

21st Century Scholar Success Program for College Students

Final Approved Version (8/9/18)

BACKGROUND

In response to a charge from the Indiana General Assembly, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) created the Scholar Success Program (SSP) for 21st Century Scholars graduating from high school in 2017 and beyond. Developed in collaboration with a 21st Century Scholars Advisory Council, the SSP includes 12 required activities that must be completed during high school for students to remain eligible to receive the 21st Century Scholarship (see details at Scholars.in.gov).

PURPOSE

In 2018, the General Assembly called upon ICHE—in collaboration with Indiana’s colleges and universities—to extend the SSP into college beginning with Scholars matriculating to an eligible higher education institution after August 31, 2019. In response, ICHE analyzed Scholar performance data, reviewed best-practice research (e.g., [AAC&U’s High-Impact Educational Practices](#), [Gallup-Purdue Index](#)) and actively solicited input from its higher education partners to inform the design/structure of the program.

GOALS

After reviewing relevant data, best-practice research and partner feedback, three primary goals emerged for strengthening the 21st Century Scholars program at the postsecondary level:

- 1) **College Performance:** *Ensure students perform academically and stay on track to complete college.*
- 2) **College Engagement:** *Smooth students’ transition from high school to college (i.e. reduce “summer melt”), increase campus engagement and build self-efficacy/advocacy skills.*
- 3) **Career Preparation:** *Build students’ employability skills, strengthen connections between academic and applied learning, and smooth transitions from education to employment (and/or advanced studies).*

REQUIREMENTS

In consultation with Indiana’s colleges and universities, ICHE established the following postsecondary requirements for 21st Century Scholars beginning in 2019-2020.

COLLEGE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM		
COLLEGE PERFORMANCE	COLLEGE ENGAGEMENT	CAREER PREPARATION
ALL 3 ANNUALLY	1+ PER YEAR	1+ PER YEAR
Complete 30 Credits Per Year	Summer Bridge Program AND/OR New Student Orientation	Informational Interview AND/OR Job Shadow
Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)	First-Year Experience AND/OR Living-Learning Community	Professional Résumé AND/OR Portfolio
File Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Campus Involvement* AND/OR Study Abroad*	Internship*(or equivalent) AND/OR Student-Faculty Research*
Mentor/Champion**		

*Activity may be repeated/sustained for multiple academic years to satisfy 21st Century Scholarship renewal requirement.

**All 21st Century Scholars—with support from Indiana colleges and the state—will identify at least one personal champion/mentor who will help guide and support them through college completion and into the workforce.

TIMELINE

- Spring/Summer 2018: College SSP Development & Vetting
- Fall 2018 (August): College SSP Finalized & Adopted
- Fall 2018/Spring 2019: College SSP Implementation Guidance & ScholarTrack Development
- Fall 2019/Spring 2020: College SSP Campus Pilot
- Fall 2020/Spring 2021: College SSP Statewide Implementation