



MHS GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER

2018—2019

December 2018



3 biggest myths about the FAFSA that can cost you money

1. Only people who expect need-based aid must fill out the form.

State governments use information from the FAFSA for their own financial aid programs. Additionally, some colleges use the FAFSA to calculate their own estimate of a student's need—and even to determine eligibility for certain scholarships. In short, the FAFSA is free to fill out, and it could help you uncover some funding sources. Don't neglect it.

2. It's a pain to fill out, so I'll put it off until the holidays when I have more free time.

Don't delay. Some schools award aid on a first-come, first-served basis. And even though the federal government gives you until June 30 to submit the FAFSA, most schools have earlier deadlines. So, you are better off completing it as soon as possible.

3. Once I've submitted the FAFSA, the financial aid process is over.

Most private schools also require an additional form, the CSS Profile, for financial aid. The CSS asks more detailed questions and looks at more sources of wealth than the FAFSA. Unlike the FAFSA, the CSS costs money to complete and to send to schools. Finally, you will receive a financial award letter from each college your child is accepted to, detailing what kinds of aid they were awarded. Keep in mind that you can appeal financial aid decisions, especially if your family's situation changes.



Financial Aid for College

Frank O'Bannon Grant

If you demonstrate financial need as determined by the FAFSA, you may be eligible for the Frank O'Bannon Grant. To apply, file the 2019-2020 FAFSA by the April 15, 2019 deadline and enroll in an eligible Indiana institution.

Have questions? Contact your Outreach Coordinator or the Student Support Center at Scholars@che.in.gov or at 1-888-528-4719.

Reminder:

Boston University's financial aid application deadline is January 2, 2019.

Boston University requires applicants to file two forms: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS Profile. Students who apply for financial aid by January 2 can

Scholarship Opportunity for Juniors

SCS Noonan Scholars is looking for highly motivated high school juniors from under-resourced schools and families who aspire to attend a selective college or university. Students enter the program during the spring semester of their junior year of high school.

SCS Noonan Scholars reviews applications holistically and does not have absolute requirements for admission. However, students who are accepted into the program typically meet the following:

- Cumulative high School GPA of 3.7 or higher (unweighted, out of 4.0)
- 10th Grade PSAT Score of 1050+ or 11th Grade PSAT Score of 1140+ (if taken)
- Household income at or below \$75,000
- Identify as one of the following: A first-generation college student and/or a student of color

Application deadline is **January 18, 2019**. Find out more info and apply here: <http://www.scsnoonan.org/for-scholars/become-a-scholar/>

CTE at the College Level

Next Level Jobs

Next Level Jobs provides FREE training at Ivy Tech or Vincennes University in the following in-demand, high-paying industries:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Building and Construction
- Health and Life Sciences
- IT and Business
- Transportation and Logistics

To apply, complete a short survey at NextLevelJobs.org by selecting "Next Level Job Seekers." Once you've completed the survey, Ivy Tech or Vincennes will contact you about next steps and enrollment.

**HAPPY
KWANZAA**



Summer College for High School Students

Experience the excitement of college life, take courses with world-renowned faculty, explore academic majors, and put yourself on a pathway for success! Taking *online or on-campus* courses during summer allows high school students age 16 and older to experience college life by completing coursework alongside current undergraduate students. Students have access to more than 650 courses across academic disciplines during Summer Session so there's no better time to get a jumpstart on your college experience!

- Take real college courses in the module that best fits your needs
 - 1-week, 4-weeks, 8-weeks, and 12-weeks.
 - Students may live on campus during the 1-week modules and the last 4-week module.
- Fun-Sized Residential Options
 - Purdue University is excited to offer three intensive 1-week, 1-credit opportunities for high school students during Summer 2019. Move-in and orientation for each experience will occur on Sunday and class sessions will begin on Monday. Parents are invited to attend a closing session on Friday prior to move-out.

Apply now! Application opened December 1, 2018.

- Students must be at least 16 years old, have completed the sophomore year of high school, and have a GPA of at least 3.30 at the time the class begins to participate.
- Priority application deadline is March 1, 2019.
- Courses are permanently listed on a Purdue transcript and can be transferred to other institutions.
- Attending this program does not give students an advantage in the admissions process.

Summer Camps

Every summer, Purdue offers a number of *non-credit* summer camps in areas such as engineering, technology, gifted education, science, veterinary medicine, and human health. Camps range from a couple days to a few weeks. Cost of attendance varies. Students may start participating as early as kindergarten!

Questions? Email us at thinksummer@purdue.edu, call us at (765) 496-7237, or text us at

FREE 7-week introductory program in Court Reporting

January 10, 2019 – February 21, 2019 Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
College of Court Reporting 455 W Lincolnway Valparaiso, IN 46385 866-294-3974
Register now Tina Parent-Cowsert prent456@comcast.net to secure your spot in this class.



College and Career Planning for the School Year

12th Grade

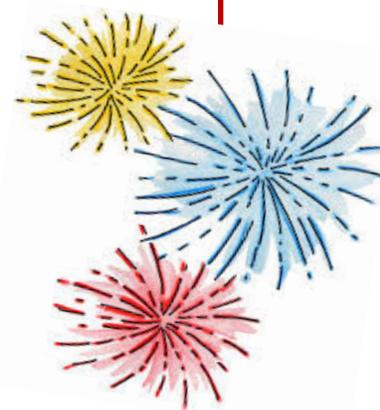
- Create a master list or calendar that includes: Tests you'll take and their fees, dates, and registration deadlines; college application due dates; required financial aid application forms and their deadlines (aid applications may be due before college applications); other materials you'll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.)
- Take the SAT or ACT one more time: Many seniors retake the SAT in the fall. Additional course work since your last test could help you boost your performance. Plus you already know what to expect on test day. Request a fee waiver if you qualify.
- Be sure to have your SAT/ACT scores sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Write first drafts and ask teachers and others to read them if you're submitting essays.
- Complete at least one college application by Christmas.
- Send your transcripts to colleges through Parchment.
- If you are applying to a college or scholarship with a deadline of January 1, be sure to submit your applications BEFORE WINTER BREAK. COUNSELORS WILL NOT SUBMIT DOCUMENTS FOR ANY APPLICATION OVER WINTER BREAK.

11th Grade

- Start with you: Make lists of your abilities, social/cultural preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.
- Learn about colleges. Look at their websites and find colleges at bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search. Talk to friends, family members, teachers, and recent grads of your school now in college. List the college features that interest you.
- Visit the counseling office and find out when college representatives will visit your school.
- Make a file to manage your college search, testing, and application data. If you're interested in drama, music, art, sports, etc., start to gather material for a portfolio.
- Sign up to take the SAT or ACT in the spring. You can register online. SAT /ACT fee waivers are available to eligible students. To prepare for the SAT, you can access free, personalized SAT practice tools at satpractice.org, including thousands of interactive questions, video lessons, practice tests, and more.
- Begin a search for financial aid sources. National sources include the College Board's Scholarship Search and electronic sources. Don't overlook local and state aid sources.

9th/10th Grade

- Attend college and career fairs.
- Participate in school activities or volunteer efforts. Extracurricular activities can help you develop time management skills and enrich your high school experience.
- Tour college campuses. If possible, take advantage of vacation or other family travel time to visit colleges and see what they're like. Even if you have no interest in attending the college you are visiting, it will help you learn what to look for in a college.



Happy New Year