



12-Step Completion by JUNE 30th of Senior Year

CLICK HERE to see a breakdown of each required activity and how easily they can be achieved.

GRADE	REQUIRED ACTIVITIES		
09	Create a Graduation Plan*	Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity	Watch "Paying for College 101"
10	Take a Career Interests Assessment	Get Workplace Experience*	Estimate the Costs of College
11	Visit a College Campus	Take a College Entrance Exam (ACT or SAT)	Search for Scholarships*
12	Submit Your College Application	Watch "College Success 101"	File Your FAFSA

1. CREATE A GRADUATION PLAN

In 9th grade, you must create a high school **Graduation Plan**. It lists what courses, tests, and other steps you need to complete in high school so you have a clear path to graduation, college, and beyond. You'll update your Graduation Plan each year as your plans for after high school continue to develop.

Create your plan easily by setting up an account at **Indiana Career Explorer**. Choose "K-12," and click on the "Take an Assessment" button. You can also download a printable PDF version to complete it on paper.

2. PARTICIPATE IN AN EXTRACURRICULAR OR SERVICE ACTIVITY

Extracurricular activities at school are a great way to complete this requirement and to meet students with similar interests. You can also get involved in a variety of service activities in your community, such as through church, a local youth organization, or community center.

3. WATCH "PAYING FOR COLLEGE 101"

Watch this **10-minute video**, and then log in to **ScholarTrack** (the online system that 21st Century Scholars use to meet the Scholar Success Program requirement) and answer a few questions to complete the requirement.

4. TAKE A CAREER INTEREST ASSESSMENT

A **Career Interest Assessment** is a tool that asks you a series of questions to help identify careers that align with your interests and goals. The easiest way to complete this requirement is to access the **Indiana Career Explorer** account you created when you started your Graduation Plan as a freshman. If you've forgotten your username or password, follow the steps to retrieve your login information. If it's your first time using the website, follow the instructions to register as a new user. Once you're logged in, three assessments are available. To complete this requirement, you should take the assessment labeled "**Career Interests Assessment**." You can complete all three questionnaires to get a better idea of what interests you, what you do well, and what's important to you in a career.

5. GET WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE

Real-world **experience** is a great way to learn about responsibility, time management, and how to act in a professional environment. There are a lot of options you can choose to complete this requirement. You can interview a professional in a field that interests you. You can spend time "**job shadowing**"—spending a day following someone who works in a field you find interesting. You can also look for **internships** or a **part-time job** by searching job posting sites or checking out a job board at your school.

6) ESTIMATE THE COSTS OF COLLEGE

First, watch the "**Estimating Your College Costs**" **video**, then log in to **ScholarTrack** and answer a few questions to complete the requirement. This 10-minute video will help you calculate the out-of-pocket cost that you and your family should be prepared to contribute toward your college education. It will also show you how to use the **College Scorecard**, an online tool designed to help you compare the costs of Indiana colleges and determine what kind of financial aid you may be eligible to receive. It will ask you to estimate your household income, so you'll want to work with a parent or guardian. To get started with the College Scorecard, **click here**.

7. VISIT A COLLEGE CAMPUS

Planning a college visit through a school's admissions office can give you the opportunity to get a feel for student life at that college. To get started, make a list of the schools that interest you most. You can learn more about [choosing colleges](#). You can attend [virtual college visits](#), which can be used to complete this requirement. Write down questions to ask during your visit, such as how big the classes are, what your housing options would be, and what activities, sports, or clubs are offered. Then contact the admissions office. They'll help you schedule a tour. Consider bringing someone along to check out the college with you.

8. TAKE A COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM

A [college entrance exam](#) is an admissions requirement at most colleges. The most common exams are the SAT and the ACT. Before you sign up to take an official exam, make sure you're choosing the one that best suits your needs: Some colleges require ACT scores, while others require SAT scores. Check each college's admissions website to see which test is required or preferred. A map of Indiana Colleges can be found [here](#). To prepare for the tests, see if your school or public library has ACT or SAT prep practice books. Check out [ACTStudent.org](#) (for the ACT) and [CollegeBoard.org](#) (for the SAT) for free practice tests, test day tips, and other resources to help improve your skills. Both the ACT and SAT require around a \$50 fee at the time of registration, but as a 21st Century Scholar, you should qualify for a fee waiver to cover the cost. Talk to your counselor about requesting a fee waiver.

9. SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Your 21st Century Scholarship covers up to full tuition and mandatory fees, but the award does not cover expenses such as room and board, books, supplies, and other living expenses, which can be [costly](#). You should pursue as many additional scholarship opportunities as possible to help cover these extra costs. Search for local Indiana scholarships, as well as national [scholarships](#), that you're eligible for. You can find more information about financial aid and scholarships [here](#).

10. SUBMIT YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION

It's time to submit your college application! If you're still trying to figure out what's best for you, consider checking out the [Choosing a College](#) page.

11. WATCH "COLLEGE SUCCESS 101"

Watch the [10-minute video](#), then log into [ScholarTrack](#) and answer a few questions to complete the requirement.

12. FILE YOUR FAFSA

The [FAFSA](#) will determine your eligibility for financial aid—money to help you pay for college. The easiest way to file the FAFSA is online at the [FAFSA website](#). The website also provides a printer-friendly PDF if you prefer to mail your FAFSA. You have to file the FAFSA no later than April 15. The form is available October 1. Check with the college or colleges you hope to attend to make sure they don't have an earlier deadline.

FAFSA COMPLETION HELP

Free help completing the FAFSA is available at (317) 715-9007 or email outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org. Information from the INvestEd Team that may help you complete the FAFSA can also be found [here](#).

EARN YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

In order to earn your Scholarship, you must maintain the Scholar Pledge, including earning at least a Core 40 diploma, graduating with no less than a 2.5 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale, and completing all 12 high school Scholar Success Program activities by June 30 of your senior year of high school. You must track your completion of these activities through [your ScholarTrack account](#). Once you've completed all the Scholar Success Program activities and have enrolled at an accredited Indiana college within a year of high school graduation, the 21st Century Scholars office will send your name to the college you will attend. The financial aid department will claim the scholarships for each Scholar enrolled, and deposit that money into your student account to be used to pay for your tuition. If you have questions, you can contact your school's financial aid office or the statewide Financial Aid Support Center at 1-888-528-4719.

SCHOLAR SUPPORT AND INCENTIVES

Each of [Indiana's colleges and universities](#) offers different kinds of support and incentives to 21st Century Scholars, as well as programs for all students that can benefit Scholars. Check out what kinds of support might be available to you at Indiana's colleges. If you are interested in enrolling into the 21st Century Scholars Program, that information can be found [here](#).