, Indiana Tech, **Indiana University Bloomington: for Apply IU app use code BLCOLLGO; for Common App select "Indiana College Application Week"**, Indiana University Indianapolis Use code: INCOLLGO, Indiana Wesleyan University, Marian University, Purdue University Fort Wayne Use code: COLLEGE26, Purdue University Indianapolis, **Purdue University West Lafayette: in Common App, select "Indiana College Go!" fee waiver option within the application**, Rose-Hulman University Use code: ALUM2027, Saint Mary's College, Taylor University, Trine University, University of Indianapolis, University of Southern Indiana, and Valparaiso University.

College and Career Day for Seniors

Wednesday, October 14 is PSAT day at Bishop Dwenger, and seniors do not have school on this day. Please use the time to work on college applications, take a college visit, schedule a job shadowing day, or to finish your service hours. (Service hours are due on December 1.) The priority application deadline for many colleges is November 1.

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 AND complete the Recommenders and FERPA section on the Common App. If you do not take these steps, **WE CANNOT SEND YOUR TRANSCRIPT TO ANY SCHOOLS.** If you need assistance with the use of Naviance or the Common App, please see your counselor. Be sure to bring your laptop with you.

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 modules in BDHS Seniors. The original due date was September 8. Your transcript will not be submitted to any colleges until you complete this form.

Testing

The SAT and ACT are administered at various local high schools. The cost for the SAT is \$68; the ACT costs \$75 (with optional Science Reasoning). 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 are enrolled in the free- or reduced-lunches and for students who are 21st Century Scholars. See your guidance counselor for a waiver.*

School Code: 151082

Test Date		Registration Deadline
	SAT	
October 3		September 18
November 7		October 23
December 5		November 20
	ACT	
October 17		September 29 (late registration deadline, so fees will apply)
December 12		November 6

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 Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and 560 on Math) or a 26 ACT composite
2. **Be sure to have your test scores sent to all schools you are applying to.** Even if you have your scores sent to a school, you can still 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.

Test-Optional Admissions

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 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. Look for the freshman class profile on their website. This will help you know how your test scores compare to those of admitted students. You must decide if your test scores strengthen or weaken your application. If you indicate that you do not want your test scores used in the review process, the academic focus on 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. ****Please note, applying test-optional may impact on scholarship consideration and direct-admit to certain programs at some schools. Be sure to read all information each school provides regarding test-optional policies, procedures, and restrictions.**

College Application Types and 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)/Priority: 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.

Dual Credit On-Campus College Classes

Below is information regarding dual enrollment opportunities through local colleges. If you are interested, please see Mrs. Moilanen in the guidance office.

Indiana Tech offers an Early Start program for high school students to take courses for \$225 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 a personal email address that you check frequently.

Students may also take dual-credit courses through **Ivy Tech**. Ivy Tech courses cost approximately \$600, plus the cost of books and tech fees. Visit <https://www.ivytech.edu/fortwayne/> for more information and to apply. If you have taken OTEC 107 and or BUSN 101 here at BD, you do not need to complete the Ivy Tech application, because you are already enrolled.

Trine University also offers dual credit courses. These online classes cost \$150 and are offered in a variety of subjects. For more information and to access the application, visit <https://www.trine.edu/admission-aid/dual-enrollment/index.aspx>.

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 of registering is \$120. 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.

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 \$110. Once you have registered, please let Miss McGuire know to upload your transcript. Students who qualify for free/reduced lunches may receive a fee waiver to register.

Current Scholarship Opportunities

The **University of Cincinnati** has established a Metropolitan Tuition Rate for Indiana residents, which will allow students living in Allen, Adams, DeKalb, Steuben, Noble, or Wells counties to attend at Ohio-resident tuition rates, plus a \$25 per credit hour surcharge. This is an annual savings of approximately \$14,000. After being accepted to U of C, students must submit the required documentation to receive in-state tuition. Some programs of study are excluded. For more information, visit <https://admissions.uc.edu/tuition-aid/kyin.html>. If you are submitting SAT/ACT test scores, they must be sent directly from the testing agencies to U of C.

The **Midwest Student Exchange Program** is a tuition reduction program that makes attending out-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 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, 2026**. All required application documents and forms must be submitted by this deadline. You can self-report your test scores at the time of application, but you will need to have your official scores sent directly to IU from the testing agencies later. *IU is test optional, but they would prefer to see your test scores. If you apply test optional to IU, you may change to test-included if you later earn test scores you would like to report.

Scholarship Name: Purdue University Merit Scholarships - All students who complete the Purdue admission application by **November 1, 2026**, 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. Scholarships are awarded by academic department. 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 (optional).

Scholarship Name: Elks National Most Valuable Student Scholarship

Criteria: Plan to pursue a post-secondary education

Amount: \$4,000 – 30,000 over four years

Deadline: application is available at <https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/mvs.cfm> and is due **November 12**.

Scholarship Name: University of St. Francis Assisi Program for Discipleship and Leadership

Criteria: The Assisi program focuses on adding layers of prayer, study, fellowship, service, and mission to your USF experience. Students must also plan to live in the dorm. Other application requirements include 3.25 or higher GPA (typically), two reference letters, a personal narrative essay, and an interview.

Amount: Half of the cost of Room and Board at USF

Deadline: application and more information is available at <https://www.sf.edu/faith/assisi-program-for-discipleship-amp-leadership/>.

Where to Find Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded by colleges, businesses, clubs, 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.

Internet Searches: The Internet is an endless source for scholarship information. It is advised to have more than one account with online searchers. A rule of thumb when searching for scholarships is to never pay to apply for a scholarship, nor pay for a scholarship search. A few reputable websites are: <https://student.naviance.com>, www.collegeboard.org, www.commonapp.org, www.fastweb.com, www.college-scholarships.com, and www.indianacollegecosts.org.

College Representative Visits to BD

The following representatives will be at BD during specific class times soon. If you are interested in meeting with a representative, get a pass from Mrs. Stefanek in the guidance office. **All passes must be signed by the teacher of the class you will miss and returned to the guidance office at least one day prior to the visitation day.** Mrs. Stefanek will then issue a SmartPass for you to report to the guidance office on the day of the visit.

<u>COLLEGE NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME/PERIOD</u>
BALL STATE	Thursday 10/8	8:50/2nd
BUTLER UNIVERSITY	Monday 9/21	TBD
DEPAUW UNIVERSITY	Wednesday 9/23	10:30/ 3rd (1 hour delay)
FRANKLIN COLLEGE	Friday 9/18	12:18/ 5th
HILLSDALE COLLEGE	Thursday 10/15	2:08/7th
HOLY CROSS COLLEGE	Tuesday 10/6	9:53/ 3rd
INDIANA TECH	Thursday 10/1	8:50/2nd
INDIANA UNIVERSITY	Tuesday 9/22	8:00 am / 1st
MARIAN UNIVERSITY	Thursday 10/22	8:50/ 2nd
NOTRE DAME	Monday 9/28	9:53/ 3rd
OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY	Tuesday 9/29	1:13/ 6th
PFW	Tuesday 10/13	8:50/ 2nd
PURDUE UNIVERSITY	Wednesday 10/7	12:40/ 5th (mass day)
ST. FRANCIS	Monday 10/12	9:53/ 3rd
WABASH COLLEGE	Tuesday 10/27	12:18/5th

College Events

PFW is hosting a fall campus visit day on Sunday, September 27 from 11:00-3:30. For more information and to register to attend, visit <https://www.pfw.edu/campus-visit-day>.

Most colleges host events for prospective students and their parents throughout the fall semester. If you are interested in a specific school or program, visit the school's website for upcoming opportunities.