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## Freshman Year

- Create a four-year high school plan. Think about what you'd like to accomplish in the next four years.
  - *Meet with your high school guidance counselor to make sure you are taking the correct high school courses that are required by colleges, as early as the ninth grade.*
  - *If you are a 21st Century Scholar (Indiana residents only) log in to ScholarTrack at [scholars.in.gov](http://scholars.in.gov) to view what requirements need to be completed during your freshman year.*
  - *Register for RaiseMe at [raise.me](http://raise.me) to start earning micro-scholarships toward colleges and universities for your high school accomplishments.*
- Participate in extracurricular activities. Academics aren't everything. Explore your interest in a sport, school club, music or drama group, or community volunteer activity.
  - *Colleges want to see that you are truly involved and invested in one activity instead of a loose connection to several.*
  - *If you're interested in playing sports in college, research National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and/or National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility requirements.*
- Explore summer opportunities. Look for a job, internship, summer camps, or volunteer in a field of interest.
- Save for college. It's never too early, or late, to put money away for college. Learn about how financial aid works at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)
- Talk to your guidance counselor about taking the PSAT or ACT Plan now. If your school offers it, sign up to take the first of the College Board assessments to set a baseline. These tests will help you build up your skills to take the SAT and/or ACT in the 11th or 12th grade.

## Sophomore Year

- Continue to work with your guidance counselor to plan your next three years. At this point you might have an idea of what you want to do in college. This will help your guidance counselor select classes directing you towards your goal. Make sure you're considering honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and dual-credit courses (Indiana Tech's Early Start Program; courses are \$25 per credit hour and most courses are 3 credits {\$75}).
- If you are a 21st Century Scholar (Indiana residents only) log in to ScholarTrack at [scholars.in.gov](http://scholars.in.gov) to view what requirements need to be completed during your sophomore year.
- Maintain a 3.0 or higher. Maintaining an A or B and keeping your GPA up in your high school classes can turn into opportunities for college acceptance and scholarships.
- Keep participating in those extracurricular activities. These show leadership and commitment.
- Consider doing some career interest inventories through Indiana Career Explorer: [indiana.kuder.com/landing-page](http://indiana.kuder.com/landing-page)
- Explore different careers you might be interested in. Research the college major that is recommended for the career and what colleges offer that major.
  - *For example: To be a police officer, you would have to major in Criminal Justice. This is offered at Indiana Tech.*
- Begin to understand the different types of colleges and universities.
  - *Four-year versus two-year*
  - *Private versus public*
  - *Small versus big*
  - *Liberal arts versus technical school*
- Start going on some campus visits.
  - *If you can't make it to campus or if the college is too far away, most colleges offer an online virtual tour of their campus.*
- Take the PSAT or ACT PLAN

## Junior Year

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### September

- Attend college fairs and collect materials on potential colleges and sign up for their mailing list.
- Prepare to take or retake the PSAT or ACT PLAN test.
- If you are a 21st Century Scholar (Indiana residents only) log in to ScholarTrack at [scholars.in.gov](http://scholars.in.gov) to view what requirements need to be completed during your junior year.

### October/November

- Make appointments to visit your top-choice colleges.

### December/January

- Review your results of PSAT/ACT PLAN with your guidance counselor.
- Register to take the SAT and/or ACT test at least one month prior to the exam date. There is a cost for each test. See your guidance counselor for more information on these exams.
- Narrow down your college choices.

### February/March/April

- Meet with your guidance counselor to plan your senior year.
- Visit your top college choices.
- Take the SAT and/or ACT to see which one gives you better results. Have your scores sent to your top-choice colleges.

### May/June/July

- Begin searching for scholarship options. We recommend:
  - [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)
  - [promise.com](http://promise.com)
  - [scholarshipamerica.org](http://scholarshipamerica.org)
- Filling out college applications for your top schools at this time will save you a lot of time in the busy fall of your senior year. Check with each college to see when they start accepting applications.
- If you are planning on attending an Indiana college create a ScholarTrack account at [scholars.in.gov](http://scholars.in.gov) to notify the state of your college choice and see if you are applicable for state aid.

## Senior Year

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### August/September/October

- If you are a 21st Century Scholar (Indiana residents only) log in to ScholarTrack at [scholars.in.gov](http://scholars.in.gov) to view what requirements need to be completed during your senior year.
- If you are planning on attending an Indiana college create a ScholarTrack account, if you haven't already, at [scholars.in.gov](http://scholars.in.gov) to notify the state of your college choice and see if you are applicable for state aid.
- Complete and submit college applications for admissions. Make sure to meet each college's deadline. Most colleges have a student portal, that will allow you to check your application or acceptance status.
- Ask your favorite teacher, coach, youth pastor and/or guidance counselor for recommendation letters.
- Start watching for acceptance letters to arrive in the mail!
- Complete your college visits.
- File your FAFSA at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) beginning Oct. 1. Obtain an FSA ID for yourself and for a parent.
- Talk with college representatives that visit your high school.

### November/December

- Take or retake the SAT and/or ACT to raise your scores and have the results sent to your top-choice colleges.
- Complete and submit college applications for admissions. Remember: Meeting each college's submission deadline can determine whether or not you are considered for a scholarship.
- Request official transcripts be mailed or sent electronically to the schools that you applied to.
- Apply for academic, athletic and other achievement scholarships from the schools where you have been accepted if applicable.

### January/February

- Complete and submit the FAFSA at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) before your state's deadline date. If you need assistance, attend College Goal Sunday in your local area.
  - *FAFSA due date for Indiana residents: April 15*

### March/April

- Review financial aid awards from top-choice colleges. Make final decision on what college to attend.
- Complete any other financial aid forms required by your top-choice colleges.
- Send in any college transcripts for dual-credit evaluation. You will need to request/order these from the college
- Send in your enrollment deposit to top-choice college or university.

### May

- Finalize financial aid paperwork and decide on payment plan option.
- Speak with the Admissions Office on the process to register for classes.
- Sign up for summer orientation.
- Congratulations on graduating from high school!

### June/July

- Have your high school send your final transcript to your college of choice.
- Send in residence life information, health forms and other required paperwork.

### August

- Start packing!
- If living on campus, talk with your roommate to decide who will be bringing what items.
- If living off campus, find out about commuter student resources such as lounges, computer labs and parking.
- Start college!