

# Titan Newsletter

FALL 2020

OCTOBER 8, 2020

## Navigating Our New Normal Admissions is ready to serve you and your students this fall!

We understand that the fall semester is a crucial time for those applying to college, so IU South Bend wants to do our part to best assist your students. Our admissions counselors are once again setting up **Onsite Visits** with schools across the Michiana area to make on-the-spot admission decisions!

Given our current climate with COVID-19, each school can decide whether to host an Onsite Visit in-person or virtually. We will work with you to pick a date, time, and mode for your school's Onsite Visit.

We understand that a virtual event is not possible for all schools. For in-person events, we require all participants to wear a mask, including our admissions counselor.

### **In-person Onsite Format**

Students will sign up for a time slot and fill out a paper application (we'll send these to you ahead of time). An admissions counselor will review the student's application and transcript during the Onsite Visit.

### **Virtual Onsite Format**

For a virtual Onsite Visit, you can choose for students to Zoom with us from home using the link provided or from a secure designated spot at the school where they have computer/Zoom access.

Before a virtual Onsite Visit, students will need to submit an online application using the fee waiver code we provide in advance. Students must then submit an official transcript to our office. Ideally, they would send it through Parchment or another electronic transcript service, but they can also mail or drop it off to our office in a sealed envelope from the school. Three days before the scheduled event, Admissions will reach out to your school's contact to secure any transcripts that were not yet received. We will then review the materials to provide our on-the-spot admission decision over Zoom.

Each admitted student will receive an email with their admission decision in addition to a formal acceptance letter sent through the mail.

### **Titan Onsite Scholarships**

Just as before, eligible participants (both in-person and virtually) can earn a \$500 Titan Onsite Scholarship for attending the Onsite Visit. A 3.0 GPA is needed for this award.

### **Scheduling an Onsite Visit**

If you would like to schedule an Onsite Visit for your school, please email Sharquida Markham at [smarkham@iusb.edu](mailto:smarkham@iusb.edu) or Ali Mahamat at [almahama@iusb.edu](mailto:almahama@iusb.edu).

We know this is a difficult and trying time for all. We will do our best to be as flexible as possible while ensuring the safety of you, your students, and ourselves.

For a list of scheduled Onsite Visits, please see: <https://go.iu.edu/2bt3>.



# Test Optional/Test Self-Report Admission

Research indicates that for most students, high school GPA paired with test scores provides the best prediction of academic success at Indiana University. However, for some students a standardized test score may not show all that they are capable of and tell the full story of their potential.

Therefore, IU has adopted a **test-optional** admissions policy beginning with the 2021 terms (spring 2021 forward). Students applying for undergraduate admission can choose at the point of application whether to have SAT or ACT test scores considered as part of their application.

In addition to going test optional, IU also adopted a **self-reporting** policy. If students choose to have their SAT or ACT test scores considered as part of their application, they can now self-report their scores. If they have their scores at the time of application, they can input the scores and test date directly into the application. If they do not have test scores at the time of application, they can report them at a later date using the Test Score Self-Reporting Form, which can be found here: <https://go.iu.edu/3jg3>.

If offered admission, it will be contingent upon receipt of test scores from either the student's high school or the testing agency which must match or be higher than those self-reported during the admissions process. IU South Bend must receive official scores by the start of the student's first semester of enrollment.

When evaluating applications, we will continue to review files with a focus on curriculum and the grades earned in academic coursework, as well as performance in honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and college dual enrollment courses.

Additional information about our new test optional/self-report policy is published here: <https://go.iu.edu/3cq4>.



## Applying for Fall 2021

The **Fall 2021 application** is now open with the new standardized testing policies in place!

As you work with seniors this upcoming year who are interested in applying to IU South Bend, thank you for assisting them with submission of the items below that will complete an application for admission.

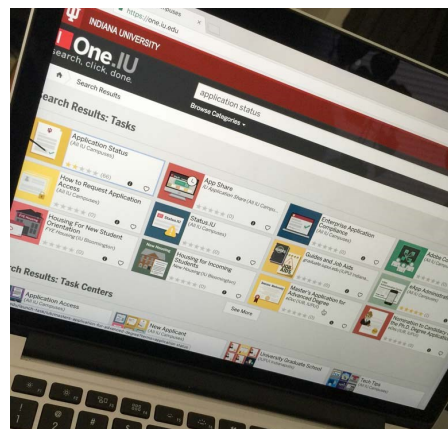
1. Paper or Apply IU application + \$35 application fee, fee waiver, or fee waiver code
2. Official high school transcript
3. *SAT or ACT scores if they opted to have them included in their application review*

In consideration of full admission, students must meet all of the following admission requirements:

- At least a B average
- Core 40, Academic Honors, or Technical Honors diploma (or an out-of-state equivalent)
- *Test scores submitted by students who opt in will be reviewed to determine full or standard (conditional) admission*

Students who do not qualify for full admission may be reviewed for standard (conditional) admission on a case-by-case basis. To be considered for admission, all students must have a 2.0 GPA or higher and be on a Core 40/college prep diploma track. Those who qualify for standard admission may be asked to complete a threshold seminar regarding the craft and culture of higher education.

Those who are standard admits with a GPA between 2.0—2.4 will be admitted to our Guided Pathways Academy—a two semester program designed to assist students in transitioning to college. Students will have the opportunity to enroll in between 6 and 13 credits of general education coursework each semester. Program participants will benefit from ongoing academic and social support and master critical skills that lead to success in college and their career. You'll find more information about the Guided Pathways Academy here: <https://go.iu.edu/2dEJ>.



# Test Optional/Self-Report and Scholarships



Although optional for admission, test scores are presently required for many of our **scholarships**, including our Titan Awards. For initial consideration, test scores can be self-reported, listed on or attached to the high school transcript, or sent from the testing agency.

If self-reported scores are used for scholarship consideration, official scores from the high school or testing agency must be reported to Admissions before any scholarship funds can be credited to the student's account.

Certain Online Scholarship Application (OSA) awards may require scores to be submitted for consideration as well.

Students will be admitted to the Honors Program based upon their GPA only (3.5 and higher) and will be awarded the Honors Scholarship, with or without the submission of test scores.

For more information about our scholarships, visit: <https://go.iu.edu/3crt>.

## Admission-Based Scholarships

IU South Bend offers four **admission-based scholarships** to incoming undergraduate students who demonstrate the academic skills to succeed at IU South Bend.

At minimum, an eligible student must be admitted to IU South Bend by March 1, 2021 as an incoming freshman for the summer or fall semester following high school graduation; have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale, be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien; and confirm their admission by May 1, 2021. (\*\*The Titan Excellence Award has a different acceptance deadline. See below for details).

Test scores are presently required for 3 of the 4 Titan Awards. The awards and their requirements are as follows:

**Titan Onsite Award:** \$500 annually (up to \$2,000). Students must have a 3.0 GPA and have attended an Onsite Visit.

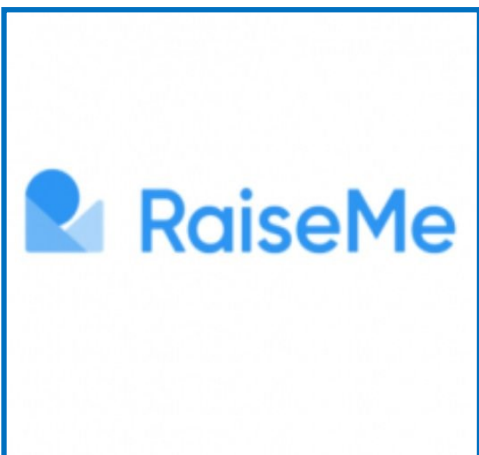
**Titan Silver Award:** \$750 annually (up to \$3,000). Students must have a 3.0 GPA + 1030 SAT or 20 ACT.

**Titan Gold Award:** \$1,500 annually (up to \$6,000). Students must have a 3.5 GPA + 1080 SAT or 21 ACT.

**\*\*\*Titan Excellence Award:** \$6,000 annually—\$3,000 academic scholarship and \$3,000 Housing scholarship (up to \$24,000). Students must have 3.75 GPA + 1270 SAT or 27 ACT. This award is only offered to four students per academic year. Students must be admitted by *December 1st* for consideration. Renewal requirements for this scholarship include a 3.0 GPA at IU South Bend and completion of 30 credits per academic year.

All other Titan Awards are renewable for an additional three years as long as the awardee maintains a 2.8 GPA, enrolls full-time each fall and spring, and completes 30 credit hours in the academic year.

A student can only be eligible for one Titan Award. For example, if a student is eligible for the Titan Silver Award at the time of admission and then submits new test scores that makes he/she eligible for the Titan Gold Award, they will only receive \$1,500 not a combined total of \$2,250.



## RaiseMe Reminder

IU South Bend is partnering with **RaiseMe** again this year to help students visualize their progress towards IU South Bend scholarship awards.

We have assigned dollar amounts to common high school achievements and college prep activities. Starting in 9th grade, students log these into their RaiseMe accounts and can watch their scholarship amount grow. Those in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade can retroactively fill in their accomplishments.

Students can create a free RaiseMe profile with IU South Bend using the following link: <https://www.raise.me/join/iusb>.

Important dates to consider:

Students must complete their RaiseMe profile.....**Feb. 1st**

Students must be admitted to IU South Bend.....**March 1st**

Students must confirm their admission.....**May 1st**

# Visit Opportunities

As we adapt to our new normal, we have been able to keep some of our former **visit opportunities** while adding new ones. At this time, all visit opportunities below will run through November 20, 2020. More tour dates may be added to the schedule as we evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on our campus.

Students and accompanying visitors must be prepared to wear a mask at all times if they attend an on-campus tour. Our campus community will be wearing theirs as well.

All the events outlined below and the registration forms can be found here: <https://go.iu.edu/3iSM>.

**Weekday Tours** — We will continue to offer our Weekday Tours as in years past. Weekday Tours go out every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm EST.

**Registration is required** as each tour is capped at 8 participants.

The weekday tours will leave from the front steps of the Administration Building and will last approximately one hour.

**Tours en Español los Jueves**— We will also be offering tours completely in Spanish every Thursday at 10:00 am EST.

**Registration is required** as each tour is capped at 8 participants.

The Spanish Tours will leave from the front steps of the Administration Building and will last approximately one hour.

**Saturday Tours** — For those that cannot make our weekday tours, we will be offering select Saturday Tours during the fall semester. This tour option includes a short presentation about the application process.

**Registration is required** as each tour is capped at 24 participants.

Saturday tours will begin in the University Grill and last approximately 90 minutes.

Upcoming Saturday Tours include:

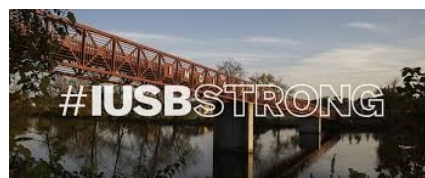
- September 26, 2020
- October 10, 2020
- October 24, 2020
- November 14, 2020



**Self-Guided Tours** — If students want to experience campus in-person but can't make one of the above guided tours or prefer to not be in a group at this time, they can take a self-guided tour of the University. Participants will use their mobile device to access the tour guide and follow along with the text as they make their way around campus. We will also have printed versions of the self-guided tour available for pick up during office hours for those that need them.

When students are finished taking their self-guided tour, they can submit a selfie with our IU South Bend sign to be entered to win a free IU South Bend gift!

**Virtual Campus Tour** — If students cannot visit us at all in person, they can take our Virtual Campus Tour. With this option, students will still get to learn about all of the buildings on campus in addition to various facts about what the University has to offer.



# Admissions Event Opportunities

In addition to adjusting our visit options, we have also added a number of mostly virtual **events opportunities** that students can participate in. More virtual or on-campus events may be added to the schedule as we evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on our campus.

If visitors do come onto campus, they must be prepared to wear a mask at all times. Our campus community will be wearing theirs as well.

**Virtual Coffee with a Counselor** — This is a drop-in event held every Friday via Zoom from 9:00 am–12:00 pm EST. During this event, students can drop in to ask any questions they may have about the application process, campus, student life, financial aid basics, etc.

Students can access the event using the following Zoom link: <https://iu.zoom.us/s/362399128>.

**IUSB 101 Virtual Information Session** — This event is on select dates as part of our Virtual Coffee with a Counselor event. If students prefer a structured presentation format, they can attend a 101 Virtual Information Session held via Zoom to watch an Admissions and Financial Aid presentation. Admissions will begin their presentation at 10:00 am EST and Financial Aid will begin theirs at 10:30 am EST.

During each presentation, students will be able to use the chat feature in Zoom to ask any questions they may have. The presenter will then answer their questions in real time.

If there are additional questions or more student-specific questions, our counselors will be available during the remaining Virtual Coffee with a Counselor time from 11:00 am–12:00 pm EST to answer questions by video conferencing with students individually.

Upcoming 101 Virtual Information Session dates include:

- September 25, 2020
- October 9, 2020
- October 23, 2020
- November 13, 2020

**Onsite Makeup Days** — We will be hosting four Onsite Makeup Days this fall for students who would like to participate but either missed the Onsite Visit at their school or one was not scheduled.

Each Onsite Makeup Day will take place after the 101 Virtual Information Sessions from 1:00 pm–5:00 pm EST.

Students can elect to meet with us in-person at our office or virtually via Zoom. If students prefer to meet via Zoom, they can reach out to first year counselor, Sharquida Markham, at [smarkham@iusb.edu](mailto:smarkham@iusb.edu) to schedule an appointment.

If students choose to meet with us in-person, they will fill out a paper application in our office with a waived application fee. They need to be sure to either have their official transcript sent to us before the Makeup Day (allowing for adequate delivery time) or bring a copy with them in a sealed envelope from the school.

If students choose to meet with us virtually, they will fill out the online application using the fee waiver code provided to them upon setting up their appointment. We will send the needed Zoom link before their appointment. These students also need to have an official transcript sent to our office, allowing adequate delivery time.

Students who attend an Onsite Makeup Day (in-person or virtually) are eligible for the \$500 Titan Onsite Award if they have a 3.0 GPA.



# IU South Bend Elkhart Center

IU South Bend has an off-campus location, the **Elkhart Center**, where Admissions is present twice a week throughout the fall semester. This is ideal for our incoming students who live in or near Elkhart County.

One of our admissions counselors, Chris Weingart, is at the Elkhart Center every Tuesday and Thursday from 8 am—5 pm EST. Due to COVID-19, Chris can answer brief questions at the front counter when assisting students. Those with multiple questions and/or lengthier questions will be asked to set up an appointment via phone or Zoom.

If students want to see if an appointment is necessary for their questions or would prefer to set up an appointment via phone or Zoom, they can contact Admissions by calling 574-520-4839 or emailing [admissions@iusb.edu](mailto:admissions@iusb.edu).

Our Elkhart Center is located in downtown Elkhart at 125 East Franklin Street.

## Admissions New Hours

Admissions has **new hours** starting with fall 2020. We're now open Monday—Friday from 8:00 am—5:00 pm EST.

We are able to assist students on campus while we are open, but we do ask that students set up a phone or Zoom appointment if they have multiple/lengthier questions in order to ensure everyone's safety.

Admissions is located in the Administration Building, first floor, at 1700 Mishawaka Avenue / South Bend, IN / 46615.

## First-Year Student Counselors

As a reminder, Sharquida Markham and Ali Mahamat serve as our two **first-year student counselors**. Sharquida has been with Admissions since November 2018, and Ali has been with our office since May 2019.

Both are former IU South Bend undergraduates and serve as contacts for setting up Onsite Visits. Sharquida is the primary contact for scheduling campus tours and other event participation. Ali Mahamat coordinates diversity recruitment efforts together with Sharquida and our campus and community colleagues.



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