College Application Book

North Central High School
Class of 2022

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Welcome

To your college search and application process!

It's all about fit... Planning and preparing for college can be overwhelming, yet it is also such an exciting time for you and your family! The purpose of this book is to provide you with guidelines for submitting your college applications, offer helpful resources, and to help you organize your college search process. As you move through the process, remember to utilize the following resources:

1. Your parents
2. Your counselor
3. Your teachers
4. Your friends already attending college
5. This book
6. The School Counseling Office
7. College programming planned for you at North Central High School
8. NC College Representative Visit Days

Students come to college decisions in a variety of ways and for varying reasons. Finding your best fit is a result of willingness to define the choice characteristics that are most relevant to you. Identifying what is important to you is the foundation for a great fit. Some factors to consider are major, the location of the school, the extracurricular activities offered, and the cost to attend the school. The College Comparison Grid and the List of College Criteria that can be found in this book may also be helpful to you as you begin compiling your list of schools to consider. Ask your parents to compile a list of what they believe are important criteria in a school. Compile your list of important criteria. Once you have your lists, schedule family discussion time to talk about how you and your parents view your options. Discuss how the similarities and the differences in points of view will shape and drive your decision. Doing this now allows you to begin building your potential college list based on the best fit for you and your family.

Money for college and career preparation is a key issue for most students. Paying for college is an even bigger issue for parents. Attending college is a hefty investment, so understanding your financial parameters is critical. Avoid waiting to have this conversation with your parents at the tail end of the decision making process. What is your role in the investment? If you are the first person in your family to attend college or if you live in a tough economic situation, make these facts known to your counselor. There are many colleges that can help students make the financial piece work. Students who are willing to dig for scholarships, write essays, and follow up on scholarship leads, find money for college.
There is no magic number of college applications to submit, however, NC seniors typically apply to an average of three to six schools each year. Seniors typically apply to one or two "reach" schools. Reach schools are colleges where your academic qualifications are below the average accepted student. A match school is one in which your transcript mirrors that of the average freshman. This means your GPA, SAT/ACT scores, and coursework looks similar to other students that are typically admitted. A safety school is one in which your academic credentials exceed those of the average accepted student. It is important to note that one senior's "match" school could be another senior's "reach" school.

Seniors will use one of these application platforms when applying to college this fall: the colleges own application, the Common Application, or the Common Black College Application. Once the application is completed, seniors are expected to use Naviance to make requests for transcripts and teacher recommendations. Step by step directions on how to use Naviance to request transcripts and letters of recommendation can be found in this book. Important deadlines and a senior checklist can also be found in this book.

A college fit is well within reach if you are willing to invest yourself in the research and decision making process. Remember to allow yourself some wiggle room as your interests are taking shape. Colleges offer many different majors, so try to identify two, possibly three areas of interest to you as you begin your research. As you review your criteria, allow for new ideas or expanded options to be considered.

Enjoy the journey,
Lisa Salazar, Coordinator of College and Career Counseling
North Central High School

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Admission Statistics – Class Of 2020

	Institution	Number of applications/ Number of admits	Percent Admitted	NC GPA of admitted students	SAT* Combined EBRW/M	ACT* Average Composite
Indiana Schools	Anderson U.	18/7	39%	3.26	1043	20
	Ball State U.	246/164	67%	3.58	1077	21
	Butler U.	89/41	46%	4.21	1248	28
	Depauw U.	34/23	68%	4.01	1181	23
	Earlham College	8/1	13%	3.90	1360	32
	Franklin College	19/4	21%	4.01	1092	24
	Hanover College	9/4	44%	3.53	1186	22
	Indiana U.	201/155	78%	3.55	1177	25
	Indiana State U.	105/84	80%	3.11	982	17
	IUPUI	206/138	66%	3.24	991	20
	Ivy Tech	129/129	100%	2.51	969	17
	Manchester U.	10/7	70%	3.68	1051	15
	Marian U.	54/25	47%	3.27	1006	18
	Purdue U.	127/82	65%	3.57	1245	28
	Rose-Hulman Inst. of Tech	13/4	31%	4.87	1407	33
	Trine University	4/2	50%	3.67	1310	28
	U. of Evansville	13/6	47%	3.87	1030	22
	U. of Indianapolis	65/45	70%	3.30	1023	18
	U. of Notre Dame	23/2	9%	4.29	1218	31
	U. of Southern Indiana	11/2	19%	3.23	1030	16
	Valparaiso U.	14/10	72%	3.89	1110	24
	Vincennes University	12/12	100%	2.63	915	16
	Wabash College	15/12	80%	3.58	1148	28
Out of State Schools	American U.	2/1	50%	4.49		34
	Bellarmine U.	13/5	39%	3.81	1075	21
	Boston U.	10/2	20%	4.93	1416	32
	Bradley U.	6/5	84%	4.09	1222	28
	College of Wooster	7/6	86%	4.31	1336	29
	Columbia College - Chicago	8/7	88%	3.07	912	27
	Cornell University	7/1	15%	4.91	1490	34
	DePaul U.	7/7	100%	4.03	1200	26
	George Washington U	7/3	43%	4.85	1460	33
	Howard U.	12/3	25%	4.16	1166	25
	Kentucky State U.	4/3	75%	3.00	1020	16
	Loyola U. – Chicago	26/13	50%	4.37	1264	28
	Marquette U.	7/4	58%	3.88	1221	25
	Miami U. (OH)	28/23	83%	4.30	1274	26
	Northwestern U.	25/2	8%	4.37	1300	33
	Oberlin College	2/1	50%	4.63	1520	36
	Ohio U.	8/6	75%	3.94	1238	28
	Ohio State U.	31/5	17%	4.19	1250	23
	Rice University	715	25%	4.86	1388	30
	Saint Louis U.	14/10	71%	4.43	1335	28
	Savannah College of Art and Design	6/2	34%	3.14	1130	27
	Tennessee State U.	3/2	67%	3.07	996	19
	Tuskegee University	7/5	71%	3.51	1070	
	U. of Alabama	5/3	60%	4.19	1236	30
	U. of Cincinnati	42/30	72%	3.89	1178	25
	U. of Colorado Boulder	19/11	58%	4.26	1292	30
	U. of Dayton	16/8	50%	3.71	1160	27
	U. of Denver	11/4	37%	4.47	1263	29
	U. of Kentucky	10/4	40%	4.02	1173	29
	University of Louisville	27/13	49%	3.76	1085	20
	U. of Michigan	26/4	16%	5.06	1407	33
	U. of Missouri	4/2	50%	4.12	1385	34
	U. of Wisconsin - Madison	5/1	20%	5.08	1440	35
	Washington U. (MO)	7/2	29%	5.05	1470	33
	Xavier U. (OH)	23/21	92%	3.89	1164	24

NORTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL : ADMISSION STATISTICS CLASS OF 2020

This data represents a sampling of popular post-secondary institutions to which North Central seniors applied.

* Test score averages are based on scores submitted to North Central. Many students sent scores to their colleges only.

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College Planning

Grade 12 Checklist

Informational Meetings

- ❑ Attend the Parent/Student College Planning Night in August
- ❑ In class presentations for seniors given by the counselors in August/September
- ❑ You will meet with your assigned counselor to discuss your senior year and after high school plans. Counselors will schedule meetings with every senior during September/ October of senior year. Seniors may sign up to see their counselor before that meeting as needed.

Visiting with College Representatives and On Campus Visits

❑ Meet with college representatives at NC. Students may view College Rep Visits in Naviance and on Canvas and must sign up in order to attend the individual college rep meetings at North Central High School. A wide variety of college reps from in-state, out-of-state, public, private, two-year and four-year colleges attend. Watch for announcements mailed to you from colleges and universities for preview or visit days, and listen to the NC announcements.

❑ Schedule appointments for college visits. (Review "Making the Most of the College Visit" in the College Application Book). Do not rely solely on college view books or college websites for your impressions. All campuses seem great in view books. If you have already visited, consider returning for a second look after you have been admitted. Consider staying overnight on campus one weekend night to get a "feel" for the student life aspect. Spring break of senior year is the best time to make final visits before your May 1 final decision! Pick up, fill out, and turn in a College Campus Visit Request Form from the Attendance Office.

College Admission Testing

❑ We encourage students to take both the SAT and ACT at least twice for college admission. Colleges now require your SAT and ACT scores to come directly from the testing company. Students are responsible for sending score reports to colleges and institutions. Contact ACT and the College Board to order score reports, and be sure to utilize your four-free score sends when you register for either ACT or SAT.

SAT and SUBJECT TESTs
Registration at: www.collegeboard.org

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION
Aug 28, 2021	July 30, 2021	Aug 17, 2021
Oct 2, 2021	Sept 3, 2021	Sept 21, 2021
Nov 6, 2021	Oct 7, 2021	Oct 26, 2021
Dec 4, 2021	Nov 5, 2021	Nov 23, 2021
March 12, 2022	Feb 12, 2022	Mar 1, 2022
May 7, 2022	April 8, 2022	April 26, 2022
June 4, 2022	May 6, 2022	May 25, 2022

ACT ASSESSMENT
Registration at: www.act.org

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION
Sept. 11, 2021	Aug. 6, 2021	Aug. 20, 2021
Oct 23, 2021	Sept. 19 2021	Oct 3, 2021
Dec 11, 2021	Nov 5, 2021	Nov 19, 2021
Feb 5, 2022	Jan 7, 2022	Jan 14, 2022
Apr 9, 2022	Mar 4, 2022	March 18, 2022
June 11, 2022	May 6, 2022	May 20, 2022
July 16, 2022	June 10, 2022	June 24, 2022

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College Planning

Grade 12 Checklist

Applying To College

❑ Seniors are strongly encouraged to apply to all colleges online and seniors must request transcripts online through Naviance.

❑ Applications, requests for transcripts through Naviance, and Counselor and Teacher Recommendation Forms are accepted for processing beginning August 19th. Any requests made prior to this date are not guaranteed to be to be fulfilled until this date.

Letters of Recommendation

❑ Seniors requiring a counselor letter of recommendation must complete the Resume and Student Biography in Naviance before the counselor letter of recommendation can be completed. A sample resume can be found on pg. 54.

FAFSA

❑ Submit FAFSA online: www.fafsa.ed.gov. If possible, complete the FAFSA in the fall of your senior year with 2020 W2 information. Keep a copy of every form you submit for your files. Double check to determine if your college(s) requires the CSS PROFILE form. Many private colleges require the CSS PROFILE, complete the PROFILE at: www.collegeboard.org.

Scholarships

❑ Want scholarships? Check the "Document Resources" tab in Naviance WEEKLY for scholarship opportunities between August and May of senior year. Students can also select the scholarship list, scholarship match, or national scholarship links in Naviance under the colleges tab for additional scholarship opportunities.

Competing in athletics at a Division I or II level?

❑ Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org and request your transcript be sent to NCAA.

College Housing

❑ Check on housing deposit procedures. Example: Students admitted to IU should consider submitting housing deposits prior to May 1st for preferred housing options, as the deposit is refundable.

National Candidate's Reply Date:

May 1, 2022

Universal deadline for making a commitment. Check with college admission offices on policies for making enrollment deposits.
Deposits are non-refundable after May 1.

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College Fit

Which college is best for me?

Finding your college fit is important. Below are some questions to be asked as you are trying to figure out which college is best for you.

Academic Environment

Will I be taught by professors or teaching assistants (grad students)?
How many students go directly onto graduate or professional schools?
What types of support services are available to students?
How strong is the advising program?
What opportunities are there for undergraduate research?
What is the classroom size of a typical freshman course?
What is the faculty member/student ratio?

Major

Is my first choice major offered? Second? Third?
Is my major one of the most popular programs on campus?
What is the quality of labs and academic facilities?
Is there an Honors Program/College?
Study abroad or Off-campus experiences offered?
What if I am undecided about my major?
Are internships available? How are they obtained?
What are the placement statistics? Job search assistance?

Location / Type

Do I prefer large, medium, or small size? Rural, urban, or suburban?
What are the advantages of each type?
How many miles do I want to live away from home?
Which region of the country?
What are the advantages of staying close to home? Living further away?
Religious affiliation?

People

Where do students come from? Geographical distribution?
Cultural or ethnic composition?
Female/Male ratio?
Moderate, conservative, or liberal student body?
What are the extracurricular opportunities? My favorite activities?
How important is the athletic program? Fine or performing arts?
Where are students on weekends? Home or on campus?

Admissions

What are the admission requirements/standards?
Are there different requirements for my major/college?
What factors are weighed most heavily in the review process?
Where do I fit in the typical applicant pool? GPA, test scores, etc.
Is this my "holy grail", middle ground, or comfortable range school?

Cost

Is the college affordable without financial aid or scholarships?
Which features make the investment worth it to me? My family?
What is my role in this investment?
Will we apply for financial aid?
Does the college offer merit based or "no need" scholarships?
Does the college meet 100% of the demonstrated financial need?
Will the college make any adjustments to the federal formula?
What types of aid will my financial aid package contain?
What is the average indebtedness for students graduating from the college?

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College Fit

Choosing your college

BUILD YOUR LIST

- Know yourself! What do you like/dislike? What are your favorite subjects? How do you learn best – small classes, studying on your own, listening to lectures, hands-on experiences, etc.?
- What atmosphere inspires you – big city, small pastoral setting, Big 12 athletics, close to home or very far away?
- Talk to people who have had experience with schools you are thinking about: teachers, counselors, friends, family, and NC alumni currently attending college.
- Consider colleges you've not heard of. You may find a gem.
- Attend area college fairs.
- Attend meetings conducted at school by college representatives. Over 120 college representatives visit us each year.
- Research the colleges on your list to decide whether or not to keep them on the list.

WHICH SCHOOLS MEET YOUR CRITERIA?

- What are the opportunities in your areas of interest?
- Can you…play a sport there? Be involved in the arts? Study abroad? Do research? Get internships?
- Try to visit as many of the colleges on your list as you can. You can get an understanding of size by visiting colleges in or near Indianapolis.
- Is it affordable?

DO YOU MEET THEIR CRITERIA?

- Have you demonstrated that you can do the kind of academic work each college demands of its students?
- Although test scores are only one factor in the selection process, they do count. Are your scores within the range presented by most successful candidates to a particular college? If not, are you being realistic?
- Do you think you have some special talent or interest that will supplement a solid academic record and enhance your candidacy?
- Do you play a sport or a musical instrument?
- Are you involved in community service?
- What have you done at school that might help you to stand out?

LIMIT THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE APPLICATIONS!

- Students apply to an average of four-to-six colleges. Try to limit your applications to eight (maybe ten) schools unless there are very unusual circumstances.
- You should have at least one or two schools on your list that you and your counselor are fairly confident of acceptance.
- At least two or three on your final list should seem to be likely, though not guaranteed, possibilities.
- You may want to include one or two "reach" schools given your record of grades, scores and activities. Keep in mind that highly competitive colleges, such as the Ivies, are reach schools for everyone!
- It is important to be serious in the selection of schools for your final list. It's good to dream, but stay grounded and don't be led astray by the prestige of a school or its popularity with other members of your class. There are no "best" colleges, other than what's best for you. But there are certain colleges which are most appropriate for you given your particular needs, desires, goals, interests and abilities.

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College Admission Testing

SAT and ACT Test Dates

North Central High School school code for test registration is: 151717

SAT and SUBJECT TESTs
Registration at: www.collegeboard.org
2020-2021

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION
March 13, 2021	Feb 12, 2021	Mar 2, 2021
May 8, 2021 *	April 8, 2021	April 27, 2021
June 5, 2021 *	May 6, 2021	May 26, 2021

*NC is a testing site.

2021-2022

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION
Aug 28, 2021	July 30, 2021	Aug 17, 2021
Oct 2, 2021	Sept 3, 2021	Sept 21, 2021
Nov 6, 2021	Oct 7, 2021	Oct 26, 2021
Dec 4, 2021	Nov 5, 2021	Nov 23, 2021
March 12, 2022	Feb 12, 2022	Mar 1, 2022
May 7, 2022	April 8, 2022	April 26, 2022
June 4, 2022	May 6, 2022	May 25, 2022

ACT ASSESSMENT
Registration at: www.act.org
2020-2021

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION
Feb 6, 2021	Jan 8, 2021	Jan 15, 2021
Apr 17, 2021 *	Mar 12, 2021	March 26, 2021
June 12, 2021 *	May 7, 2021	May 21, 2021
July 17, 2021	June 18, 2021	June 25, 2021

*NC is a testing site.

2021-2022

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION
Sept. 11, 2021	Aug. 6, 2021	Aug. 20, 2021
Oct 23, 2021	Sept. 19 2021	Oct 3, 2021
Dec 11, 2021	Nov 5, 2021	Nov 19, 2021
Feb 5, 2022	Jan 7, 2022	Jan 14, 2022
Apr 9, 2022	Mar 4, 2022	March 18, 2022
June 11, 2022	May 6, 2022	May 20, 2022
July 16, 2022	June 10, 2022	June 24, 2022

Students who qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch and/or Textbooks may also qualify for test fee waivers for both ACT and SAT. See your counselor for details.

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www.collegeboard.org

The redesigned SAT asks you to apply a deep understanding of the knowledge and skills most important for college and career readiness and success. The test is composed of three sections. You have three hours of testing time, plus an additional 50 minutes for the optional Essay.

Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: Includes a Reading Test and a Writing and Language Test. The Reading Test measures your comprehension and reasoning skills with a focus on careful reading of appropriately challenging passages in a wide array of subject areas. The Writing and Language Test assesses your skills in revising and editing a range of texts in a variety of subject areas to improve expression of ideas and to correct errors in grammar, usage, and punctuation. Each test is composed of multi-paragraph passages and multiple-choice questions.
Time allotted for Reading: 65 minutes. Time allotted for Writing and Language: 35 minutes.

Math: Includes multiple- choice and student-produced response questions based on the math that college-bound students typically learn during their first three years of high school.
Time allotted for Math – No Calculator: 25 minutes. Time allotted for Math – Calculator: 55 minutes.

Essay (optional): Asks you to read and analyze an argument and write an effective response.
Time allotted for Essay: 50 minutes.

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College Admission Testing

SAT Information

www.collegeboard.org

All multiple-choice questions are scored the same way: one point for each correct answer and zero points for incorrect answers. No additional points are subtracted for incorrect answers or answers left blank.

SAT SCORE REPORTED	DETAILS	SCORE RANGE
Total Score	You will receive one total score that is the sum of two section scores: • Evidence-Based Reading and Writing • Math The three scores for the optional Essay will be reported separately and will not be factored into the total score.	400-1600
Section Scores	You will receive two section (domain) scores: • Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, which will combine the Reading Test score and the Writing and Language Test score • Math	200-800, 10 point intervals
Test Scores	You will receive three test scores: • Reading • Writing and Language • Math	10-40
Cross Test Scores	You will receive two cross-test scores that are based on items from across the Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Tests. (The cross-test scores are contingent on the results of research.) • Analysis in Science • Analysis in History/Social Studies	10-40
Subscores	You will also receive multiple subscores for Reading, Writing and Language, and Math. In total the redesigned SAT will report seven subscores: • Reading, Writing and Language Tests subscores (2): 1. Command of Evidence 2. Words in Context • Writing and Language Tests subscores (2): 3. Expression of Ideas 4. Standard English Conventions • Math Test subscores (3): 5. Heart of Algebra 6. Problem Solving and Data Analysis 7. Passport to Advanced Math	1-15

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College Admission Testing

SAT Information

TOTAL TESTING TIME	3 HOURS (PLUS 50 MINUTES FOR THE ESSAY [OPTIONAL])
COMPONENTS	1. Evidence Based Reading and Writing • Reading Test • Writing and Language Test 2. Math 3. Essay (optional)
IMPORTANT FEATURES	• Focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings that research has identified as most important for college and career readiness and success • Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact • Rights-only scoring (no penalty for guessing)
ESSAY	• Optional and given at the end of the SAT; postsecondary institutions determine whether they will require the Essay for admission • 50 minutes to write the essay • Tests reading, analysis, and writing skills; students produce a written analysis of a provided source text
SCORE REPORTING	• Scale ranging from 400 to 1600 • Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing; 200 to 800 for Math; 2 to 8 on each of three dimensions for Essay • Essay results reported separately
SUBSCORE REPORTING	• Subscores for every test, providing added insight for students, parents, admission officers, educators, and counselors

Subject tests

The Subject tests are administered by The College Board. The tests attempt to measure what a student has already learned in a particular academic discipline. Each takes one hour, and a student may take one, two, or three tests all on the same day. Subject tests are offered on the nearly all the same test dates as SAT Reasoning Test except in April. The Language Subject tests with Reading and Listening are offered less frequently than other Subject tests so check the schedule prior to your senior year for the availability. Not all colleges require Subject Tests in the admission process, but highly selective admission colleges may ask for students to take 2 – 3 Subject tests in addition to the SAT Reasoning test. Some colleges waive the Subject tests for students who submit ACT scores. North Central students are encouraged to check carefully which tests are required (if any) by the colleges for which the student is interested. The Subject tests are scored on a 200 – 800 point scale. Many colleges use Subject tests for placement.

SUBJECT TESTS FALL INTO FIVE GROUPS

English
- Literature

History
- United States History
- World History

Math
- Math Level 1
- Math Level 2

Science
- Biology E/M
- Chemistry
- Physics

Foreign Language
- Chinese with Listening
- French
- French with Listening
- German
- German with Listening
- Modern Hebrew
- Italian
- Japanese with Listening
- Korean with Listening
- Latin
- Spanish
- Spanish with Listening

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College Admission Testing

ACT, AP Exams and TOEFL

www.act.org

The ACT is a set of four multiple-choice tests which cover English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and includes the optional Writing Section.

Test	Questions	Time	Content
English	**75 questions**	**45 minutes**	**Standard written English and rhetorical skills.**
Mathematics	**60 questions**	**60 minutes**	**Mathematical skills students have typically acquired in courses taken up to the beginning of grade 12.**
Reading	**40 questions**	**35 minutes**	**Measures reading comprehension.**
Science	**40 questions**	**35 minutes**	**Measures the interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills required in the natural sciences.**
Optional: Writing Test		**40 minutes**	**Measures writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses.**

Advanced Placement Exams

AP tests give recognition for college-level work done in a secondary school on the basis of special examination designed by The College Board. These May exams require academic preparation more extensive and in greater depth than is found in a typical high school course. AP exams are not part of the college admission process, but college admission offices track students who are enrolled in AP classes. Colleges will take a look at AP scores if applicants wish to share results; however, AP test results are not a "required" part of the application process. So, if you have tested at a level 4 or 5 on AP exams, it may be helpful to share your results as part of your college application. AP Exam scores are reported on a 5-point scale as follows:

5 Extremely well qualified
4 Well qualified
3 Qualified
2 Possibly qualified
1 No recommendation

All colleges have the prerogative to determine if college credit will be awarded to entering students. Scores at level 4 or 5 are typically awarded for full course credit (3-6 hours) or core curriculum requirements will be waived so students may proceed directly into more advanced college course work. Some students who enter college with enough awarded AP credit are offered sophomore class standing. All college AP credit policy information:
www.collegesearch.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy/index.jsp
AP credit policies for Indiana colleges only:

www.transferin.net/ap.aspx

Test of English as a Foreign Language – TOEFL

TOEFL is designed for students for whom English is not the language spoken most often at home (non-native speakers) and whose scores on the SAT or ACT test might be impacted by a language difference. The TOEFL is offered at various sites and students may receive registration and test preparation guidelines at: www.ets.org Non-native English speakers at the 11th-grade level or above should take the TOEFL test to provide evidence of their English proficiency before beginning academic work. The test content is considered too difficult for students below 11th grade. There are two formats for the TOEFL test. The format you take depends on the location of your test center. Most test takers take the TOEFL iBT test. Test centers that do not have Internet access offer the Paper-based Test (PBT).

Many colleges report that they frequently do not require TOEFL test scores of certain kinds of international applicants.
These include:

- Non-native speakers who hold degrees or diplomas from postsecondary institutions in English-speaking countries (e.g., the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand)
- Non-native speakers who have successfully completed at least a two-year course of study in which English was the language of instruction
- Transfer students from institutions in the United States or Canada whose academic course work was favorably evaluated in relation to its demands and duration.
- Non-native speakers who have taken the TOEFL test within the past two years
- Non-native speakers who have successfully pursued academic work at schools where English was the language of instruction in an English-speaking country for a specified period, generally two years.

Students should contact their prospective colleges directly concerning their specific admission requirements.

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Test Preparation

Options

There is debate over the value of test preparation. At the center of the debate are issues of fairness, access, and the millions of dollars that students and their families spend annually on college test preparation. SAT or ACT scores are used to consider applicants for direct admission to specific majors, honors programs, and many academic merit based scholarships. To determine if test preparation is important to your personal college application process, ask yourself these questions:

1. Are standardized tests utilized in making admission or scholarship decisions at the colleges to which I plan to apply?
2. Is my current SAT or ACT score within the 50th percentile mid-range compared to average of admitted students?
3. What is my past experience with regard to taking standardized tests
4. If I test prep, should I focus on test content, test strategy, or both
5. How much time and/or money am I willing to spend?

The Guides

Cracking the SAT
(The Princeton Review)

The Official SAT Study Guide for the SAT
(The College Board)

Fiske New SAT Insider's Guide
(Sourcebooks)

Peterson's Ultimate SAT Tool Kit
(Peterson's)

Kaplan ACT:
Strategies, Practice, and Review (Kaplan)

SparkNotes SAT & PSAT
(Spark Educational Publishing)

The Princeton Review
www.princetonreview.com

On-line Course	$ 170 - $2300
Classroom Course	$1000 - $1500
Private Tutoring	$2300 - $6900

Kaplan
www.kaplan.com

On-line Course	$400
Classroom Course	$900
Private Tutoring	$2200 - $3400

Huntington Test Prep
Carmel, Indiana
317 571-0766

Local and/or Independent SAT/ACT Tutors
Barbara Bender & Joan Rocap
317 205-9215 www.bender-rocap.com
Dawn Cerasale
317 848-9620 dawncerasale@me.com

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Test Preparation

Options

Online Test Prep

Khan Academy - Free SAT and ACT prep:

- https://www.khanacademy.org

Free SAT, ACT, PSAT test prep materials:

- www.studyguidezone.com

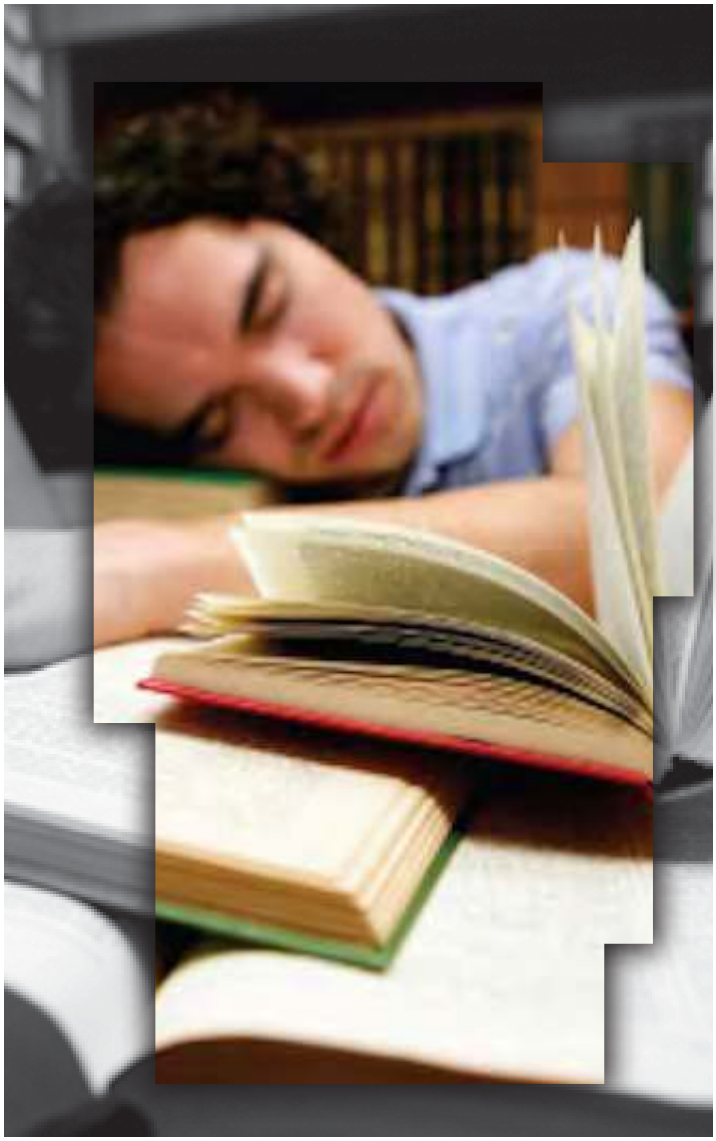
Free prep site for a wide array of tests:

- www.testprepreview.com
- www.number2.com
- www.act.org
- www.collegeboard.org

How about colleges that have de-emphasized tests in the admission process?

FairTest - The National Center for Fair and Open Testing, has compiled a list of nearly 1000 colleges and universities nationwide that admit a substantial number of students without regard to test scores. The list includes a wide variety of institutions, from private liberal arts colleges to large, public university systems. Some of the schools require all applicants to submit test scores whether or not they use the test scores to make admissions decisions. Students should check with individual schools to find out the precise requirements.

Check out the list of colleges and universities at:
www.fairtest.org/university/optional



PLEASE NOTE

There are numerous providers of SAT and ACT coaching. The resources listed are provided as a courtesy to students. North Central High School does not endorse a particular test preparation provider or preparation program.

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College Applications

How they are evaluated

- ✓ Count the number of academic units or solid core classes (English, Math, Science, Social Science, and World Language) through the junior year of high school
- ✓ Review grades in each academic class
- ✓ Rigor of course work accessed at high school versus classes available at high school (quality and depth of college preparatory school curriculum)
- ✓ Convert accumulative GPA to a 4.0 scale utilizing only academic core class grades (un-weight GPA) ***Honors or weighted classes are counted then factored back into the admission review process – Rigor to achievement factor.
- ✓ Measure grade trend through junior year
- ✓ Strength of senior year schedule including the number of academic "solids"
- ✓ SAT or ACT test scores of multiple test dates-compared to median (mid-range) score of college applicant pool – Check with each college admission website to confirm score send policies.
- ✓ Review of secondary school report or counselor page
- ✓ Review of essay(s) or candidate statement
- ✓ Review of extra-curricular involvement/leadership in and out of school
- ✓ Comparison to currently enrolled students who attended same high school

Other Considerations

Admission by program

Universities (Purdue, Illinois, Cornell, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill etc.) that admit applicants into majors, departments, or programs review intended major during admission consideration. Students are compared to the other applicants in the pool also intending to pursue the same major. Test scores are often weighed more heavily than for general admission especially for honors or competitive scholar programs. Performing arts programs (dance, music, theatre) will usually require an audition, and visual arts programs (painting, photography, sculpture, textiles) may request a portfolio of your work .

Essays

College application essays are important to all private colleges and to some selective public universities (Virginia, Michigan, Illinois, Purdue, Indiana) – specifically for direct admission or scholarships. Several Indiana public universities do not consider essays an important admission factor or do not require students to submit essays as part of the application. Check each college's website for guidance on submitting application essays.

Letters of recommendation

Teacher and other recommendations are important to all private colleges and also to some highly selective public universities for admission consideration.

Additional tests

Some selective colleges require one to three SAT Subject tests. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) may be required of non-native speakers of English.

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College Applications

Roles and Responsibilities

At North Central High School we see the college search and selection process as a three -way partnership between the student, the parent, and the counselor. As the Student, you are the most important piece of the admission puzzle: your parents and your counselor should always put the responsibility for every decision back on your shoulders, where it belongs. While it may sound scary to have such a large amount of responsibility, remember that your parents and counselor are caring adults who will offer you assistance along the way.

The Student's Role and Responsibilities

The responsibility for the entire college search and selection process falls upon your shoulders, the student. While you can count on the support of your parents and counselor, you must be the one to engage in the decision making process. The reason for this is simple: YOU are the one going to college! Only you can determine what, in the end, is best.

Here is a list of your major responsibilities:

Meet with your counselor for suggestions and assistance

One of the first steps in your process is simple: contact your counselor. Discuss your plans, ask questions about the process, and share your concerns. Remember that your counselor is your advocate during the application process. However it is hard to advocate for a student who hasn't made an effort to be known by his or her counselor. Make time for this! **Your counselor will initiate a meeting specifically with you in August or September of your senior year to go over your plans in detail.**

Narrow your college choices

You can utilize the "college search" option in **Naviance,** and your counselor can offer you assistance as you narrow your choices, but in the end, it is your decision to apply to college! We encourage students to file three to five college applications. Applying to only one school is risky business and may indicate that you've ended your search prematurely. On the other hand, applying to more than six schools may mean that you haven't narrowed your search far enough. Avoiding this phase of decision-making only adds pressure.

Review online application procedures

Today, all colleges expect students to obtain applications at the college's website and apply online. It is your responsibility to locate the college applications online. Some colleges waive application fees if you apply online

Hint: Use the online Common Application if you are applying to several private colleges and universities as it saves a HUGE amount of time. This can be found at www.commonapp.org.

Use Naviance to request transcripts for colleges

Nearly all colleges expect to receive your transcript electronically. Seniors will utilize eDocs in Naviance to request transcripts and counselor reports.

Complete applications and required forms

This is your job! We know how busy your senior year can be, but you must take time to complete all of the required documents and submit them on time. Mom and Dad cannot **(and should not)** complete applications for you! Make time for this! This is your application to college, not your parents'. We encourage you to construct a reasonable timeline of college application activities (when to write the essays, when to submit, etc.), so you won't run out of time. **Review the process submitting your college application book.**

Complete all necessary standardized college tests required for admission

This information is found in a variety of places: many guide books, The College Application Book, college websites, in the school counseling center and also at www.collegeboard.org and www.act.org. Be aware of each institution's admission testing requirements and deadlines.

Meet all NC and college deadlines

College deadlines exist for a reason - they are not optional! Review the NC due dates associated with key admission deadlines found on the **College Application Processing: Deadlines and important information** page in this book. The due dates reflect processing periods required by counselors to adequately process large volumes of requests at peak times. Make certain you inform your counselor if you plan to apply Early Decision or Early Action to colleges.

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The Parent's Role and Responsibilities

Your parent's role begins to shift from decision-maker to decision-supporter. Below are some tips, which might make the parental role in the process easier and more comfortable. Parents need to be responsible for:

Providing encouragement and support

The choice of a college and career is clearly the most stressful part of high school for many high school students. All of the decisions, which need to be accomplished, can be overwhelming, confusing, and even frightening to both parent and child. Students need all the encouragement and support parents can muster.

Assisting your student to meet deadlines

Refer to the "College Application Processing Rules" page for a listing of due dates and mandatory procedures associated with application deadlines. Gentle (and some not-so- gentle) reminders from parent and counselor will be needed if each senior is going to meet application deadlines. Remember, it is not the adults' responsibility to meet the deadline; it is the student's responsibility. Every nudge will be much appreciated though!

Determining ability to pay for college

It is the parent's primary responsibility to determine a plan to pay for college. Filling out the required financial aid forms is a parental task. Since students have a vested interest, they should become acquainted with the process of paying for college. Paying for college is a hefty investment. At the front end of the search process discuss with your student what you can afford and the financial parameters that are in place. This will help your student target appropriate college choices. Generally, financial aid and scholarship notification begins as early as December of the senior year after the FAFSA has been received by colleges. Reminder: students are not permitted to file as "independent" until the age of 24. You will find the Net Price Calculator on every college's web site in the Financial Aid area to help determine the cost of that specific school.

Accompanying student on the preliminary college visit

Parents are encouraged to accompany their student for the initial campus visit. Parents have a vested interest in this process. It is your right to carefully study this investment. While your student is meeting with an admission officer, why not go down to the Office of Financial Aid to familiarize yourself with their deadlines, programs and payment plans? As you tour the college or university, ask yourself one question: Can I see my child fitting in here? Why or why not? And try to remember: this will be your child's college home. Keep the needs and personality of your student in mind.

Contacting school counselor for additional Information

Call or email your student's counselor at any point for a quick question, clarification of a procedure, or for an appointment to discuss things further. Please don't wait for your student's counselor to contact you.

Allowing your child to grow to independence

This is the hardest part of the parenting job at this point in time: helping your child to help himself/herself. This requires a great deal of patience. The first steps toward independence can be shaky, faltering, and even threatening. Parents become less the authority figure and more the decision supporter, less the rule-giver and more the mentor. Your child will need to learn to be without you when he/she enters school. Making senior year a trial run at self-management will help your child - and you through this transition!

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College Applications

Roles and Responsibilities

Your Counselor's Role and Responsibilities

Your counselor will perform the following college counseling duties for you:

Advise on college choices

Your counselor can be helpful in assisting you to target schools based upon the characteristics that you identify as being most significant. Exercises to identify preferences are found in this booklet. Your counselor may offer some additional suggestions to round out your college search criteria.

If asked, your counselor can help you narrow down your search list to a more manageable researching task. We encourage you to apply to at least one school where you have a highly probable chance of being admitted. Some students may wish to include one or two schools that may be considered "reach" schools. Applying to more than six colleges can become burdensome with regard to writing essays, tracking different deadlines at each school, and paying some hefty application fees.

Coordinate the admission process

Review "Process for Submitting Your College Applications" (in this book) that outlines the process for submitting college applications. Your counselor is the coordinator of your transcript and secondary school report/recommendation. It is imperative that you follow the deadlines indicated on the Senior Year College Planning Checklist The checklist also provides students with information on SAT & Subject Tests and ACT test dates.

Write a letter of recommendation

If required for college applications, counselors write letters of recommendation for their students. Each letter requires a minimum of one hour of preparation prior to writing. Counselors consult with teachers, examine your testing records, and curricular pattern, and reflect upon contacts with you. It is imperative that you give your counselor at least four weeks to write a letter of recommendation.

Advocate the student's best interests

The counselor is your advocate in the process. Should you need assistance, should an error be made, should there be a misunderstanding, should a college not treat your application in an ethical or professional manner - your counselor is the right person to intervene on your behalf. If we feel that you may be applying to a college where your chances of admission are very slim, it is our obligation to advise you - and that's not easy! Should a college inadvertently misread your transcript, it is our obligation to contact the admission office to settle the misunderstanding. Your counselor cannot serve as your advocate if he or she doesn't know when a problem is occurring. Consult with your counselor regarding any questions or concerns about your applications.

The partnership is effective only when partners communicate openly with each other. All three parties involved - student, parent, and counselor - need to know their roles and accept responsibility for the set of tasks. Together, this important partnership can make the college search and selection process less stressful and more productive.

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COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Application plans and application types

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision	Rolling Admission	Early Action (EA)
DEFINITION: Student Submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.	DEFINITION: Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.	DEFINITION: Students apply early an receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.
COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING	COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING	COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Restrictive Application Plans

Early Decision (ED)	Restrictive Early Action (REA)
DEFINITION: Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.	DEFINITION: Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.
COMMITMENT: BINDING	COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING

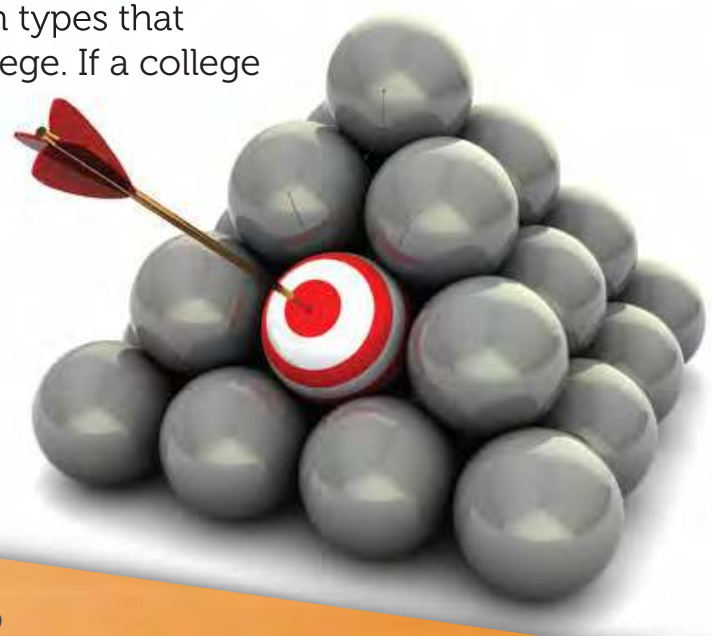
Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

This graphic pulled from NACAC.org

Application Types

There are four different college application types that you may see as you begin applying to college. If a college offers more than one way to apply, please only select one type.
The application types are:

- Colleges own application
- Common App
- Common Black College App
- Coalition App



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College Application Processing

Deadlines and important information

• **August 19** – This is the first day counselors will begin processing transcript requests made in Naviance. There is no guarantee that anything submitted electronically through Naviance or otherwise will be processed before August 19th.

Additional time is required by the North Central Counseling department to ensure the successful submission of college credentials at peak processing times. Seniors must plan accordingly to meet target dates. The chart on the right lists due dates to request pertinent documents needed in order to ensure you meet your college application deadline.

• If using the Common App to apply to college, students must complete the FERPA release and match their account in Naviance. If this is not done, the counselor cannot process their portion of the application for you.

• If a teacher recommendation is required for the college application, a copy of your Resume and Student Biography (from Naviance) must be provided to the faculty member at least four weeks before the deadline. Students are required to allow faculty members four weeks to compose letters of recommendation. Please do not request a faculty letter of recommendation unless it is a required piece of the admission application or if a special circumstance exists and your counselor recommends one.

• All seniors needing a Counselor Letter of Recommendation must complete the Resume and Student Biography in Naviance. Students are required to allow counselors four weeks to compose letters of recommendation. Please do not request a counselor letter of recommendation unless it is a required piece of the admission application or if a special circumstance exists.

College Application Deadline	Due date to request: – transcript – counselor form (ESSR) – Letter of recommendation via Naviance
November 1	October 1
November 15	October 15
December 1	November 1
December 15	November 15
January 1	December 1

Students applying either **Early Action or Early Decision** must request all required letters of recommendation prior to **October 1st**.

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The Process

Submitting Your College Applications

Student completes college application

- Have a parent proofread your application before you hit "submit."

Request test scores be sent directly from SAT/ACT accounts

Request transcripts and track applications in Naviance

- Log into Naviance and list the schools you are applying to, in "Colleges I'm applying to" from the home screen.
- Indicate next to each application how you have applied: Direct to the institution or Common Application.
- In Naviance, mark your application status as "submitted."
- Click on the "Request Transcripts" link to request transcripts for all completed applications.
- Track the status of your online application.

If applying by common application

- **Complete the Naviance/Common App Matching Process.**
- Detailed description on page 26

If teacher recommendation **is required** by college

- Student asks teacher in person if they are willing to write a letter of recommendation.
- Student provides teacher with Resume & Student Biography
- Teachers must be given four weeks to complete letter.
- Early Decision or Early Action Applicants are required to provide resume and student biography to teacher by October 1.
- Student submits request to teacher through Naviance. This is found in the Colleges Section.

Counselor submits the following electronically to college

- Secondary School Report
- Transcript
- Letter of Recommendation, if needed and requested

College notifies student of decision

- Student updates admission results/decisions in Naviance.
- Final NC transcript released only when student has updated college application status.

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Using Naviance

To request your high school transcript

NAVIANCE

Once your college application is complete, the next step is to log into Naviance Student.

You can access Naviance Student from the high school website, or on the counseling canvas page.

LOGGING INTO NAVIANCE

If your email address is already in Naviance, select Forgot Password to receive a temporary password the will be sent to your in-box (be sure to check you spam folder if you do not receive email)

If you do NOT have an email address in Naviance, email your counselor or Miss Salazar

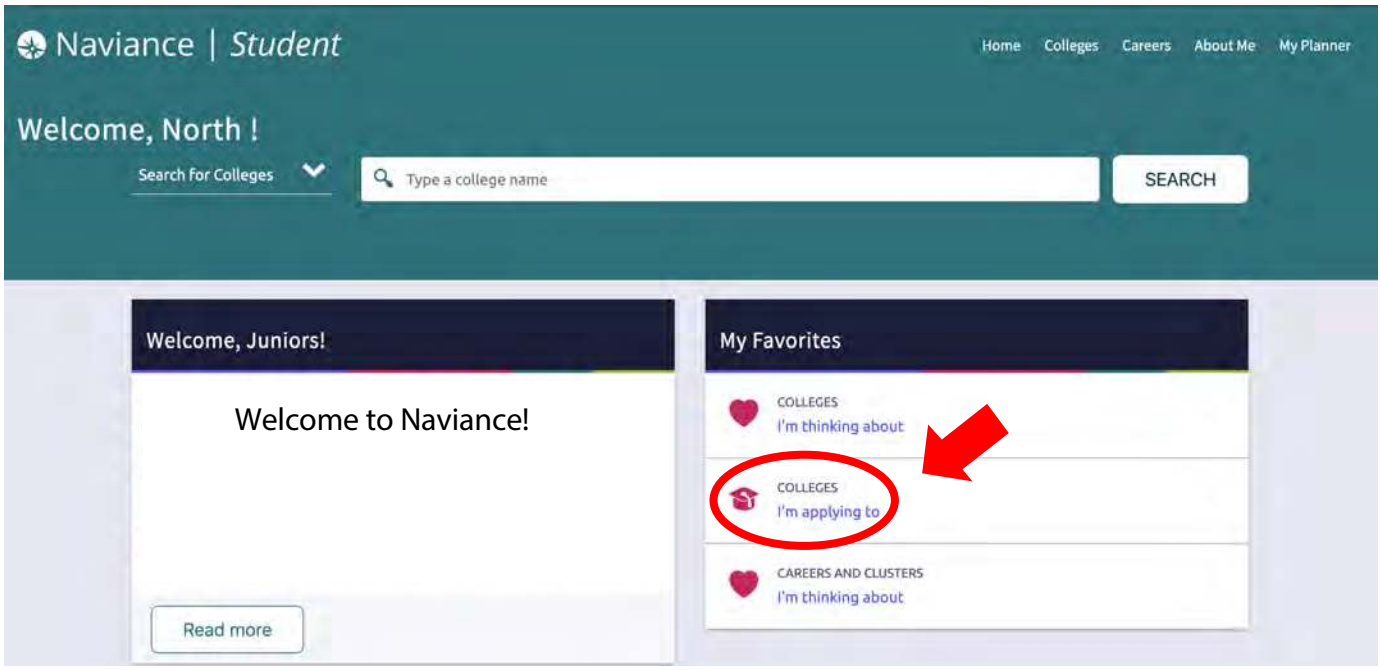
***There are no registration codes, use above information to gain access to Naviance.*

Using Naviance

To request your high school transcript

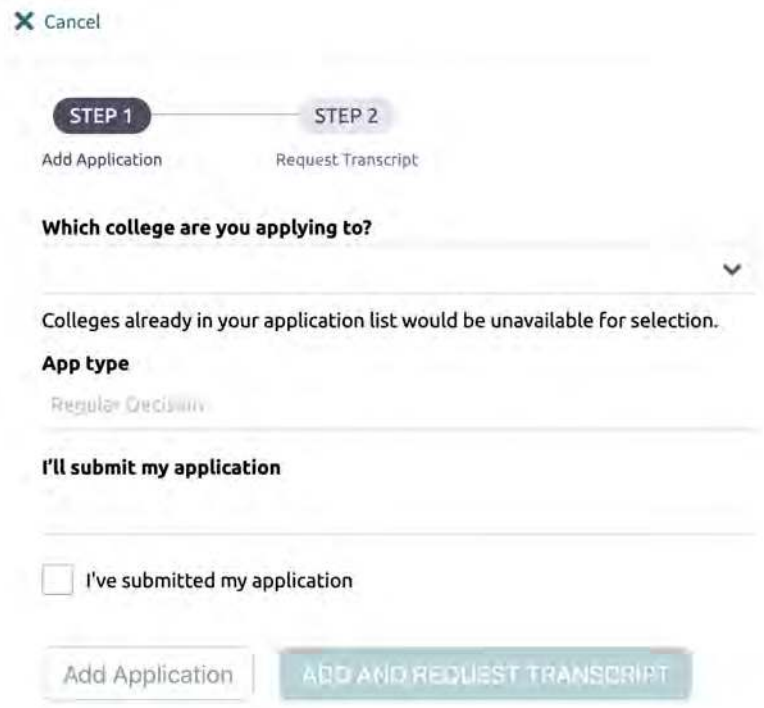
Requesting Your Transcript in Naviance

From the Home screen, select Colleges I'm Applying To.



To add a college to your transcript request list, select +

Begin typing the name of the school you applied to online, then select the application type and how you submitted your application (either direct to the institution or via Common App). Then select Add and Request Transcript.



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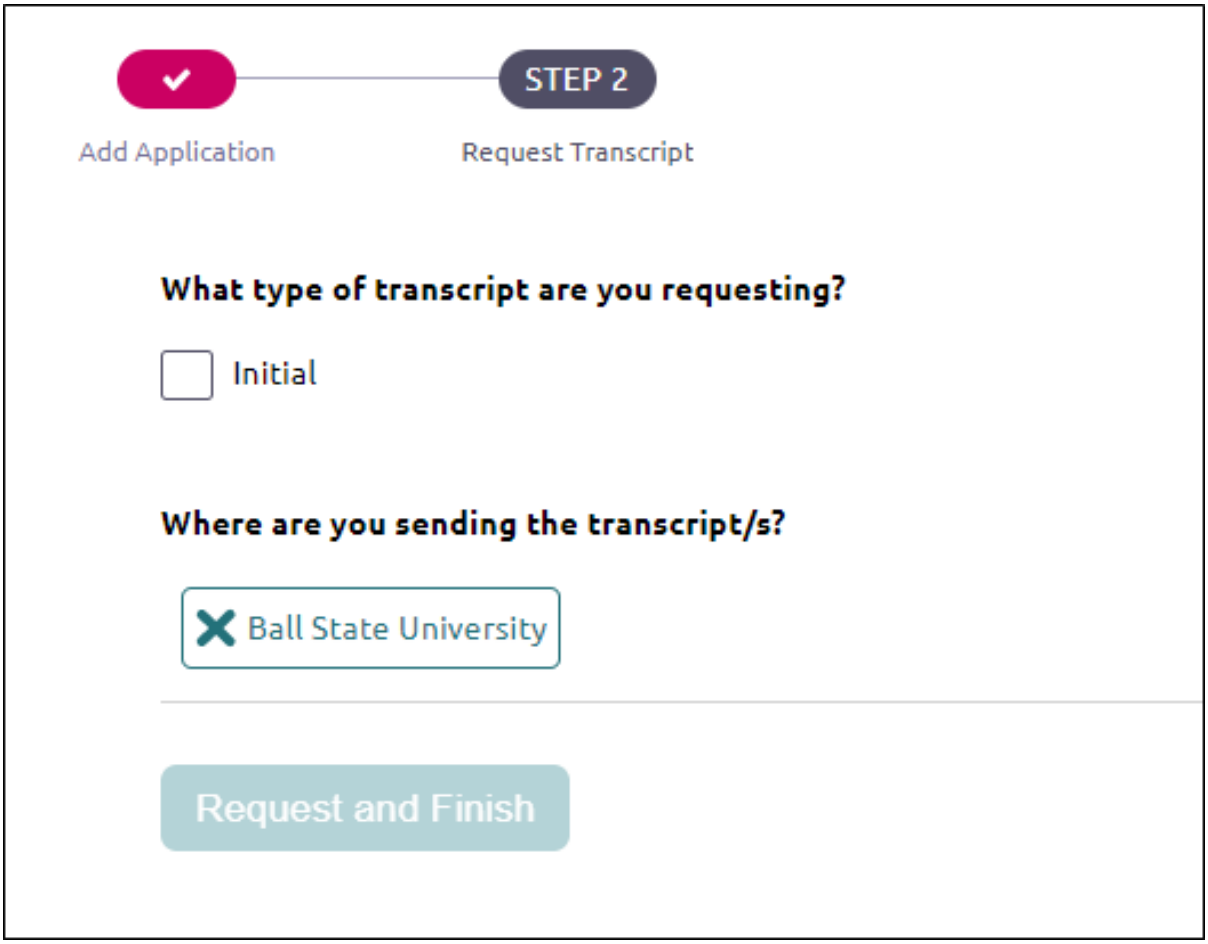
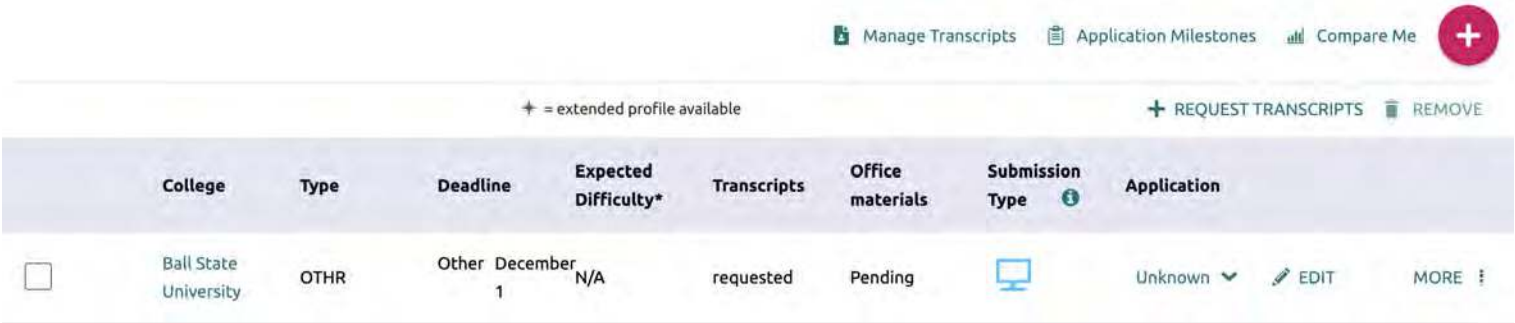
Using Naviance

to request your high school transcript

Select **Initial**. Then select **Request and Finish**.



You will now see the school you've selected on your list.



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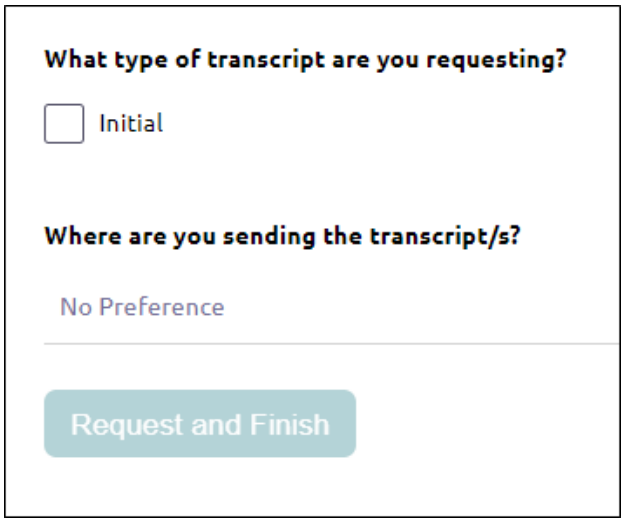
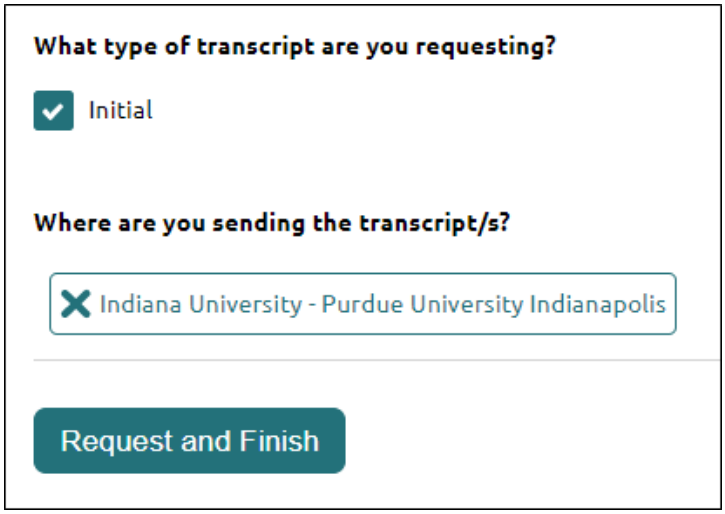
Using Naviance

To request your high school transcript

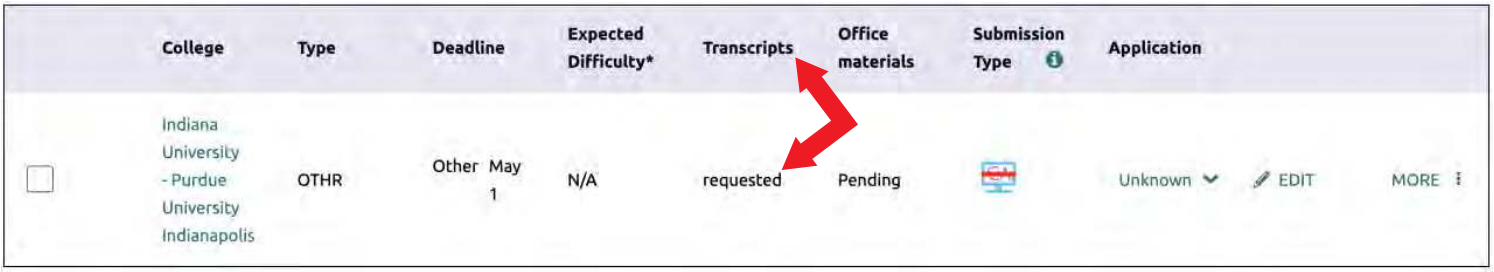
To request a transcript for a college that is already on your list, select + REQUEST TRANSCRIPTS
Select Initial, then select No Preference to bring up the schools on your list.



Now select Request and Finish to add the transcript request.



You have now successfully requested your transcript in Naviance.



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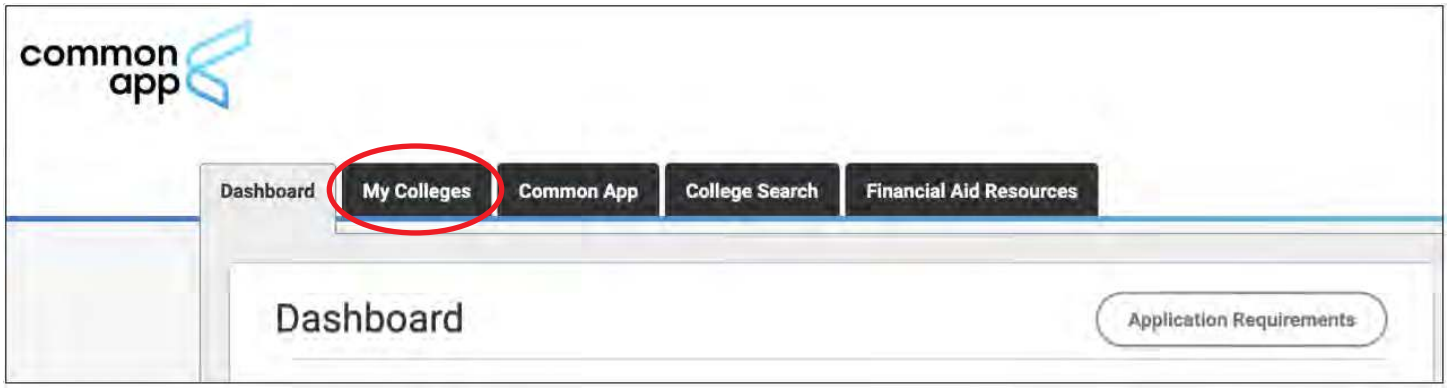
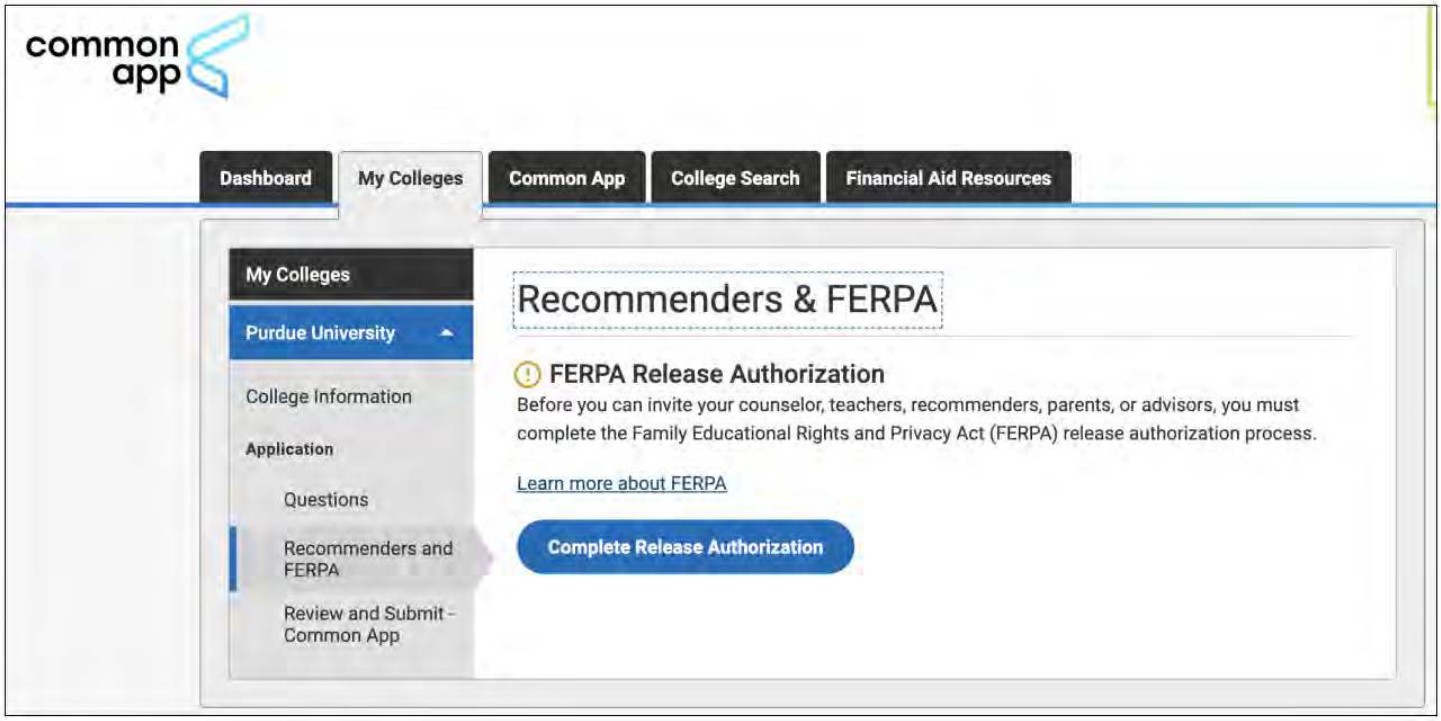
Matching

Your Common App account with Naviance

Start by logging into you Common App account. Once logged in, select **My Colleges**.



Select one of your colleges on your Common App list. Then select **Recommenders and FERPA**. **Complete Release Authorization.** Here you are saying that it is okay to release your information to the college. If the college needs to call the school to ask us questions about your application, you are saying that it is okay to answer their questions. Lastly, you are waiving your right to read any letters of recommendation that may be written for you. Waiving this right allows the college to know that the teacher is able to speak candidly about you.



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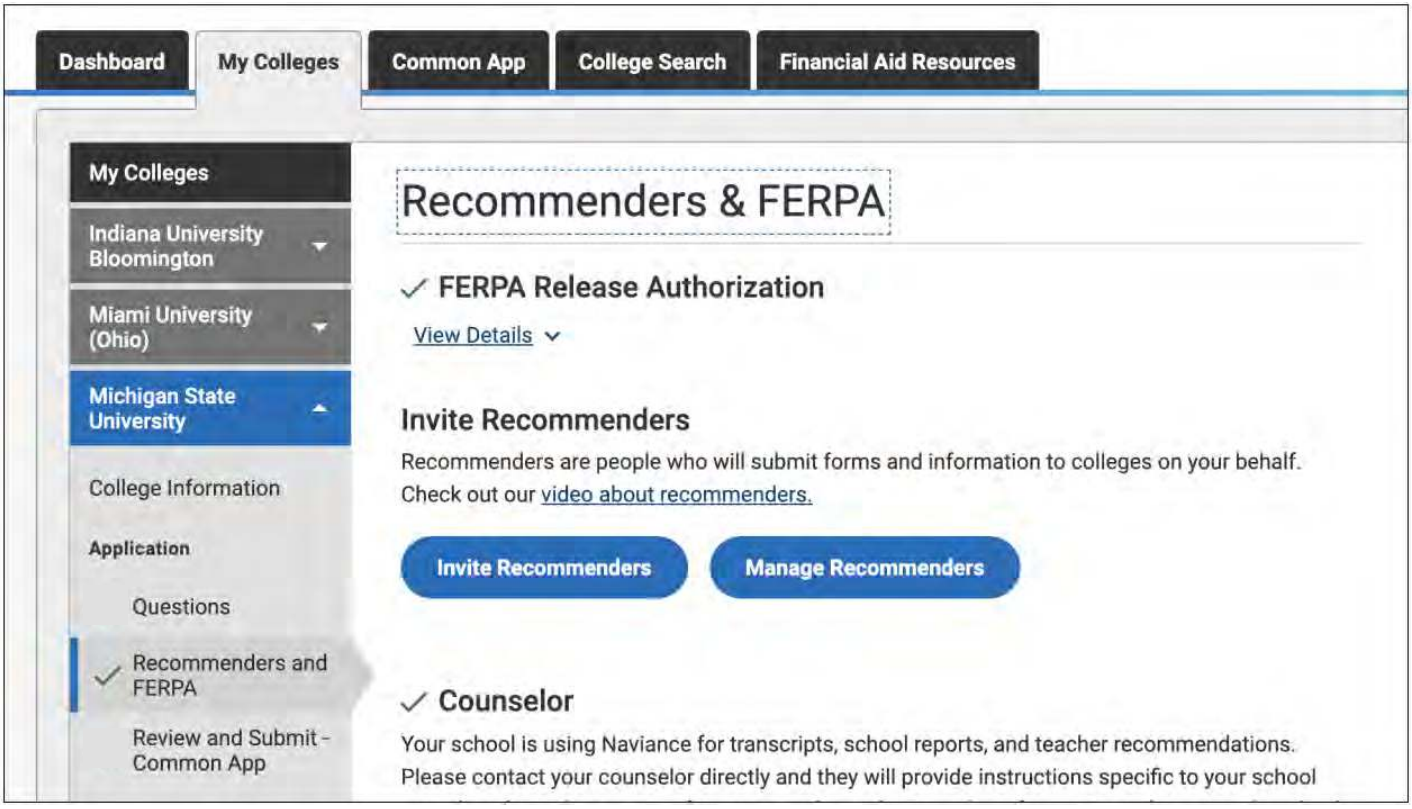
Once the **FERPA** release is complete, it will apply to all of your schools on your Common App list. You only need to complete this once.



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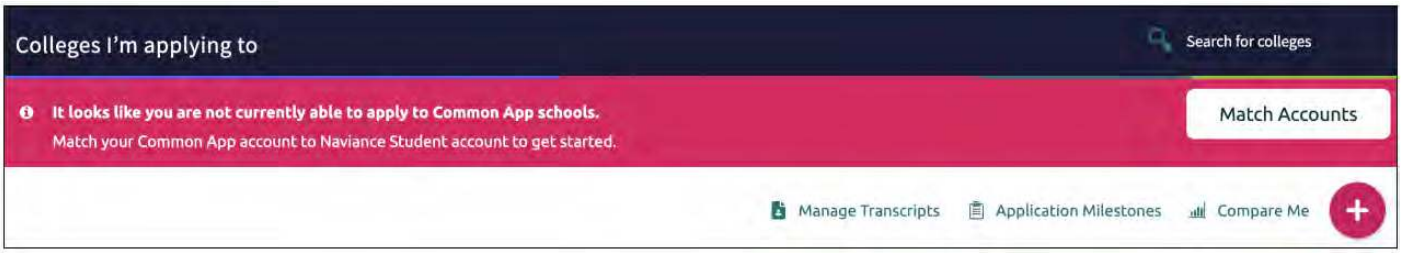
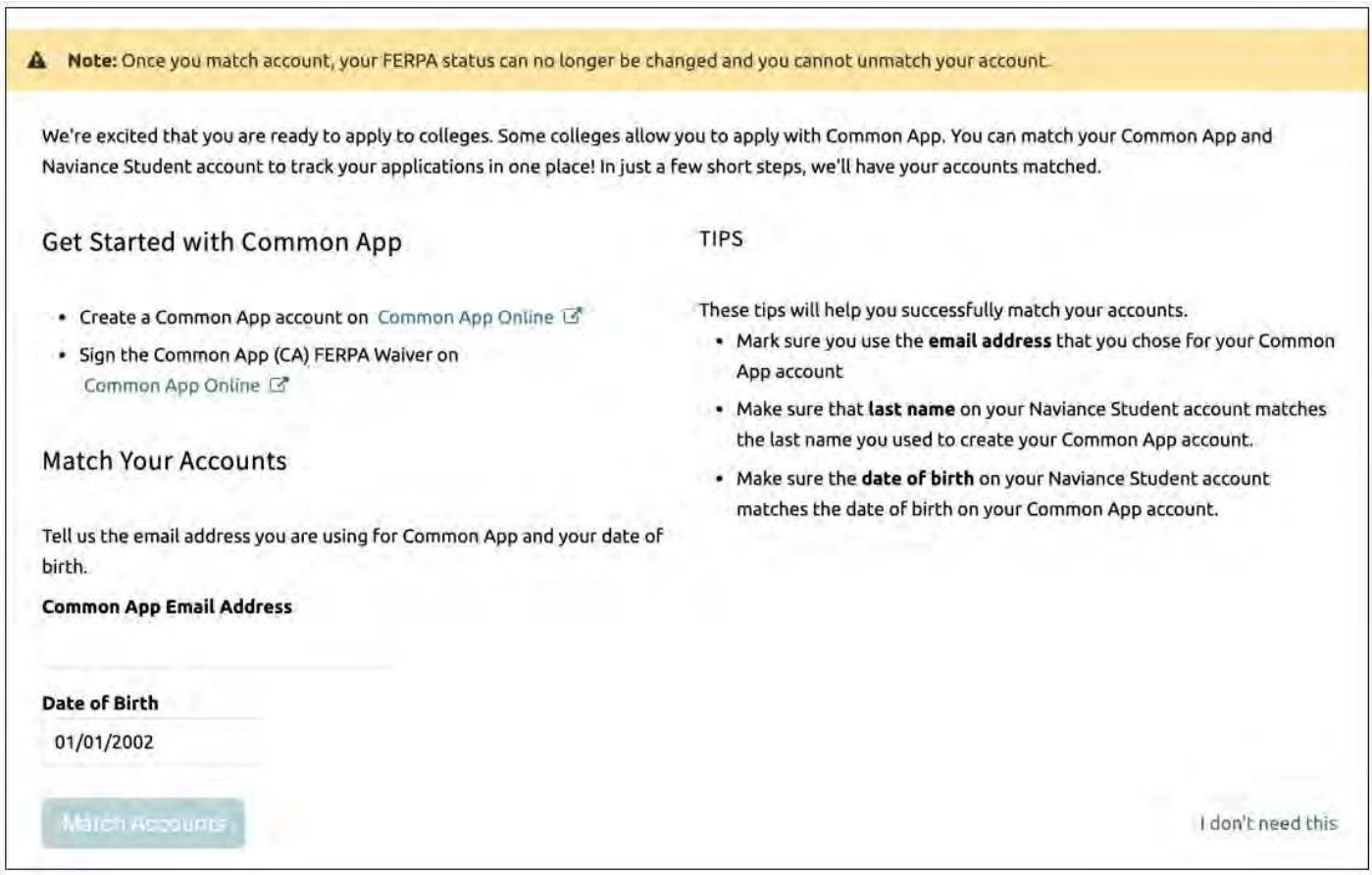
Matching

Your Common App account with Naviance

You are now ready to match your Common App account with your Naviance account. Go to **Colleges I'm Applying To**, which can be found on your Naviance home screen. Locate the hot pink bar near the top of the screen and select **Match Accounts.**



You will need to enter your Common App email address. Be sure that your birthdate is correct.



Once your email address is entered, select **Match Accounts**. Your Common App and Naviance accounts are now matched.

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Naviance Student

overview & logging in

Naviance Student is a valuable tool for the North Central community. The program, which will be used throughout a student's high school career, creates an online portfolio of your child's interests, strengths, and experiences, culminating in a post-secondary plan that outlines his or her goals upon graduation.

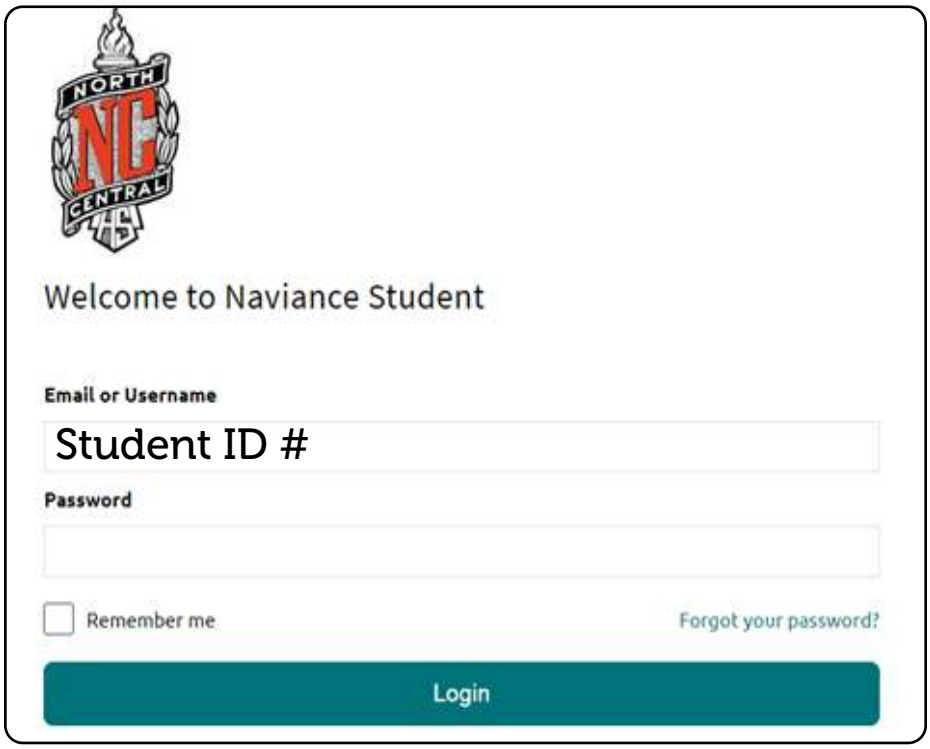
Students can take the first step in post-secondary planning—getting to know themselves. They complete inventories that assess their learning styles and personality types. The results of these inventories are stored in Naviance, so that the students, their parents, and their counselor can access them. The results are comprehensive, giving students an in-depth explanation of their strengths and their potential blind spots, as well as possible career choices.

In the next step of post-secondary planning, students will uncover their interests and skills. Students can take a career interest inventory and quiz that determines what career clusters they may be interested in. After getting the results from these inventories, students can use the Naviance program to explore their potential careers, including the tasks and skills of that career, education requirements, and salary range. Given that students' interests often change and develop, students can retake these interest inventories at any time.

In their junior year, students begin the college search process. The Naviance program is an invaluable tool that streamlines the research process, allowing students to use GPAs, test scores, and potential majors or careers to find schools that match their needs. Students can conduct an in-depth search for schools by location, size, religious affiliation, academic programs, athletics, competitiveness (in admissions), racial diversity and cost. Naviance will give profiles of most colleges, including admissions requirements, deadlines, tuition cost, financial aid information, and an overview of student life. Tools in Naviance also allow students to compare their GPA and test scores with the average GPAs and test scores of other North Central High School students that were accepted at particular schools. This allows students to see if they have a viable list of potential colleges. Other tools will suggest schools for students based upon the students' GPA and scores, or based upon the students' current list of potential schools. At this time, students who may be entering the workforce after high school can also use Naviance to update their resumes and search for potential careers. Naviance streamlines the college and career search and research process with a wealth of information and tools.

As seniors, students will use the Naviance program to apply to the schools of their choice. Most schools now accept applications online, either through the Common Application website or through their own individual website. Seniors at North Central High School will use Naviance to request transcripts, letters of recommendations, or to link their Naviance account to their Common Application account. This process allows the counseling center to send all of the students' information electronically.

Naviance Student is a valuable tool for post-secondary planning. It allows students to explore their learning style, personality type, career interests, and potential college plans. By the end of their senior year, students have created an online portfolio, which highlights their plans upon graduating from North Central High School. We encourage parents to become familiar with the system and support their children's endeavors through Naviance.



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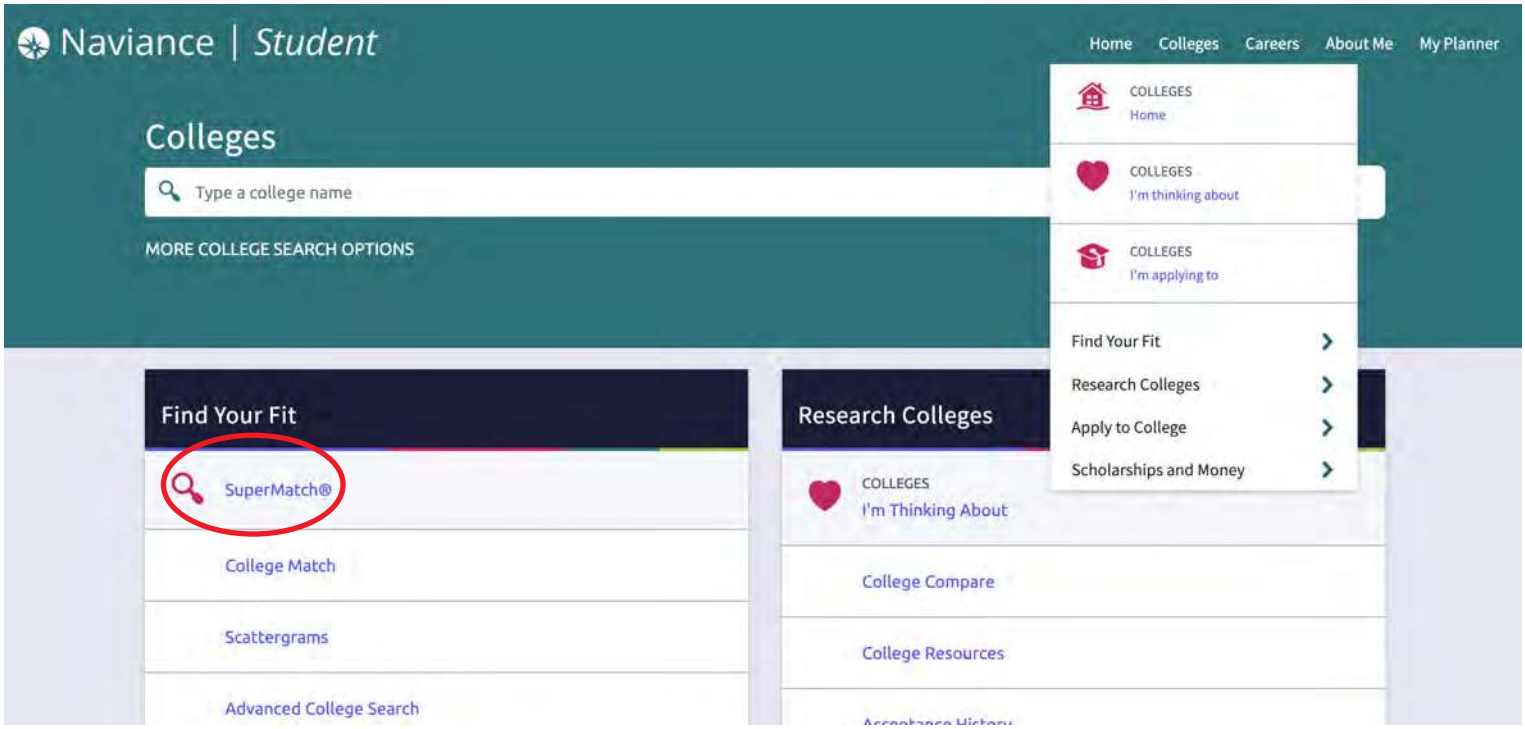
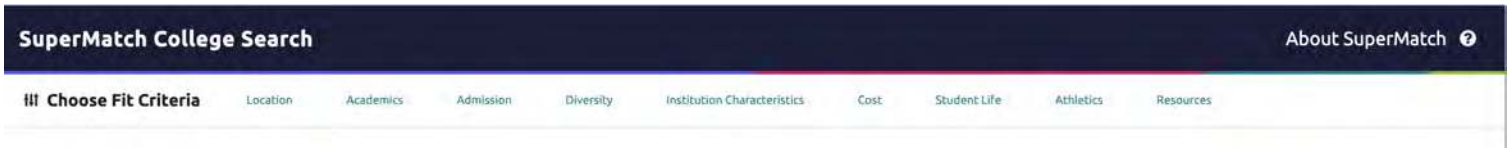
SuperMatch can be found by navigating to Colleges Home → Find Your Fit

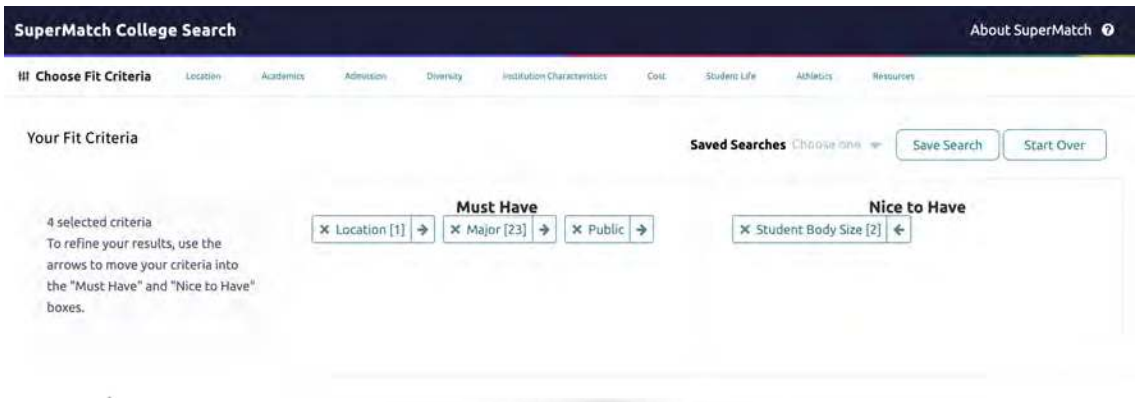
The SuperMatch college search tool within Naviance makes it even easier for students to explore their options and discover colleges that are a match with their academic profile and a fit with what they're looking for in a college experience.



Use the Choose Fit Criteria navigation menu at the top to select criteria based on what you are looking for in your college experience. You do not need to select something under every category; only select the criteria which are most important to you.



As fit criteria are selected, they populate in the **Must Have** box. You can also move criteria between the **Must Have** and **Nice to Have** boxes depending on level of importance to you. Moving your criteria between these two categories of importance will refine your college search results below.



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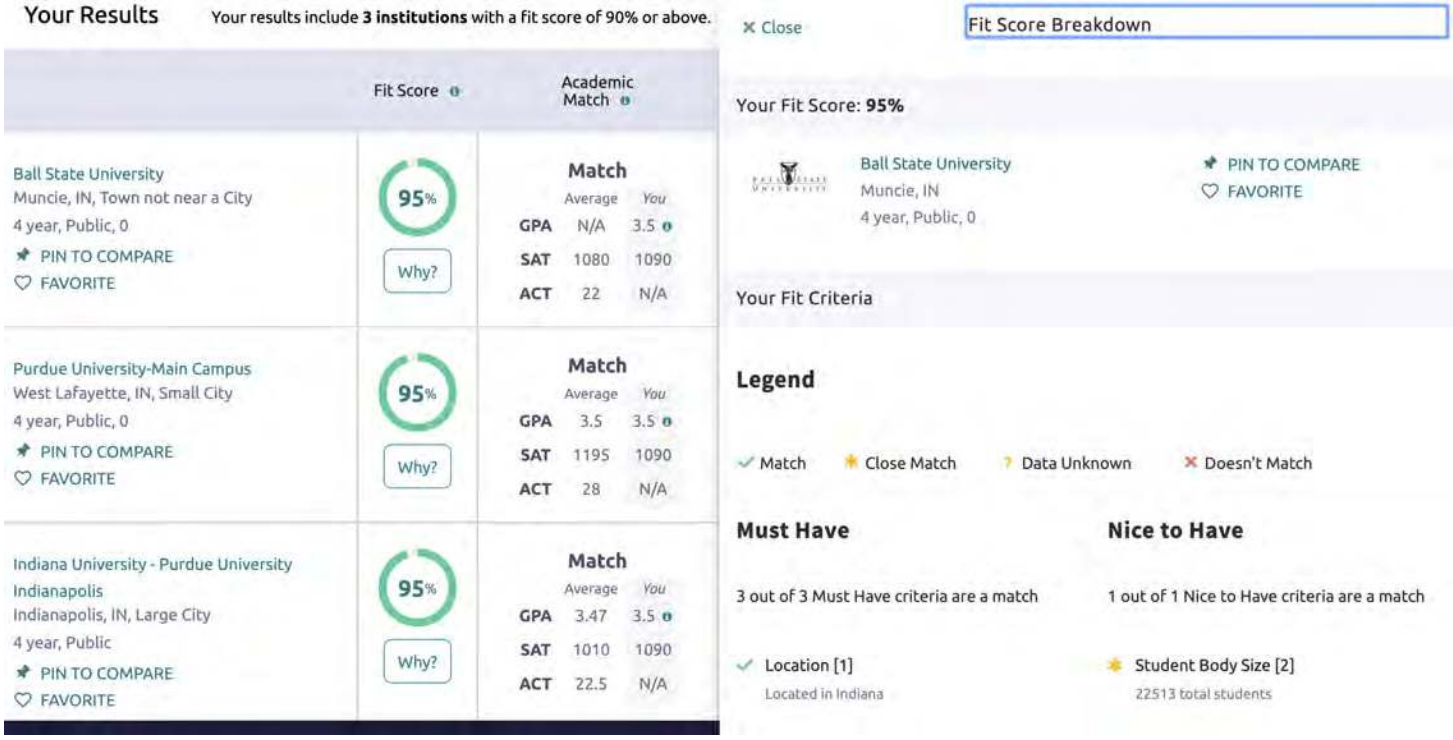
SuperMatch

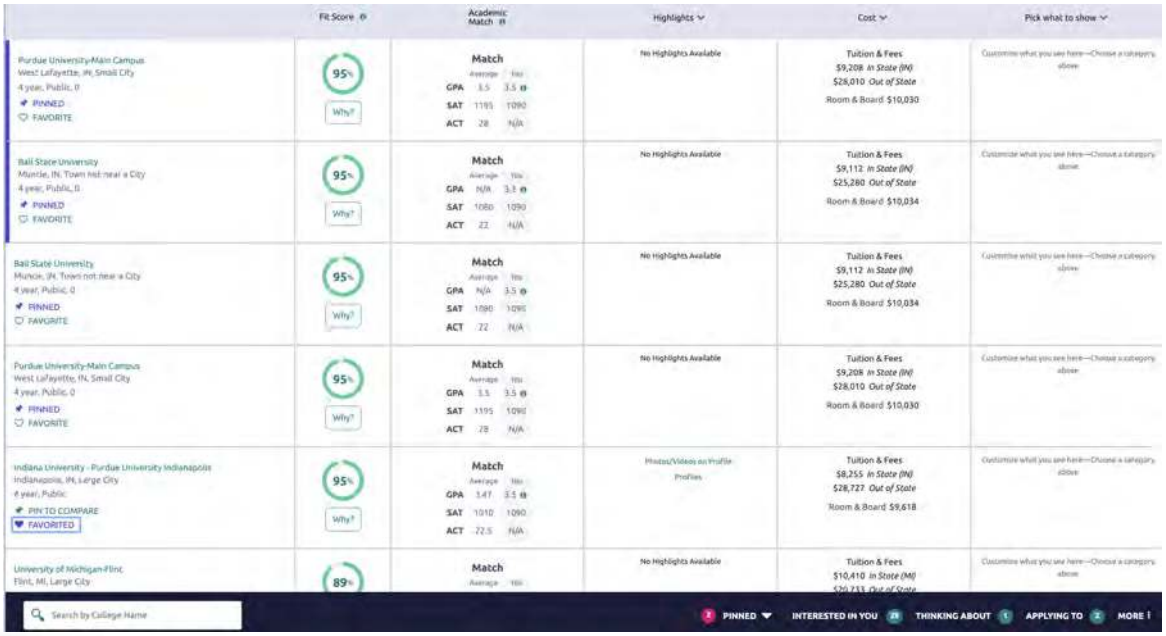
College search

Institutions with the highest **Fit Score** will always appear at the top of your list. To see your **Fit Score Breakdown** based on the criteria you selected, click on the green **Why?** box located under the **Fit Score percentage**.



GPA, SAT and/or ACT scores will be pre-populated as part of the Admissions fit criteria, if available within Naviance. If not available, you can enter your information to see how you compare to institutional averages in the **Academic Match** column. Note: GPA's are converted to a 4.0 scale.

While viewing your results, you can **Pin to Compare** to see a comparison of those colleges which interest you. As you select each college to compare, the pinned colleges will appear at the top of the results table with a purple bar next to it.



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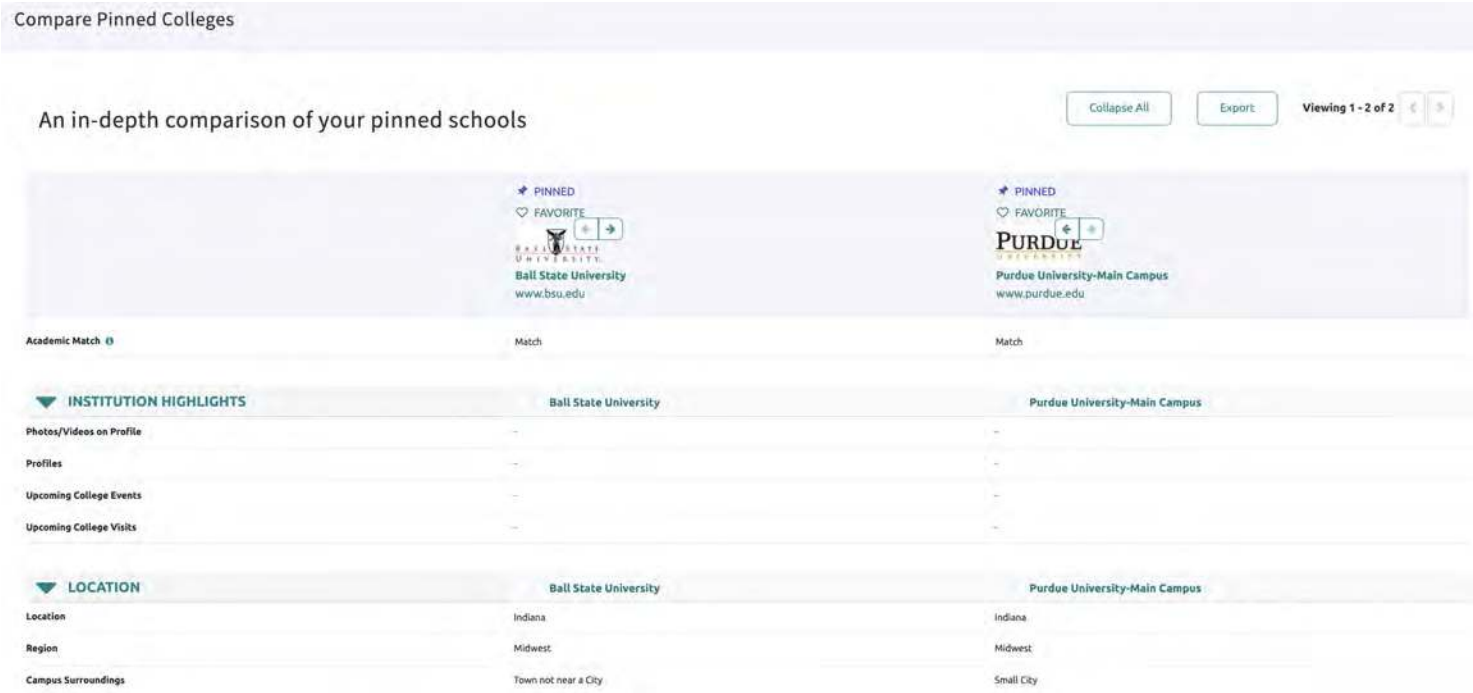
To see an in-depth side-by-side comparison, click on the **Pinned** menu in the bottom right corner and select **Compare Pinned Colleges.** Once on the compare pinned page, you can **export** your results by clicking on the green Export button located near the top right corner.



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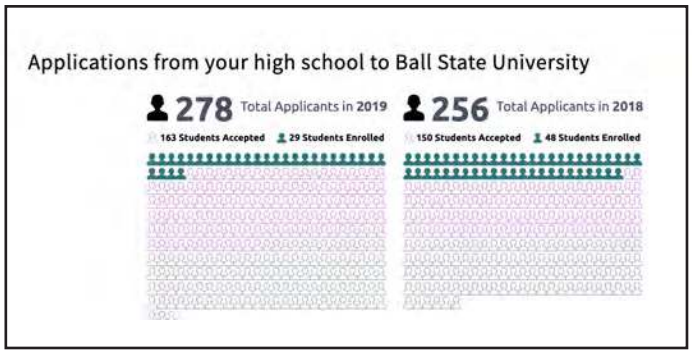
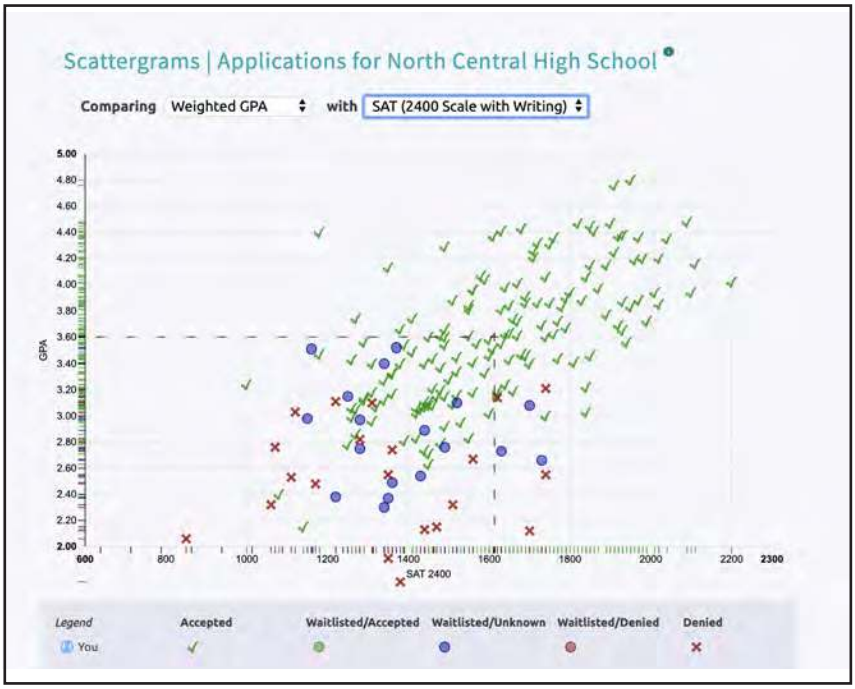
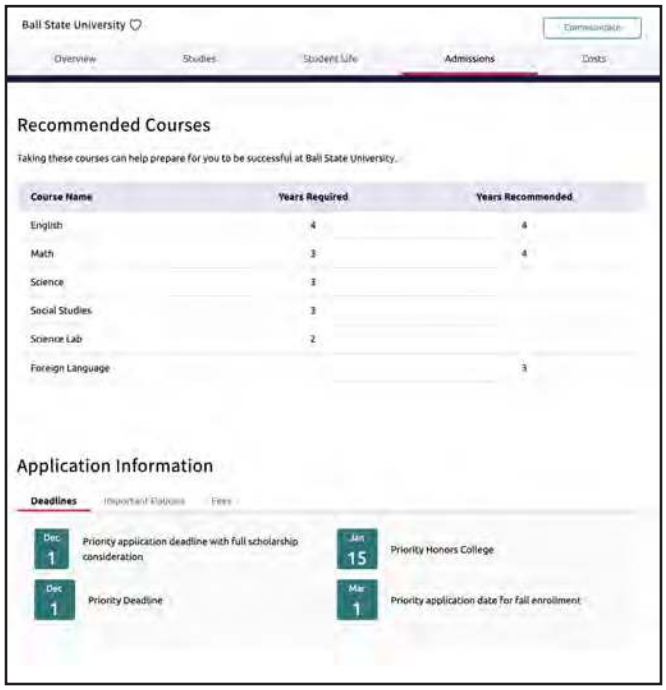
Naviance Student

Scattergrams

If you want a visual representation of where the student falls in relation to other students who have applied to a particular school, use the **Scattergrams** tool. This tool allows the student to place him or herself on a graph showing the test scores and GPAs of other students who applied to the school. The blue circle on the graph indicates where the student falls. Green checkmarks indicate students who were accepted to the school, and red X's indicate students who were not accepted.







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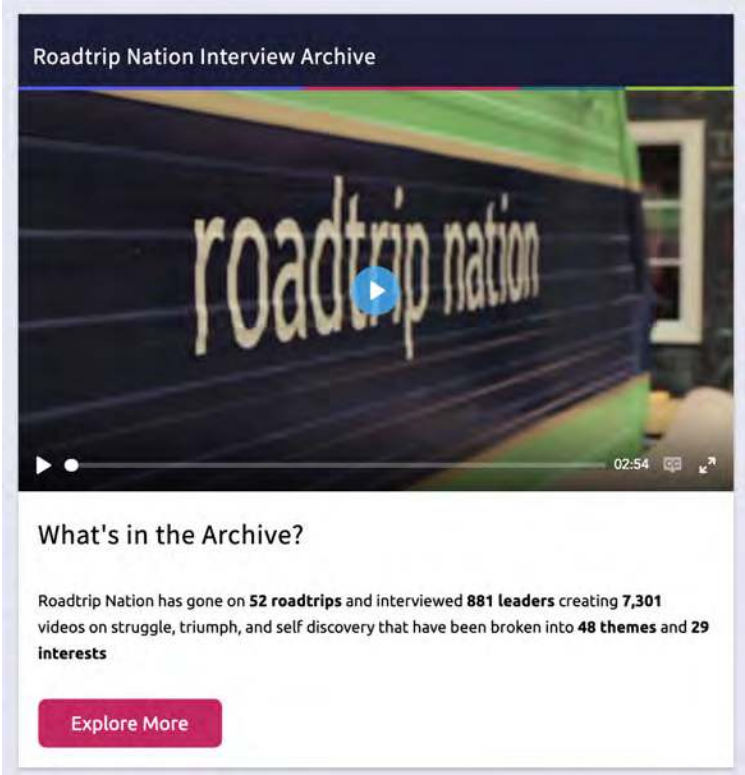
Naviance Student

Careers

The Careers section allows you to explore careers, explore career clusters, and favorite careers you are thinking about. In addition, you can also watch short videos that allow you to gain more knowledge on a specific career. You can also complete multiple interest inventories. There is the Career Key, Strengths Explorer, and the Career Interest Profiler. All will provide you with more information on different careers that may of interest to you.



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Financial aid task timeline

Month	Task
September	Research admission and financial aid opportunities.
October	Determine if the CSS Financial Aid Profile form is required in addition to the FAFSA. Many selective colleges require this. Deadline is typically in the fall.
October - May	Check the scholarship list on Naviance regularly and apply by the deadlines indicated.
October - March	Obtain the FAFSA worksheet at www.studentaid.ed.gov/worksheet along with a list of documents you will need to complete the FAFSA at www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs. Gather your tax data. You may begin to file the FAFSA as early as October 1 of senior year. Double check your college's financial aid timeline for the filing deadline.
April	April 15 is the Indiana State received by deadline for filing the FAFSA (we suggest submitting it by April 1). Students eligible to receive the 21st Century Scholarship must also apply by this date. Receive your Financial Aid Award letters from colleges. This will allow you to compare the final cost of each college you've applied to. Financial Aid Awards may be provided earlier due to the earlier filing date.

- Going to college is a significant intellectual and financial investment. Students and parents should openly discuss college costs. Become knowledgeable about the various ways that college costs can be met. Examples of aid: scholarships, grants, loans and work study programs.
- Students first apply for admission, then financial aid and college sponsored scholarships. Scholarships can be based on merit or some other specific criteria.
- Some colleges and universities offer more merit or non need-based aid than others. Before you rule out private or out-of-state colleges, make certain that you research their policy on merit based aid. You might be pleasantly surprised. Remember that 90% of available financial aid (scholarship and need-based monies) is awarded by colleges or universities. Review all materials mailed home to ensure access to all aid opportunities.
- Register at
    - www.fastweb.com,
    - www.collegeboard.org,
    - and/or www.collegeanswer.com for scholarships.

  These sites house the largest scholarship databases in the country. Be aware you may receive hundreds of scholarship emails from these sites.
- Check out the information on college savings plans, including 529 plans on
    - www.collegechoicedirect.com and
    - www.upromise.com

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Financial Aid

Tips and reminders

Scholarship scams

The following four items are characteristics of scholarship scams:

- You have to pay a fee
- Money back guarantee
- Credit card/Bank account information required
- Offers exclusive information

Ask college financial aid officers

- Will your institution meet 100% of my financial need? If they do, your EFC (Expected Family Contribution) and possible loans would be the only family contribution expected. If they do not, any unmet need would be the responsibility of the family in addition to the EFC.

- Will you make any adjustments to the federal formula? They could consider primary residence equity, non-custodial parent income, and/or other assets, retirement funds, etc.

Great financial aid websites

- www.fafsa.ed.gov
  FAFSA on the Web
  Interactive Web version of the FAFSA

- www.fastweb.com
  FastWEB
  Free searchable scholarship database

- www.finaid.org
  Financial Aid Info
  Scam alerts to scholarship services

- www.ed.gov
  The Student Guide
  Financial Aid primer from US Dept of Education

- www.salliemaefund.org
  Sallie Mae Fund
  Free searchable scholarship database

- www.latinocollegedollars.org
  Latino College Dollars Directory of scholarships for Hispanic students

- www.collegegoalsunday.org
  FAFSA Help
  Attend a help session to receive one -to-one help
  in completing and filing FAFSA online.

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Collegiate Sports

Recruiting

Junior year

- You must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at the end of your junior year. The registration is done online at: http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA_EMS.html. The recruiting process will stop until this has been completed.
- Continue to meet with your counselor to insure that you are enrolled in the proper courses for NCAA eligibility in your senior year.
- Continue your athletic resumes and sport camp participation.
- Take the PSAT in the fall. Take the SAT and the ACT in the spring.
- Contact schools that may interest you and return all cards back to these schools.
- Respond back to any and all schools who contact you with their return post cards or letters.
- Make unofficial visits to those schools that you may wish to attend.

Senior year

- Review with your counselor what you have taken or will take all the classes that will be required for NCAA collegiate eligibility.
- Repeat the ACT and SAT – unless you have reached maximum score level.
- Continue to meet with your head coach as to what schools and on what level you are most suited to play.
- Begin your online college applications.
- Narrow your choice of schools and take your five official visits to the schools that you might like to attend. Remember, it is an education decision first, followed by athletics.
- Begin to research a variety of resources for financial aid.

Recruiting terminology you should know

- Contact: Any face-to-face meeting between a college coach, yourself or your parents.
- Core Courses: Recognized courses specified by the NCAA
- Evaluation: Any off campus activity used to assess your academic or athletic abilities.
- Official Visit: College paid trip to a campus during your senior year. You may visit up to five different schools that have your application.
- Qualifier: You have met all NCAA requirements.
- Recruited Prospective Student Athlete: You become this when approached by a coach or representative of a school about enrolling and playing a sport.
- Redshirt: You may practice with the team but you cannot play.

Some questions to ask

- What position will I play?
- What other players are being recruited at that position?
- Will I be redshirted?
- How would the coach describe his or her coaching style?
- When does the head coach's contract expire?
- How good is the department in my major?
- What percentage of the players graduate on time?
- What kind of academic support will be available to me?
- What are the details of financial aid at your institution?

Important websites for student athletes

- NCAA: www.ncaa.org
- NCAA Eligibility Center: www.eligibilitycenter.org
- NAIA Eligibility Center: www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center
- NJCAA: www.njcaa.org
- Core Course GPA: www.clearinghousecalculator.org

*Contact your coach of the athletic department for more information.

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Web Resources

See: Naviance Student - the NC College & Career Readiness Platform

College Search Sites & General Research

College Board: www.collegeboard.org

College Completion Reports: www.in.gov/che

College Confidential: http://www.collegeconfidential.com/
- Great resources for College Search, College Admissions, Paying for College, College Life

College Navigator: www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

College Parents of America: www.collegeparents.org

Common Application: www.commonapp.org

Campus Crime Rate Comparisons: http://ope.ed.gov/Security/index.aspx

Great Jobs Great Lives: The 2014 Gallup-Purdue Index Report
https://news.gallup.com/reports/199229/gallup-purdue-index-report-2016.aspx

Learn More Indiana: www.learnmoreindiana.org

National Association for College Admission Counseling Parent/Student Info: www.nacacnet.org

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE): www.nsse.iub.edu
- Check out: Pocket Guide to Choosing a College, under "Tools & Services"

Peterson's: www.petersons.com

U.S. News and World Report Education Page: www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/eduhome.htm

University and College Accountability Network: http://www.ucan-network.org
- Information about private universities and colleges
- Nice profiles on colleges sorted by state

Big Future: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Many useful tools and resources

Scholarship Searches

College Board Scholarship Search: http://apps.collegeboard.org/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp
- Great! Create a personal profile to search for scholarships that pertain to you

FASTWEB: www.fastweb.com
- Great website! Can personalize very user friendly

FinAid Scholarship Scams: www.finaid.org/scholarships/scams.phtml
- Works great, a lot of useful information

SallieMae.com College Answer www.collegeanswer.com
- Browse scholarships by category
- Need to be a registered member to access full website
- Also has college preparation tools, planning tools

Nelnet: www.nelnet.com
- Could be used for college planning
- Has information on scholarships and financial aid

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Web Resources

Career and Interest Resource Sites

America's Job Bank: www.ajb.dni.us
- Connects you to IN career connect website when click on state
- Shows a lot of information about different career paths, occupations with high/low demand

Campus Career Center Worldwide: www.campuscareercenter.com
- Lists available job listings for particular technical career fields: CIA, IRS, NSA
- Useful for looking for jobs in big cities

Kiersey Temperament Sorter: www.keirsey.com
- Personality test
- Four basic temperament groups which describe human behavior. Keirsey's four temperaments are referred to as Artisans™, Guardians™, Rationals™ and Idealists™.
- Explains each temperament in detail

Occupational Outlook Handbook: www.bls.gov/oco/
- Descriptive information about any occupation
- Good for researching particular jobs and what they entail, not for finding a job

Adventures in Education: Planning a Career: www.aie.org
- Really good website. Info for prep for college, choosing a college and career
- Also has tips for saving money after find a job
- Has links for families and students

LearnMore Indiana: www.learnmoreindiana.org
- Very good website, user friendly

Guidance Resources Homepage: www.wisemantech.com/guidance
- A LOT of links from the main page for a lot of different information

Indiana INTERN.net: https://www.indianaintern.net
- Provides a searchable database of internship opportunities in Indiana.

Discovery Internships for High School Students: www.discoveryinternships.com

Online College Applications

Common Application: www.commonapp.org
- Non-profit organization provides an admission application - may submit to 500 colleges.

Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org
- Newer application platform - may submit to 80 colleges.

Common Black Application:
May submit application to 50 HBCU's commonblackcollegeapp.com/

National College Fairs

National Association for College Admission Counseling: http://www.nacacnet.org/college-fairs/Pages/default.aspx

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Web Resources

Study Abroad

Study Abroad: www.studyabroad.com

Enrichment and Service Programs

Corporation for National and Community Service: www.cns.gov

Where There Be Dragons: www.wheretherebedragons.com
- A study abroad program

City Year: http://www.cityyear.org/default_ektid22283.aspx

Taking Off: www.takingoff.net
- For students graduating high school, or in college, who want to take some time off, they provide a consultant service to help you find a productive use of that break
- Cost for using their services, not including whatever you decide to do
- They are able to connect you with many service opportunities around the world

AmeriCorp: www.americorps.gov

Teach for America: http://www.teachforamerica.org/

Serve: http://www.serve.gov/
- Government website where you can type in your location and it brings up any volunteer opportunities in your area
- Can also post your own service project ideas

Financial Aid Resources

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators: www.nasfaa.org
- Use student, parents, counselors link
- Rest of site is mostly background information on government financial aid statistics and associations

Indiana Commission for Higher Education Division of Student Financial Aid: www.in.gov/ssaci/
- Provides need-based tuition assistance to eligible Indiana residents attending eligible Indiana colleges and universities.

FAFSA on the Web: www.fafsa.ed.gov

The Financial Aid Information Page (FinAid): www.finaid.org
- Provides general information about the different types of financial aid
- Links you to sites for each type of aid

Expected Family Contribution Calculator: www.finaid.org/calculators/finaidestimate.phtml

Mapping Your Future: http://mappingyourfuture.org/
- More than just financial aid, can use as a college planning resource

My Money-Financial Planning: www.purdue.edu/mymoney

Selective Service Registration

Website: http://www.sss.gov/default.htm

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Web Resources

Resources for Students with Disabilities

Association of University Centers on Disabilities: www.aucd.org
- Provides information on legislative actions for students with disabilities

National Attention Deficit Disorder Association: www.add.org

Understood: www.understood.org

College Living Experience: www.cleinc.net

Guide to Attending University for Students with Psychiatric Disabilities: http://www.cmha.ca/youreducation/introduction.html

Friends of Quinn: www.friendsofquinn.com

Multicultural Resources

Black Excel: The College Help Network: www.blackexcel.org
- Good website with lots of links to helpful resources
- Information has been updated, but still has past information from previous years

Office of English Language Acquisition: http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/index.html

Gates Millennium Scholars Fund: www.gmsp.org
- Good website, good opportunity for students

Hillel: Jewish Campus Life: www.hillel.org

Hispanic Scholarship Fund: www.hsf.net

Historically Black Colleges and Universities: http://www.hbcupages.com

Resources for Student Athletes

National Collegiate Athletic Association: www.ncaa.org

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics: www.naia.org

National Junior College Athletic Association: www.njcaa.org

Core Course GPA: www.clearinghousecalculator.org
- Need an account to use, can create free one through high school ID
- Lists colleges by state and provides address for each and website link

Test Preparation Options

www.khanacademy.org - START HERE before proceeding to other test prep programs.

www.number2.com – FREE
www.review.com
www.kaplan.com
www.barronstestprep.com
www.maxthetest.com
www.petersons.com
www.collegeboard.org
www.act.org

Test of English as a Foreign Language: www.toefl.org
List of SAT subject tests required by colleges:
http://www.compassprep.com/services/sat-subject-tests/
Free prep site of wide array of tests: www.testprepreview.com

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Recommended College Guides

General Facts & Process Advice

- College Admission: From Application to Acceptance, Step by Step (Three Rivers Press)
- College Board College Handbook (The College Board)
- Peterson's Guides to Four Year Colleges (Peterson's)
- Peterson's Guides to Two Year Colleges (Peterson's)

College Reviews

- Barron's Profiles of American Colleges (Barron's Educational Series)
- Colleges That Change Lives (Penguin USA)
- The Hidden Ivies, 3rd Edition (Harper Collins)
- The Insider's Guide to the Colleges: Students on Campus Tell You What You Really Want to Know (St. Martin's Griffin)
- The Fiske Guide to Colleges (Sourcebooks)
- The Best 382 Colleges (Princeton Review)

Athletes

- The Student Athlete's Guide to College (The Princeton Review)

Financial Aid/Money for College

- How to Get Money for College (Peterson's)
- Scholarships, Grants, and Prizes (Peterson's)
- The Ultimate Scholarship Book: Billions of Dollars in Scholarships, Grants and Prizes (Harper Collins)

Multicultural Students

- The Daystar Guide to Colleges for African American Students (Kaplan)
- The Latino Student's Guide to College Success (Greenwood)

Learning Disabilities

- The K & W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorder (The Princeton Review)

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Historically Black Colleges & Universities

Understanding all of your college options is important. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) offer features not found at predominately white institutions. Consider the college characteristics most important to you. Research HBCUs to determine if you might benefit from an HBCU collegiate experience. HBCUs enroll less than 20% of the African American national undergraduate population, but award one third of all bachelor's degrees and a significant number of the advanced degrees earned by African Americans.

Alabama A&M University, AL
Alabama State University, AL
Albany State University, GA
Alcorn State University, MS
Allen University, SC
Arkansas Baptist College, AR
Benedict College, SC
Bennett College for Women, NC
Bethune-Cookman College, FL
Bishop State Community College, AL
Bluefield State College, WV
Bowie State University, MD
Central State University, OH
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, PA
Claflin University, SC
Clark Atlanta University, GA
Clinton Junior College, SC
Coahoma Community College, MS
Concordia College, AL
Coppin State College, MD
Delaware State University, DE
Denmark Technical College, SC
Dillard University, LA
Edward Waters College, FL
Elizabeth City State University, NC
Fayetteville State University, NC
Fisk University, TN
Florida A&M University, FL
Florida Memorial University, FL
Fort Valley State University, GA
Gadsden State Community College, AL
Grambling State University, LA
H Councill Trenholm State Technical College, AL
Hampton University, VA
Harris-Stowe State University, MO
Hinds Community College, Utica , MS
Howard University, Washington D.C.
Huston-Tillotson University, TX
Interdenominational Theological Center, GA
J.F. Drake State Technical College, AL
Jackson State University, MS
Jarvis Christian College, TX
Johnson C. Smith University, NC
Kentucky State University, KY
Knoxville College, TN
Lane College, TN
Langston University, OK
Lawson State Community College, AL
LeMoyne-Owen College, TN
Lincoln University, MO
Lincoln University, PA
Livingstone College, NC
Meharry Medical College, TN
Miles College, AL
Mississippi Valley State University, MS
Morehouse College, GA
Morehouse School of Medicine, GA
Morgan State University, MD
Morris College, SC
Norfolk State University, VA
North Carolina A&T State University, NC
North Carolina Central University, NC
Oakwood University, AL
Paine College, GA
Paul Quinn College, TX
Philander Smith College, AR
Prairie View A&M University, TX
Rust College, MS
Savannah State University, GA
Selma University, AL
Shaw University, NC
Shelton State Community College, AL
Simmons College, Louisville, KY
South Carolina State University, SC
Southern University A&M College, LA
Southern University at New Orleans, LA
Southern University at Shreveport, LA
Southwestern Christian College, TX
Spelman College, GA
St. Augustine's College, NC
St. Paul's College, VA
St. Philip's College, TX
Stillman College, AL
Talladega College, AL
Tennessee State University, TN
Texas College, TX
Texas Southern University, TX
Tougaloo College, MS
Tuskegee University, AL
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, AR
University of Maryland Eastern Shore, MD
University of the District of Columbia, DC
University of the Virgin Islands, VI
Virginia State University, VA
Virginia Union University, VA
Virginia University of Lynchburg, VA
Voorhees College, SC
West Virginia State University, WV
Wilberforce University, OH
Wiley College, TX
Winston-Salem State University, NC
Xavier University of Louisiana, LA

Students may apply to HBCUs with the Common Black College Application at https://commonblackcollegeapp.com

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When do I apply to colleges?

Your North Central HS Counselor will begin accepting counselor secondary forms and transcript requests for processing on August 19th. There is no guarantee that anything submitted before August 19th will be processed until August 19th. All seniors need to check the application and scholarship deadlines for each college. Some specific programs at large universities (like, Purdue!) may fill quickly, so be prepared to present the required forms to your counselor in early September. Colleges encourage students to submit applications as early as possible. There may be particular benefits tied to getting your application in early (better merit scholarship odds, best housing choices, early course registration). For most Indiana four year state universities, it is best to get your application in prior to **November 1.** Think about applying early as a way to reduce the stress level some of your senior year! Seniors who are, "on the bubble," for admission may be asked to submit 7th semester grades following the initial application review. Further, students may be asked to retake the ACT or SAT tests. Remember all of the chatter about having a strong schedule in your senior year? Colleges desire proof that you are still invested and not slacking off. A strong senior year schedule and earning good grades provides the proof that college admission offices are seeking.

What about all of the early application programs?

Early decision

Students may apply to only one college as an Early Decision applicant. The ED applicant may apply to other colleges (as back-up options) as long as he or she is not applying to more than one college as an Early Decision candidate. Early Decision applicants are notified of the decision outcome before winter break. Early notification means that students must apply very early in the senior year – around November 1st. In the case of a denial decision, the student must look elsewhere. If deferred, the application goes back into the regular pool and is reviewed along with all other candidates. Chances of being admitted after being deferred are generally low. Deferred students should invest their energy in pursuing other college options. If admitted "ED," the senior is required to withdraw applications from other colleges and commit to the "ED" college that admitted him or her. The upside of applying ED is that students may have a better admission advantage compared to competing with a larger number of students in the regular applicant pool. This is particularly helpful for students who are applying to highly selective colleges. Students who have not visited campus, have not identified what constitutes a good "fit", or believe their college choice will hinge greatly on merit-based (non need-based) scholarships should not apply early decision.

Early action - multiple and single choice

Early Action, or better known as "**EA**," application programs require students to submit college applications early but there is the perk of not committing until reviewing other college options. The majority of EA colleges **do not** require seniors to apply exclusively to only one college – these colleges are known as, "EA - multiple choice." This application option is the best fit for students who wish to consider several college and scholarship options. Typically, EA applicants have the option of weighing all college choices until May 1, **The National Candidate Reply Date.** In the case of, "EA - single choice" seniors are limited to applying to only one college under an early program. Students may weigh all of their college options until May 1. Check your college's website to determine if an, "Early" option exists. Again, this application option is most prevalent at private colleges and at a few highly selective public universities.

How do colleges view early graduation from high school?

It depends upon the student's personal circumstances. Students who graduate early are usually more academically prepared and socially mature compared to their peers. Generally, colleges prefer that students invest themselves throughout four full years of high school. At some high schools with a limited curriculum, it is feasible that students could exhaust an entire course list. This is not the case for the majority of students at North Central. A student would be hard-pressed to take advantage of all options within just four years of high school. Also, it is easier to assimilate into the academic pace, if you've been in an academic mode just two months prior. Spending the months immediately after high school working may be helpful with regard to earning cash, but you may risk losing some math and/or critical thinking skills. If you do graduate early, take one or two college courses or do a full time internship so you don't lose your edge. Another reason for remaining through the end of high school is personal growth and maturity. The final semester of high school equips graduates to deal with the transition into college life. That said, the State of Indiana has established criteria for students meeting specific guidelines to compete for the Mitch Daniels Early Graduation Scholarship. Though there is a financial incentive associated, potential applicants are advised to carefully deliberate as all colleges and universities establish local policies regarding acceptance of applicants who graduate early from high school.

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FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

What about selective service?

All young men must register with the selective service when they reach their 18th birthday. If you do not register, college financial aid may be withheld.

Where do NC seniors apply?

The North Central Class of 2020 applied to different colleges and universities. Review "Admission Statistics – Class of 2020" for a snapshot of application and acceptance data at the front of this guide.

Ball State University is the leading recipient of applications at 246 applications for the class of 2020. The admission picture has shifted greatly over the last three admission cycles. Nearly all freshman applicant pools have increased at 4 year Indiana, public universities and colleges. Applicants must meet: core course GPA, SAT/ACT standards, essay, and core subject requirements to be admitted. Test scores can play a significant role in the admission process so students should plan to take SAT and ACT tests in both the junior and senior year.

Students earn admission to any college on their own merit. Having a parent, grandparent or sibling who is a graduate is nice, but alumni connections alone do not open doors for under-prepared students. Lastly, remember that choosing to attend any university can mean an incredible array of options. NC encourages all students to branch out to the new experiences awaiting at the post-secondary programs of their choosing.

What if I'm uncertain about my college major?

Take some comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Approximately 60% of entering first year college students are honestly uncertain or "undecided." Consider the characteristics most important to you outside of college major. Review "Which College is Best for Me" page in this book. Do you have preferences outside of major that will help you to define your criteria for making a college choice? What are some general areas of interest? For example, if you like English, look for colleges offering career tracks in creative writing, journalism, and communications. Check out Learn More Indiana for help too, www.learnmoreindiana.org. "Undecided" students or "intellectual explorers" do find their way. It takes willingness on the student's part to dig-in and research available options. Connect to the "Careers" tab in Naviance for data on earnings, education level required, and job projections for specific careers. It is vital to inquire about the resources colleges offer to assist students in identifying a college major leading to a career. Strong advising during all fours years of college is the keystone to top-notch undergraduate success and ultimately meaningful employment in a career. General course work in the first year applies to most core graduation requirements for nearly any major or area of study.

What if I don't meet the college's academic profile for admission?

Solid options exist for you. If you are on track to earning the Indiana Core 40 diploma, colleges are interested in you! Frequently colleges recalculate your GPA paying close attention to your math and science grades, number of core academic classes in the senior year, and 10th, 11th, 12th semester grades. Colleges often deny students with a significant number of 'D's in core academic subjects. The key to winning admission? Perform well in your junior year, choose an academically rigorous senior schedule and remain 'D' free through senior year. Even if there are multiple "bumps" on your transcript, you can still go to college. Ask your counselor about the transfer agreements Indiana 4-year colleges have with Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana. After one successful year at another college, the high school transcript (grades) becomes less of a factor in college admission decisions.

Ask your counselor about opportunities at Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana, Vincennes University, and Holy Cross College. Some of the colleges on the "Admission Statistics – Class of 2018*" page do not place great importance on SAT or ACT scores for admission and look for recent upward trends in grades. Many four-year Indiana colleges accept transfer credits from Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana and students do not lose time in pursuit of a four year degree. Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana can help you save money and time. For more information on transferring credits: www.transferin.net.

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My College Search

Worksheet

Use this form to gather your thoughts about where you think you might apply then, share your responses with your counselor and a parent.

Name _____ Counselor _____
Email _____

Type of College ___2 year ___public ___coed
___4 year ___private ___single gender

Size (circle one or two) 1,000 – 3,000 5,000 – 10,000 Over 20,000
3,000 – 5,000 10,000 – 20,000

Family Background
What is your religious preference? _____
What is the marital status of your parents? ____married to each other ____divorced/separated ____deceased parent

Did your father attend college? Yes No (circle) If "Yes," what school? _____
What is your father's occupation? _____

Did your mother attend college? Yes No (circle) If "Yes," what school?_____
What is your mother's occupation? _____

Please list your brothers and sisters, their ages, and their educational status:
If older than you, where did your sibling attend college?

Age	College
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Cost _____important _____not too important

Will you apply for need-based financial aid (FAFSA)? ____ yes ____ no Location

Specific states in which you are interested: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
locale of college: _____small town ____suburban _____rural ____large city

Activities or Extracurricular Involvement _____
_____

If I had to make my college choice today, I would choose to attend: _____

Do you currently meet the criteria for admission? Yes No (circle)

On a scale of 1–10 (10=most certain)
indicate how certain you are about your above choice as a good fit for you:_____

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My College Search

Worksheet

List two ways that you determine a good college "fit."
(Even if you don't know which college you would choose to attend)

1._____

2._____

What are you doing the summer after your 11th grade year? _____

Your major(s) or academic areas of interest: _____

My purpose in going to college is to: _____

If my parents were to choose a college for me, the choice would be based upon: _____

If cost were a non-factor in my decision, my college choice would be: _____

Is cost a driving factor in where you choose to attend? Yes No (circle)
My closest friend(s) might use these three words to describe me:

_____ _____ _____

Colleges or universities I wish to explore further:

_____

My reach school: _____ My in the middle school:_____

My close-to-home-affordable-comfortably-admissible school choice is: _____

For me, a single challenge or barrier to progressing through the college search process/application process is (or could be):_____

List one challenge, adversity faced, and/or meaningful event in your life thus far: _____

Do Not Omit Your Response to this Question!

How have you changed as a result? (Relate to what you listed above):_____

_____

PSAT Total Score:_____ Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Score: _____ Math Score _____

Sat Total Score: _____ Best Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Score:_____ Best Math Score:_____

ACT Composite Score: _____ English: _____ Science Res: _____ Math: _____ Reading: _____ Writing: _____

Have you prepared for ACT or SAT ? Yes No (circle)

If "Yes", list what you have done or plan to do: _____

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College Comparison

Worksheet

To be completed as you begin your search and again as you make your final decision.

One way of understanding how your college choices compare to one another is to develop a grid. One the left side, list the factors of importance to you (most to least important). List the schools you are considering along the top. Assign a point value to each school for each of your identified characteristics in choosing a college. You may wish to assign greater points to most important criteria. Choices for colleges and criteria may alter or change during the search process. You may wish to consider completing this grid at the beginning of the process and near the time you are making the final decision.

4 = highest satisfaction for this characteristic at this college/university
1 = lowest satisfaction for this characteristic at this college/university

Colleges →

Characteristics

Some potential college characteristics

- Quality of teaching faculty
- Specific quality of chosen program/ major
- Academic guidance for undeclared/ undecided students
- Amount of financial assistance received
- Medical School/Law School placement
- Independent research opportunities
- Study abroad opportunities
- Just the right distance from home
- Average indebtedness for students
- Academic atmosphere
- Student/Faculty ratio
- Academic facilities
- Campus atmosphere
- Access to internships
- Graduate program placement
- Overall reputation
- Technology resources
- Quality of labs
- Access to top resources
- Direct admission into chosen major or training program

Now ask yourself

- Does your numeric calculation agree with your "gut" instinct?
- What is the source of information for assigning your ranking for each characteristic? (visit to campus, friend attending, alumni, perception from a college guide)
- Does your parent(s') list of most important characteristics/criteria agree with yours?
- Are there other criteria that should be added to your "most important listing?"
- Share and discuss your findings with your parents.

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College Visits

Making the most of them

It is difficult to truly know if you've found the best school for you if you have not visited. Students visit campuses to determine if there is a fit between themselves and the colleges they are considering. College view books are no substitute for actually visiting campuses. Plan to include your parents in this important phase of your search process. On campus you will see where you would live, study, sleep, eat, and socialize. Remember that if you live on a college campus, it is a 24-7 arrangement. The academic part may be a great fit, yet other aspects of living on campus may not be right for you. You are a whole person, so choosing the best match involves a broad range of considerations in addition to the program or major area of study.

Many colleges are in session when students at North Central are on break. These days are perfect for visiting campuses. Plan to spend time during your junior and senior year making your visits. The summer break is also helpful for getting a basic feel for campuses. Keep in mind that summer on most campuses is not reflective of what campus life is like during the academic year. Would a visiting student get the feel for the "real" North Central High School if they came to visit in July? Not likely. That said, many high school students make initial visits to college campuses in summer.

If you are considering colleges located far away that don't release admission decisions until spring of the senior year, you may need to utilize spring break to travel to campuses before making your decision prior to the May 1st National Reply Date. Think about the timing of your college decision prior to planning a big spring break trip with friends. This may allow you to avoid getting caught without enough time to complete one of the most important steps of the college search process. North Central junior and senior students are permitted two days to visit colleges.

A good visit takes some preparation and planning.

Consider the following guidelines:

- Contact the admission office to determine your visit options. Provide enough lead time for the office to plan accordingly for individual interest meetings during your visit.
- If possible, you should inform the college of your special areas of interest when seeking an appointment, such as major, athletics, music, theatre, etc.
- Learn as much as possible about the college before the visit through guides, college literature, and the website.
- Use a smart phone to capture each campus and its facilities.
- Prepare a brief resume of information about yourself.
- In advance of visiting, inquire if the campus interview is evaluative or purely informational. If evaluative, it will be used to some extent to determine the admission decision. The visit and interview determines the personal impression made on the admission officer and your potential match to the college or university. Either way, the visit is a two way street. Be yourself.
- Try to sit in on a class, view lab facilities, talk with a variety of current students, see where first-year students live, and obtain information on internships/placement/advising for professional graduate programs. Try to gain a strong sense of the campus atmosphere.
- Following your visit, record all of your impressions on the College Campus Visit Evaluation Checklist.
- Send email messages of appreciation to individuals who helped you during your visit.
- Return the completed North Central High School College Visit Form to the Attendance Secretary.

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College Campus Visit

Evaluation checklist

College
founded _____
location _____
size _____

Visit
date _____
weather on visit day _____
in session yes no

Costs
tuition _____ fees _____
room & board _____
merit awards yes no
"gapping" of financial aid yes no
college meets 100% of student demonstrated need yes no
percentage of students receiving need-based aid _____
percentage of students receiving merit-based aid _____

Architecture
_____ gothic _____ modern
_____ colonial _____ classical _____ mixture

Type of College
_____ public _____ private _____ religious _____ 4-year
_____ 2-year _____ college _____ university _____ liberal arts
_____ specialized _____ technical _____ co-ed _____ single sex
_____ historically black _____ multicultural

Calendar
_____ semester _____ quarter _____ trimester _____ 4-1-4
_____ block _____ summer session

Student Body
_____ look alike _____ diverse _____ friendly _____ interesting
_____ smart _____ preppy _____ dressy _____ outdoorsy
_____ sloppy _____ casual _____ rah-rah _____ intellectual
_____ careerists _____ loners _____ granolas _____ pre-professional
_____ moderate _____ liberal _____ conservative
other_____

Social Life
_____ college-sponsored _____ student-initiated prog. _____ clubs
_____ sports-centered _____ cultural _____ fraternity
_____ sorority _____ religious _____ ethnic
_____ racial _____ political _____ wild parties
_____ low-key parties _____ dances _____ dating
_____ group socializing

problems _____

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College Campus Visit

Evaluation checklist

Campus Housing Facilities

_____ residence halls _____ residential colleges _____ apartments
_____ special themes _____ fraternity _____ sorority
_____ on campus _____ off campus _____ single rooms
_____ double rooms _____ suites _____ co-ed
_____ single-sex _____ spacious _____ adequate
_____ crowded _____ rundown _____ quiet
_____ noisy _____ disability access _____ social

problems _____

Dining

_____ dining hall _____ cafeteria _____ residential college
_____ snack bar _____ coffee house _____ fast-food
_____ pubs _____ meet special dietary needs

Quality: high/adequate/low
Quantity: generous/adequate/meager
Hours: generous/adequate/limited

Recreation & Activities

_____ team sports _____ intramurals _____ work-out facilities
_____ non-academic clubs _____ student center _____ music opportunities
_____ drama _____ movies _____ art
_____ newspapers _____ radio station _____ TV station
_____ study abroad _____ multicultural clubs _____ religious clubs
_____ off-campus programming _____ service organizations
other _____

Technology

_____ wired residence halls _____ labs
current technology level: superb/adequate/poor
technical support for students: generous/adequate/meager
other _____

Services

_____ health _____ counseling _____ career
_____ pre-professional advising (Med/Law) _____ tutoring
_____ special student _____ bookstore _____ security

Library

_____ long hours _____ weekend hours _____ library/info. tech.
_____ outstanding _____ good _____ adequate
_____ poor _____ good lighting _____ spacious
_____ special collections _____ departmental

Community Off-Campus

_____ far _____ near _____ easy access
_____ city _____ small towns _____ suburb
_____ rural _____ Target/Wal-Mart _____ restaurants
_____ clubs _____ movie theatres _____ cultural opportunities
_____ shopping _____ off-campus employment
other _____

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College Campus Visit

Evaluation checklist

Academic Atmosphere

____ intense ____ moderate ____ laid-back ____ stimulating
____ bookish ____ dull ____ huge classes ____ large classes
____ small classes ____ lectures ____ discussions ____ tutorials
____ seminars ____ innovative ____ traditional ____ career-oriented
____ core-curriculum ____ general education ____ clusters
____ distributive ____ requirements only within major ____ math required
____ science req'd____ world language required ____ Sr. thesis req'd
____ first-year advising Strong/Adequate/Meager
____ advising for undecided students: Strong/Adequate/Meager
____ percentage of students graduating in four years

most popular departments/majors_____
weaker departments _____
stronger departments _____

Faculty ____ % Ph.D.s that teach ____ % of teaching assistants _____% part-time faculty

Popular Professors ____ teach first-year students _____ teach upperclassmen

Special Programs

____ interdisciplinary _____ independent study _____ internships
____ coop education _____ consortium _____ combined degree
____ unusual majors _____ honors program _____ Phi Beta Kappa
____ freshman seminars _____ first-year orientation programs
____ special academic support programs
other _____

Rating liked most_____

_____

_____

liked least _____

_____

_____

Overall Visit ____ superior ____ good ____ adequate ____ disappointing

Admission Office ____ superior ____ good ____ adequate ____ disappointing

Comments

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Questions

Asked in college interviews

The following questions are typically asked by college admission or scholarship interviewers. These questions have all been used at some point in the evaluation of prospective students. If you get an off-the-wall question, or even a perfectly sensible one, which you cannot answer, say so. Do not guess, shrug, stammer, improvise, embellish, prevaricate, invent, fudge, fabricate, fanaticize, lie, or change the subject. Ask to have the question clarified or admit that you don't know the answer.

1. What do you want to get out of your college experience? What do you hope to major in? Why?
2. What is the most important thing you have learned in high school?
3. How would most of your teachers describe you?
4. What are your personal (or academic) strengths? Your challenge areas?
5. Do you have any heroes, contemporary or historical?
6. If you could talk with any person, living or dead who would you choose? Why?
7. What is the significant contribution you have made to your high school? Your community?
8. What have you liked or disliked most about your high school? What would you change? Why? How?
9. What sort of people do you admire, enjoy the most?
10. What people have had the greatest influence on you? In what way?
11. What led you to apply to this college? Why is it a good match?
12. To which other colleges are you applying? Why? Which college is your first choice? Why?
13. What adjectives would you use to describe yourself? How would your friends describe you?
14. How do you spend a typical afternoon after school? Evening? Weekend? Vacation?
15. What newspapers, magazines, and non-required books do you read?
16. What television shows do you watch? What is the best movie you've seen recently?
17. What are your current social, political, cultural interests?
18. What are your educational goals and plans for the future?
19. What do you expect to be doing ten years from now?
20. What events have been crucial in your life?
21. What historical event do you feel has had the greatest impact on the 21st century?
22. Tell us about your family.
23. To what hobbies, special projects and extracurricular activities do you devote the most time?
24. What do you find most satisfying? Why?

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1801 E. 86th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

Phone 317 259-5301
E-mail is@provider.net

Ima Smarty

Objective

To pursue majors in biology and music in preparation for a career in Health Sciences.

Education

Attended North Central High School, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240 from 2018-2022 Will be graduated in May 2022 with the Indiana Academic Honors Diploma

- Maintained a 3.8 accumulative G.P.A. on a weighted 4.0 scale
- Emphasis in honors level and Advanced Placement in World Languages and Science
- Enrolled in three Honors, ACP (Advance College Project), or Advanced Placement classes each year of high school

Extracurricular Activities

- Member of Spanish Honor Society (10, 11, 12)
- Elected member, Student Council (11)
- Writer, Junior Spectacular – student talent show featuring skits written, directed and cast by students (11)
- Member, Key Club – National Service Organization (9,10)
- Member of Fencing, Ultimate Frisbee and Creative Writing clubs (9,10,11)

Leadership

- President, Spanish Honor Society (12)

Awards Received

- North Central Leadership Award (11, 12)
- North Central Chapter, National Honor Society (10, 11, 12)
- National French Exam, National and State Placements (9, 10, 11, 12)
- Science Student of the Month (11, 12)
- Band Student of the Month (12)
- Honor Roll (10, 11, 12)

Music Activities

- Weekly classical trumpet and jazz trumpet lessons (9,10, 11, 12)
- Principal trumpet, Symphonic Band (10, 11, 12)
- Jazz Ensemble (10, 11, 12)
- Trumpet Squad Leader, Marching Band (10, 11, 12)
- Designated, All-State Band and All-State Jazz Band (10, 11, 12)

Service Experience

- Volunteer, Indiana State School Music Association's State Solo and Ensemble (10, 11)
- Volunteer, All-Star Middle School Jazz Band (10, 11, 12)
- Volunteer, Riley Hospital for Children (10, 11, 12)
- Volunteer, Third Phase – Shelter for abused women and children (11, 12)

Summer Programs

- Indiana University Honors Program for Foreign Language, Brest, France (12)
- "Animals Inside and Out," Explore-a-College Summer Program, Earlham College (11)

Employment

- Camp Counselor, Camp Livingston, Bennington, Indiana (10, 11)
- Summer Instructor, Big World of Music for Kids, (10, 11)

Hobbies and Interests

- Design and construction of wool hand bags; reading medical journals; cycling; collecting vinyl jazz recordings

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Resume Worksheet

Students may utilize this page

Students may create a resume in Naviance in the "About Me" tab. A resume is required if you need a teacher to write you a letter of recommendation for a college, and it must be submitted by October 1.

Name _____Grade _____
last first middle

Email_____

The following information is a profile of my awards and accomplishments.
These are compiled and submitted as part of my educational experience.

Grades 9 through 12

I. Awards, Honors, Recognitions

a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____

II. Significant School Activities

a. club membership – note offices held or specific leadership roles

i. _____
ii. _____
iii. _____
iv. _____

b. athletic participation

	sports	number of years	recognitions
i.	_____	_____	_____
ii.	_____	_____	_____
iii.	_____	_____	_____
iv.	_____	_____	_____

c. special services rendered to school – student helper, usher, peer tutor, assistant at special events

i. _____
ii. _____
iii. _____
iv. _____

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Resume Worksheet

III. Significant Out-of-School Activities

Faith-based organizations, travel/exchange programs, volunteer activities, summer educatioal experiences, other community services

a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____

IV. Interests and/or Goals_____
V. Hobby Interests _____
VI. Work Experience _____

type of job	hours per week	year

VII. Personal

Write a brief statement about a personal strength or interest_____
_____
_____

VIII. Scholarships I plan to apply for the following types of scholarships (check all that apply):

_____ academic
_____ athletic
_____ performing arts
_____ fine arts
_____ minority
_____ service

IX. Senior Year Classes

I understand that I must notify college admission offices of any changes in this schedule:
First semester: _____
Second semester: _____

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Learn the Lingo

Glossary of college terms

Academic Advisor: The person at a college who helps a student decide what classes to take, when to take them, how many credits to take, what major to pursue, etc.

Academic Honors Diploma: A special high school diploma awarded by the State of Indiana for high academic achievement. This diploma may qualify you for special college scholarships and more state financial assistance.

Academic Standards: Standards, such as a certain grade point average, that students must maintain in order to remain in good standing with the college.

Academic Year: Each institution's annual schedule. Academic years are usually divided into quarters, semesters or trimesters. See Calendar.

Accredited: Colleges and schools must meet requirements in academic programs, facilities, teaching, etc. to be certified by accrediting agencies. Usually, colleges must be accredited for their students to receive financial aid.

Achievement Tests: Tests used to monitor academic progress.

ACT: An organization that produces standardized admissions tests, including the ACT and PLAN. Some colleges use ACT scores to determine admission eligibility. See Standardized Admissions Tests, Scholastic Assessment Test I.

Admission Requirements: Students who want to attend a college must meet that college's specific requirements to be considered for admission. These may include high school grade point average, standardized test scores, high school courses, etc.

Admissions Tests: See Standardized Admissions Tests.

Advanced Credit: Some colleges offer tests for advanced college credit. Students who receive a high score on these tests can earn credit in specific subject areas and may skip to higher-level courses.

Advanced Placement (AP): College-level courses (designed by the College Board) offered in high school. Students may take an AP test at the completion of these courses. Students with high scores on these tests can be placed in upper-level college courses and may receive college credit for beginning-level courses.

Advanced or Early Registration: A period of time set by colleges during which students can register early for classes.

Alumni: People who have graduated from a college.

American College Testing (ACT) Program: See ACT.

Application Fee: A charge to process a student's admission application. In some cases, this fee is waived if a student shows financial need.

Apprenticeship: Training programs that combine on-the-job training and course work. The result is certified skills in specific trades. Apprentices are usually paid for their training.

Articulation Agreement: An agreement between two schools that allows course credit at one school to be accepted or transferred and applied toward a degree or certificate at another school.

Arts and Sciences: A group of academic studies that may include fine arts, languages, social sciences, natural sciences and humanities. The group may be called a division, college or school; for example, the College of Arts and Sciences at State University.

Associate Instructor (AI): See Teaching Assistant.

Associate's Degree: The degree granted by colleges after students complete a two-year, full-time program of required courses or its part-time equivalent. These degrees are offered by many kinds of colleges, including community colleges, technical colleges and colleges and universities that offer bachelor's degrees.

Baccalaureate or Bachelor's Degree: The degree granted by a college or university after students have satisfactorily completed a four- or five-year, full-time program of required courses or its part-time equivalent. Students usually receive a Bachelor's of Arts or Bachelor's of Science degree.

Board of Trustees: The policy-making and governing body of a college.

Bursar: The person or office in charge of money at a college. Students pay the bursar for tuition and room and board.

Calendar: How a college divides a year for classes and grading. Calendars usually run from August to May or September to June, with an additional summer calendar. See Academic Year, Quarter, Semester, Trimester.

Campus: The grounds, class buildings and residence halls of a college.

Career Plan: A set of steps to be followed over a period of time to get a desired job.

Catalog: A college's book of general information about classes, faculty, costs and admission and degree requirements.

Certificate: A document granted by colleges after completion of study for a specific occupation. Certificates usually require a six-month to one-year, full-time program of required courses, or its part-time equivalent.

Certificate of Technical Achievement: A certificate, similar to a report card, which can be updated during and after high school. It is awarded to students who master specific technical skills and knowledge.

Chair: The highest administrator of an academic department; usually a professor.

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Learn the Lingo

Glossary of college terms

Chancellor: Chief administrator of a college campus; called a "president" at some schools.

Coeducational: Both men and women being included in a program or facility; for instance, being able to attend the same college or live in the same residence hall.

College: A school offering studies that lead to an academic degree. A college can be part of a larger university system, or stand alone. Colleges not in a university system usually do not offer graduate degrees.

College Board: Nonprofit association made up of college, schools, universities and other educational organizations. College Board administers the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT tests and Advanced Placement. See SAT I, PSAT/NMSQT, Advanced Placement.

College Scholarship Service (CSS): This service processes a supplemental financial aid application called the Profile. Some colleges and universities require the Profile in addition to other financial aid forms. This is a College Board service that students must pay for. See Profile Application.

Commencement: Graduation ceremony to recognize students who have completed degree requirements.

Community College: College that offers programs (usually two years or less for full-time students) leading to certificates or associate's degrees. These programs prepare students for immediate employment or for transfer to a college or university offering bachelor's degrees. Indiana's community college is the Community College of Indiana (CCI) — an Ivy Tech Vincennes partnership.

Commuter Student: A student who does not live on-campus, but travels to campus to take classes.

Competitive Admission Policy: See Selective Admission Policy.

Conditional Admission: A college may admit students who have not met all the admission requirements. To remain, these students must fulfill specified requirements before or during their enrollment.

Consortium: In education, an agreement between schools that enables students who attend one school to attend class and use resources at another school.

Cooperative (Co-op) Education: A program in which a student combines employment and study in a career field.

Core Classes: Classes that all students in a major program or college are required to take.

Core 40: A high school program of study in Indiana which best prepares students for college admission.

Corequisite: A required class or lab taken with a related course.

Correspondence Course: A class in which students receive lessons in the mail and send completed assignments to instructors. Correspondence is an example of distance education. See Distance Education and Independent Study.

Course: Another name for "class."

Course Evaluation: A survey given to students, usually at the end of a semester. Students give their opinions about the instructor and the course.

Course Number: Numbers assigned to courses to show their level of difficulty or depth/breadth of study. For example, a 100-level course is less difficult or narrower in scope than a 200-level course.

Credit: How schools measure a student's progress toward a diploma or degree. The number of credits assigned to a course depends, in part, on how much time is spent in class each week. For example, most courses offered by colleges on semester calendars are worth three credits. Credits are also referred to as "credit hours" or simply, "hours."

Curriculum: The available courses in a program of study at a specific college.

Dean: The highest officer of a division, college or school, such as Dean of the School of Education. Deans usually report directly to a provost, chancellor or the president of a college.

Declare a Major: Officially enter a college major or area of study.
See Major.

Deferred Admission: A college may accept a student but then allow the student to delay coming to the college for one year.

Deficiency Points: These indicate unsatisfactory class work. Students with these can be put on academic probation or dismissed from school.

Degree: After finishing a program of study at a college, students receive an academic recognition. For example, a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ball State University.

Department: An area of study in a larger college or school. Professors specialize in an area of study and teach for that area's department. For example, French may be a department in the School of Arts and Sciences.

Diploma: An official document awarded by colleges and high schools to students when they complete required courses of study.

Discipline: A field of study. See Major.

Discussion Section: When a small group of students meet to discuss the lecture portion of a class. Discussions are often led by a graduate student called an Associate Instructor or Teaching Assistant.

Dismissal: Students can be dismissed or expelled for consistently poor grades or breaking rules.

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Distance Education: Classes taught over satellite or local television, by video tape or CD ROM, through the Internet and by correspondence. Some may be regularly scheduled; others may be taken when most convenient for the student's schedule.

Distribution Requirements: See General Education Requirements.

Doctorate: The highest university degree, also called a doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.). Physicians usually receive a doctorate of medicine (M.D.), while lawyers receive a juris doctorate (J.D.).

Dorm/Dormitory: See Residence Hall.

Double Major: Meeting requirements for two majors. See Major.

Dual or Concurrent Enrollment/Dual Credit: Some colleges enroll high achieving high school students in college courses that may fulfill both high school and college graduation requirements. Students must gain permission from the high school principal or guidance counselor and admission to a college. College students may also enroll in two degree programs.

Early Admission: Students can take the necessary standardized tests and apply early in their senior year for admission to some colleges. If you choose to apply for early admission and are accepted, the institution guarantees you a place and you promise to attend the institution.

Elective: An optional, instead of required class. Some electives fulfill general education requirements outside of a major.

Emeritus Faculty: Honored faculty members, usually retired from teaching.

Enroll: To become a student at a university by registering for courses and paying tuition and fees. See Registration, Matriculate.

Exemption: A course requirement that is fulfilled by passing an exam in the subject.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): Analysis on how much money a family can contribute toward education expenses.

Extracurricular Activities: Non-required activities that occur outside the classroom.

Faculty: The teachers, professors and instructors who teach at schools.

Faculty Advisor: See Academic Advisor.

FAFSA: See Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Federal Pell Grant: A federal financial aid grant program which is not paid back. Students apply by filling out the FAFSA.

Perkins Student Loan: A low interest loan for students showing financial need. It must be repaid after graduation. Students

by filling out the FAFSA.

Federal PLUS (Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students) and/or Federal Direct PLUS: Financial aid to parents, processed through a bank, other lending agency, college or university to help pay for college. These loans must be repaid with interest. Repayment begins 60 days after the loan is issued to the parent(s).

Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan and Direct Ford Loan: Student financial aid processed through a bank and/or college. A student must be enrolled in a college degree program at least part time to receive a Stafford Loan. Loans must be paid back with interest after a student leaves college. Students apply by filling out a FAFSA.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG): Federal grant for students with exceptional need. Students apply by filling out a FAFSA.

Federal Unsubsidized Stafford/Direct Unsubsidized Ford Loan: Similar to a subsidized Stafford Loan, except interest is paid by the student during college.

Fee: Money charged by a college for services provided to a student. Fees are often charged for lab materials, computer use and recreational facilities.

Fee Waiver: A written statement that says that the student does not have to pay a certain fee. Some scholarships give fee waivers for tuition.

Finals Week: Time at the end of the semester when classes do not meet and final tests are given.

Financial Aid: Federal, state, college and private programs that help students pay for college costs. Financial aid may come in the form of grants, scholarships, loans or work-study programs.

Financial Aid Counselor: A college staff member who helps students and parents fill out financial aid forms and processes financial aid money.

Financial Need: Difference between the cost of attending college and the Expected Family Contribution. A student's (or family's) financial need determines how much financial aid will be awarded.

Free Application for Federal Student required application for federal, Indiana students must
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Learn the Lingo

Glossary of college terms

4-1-4 or 4-4-1: Calendar used by some colleges. There are two regular semesters of four months, with one month-long session between or following them.

General Education Requirements: The broad-based body of classes that colleges (often four-year colleges) expect their students to take.

Gift Aid: Financial aid that is not repaid, such as grants and scholarships.

Grade Point Average (GPA): A system for evaluating the overall scholastic performance of students. Grades are often measured on a four-point scale in which an "A" equals four points and a "B" equals three points, etc. These are called grade points. Total points are found by multiplying the number of credits for a course by the student's grade point. A student's GPA is found by dividing the sum of grade points by the number of course credits.

Graduate: A person who receives a certificate, degree or diploma from a school.

Graduate Assistant (GA): A GA helps a professor with research or works for an academic department. GAs usually receive a salary and reduced tuition. See Teaching Assistant.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE): A test often used to determine eligibility for graduate school (administered by the Educational Testing Service).

Graduate Student: A student who has earned a bachelor's degree and is working on an advanced degree such as a master's or doctorate.

Graduation Compact: An agreement between a student and a college or university. This agreement (sometimes called "Grad Pact") states that if a student meets certain guidelines, he/she will be able to graduate within four years, or the college will pay for the remaining education. Not all schools offer this agreement.

Grant: Financial aid based on student need; it is not repaid.

Greek Organizations: Student organizations named by Greek letters. These organizations may be academic, social or charitable. Members of social Greek organizations (such as fraternities and sororities) frequently live together in a "Greek House."

Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL): See Federal Stafford Loan.

Higher Education: See Postsecondary Education.

Holland Code: A code, created by Dr. John Holland that categorizes a person's interests and can be used to match interests and career possibilities.

Honoraries: Organizations to which students are nominated for membership based on high grades, outstanding school service or both.

Housing: Living arrangements for students at colleges or private secondary schools.

Identification Card (ID): Card issued to identify a student. IDs are often required for meal plans, borrowing library books or for admission to college-sponsored activities.

Independent College: A college or other school that is supported with private money, but not supported financially by the state. Some independent colleges have a religious affiliation or are single-gender schools.

Independent Study: Studying a subject for credit without regular classroom instruction. This may refer to on-campus courses that you take independently, or through distance education. See Distance Education, Correspondence Course.

Individualized Major: See Student-designed Major.

Informational Interview: A meeting with an experienced person to gain knowledge or understanding. This can be used to find out about a job or career, such as the training and responsibility involved.

Institution: In the education field, this is usually a school, college or university.

Instructor: A non tenured teacher at a college. See Tenure.

Intercollegiate: Any competition or activity taking place between different colleges.

Interdisciplinary: Programs or courses using knowledge from two or more academic areas. See Discipline.

Interest Inventory: An exercise or set of exercises used to identify possible areas of career interest.

Internship: Experience gained by students working at jobs on or off campus. Students get practical experience in their area of study.

Intramural Sports: Athletic activities between a school's students.

Job Shadowing: Time spent with someone who is at work. This time is used to better understand what people do in their job.

Junior College: See Community College.

Language House: A student residence where a foreign language is studied and spoken. Students who want to learn German might live in a "German house."

Liberal Arts: A school or course of study which focuses on developing students' general knowledge and reasoning ability instead of specific career training; the result is often considered to be a well-rounded, general education in the arts and sciences.

Loan: Financial aid that must be repaid, with interest, after a student leaves college.

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Learn the Lingo

Glossary of college terms

Major: A focused area of study. Students take many classes in their major, gain specialized knowledge and earn a degree in that area.

Master's Degree: An advanced college degree earned after a bachelor's degree, usually taking at least two years for a full-time student to complete.

Matriculate: To register or enroll in a college.

Mentor: A person who gives advice, guidance and help.

Minor: An area of interest studied at the same time as a major. It is rarely in the same department as a major and requires fewer classes than a major.

National Achievement Scholarship Program forOutstanding Negro Students: A scholarship program for African-Americans, similar to the National Merit Scholarships and based on junior year PSAT scores. See National Merit Scholarships.

National Direct Student Loan (NDSL): See Federal Perkins Student Loan.

National Merit Scholarships: Competitive scholarships limited in number and offered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Winners are determined by PSAT scores and other criteria.

Need Analysis Form: A form, filled out by the student and/or family members, used to determine the amount of financial aid the student can receive. The FAFSA is the federal need analysis form. See Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

NMSQT: See National Merit Scholarships, Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Non transferable Degree: A degree, often an associate's, that cannot be counted as credit toward more education. See Transferable Degree.

Occupational Outlook: A prediction of future job openings in specific career fields.

Occupational Training: Education and training to prepare for a particular occupation.

Office Hours: In education, hours set aside by an instructor to meet with students.

Ombudsperson: In education, a person who acts on behalf of students and others in the college community who has difficulties with the college.

On-the-job Training: Training provided for employees while they are learning a job; the employee creates a product or provides a service while being trained.

Open Admission Policy (Open Door Policy): Admission policy in which anyone with a high school diploma or its equivalent can take classes. See Rolling Admission, Selective Admission.

Orientation: Programs to help new students and parents get to know a college. Orientation usually takes place before or at the beginning of the academic year.

Parent Loan: See Federal PLUS.

Part-time Student: A student enrolled in a number of course credits that are less than full time. Usually, this is less than 12 credits a semester.

Pell Grant: See Federal Pell Grant.

Ph.D.: See Doctorate.

Philanthropy: An effort to donate time and/or money to others. A philanthropic organization may donate money or service to organizations and individuals.

PLAN: Test taken (often in sophomore year of high school) to prepare for the ACT. See ACT and Standardized Admissions Tests.

Portfolio: A file of materials created by a student that displays and explains skills, talents, experiences and knowledge gained throughout life. Portfolios are often used when applying for a job. Postsecondary Education: Education after high school at a public, independent, technical, community or junior college or university. Pre-admission Summer Program: College programs offered to freshmen before fall classes. Courses may be skill-building or regular college classes. Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT): A high school test that measures critical reading, writing and math skills and prepares students for the SAT I. It also determines eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship. See Scholastic Assessment Test.

Preprograms: Course sequences for undergraduate students to prepare for graduate work in the same area. Examples include prelaw and premedicine.

Prerequisite: Beginning class (usually required) that prepares students for a more advanced class.

Private College: See Independent College.

Probation: Academic status of students whose GPA falls below a minimum level (this varies from school to school).

Professor: A teacher at a college (often tenured). See Tenure.

Profile Application: A supplemental application required by some colleges for school-based financial aid. This form must be completed and mailed to the College Board's College Scholarship Service. Some colleges require it earlier than the FAFSA.

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Learn the Lingo

Glossary of college terms

Program: Set of required courses for a degree in a major area of study.

Proprietary Schools: Colleges that operate as profit-making institutions. These colleges provide students with training in specific career fields.

Prospectus: A booklet of general information about a college or program.

Provost: A college's chief academic officer (sometimes called an academic dean). A provost often reports directly to the president of a college or university.

PSAT: See Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Public College: College or other school supported by the state; the state pays part of the school's operating costs.

Quad: A group of four residence halls or academic buildings.

Quarter: A calendar used by some colleges. The quarter school year is broken down into four periods, each lasting 10 to 12 weeks.

Quiet Floor/Hours: Part of a residence hall or hours during the day where students are expected to maintain a low noise level.

Reading Days: Days between the end of classes and beginning of final exams to be used to prepare for final exams.

Registrar: Person (or office) in a college who manages class schedules and academic records.

Registration: Officially enrolling in classes for the upcoming grading period.

Religious Affiliation: Private colleges associated with religious organizations. For example, Marian College is affiliated with the Catholic Church.

Remedial Course: A course that teaches basic skills needed to succeed in college courses. These skills are often in the general areas of math, writing, reading, etc.

Requirements: A set of conditions that must be met in order to do something, such as be accepted to a college, complete a degree, etc.

Residence Hall (Dormitory): A campus building where students live. Food service, social and educational activities are provided. Some colleges require students to live in residence halls for a certain amount of time.

Residency Requirements: 1) Most colleges require that students spend a certain amount of time on campus taking classes or living on campus. 2) This term can also mean the minimum amount of time a student must live in the state to pay in-state tuition, which (for public colleges) is lower than the tuition paid by out-of-state students.

Resident Assistant (RA): A trained student who lives in a dormitory to coordinate programs and activities. RAs may also help students with problems in the dorm or counsel students about campus difficulties.

Rolling Admission: Schools with this admission practice accept applications throughout the year and decide whether or not to admit students as soon as they receive the required materials. See Open Admission, Selective Admission.

Room and Board: The cost for living in residence halls or other campus housing (room) and receiving meals from the housing food service (board).

SAT I: See Scholastic Assessment Test I. SAT II Subject Tests: See Subject Area Tests.

Satisfactory Academic Progress: Completion of courses according to school standards. Satisfactory academic progress must be shown to receive financial aid and continue in school.

School-to-Work: An effort to provide all students high-level skills for the future and connect their education to the work world.

Scholarship: Financial aid awarded for academic and other achievements (music, athletics, etc.). Scholarships are gift aid and do not have to be paid back.

Scholastic Assessment Test I (SAT I): A standardized admission test published by the College Board. Some colleges use SAT I to determine admission eligibility. See Standardized Admissions Tests.

Selective Admission Policy: An admission policy in which a college only admits students who meet certain requirements (sometimes referred to as Competitive Admission Policy). See: Open Admission, Rolling Admission. Semester: Calendar system used by some schools. Classes and grade reports are divided into two periods, each lasting about 15 weeks.

Standardized Admissions Tests: These tests (such as ACT and SAT I) are designed to measure knowledge and skills and are used to predict achievement in college. The test score may be considered along with other factors for admission to the college.

Student Activities: See Extracurricular Activities.

Student Aid Report (SAR): Summary of information that details a family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and financial aid eligibility. Families receive this after filling out a FAFSA.

Student Body: All students who attend a particular school.

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Learn the Lingo

Glossary of college terms

Student Center or Student Union: A building on campus designed for a variety of uses by students. A bookstore, dining facilities, administrative offices, game rooms, etc. may be located here.

Student-designed Major: At some colleges, students can plan an individualized major. Such programs must be approved by appropriate college administrators.

Student Loan: See Federal Stafford Loan.

Study Abroad: Programs in which students go to college for some time in another country while making regular progress toward their diplomas or degrees.

Subject Area Tests: Standardized tests given by the American College Testing Program or College Board in specific high school subjects, such as biology, foreign languages, etc. Colleges look at these test scores when making decisions about course placement or admission to a specific program. Many programs do not require these tests.

Subsidized Loan: Loan based on financial need in which borrower does not pay all the interest. Usually, interest is not charged until repayment begins. See Unsubsidized Loan.

Support Services: Services provided by most colleges to help students in areas such as academics, veterans affairs, adult and special needs.

Teaching Assistant (TA): A graduate student paid by the college to teach undergraduate classes. A TA may teach introductory classes, grade papers or lead discussion sessions and may also be called an Associate Instructor.

Technical College: Colleges that offer programs (usually two years or less for full-time students) that prepare students for immediate employment or transfer to a college or university offering bachelor's degrees. The emphasis at these colleges is usually on hands-on training in a specific career area. See Community College, Non-transferable degree, Transferable degree.

Tenure: Guaranteed employment status given to teachers and professors after successful completion of certain requirements within a certain time period.

Trade: An occupation requiring skilled labor, such as an electrician or tool and die maker.

Transcript: The official record of a student's educational progress; it may include listings of classes, grades, major area and degrees earned.

Transferable Degree: A degree, usually an associate's, which can be counted as credit toward more education, such as a bachelor's degree, at the same or different college. See Nontransferable Degree, Transfer Program.

Transfer Program: College program that prepares students to complete a degree at another college. Junior, community and technical colleges often have transfer programs to prepare students to continue their education at colleges and universities offering bachelor's degrees. Transfer programs often award associate's degrees.

Transfer Student: A student who changes from one school to another. Grades and credits from the first school may or may not be counted at the second. Schools may not accept all the credits earned at another school.

Trimester: A calendar system used by some colleges that is made up of three 10-12 week periods.

Tuition: The cost of classes or credits at a school.

Tutor: Experienced adults or students who help others study a specific subject.

2 + 2 Program: A program offering an associate's degree that will transfer directly toward a bachelor's degree in the same field of study. These programs may be within the same college or between two colleges and may be known by other names.

Unconditional Admission: Students who meet all of a school's admission standards are given this status.

Undergraduate: A college student working on a bachelor's or associate's degree or certificate.

University: A postsecondary institution that has several colleges or schools, grants undergraduate and graduate degrees, and may have research facilities. Universities are more comprehensive than colleges, although the two terms are often used interchangeably.

Unsubsidized Loan: Loan in which borrower is charged interest immediately. See Subsidized Loan.

Upperclassperson: Student who is a junior or senior but has not yet received an undergraduate degree.

Vocational College: A school that specializes in training for different professions and skilled trades. See Community College, Technical College, Proprietary School.

Waiting List: A list of students who will be admitted to a college only if there is space available. Students placed on a waiting list are usually notified if they are admitted, typically in May or June.

Waiver: An exemption from normal procedures or requirements. For example, to receive a "class waiver" means not having to take a class. See Fee Wavier.

Work-Study: A form of financial aid in which students earn money by working part time at their college. Students apply for work-study by filling out the FAFSA. See Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

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North Central Counselors
(317) 259-5301

Kimberly Dickerson
Counseling Department Chair
kdickerson@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45337

Lisa Salazar
Coordinator of College and Career Counseling
lsalazar@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45345

Laurie Stroke
College Assistant & Scholarship Liaison
lstroke@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45374

Class of 2022

Roger Girtz
rgirtz@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45329

Victor Newsome
vnewsome@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45331

Aaron Shelby
ashelby@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45348

Class of 2023

Reagen Mathew
rmathew@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45326

Jennifer Williams
jnwilliams@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45324

Kristi Meinert
kmeinert@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45312

Class of 2024

Jeremy Corn
jcorn@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45313

Michelle Fleming
mfleming@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext˙ 45332

Adam Jacobowitz
ajacobowitz@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45647

Class of 2025

Matt Marshall
mmarshall@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45314

Jolie Girton
jgirton@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45327

Nita Gates
mgates@msdwt.k12.in.us
ext. 45334

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