



Making Higher Education Possible for Hoosier Families

2020-2021 Edition



For over 40 years, INvestEd has provided Hoosier students and families with solutions to put higher education within reach.



Welcome to the latest edition of the **INvestEd College Planning Guide!** We hope you'll find some valuable information within these pages as you make a plan to continue your education. We know you will have questions along the way, and we're ready to help. There are multiple ways to connect with us for FREE!

Connect with us for FREE help!

Email: Outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org

Phone: 317.715.9007

Online: INvestEdIndiana.org



	FREE help throughout the college planning process
02	CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION The benefits of education
03	CHOOSING A CAREER PATH Finding the right fit
02	CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAM OR COLLEGE The right choice can save you time & money
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WE'RE HERE TO HELP 01

We're Here to Help!





Whether you're just starting to plan, ready to fund your education or need help managing student loan debt, **INvestEd** is here to help every step of the way!

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01

Investigate career paths & choose the right program/college 02

Maximize FREE money & minimize student loan debt

03

Apply for financial aid & meet deadlines

04

financial aid offers & understand options to fill any funding gap 05

Manage student loan debt & understand repayment options







CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION

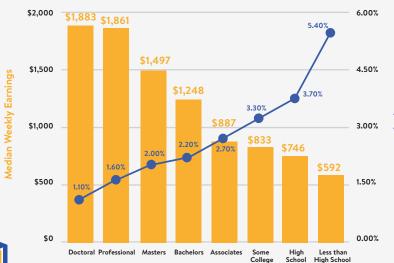
Opportunities, earnings and more!



Benefits

- **▶** More Job Opportunities 70% of jobs will require education beyond high school by 2027.
 - (Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education Jan 22, 2020)
- **▶** Higher Lifetime Earnings Over the course of a working lifetime, a person with a 4-year degree will earn almost \$1 million more than someone with just a high school diploma. (See Chart)
- **▶ Lower Unemployment Rate** In addition to earning more money over your lifetime, you are also less likely to be unemployed. (See Chart)

Value of Higher Education



Connect with us on social media @INvestEdIndiana











CHOOSING A CAREER PATH

Finding a career you enjoy that matches your skills can help reduce the cost and time to complete your education.

Tips to find the right career path:

- ► Take a skills assessment to help you discover your interests and strengths.
- ► **Explore careers** that match your personality traits, skills and interests.
- Research the salary in a chosen career field as you review program/college costs.

Gain experience by:

- ▶ **Job shadowing** different career fields to see if a job is really what you think it is.
- Volunteering in your community. Serving others could lead to career inspiration and looks great on college and scholarship applications.
- Interning with local businesses and organizations.

INvestEd Tip: Check out FREE tools at **INvestEdIndiana.org/choosing** to help you find the right career path.

Indiana High-Growth High-Income Jobs

Did you know Indiana has funding to help Hoosiers attain certification in high demand fields? For more info visit: INvestEdIndiana.org/workforce-ready-grant















CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAM OR COLLEGE

Finding the right fit for you is very important. At **INvestEd**, we define fit using these three factors:

—— Academically ——	Socially —	——— Financially ———		
Offers program or major for your career path	Feel part of the community (size, location & facilities)	Program or school is affordable		
Opportunities for experience like internships & practicums	Professional and personal networking opportunities	Potential debt is manageable once degree or certification obtained		
Study abroad or intercultural experiences	Housing options	Ongoing scholarship opportunities		





Research Your Options:

Finding the right fit takes time and effort. Here are some suggestions from **INvestEd** to get you started:

 Use online tools like College Navigator & College Scorecard

Nvested

- Attend College & Career Fairs
- ▶ Talk with your school counselor & teachers
- Visit program facility or college campus



Don't forget - Indiana has great schools to choose from!



FUND YOUR EDUCATION WISELY

Planning ahead may relieve the financial stress of continuing your education.



INvestEd travels across the state to help families all year round. See when we'll be at a location near you! INvestEdIndiana.org/event-calendar

Steps to college funding:

- Maximizing FREE Money pg. 7
- Saving for College pg. 8
- Student Employment pg. 8
- Managing Costs pg. 9
- ▶ Applying for Financial Aid pg. 10
- Understanding Loan & ISA Options pg. 12
- Finalizing Your Plan pg. 13



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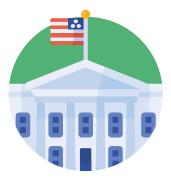


MAXIMIZE FREE MONEY

Free money in the form of grants & scholarships is a key component of paying for college wisely!

Grants

Grants are typically based either on a student's financial need as determined by an application or the program they are pursuing. Find out more at INvestEdIndiana.org/grants



Federal Including: Pell, SEOG, TEACH



Institutional
Determined by each
institution



State
Including: Frank O'Bannon,
21st Century Scholars,
Workforce Ready Grant

INvestEd Tip: Access ScholarTrack to monitor your state grant eligibility!



Scholarships

Scholarships are based on all kinds of factors like career interest, volunteer activity, family heritage, academic standing, talents & abilities, and so much more!

Scholarship Keys to Success:

- ► **Get Started.** It's never too early to start searching for scholarships.
- ▶ **Plan.** Set aside time weekly for online searches and working on essays.
- ▶ **Ask around.** Check with your school counselor, local community foundation, places of employment, and college websites.
- ▶ **Look ahead.** Review possible scholarships for eligibility criteria and deadlines. Looking at these requirements early will give you time to become the best applicant.
- ▶ **Patience.** Searching for scholarships requires continual effort. Stay diligent and keep applying.



For additional tips visit

INvestEdIndiana.org/scholarships



SAVING FOR COLLEGE

Any money saved for your education may mean less student loan debt to repay.

Ways to Save

- ▶ **Put aside some money** from gifts (birthdays, graduation, and holidays).
- Earnings from job opportunities (during school & summer).
- ▶ A 529 Direct Savings Plan is a tax-free account for Indiana residents to set aside money for college. The State of Indiana provides a 20% tax credit (up to \$1,000) on annual contributions.
- Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA) is an after-tax investment option with tax free withdraws to use for educational costs. Maximum annual contribution is \$2,000 and beneficiary must use by age 30.



INvestEd Tip: Saving for college comes in many forms, check out INvestEdIndiana.org/saving for more details.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Working is a great way to help pay for college, gain practical work experience and even help you get a job after graduation!



Student Employment Options:

- ▶ Working Part-Time helps to cover college expenses, network and gain job experience.
- Federal Work Study provides on or off campus jobs for students with financial need. Money earned does not count against you on the FAFSA.
- ▶ **Internships** may not always be paid positions, but studies show that over 80% of employers look for internship experience in their future employees.



MANAGING COLLEGE COSTS

It's important to compare costs and understand potential aid available as you consider your options.

Net Price Calculators (NPC)

Use this tool to give you an estimate of the costs and financial aid that may be available. The net price shows the potential amount you'll need to fund through:

- National or local scholarships
- Student employment
- Savings/out of pocket
- Loan programs

Check out a college's net price calculator at INvestEdIndiana.org/NPC

NET PRICE CALCULATORS
PROVIDE ESTIMATES AS
YOU REVIEW YOUR
COLLEGE OPTIONS

Cost of College - Free Money

= Net Price*

 What you have to cover through outside scholarships, employment, savings, or loans.

Limiting College Costs

- Dual Credit and Advanced Placement (AP) courses are ways to earn college credits at a reduced rate and potentially help finish your program early.
- ▶ Commuting may help save on living expenses for college. Whether you commute or live on campus, consider the costs and aid impacts of each.
- While in school, taking classes during the summer or online may help you stay on track to graduate or finish early.



Review options side by side: INvestEdIndiana.org/Resources

State Grants			
Institutional Scholarships & Grants			
Other Scholarships	F		
Total Grants/ Scholarships	Sensif Gents Salutorings	Sangtines-Schooling	Sum of Create Scholarship
Net Price*	Com-Cremitchisphys	Dairy-Dreshyllcharachys	Cort Contribution
Work Study^			
Direct Loan - Subsidized			
Direct Loan - Unsubsidized			
Perkins Loan			
PLUS Loan (Parent)			



APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

The starting point to access federal, state and institutional money.

FAFSA

Federal application filed annually to determine your eligibility for federal, state and some institutional financial aid programs. Find out more info at

INvestEdIndiana.org/FAFSA



FAFSA deadline for State of Indiana grants **InvestEd Tip:** Some colleges may have an earlier deadline to be eligible for their aid. Make sure you know the deadlines and submit the FAFSA on time!

Connect with us at Outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org or **317.715.9007** for help!



Who?

- ▶ Any high school senior
- Anyone planning to attend college in the upcoming school year



What?

- Use our Creating Your FSA ID resource to create your account.
- Check out our FAFSA Checklist for a list of documents to help you file.

Find these resources and more at: INvestEdIndiana.org/Resources





- ▶ Opens **October 1st** each year
- ▶ Check with colleges for their specific deadlines
- ► The deadline is **April 15th** for State of Indiana grants.



Why?

- ▶ The FAFSA calculates your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is an index that estimates the family's ability to pay for a year of education. Financial aid offices use the EFC to determine your financial aid offer.
- ▶ Use our EFC calculator to estimate your expected family contribution: INvestedIndiana.org/FAFSA

How?

Mobile app download: **MyStudentAid**







EDUCATION LOANS

After you have exhausted all FREE money avenues, education loans may be an option to pay for college.

Key elements when evaluating loan options:

- ▶ **Know who the borrower is for each type of loan.** *Is it the student, the parent, or is a cosigner involved?*
- **Know the costs.** Do the loans have fees and are the interest rates variable or fixed?
- ▶ **Know when interest begins to accrue.** Does the loan debt begin to grow immediately?
- ▶ **Know when repayment begins.** Is there a grace period or does repayment start once the loan is disbursed?
- ▶ Who is the lender? Are the loans from the government, a bank or a not-for-profit organization?

Types of Education Loans:

- Federal Direct Student Loan
 - Subsidized
 - Unsubsidized
- Federal Parent Loan (PLUS)
- · Private Loan

Get more information on our Student Loan Comparison chart at INvestEdIndiana.org/resources

INvestEd Tip: Check out our Loan Repayment Calculator as you evaluate your loan options and understand the potential repayment! INvestEdIndiana.org/understanding

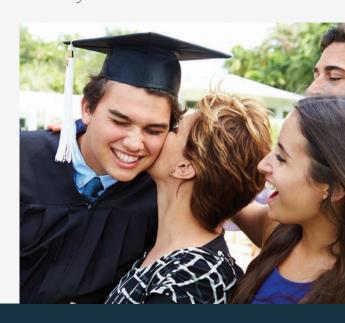
INCOME SHARE AGREEMENTS

Another way to fund some of your education and repay later based on your income.

What is an Income Share Agreement (ISA)?

The college provides an award to the student to help cover some college costs. A student signs an agreement with the college to repay a percent of their income for a set period of time after attendance or graduation.

Many factors impact ISA criteria including student program and projected income. While not all colleges offer this program, for some students it will be an alternative to student loans.





FINALIZING YOUR FUNDING PLAN

A significant factor in making your final decision is deciding how you'll cover the cost.



Key steps in finalizing your plan:

- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) FAFSA output that identifies any errors or issues
- 2. Respond to requests from schools for any additional documentation
- 3. Compare your financial aid offers clearly identify FREE money, student employment and loans
- 4. Contact the Financial Aid Office if your family situation has changed since filing the FAFSA
- 5. Review options to cover any remaining balance





COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

Fall Junior Year:
Talk with your school counselor to find out if you are on track for college. Take challenging coursework, the PSAT and opportunities to earn college credit with Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit courses.
Check out INvestEdIndiana.org/choosingcollege for resources as you investigate different schools.
Find opportunities to volunteer in your community. Volunteering looks great on admission and scholarship applications.
Spring Junior Year:
Register for the SAT, ACT or both. Achieving a good score on these tests may reward you with more opportunities for grants and scholarships.
Continue researching schools and begin narrowing your list to 5 or 6.
☐ Visit college campuses. Make appointments with both the Admissions and Financial Aid Offices, attend some classes and spend the night, if you can.
Summer after Junior Year:
☐ Write sample essays in preparation for admission and scholarship applications. Tell your story in 300 words or less.
Fall Senior Year:
Fall Senior Year: ☐ Narrow your list of college options to 3 or 4. File your admission applications and make note of important deadlines. Schedule initial or return visits with faculty, Admissions and Financial Aid.
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 Narrow your list of college options to 3 or 4. File your admission applications and make note of important deadlines. Schedule initial or return visits with faculty, Admissions and Financial Aid. Gather recommendation letters for admission and scholarship applications, as well as fine tuning your personal essays. If you are looking to improve your scores or take the test for the first time, register and prepare for the fall SAT or ACT.
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 Narrow your list of college options to 3 or 4. File your admission applications and make note of important deadlines. Schedule initial or return visits with faculty, Admissions and Financial Aid. Gather recommendation letters for admission and scholarship applications, as well as fine tuning your personal essays. If you are looking to improve your scores or take the test for the first time, register and prepare for the fall SAT or ACT. Higher scores may lead to better financial aid offers. Winter Senior Year:

Summer after Senior Year:

Note important dates for the upcoming school year like course registration days and freshman orientation.



FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE

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Spring Junior Year:

- ☐ Begin searching for scholarships by:
 - Talking to your school counselor about scholarship options.
 - Reviewing community foundation scholarships so you can begin to make yourself a better applicant your senior year.
 - · Registering on national search sites. Top sites available at INvestEdIndiana.org/scholarships
- Investigate the costs and possible aid at each of the schools you're interested in using their net price calculator.

 INvestEd provides links and tools to help at INvestEdIndiana.org/NPC
- Create a resume and apply for summer jobs. Find a job in an area related to your career interest, if possible.

Summer after Junior Year:

- Save as much money as possible from your summer job and put it in a college fund. Money saved now means borrowing less for college later.
- Begin discussions with a trusted adult regarding options available to you for covering the cost of college.
- Look for volunteer opportunities to enhance your scholarship applications.

Fall Senior Year:

- Continue discussions with a trusted adult about the financial options available to cover college costs, as well as continuing scholarship searches. Find tips at: INvestEdIndiana.org/scholarships
- After October 1, fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at **FAFSA.gov**. To be eligible for State of Indiana aid, the FAFSA must be filed by April 15th. Note: Some colleges may have an earlier deadline.

Winter Senior Year:

- Continue searching and applying for scholarships. In fact, keep looking for scholarships until you have completed your college degree. This is free money that doesn't have to be paid back, which means less you have to borrow.
- Follow up with the colleges you are applying to and confirm that they have received your FAFSA. Ask about any additional financial aid forms that may be required.
- Confirm your federal, state and institutional eligibility for scholarships and grants. Use the Finalizing Financial Aid document available at INvestEdIndiana.org/finalizing for guidance.

Spring Senior Year:

- Review your financial aid offers and compare costs using our College Cost Comparison worksheet available at INvestEdIndiana.org/NPC
- ☐ Finalize your paying for college plan with the Financial Aid Office and complete all paperwork prior to orientation.





KEY TERMS:

FSA ID (Federal Student Aid ID)

Username and password the student and parent, if necessary, use to log in to and sign the FAFSA.

EFC (Expected Family Contribution)

What the FAFSA calculates as the amount of money the family should be expected to pay toward college.

IRS DRT (IRS Data Retrieval Tool)

Link from FAFSA to IRS to pull in student and/or parent tax return information.

SAR (Student Aid Report)

Output once the FAFSA is processed identifying any errors or next steps applicants need to complete.

STUDENT'S FSA ID:

Username:

Email:	
Mobile Phone:	
Challenge Question A	Answers:
1)	3)
2)	4)
Username:	FSA ID:
Username: Password:	T SA ID.
Username:	T SA ID.
Username: Password: Email:	
Username: Password: Email: Mobile Phone:	
Username: Password: Email: Mobile Phone: Challenge Question A	Answers:

NOTES:	



317.715.9007 Outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org INvestEdIndiana.org



A FREE Resource for All Hoosiers



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