Big Brothers Big Sisters.
OF CENTRAL INDIANA

A guide to navigating senior year for college bound students, their parents, and their Bigs.

Information gathered from learnmoreindiana.gov

BBBSCI SENIOR YEAR GUIDE

SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST: A MONTH-TO-MONTH GUIDE

August-November

- Narrow down your college options and make a list of their application deadlines.
- As you start narrowing down what schools you want to apply to, start drafting any required college admissions or scholarship essays. Be sure to make multiple drafts and have others check them!
- Continue college visits with our College Visit 101 tour tips document.
- Register for the fall SAT or ACT (if needed).
- Identify people who you would like to write a letter of recommendation. Please be sure to respect their time by giving them ample time to write the letter.
- Begin completing college admissions and scholarship applications.
- Don't stop looking for scholarship opportunities.

December-January

- Take SATII: Subject Tests as needed.
- Attend your school's financial aid meetings.
- Last chance to file many regular decision admissions applications.

February

- Parents need to start filing their taxes as early as possible this month in preparation for filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Attend FAFSA days to get help filling out the FAFSA. You can see a list of FAFSA days near you by checking out the ICCE Calendar of Events.
- Also, plan to attend a College Goal Sunday event to help you fill out the FAFSA.

March-April

- Make sure the FAFSA is completed by any college's priority FAFSA filing Deadline. For Indiana residents, you need to be sure the FAFSA is filed no later than MARCH 10. Click here to fill it out.
- Are you a Twenty-first Century Scholar? Submit your Senior Affirmation by March 10th, too.
- Review financial aid packages from colleges.

May

- Decide on a college by May 1 or sooner (depending on the colleges' deadlines). For all of the other colleges where you have been accepted, be sure you notify them that you will not be attending.
- Submit enrollment deposit to your school of choice.
- May 15 is the last day for Indiana students eligible for a state grant to make any required changes to the FAFSA.
- If applicable take AP tests for any AP courses you are taking.

June-August

- Attend on-campus orientation/registration sessions
- Make final preparations for your departure

BBBSCI SENIOR YEAR GUIDE

APPLYING TO COLLEGE-WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

Step 1: Choose the colleges you want to apply to

Your list should include a couple of schools you'll almost definitely be accepted by, a couple of schools you have a good chance of being accepted by, and a couple of schools that are more of a reach. It's always good to have options when the time comes to make your final decision.

Step 2: Get organized.

Create a folder for each school you plan to apply to. In the folder, you can store admissions information and applications materials.

Step 3: Keep a calendar with application deadlines clearly marked.

Some schools have strict deadlines for their applications, while others will accept applications year-round. Make sure you know the deadlines for each school you're applying to.

Step 4: Make a checklist.

The list should include application deadlines and to-dos. You should add one of these checklists to each of the folders you're keeping.

Step 5: Find out each school's specific application requirements.

Some schools require a personal essay or other writing sample along with your transcript and test scores. Others might ask for one or more references from teachers, coaches or activity directors. Or, if you're applying to an art school, you might be asked to submit a portfolio of your work.

Step 6: Talk to your school counselor about fee waivers.

You may be eligible for reduced or waived application fees if you're concerned about the cost of applying to multiple colleges.

Step 7: Proofread, proofread, proofread!

It's important that your application materials are error-free. Ask a teacher, parent or other adult to review each application and associated materials before you submit anything.
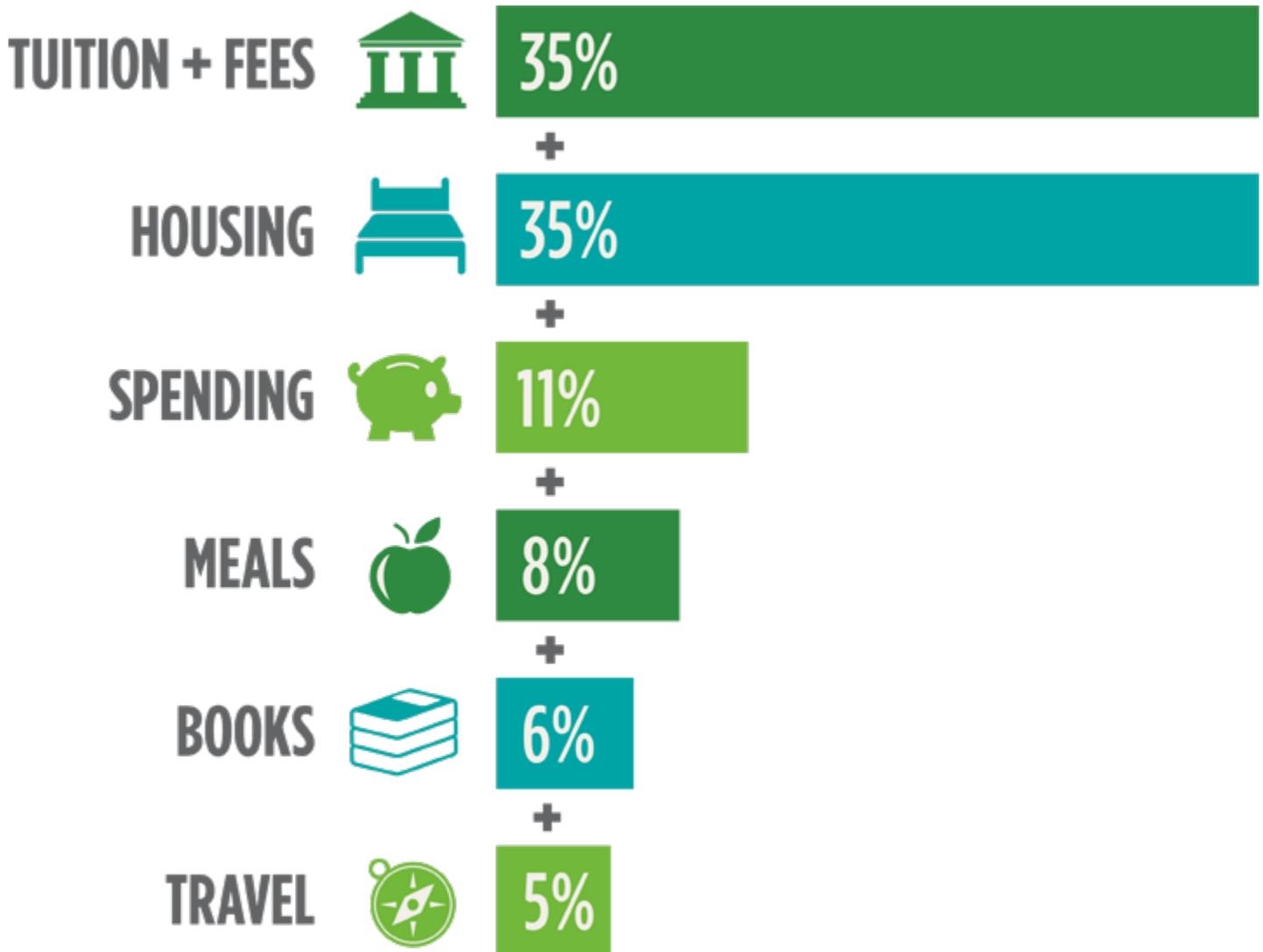
BBBSCI SENIOR YEAR GUIDE

Big Brothers Big Sisters.
OF CENTRAL INDIANA

College/University: _____

Application Checklist	
Get the application	
Make a note of the regular application deadline	
Make a note of the early application deadline	
Request high school transcript sent	
Request midyear grade report sent	
Find out if an admission test is required	
Take/Send scores to colleges (e.g., SAT Subject Tests, AP Exams, IB exams)	
Request recommendation letters	
Send thank-you notes to recommendation writers	
Draft initial essay	
Proofread essay for spelling and grammar	
Have two people read your essay	
Revise your essay	
Proofread your revision	
Submit FAFSA	
Make a note of the priority financial aid deadline	
Make a note of the regular financial aid deadline	
Complete college application (Apply to 3-6 colleges/universities	
Make copies of all application materials	
Pay application fee	
Sign and send application	
Confirm receipt of application materials	
Send additional material, if needed	
Receive letter from office of admission	
Meet deadline to accept admission/send deposits if required	
Accept financial aid offer to the college you choose to attend	

BBBSCI SENIOR YEAR GUIDE

HOW MUCH DOES COLLEGE COST?

- Tuition and fees are the basic costs for college. This money pays for your classes and related mandatory fees. This represents about 35% of the cost of college.
- Housing is where you'll live. This could include on- or off-campus housing, and costs about 35% of the total you'll spend on college, on average.
- Meals include meal plans and eating out. Usually meal plans are good options for students who don't have access to kitchens, because eating out can be expensive. This represents about 8% of your college costs.
- Books and supplies will be needed for classes and are about 6% of your college costs.
- You'll also need to plan for other spending — clothes, travel, and things like that. This is estimated at about 16% of your total spending for college.

TUITION + FEES   35%
+
HOUSING   35%
+
SPENDING   11%
+
MEALS   8%
+
BOOKS   6%
+
TRAVEL   5%

Based on estimated college costs for in-state residents at a four-year public university. (ABCnews.com via SayStudent.com)

BBBSCI SENIOR YEAR GUIDE

FAFSA (FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID) QUICK GUIDE

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form that can be prepared annually by current and prospective college students in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.

Before Applying gather the following important documents:

1. Social Security Numbers for students and parents, or alien registration numbers for non-U.S. Citizens
2. Driver's license or other eligible government ID
3. Tax returns for students and/or parents
4. Asset records such as bank statements and investments
5. Records of untaxed income, such as child support
6. Federal school codes for the schools you will apply to. Available at ed.gov

Apply for your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID on the FAFSA website. You will need this to log in. Your parent/guardian will need a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID as well. This will be your log in every time you apply to FAFSA.

https://fafsa.ed.gov/

- You can submit the FAFSA on the web from October 1 until June 30.
- After you submit your FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR). This will give you some basic information about your aid eligibility.
- Review your college acceptances and compare the colleges' financial aid offers.
- When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit. Many schools require this notification/deposit by May 1, but this may vary.

SCHOLARSHIP TIPS AND TRICKS

- Apply for local scholarships
- Apply for scholarships with smaller awards
- Apply for as many scholarships as you can
- Apply for a variety of scholarships.
- See if you are eligible for the scholarships offered by the college you choose to attend.
- More work=fewer applicants=better chances
- Get personal—
    - Be honest and open in your scholarship essays
- Don't repeat the essay prompt
    - Use the beginning of your essay to showcase your personality and set yourself apart from the crowd. Try starting your essay by setting the scene for a story or jumping directly into your answer.
- Don't use quotes
    - Your essay should be about you. Be original and use your own words.
- Satisfy all the requirements
    - Transcripts, standardized test scores, essays, references, etc.
- Fill out the entire application
- Stick to the word limit
- Proofread
    - Ask 2-3 people to look over your essays-- Ask your Big, teachers, Match Support Specialist, school counselor, etc.
- Submit Early—Don't miss deadlines
- Take your time when filling out scholarships and writing essays
- Keep copies of each of your scholarships

TRUSTED SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

21st Century Scholars Program

Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF CENTRAL INDIANA

Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program offers income-eligible students up to four years of paid tuition at an eligible Indiana college or university. Students can enroll as a Scholar as early as 7th grade, but no later than June 30th of their 8th grade year.
http://scholars.in.gov/

25 Scholarship Gateways
The website lists different scholarship opportunities for minority students.
http://www.blackexcel.org/25scholarships.htm

Be An Actuary
The website lists different scholarship opportunities for students pursuing a Science degree.
http://www.beanactuary.org/how/?fa=scholarships

Free-4u.com
The Free-4u.com website provides a national database of scholarship opportunities for students in all states.
http://www.free-4u.com/

Hispanic Scholarship Funds
The websites below list scholarships and grants available for Hispanic and Latino students.
http://www.hispanicscholarship.com/
http://www.hispanicfund.org/

Indiana Scholarships
The Indiana Scholarships website has a list of scholarships and grants available for students attending colleges or universities in Indiana.
https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-state/indiana-scholarships/

Mitch Daniels Early Graduation Scholarship
This is a one-time $4,000 scholarship for students who graduated from a publicly

supported Indiana high school at least one year early.
http://www.in.gov/che/4508.htm

NACME STEM Minority Scholarships Program
The NACME program provides block grants to colleges and universities that, in turn, award the money to talented African American, American Indian, and Latino students enrolled in engineering programs as part of their financial aid packages.
http://www.nacme.org/scholarships

NCAAA Scholarships and Grants
The NCAA awards scholarships and grants for further education to athletes who demonstrate outstanding academic and athletic achievement.
http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/ncaa-scholarships-and-grants

Ron Brown Scholar Program
The Ron Brown Scholarship provides African American scholars with the financial resources to attend some of the finest colleges and universities in the country.
https://www.ronbrown.org/

Scholarship Opportunities: Found!
The website lists scholarships, internships, and fellowship opportunities for all students.
http://scholarshipopportunity.org/

School Soup
The website lists over 250,000 scholarships available for students in Indiana.
http://www.schoolsoup.com/scholarship-directory/city/indianapolis/

Student Teaching for High-Needs Fields
This scholarship is offered to students planning to teach a "high-need" subject in middle or high school upon graduation. A "high-need" subject in middle or high school is any level of math, science, or special education.
http://www.in.gov/che/4510.htm

BBBSCI SENIOR YEAR GUIDE

Unlimited Horizons Scholarship
This is a full-scholarship program, developed by Vincennes University, to help provide a college education for under-represented populations.
http://www.in.gov/che/4545.htm

Unigo
An online directory of scholarships offered in all states for students planning to attend, or currently attending, a college or university.

Scholarships Sites
Below is a list of the best search sites for scholarship opportunities:
- Fastweb
    https://www.fastweb.com/
- Big Future College Board
    https://www.collegeboard.org/?navId=bf-cb
- Chegg
    http://www.chegg.com/
- Scholarships-
    https://www.scholarships.com/
- Unigo
    https://www.unigo.com/
- My College Dollars
    https://getschooled.com/dashboard/tool/2540-nhs-scholar-dollars-scholarship-search
- College Week Live
    https://www.collegeweeklive.com/
- College Resource Network
    http://www.collegeresourcenetwork.com/
- Scholarship Owl
    https://scholarshipowl.com/
- College Websites
- Scholarship Opportunity
    http://scholarshipopportunity.org/

https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/by-state/indiana-scholarships

William A. Crawford Minority Teacher Scholarship
This scholarship is offered to minority students (defined as black and Hispanic individuals) planning to teach in an accredited school in Indiana upon graduation.
http://www.in.gov/che/4507.htm

Stay Organized: Keep Track of Your Scholarship Applications

BBBSCI SENIOR YEAR GUIDE

Scholarship Name	How to Apply	Amount of Scholarship	Due Date	Completed

COLLEGE ACCESS RESOURCES

ACCUPLACER
ACCUPLACER tests help students identify their strengths and needs in math, reading, and writing subjects.
https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students

Center for Leadership Development
The programs are based on CLD's Five Principles for Success – five core values that develop and prepare youth for the highest levels of academic achievement, career success and community service.
https://cldinc.org/

College Week Live
Students can take virtual tours of college and university campuses, live chat with admissions representatives and students, and watch presentations on topics such as the SATs/ACTs, and writing a standout college essay.
http://www.collegeweeklive.com/

Educational Opportunity Centers Program
The program provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education.
http://www2.ed.gov/programs/trioeoc/index.html

Indiana College Costs Estimator
An online calculator that calculates the cost of tuition and the amount of financial aid you are eligible for and the amount parents need to contribute for tuition.
http://www.indianacollegecosts.org/

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
The educators at MIT publish all of the course materials online, which are available to anyone interested in seeing what college courses look like or interested in learning new subjects.
http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
MOOCs consist of a series of video lectures, quizzes, and homework assignments for students to see what college courses have to offer or for those interested in expanding their knowledge on a particular subject.
http://www.onlinecourses.com/

Schools that Provide Laptops
The website has a list of schools that offer laptops as part of their tuition statements.
http://www.edudemic.com/online-colleges-that-offer-free-laptops-for-students/

Purple Math
The website offers free online tutoring, lessons, worksheets, and quizzes to help students understand and improve their math skills.
http://www.purplemath.com/

The Financial Literacy Course
An online course explores a variety of topics to help you make educated financial decisions, including reading a credit card report, wise investments, planning a budget, tips for buying a car and house.
https://www.learnfinancialliteracy.com/

Trip to College Text Alerts
The messages are grade specific and provide information on ACT and SAT test dates, career assessments, scholarship information, financial aid deadlines, and other tips on the essential steps to earing a post-secondary education.
https://www.iyi.org/college-career-counseling/

University Visitors Network (UVN)
The website offers college search tools, blogs, and articles created to help students be more efficient and effective in their college search.
http://myuvn.com/

SCHOOL SUCCESS TOOLS

College Board

College Board helps students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success – including the SAT and the Advanced Placement Program.
https://www.collegeboard.org/

Center For Leadership Development (CLD)
CLD programs are designed according to grade level, beginning in 4th grade and continuing through 12th grade. Students enrolled in the program are provided with resources to help them plan and prepare for college.
https://cldinc.org/

Drive Of Your Life
A free web-based tool designed to help middle school and high school students to learn more about themselves, higher education, and careers.
https://www.driveofyourlife.org/main/index.html

Educational Activities for Kids
A website that offers educational games, worksheets, workbooks, lesson plans, and science project ideas to help students in grades k-12 improve in a subject(s).
http://www.education.com/worksheets/all/

Homework Hotline
Homework Hotline is a free math and science tutoring service for Indiana students in grades 6-12.
http://askrose.org/

Free Tutoring Program
Free tutoring for participants of Big Brothers Big Sisters.
http://www.mentored.com/BBBS/

High School Equivalency Test (TASC)
The high school equivalency tests help individuals 16 years of age or older who are not currently enrolled

in school to obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma.
 http://www.tasctest.com/high-school-equivalency.html
https://indiana.tasctest.com/
http://www.in.gov/dwd/adulted.htm

Indiana Career Explorer
An online tool that helps students to learn more about themselves, build an education plan, and explore the various options after high school and prepare for the next step in their education and career goals.
http://www.indianacareerexplorer.com/
Khan Academy
Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empowers learners to study at their own pace.
https://www.khanacademy.org/
Learn More Indiana
Offers comprehensive goals with practical steps that middle and high school students need to take to prepare for college.
http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/
Project Gutenberg
Project Gutenberg offers over 50,000 e-books to download for free and it's completely legal.
http://www.gutenberg.org/
The ACT/SAT – Students
If you are a senior and have not taken the ACT test or need to retake it to improve a score, visit the site for a test date and registration.
http://www.act.org/
https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat

UNCF
UNCF's North Star is to increase the total annual number of African American college graduates by focusing on activities that ensure more students

are college-ready, enroll in college and persist to graduation
https://www.uncf.org/indianapolis

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

BBBSCI SENIOR YEAR GUIDE

Apprenticeship Program
ApprenticeshipUSA offers opportunities to earn a salary while learning the skills necessary to succeed in high-demand careers.
http://www.dol.gov/featured/apprenticeship

Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC)

ABC offers a wide variety of training options from formal apprenticeship programs to specific task training modules of study.
http://www.abcindianakentucky.org/education/craft-training-apprenticeship/

Central Indiana Electrical Apprenticeship Program

The program is designed to provide the apprentice with the necessary theory and practical training to earn the status of electrician.
http://iec-indy.org/apprenticeship/

Helmets to Hardhats Program

Helmets to Hardhats helps military service members successfully transition back into civilian life by offering them the means to secure a quality career in the construction industry.
http://www.helmetstohardhats.org/military-service-members

Indiana Association of Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors

The apprenticeship program is a four year program with classroom learning and on the job training.
https://www.iaphcc.com/apprentice-schools

Indiana Union Construction Industry

Union apprentices are offered the opportunity to earn an associate degree upon completion of their apprenticeship program.
https://www.topnotch.org/careers

MILITARY ACCESS RESOURCES

Military Eligibility

BBBSCI SENIOR YEAR GUIDE

Big Brothers Big Sisters.
OF CENTRAL INDIANA

https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/join-the-military-basic
eligibility.html?comp=7000023452387&rank=1

Contact a Military Recruiter
https://secure.military.com/Recruiting/first

Jobs the Military Offers
https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/compare-military-
jobs.html?comp=7000023458746&rank=1

Tips
- Understand eligibility and military life
- Pick the right service for you
- Understand the jobs you're eligible for
- Understand the benefits you can get
- Get the best benefits package possible
- Prepare for basic training and a military career

Tips to Prepare for Meeting a Recruiter
- Check out jobs that interest you.
- Choose at least two branches to visit.
- Go with someone
- Prepare some basic questions to ask the recruiter.
- Arrange an appointment with a recruiter
- Do NOT sign any obligatory documents! You do not have to at this stage!
- TAKE NOTES. Take them home for review.

Questions to Ask the Recruiter
1. Please explain the recruiting process
2. Which option is best for me?
3. When do I take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Batter? (ASVAB)
4. How soon will I leave for Basic Training?
5. What really goes on in Basic Training?
6. What are the physical standards candidates have to meet?
7. When will I get my job assigned?
8. What documents do I need to start the recruiting process?
9. Do you need my complete medical and legal history?

For more visit: https://www.goarmy.com/learn/talking-to-a-recruiter.html