



# Educational Scholarship Guidebook 2015-2016 School Year

*A guide to important information for your college career.*



## **Our Mission**

To strengthen and improve the quality of life in East Chicago through strategic grant making, providing leadership, and serving as a community resource.

The Foundations of East Chicago are committed to improving the lives of every resident of our city.

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*"We believe in East Chicago!"*

## Who We Are



Work of the Foundations of East Chicago (FEC) is funded by the AMERISTAR East Chicago Casino and Hotel. A percentage of their revenues come to the Foundations, and are used to benefit residents of East Chicago.

### Our Philosophy

We work diligently behind the scenes to support the programs which strengthen the quality of life for our citizens. A mosaic of support touches the lives of nearly every resident, and fits together beautifully. We take pride that today, there are more homeowners in East Chicago, that we have cleaner, friendlier neighborhoods, and more access to health and fitness facilities than ever in our city's history.

Seniors here are celebrated, not neglected. Adults learn new skills and make hard transitions in employment with no real disruption to their lives, or the lives of their families. Our children who apply themselves and work hard in school can play on sports teams, learn to sail, and earn ample scholarship money for their education. We can be proud of cultural differences which are one of the many things that make our city a special place to live.

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### The Core Values We Champion

- **Integrity** – In all that we do, we seek to be as honest, fair and as supportive as possible. Our aim is to promote immediate-term healing and healthy decision-making for the future of our community.
- **Wise stewardship** – We have the responsibility and privilege to serve as stewards of funding entrusted to East Chicago from the local gaming operation, and to invest in the lives of people who comprise our city, both for today and for the future.
- **Cultural diversity** – We see the diversity of our community as a unique strength to be celebrated, nurtured, and where possible, cultivated.

The Foundations of East Chicago (FEC) is committed to funding programs and initiatives which support the education of our citizens – mind, body and spirit – at every age. It is widely maintained that a college degree can add as much as a million dollars to a person's lifetime earnings — and cut by half the risk of long-term unemployment. Conceived by the citizens of East Chicago to be independent, citizen-run, private foundations, we derive funding from East Chicago's local casino, and use this money to support local churches, schools, and nonprofit organizations who know the community best and put the money in action where it can do the most good.

That's part of why Foundations of East Chicago has awarded more than **\$2.3 million in scholarships** to hundreds of East Chicago students. We have invested in East Chicago's public, parochial and charter schools, including **\$5.5 million in books, and building and grounds' improvement.**

It is not enough to send young people to college. We have to prepare them to succeed once they get there.

## Who Can Apply for FEC Scholarships?

This Guidebook organizes all scholarships that the FEC awards into three groups: High School Seniors, students attending Ivy Tech and Non Traditional students. Students who meet the requirements for any of the three groups may be eligible.

### **High School Seniors:**

Any student residing in East Chicago, Indiana and enrolled as a fulltime with a minimum cumulative gpa of 2.5. Student must be accepted into a 2 year or 4 year college/university.

### **Non-Traditional Students:**

Any student residing in East Chicago, Indiana and enrolled as a full-time college student with a minimum cumulative gpa of 2.5. Student must not currently be a FEC scholarship recipient.

### **Prospective Ivy Tech Students**

Any student residing in East Chicago, Indiana and enrolled as a fulltime senior with a minimum cumulative gpa of 2.5. The student must be accepted into any campus of Ivy Tech College.

## Other FEC Scholarship Opportunities

American Honors and the Foundations of East Chicago have partnered with Ivy Tech Community College of East Chicago to offer The Foundations of East Chicago American Honors Scholarship.

### American Honors:

American Honors is designed to save students' money on their Bachelor's degree by helping them transfer to four year universities using a 2+2 model. They partner with institutions in-state and out, to provide transfer admission guarantees and financial aid assistance for their students. While students are in the program, they receive in-depth advising on classes, scholarships, internships, transferring and more. On average, students have saved up to 40% on the total costs for their bachelor's degree through American Honors as compared with local four-year universities.

Because the Foundations of East Chicago and American Honors partner to offer scholarship assistance for students living in the 46312 zip code, students who join American Honors at Ivy Tech for the Fall 2015 academic year, will receive a scholarship amount for the full tuition of the program (not including books).

### Who should apply?

- You should apply if are planning on pursuing a Bachelor's degree,
- You are determined and preserving
- Interested in honors-level coursework
- Want a top-quality and affordable education.

### Why you should apply:

- Comprehensive support from day one through transfer
- Cost savings - value for the total Bachelor's degree
- Tight-knit community of honors students
- National transfer network
- Honors courses designed for transfer
- Dedicated Honors Advisor
- Honors lounge on campus

American Honors will co-market the scholarship to all students in East Chicago through a mailing, email announcement and calls through our call center. These applicants will be directed to apply for the scholarship through the Foundations of East Chicago. The American Honors team will identify students to market to through the following criteria:

- ✓ Must be an EC resident (proved by a state ID, transcript, or utility bill)
- ✓ Current high school seniors only: Must have a 2.5 GPA or above
- ✓ Must have a HS diploma or equivalent (e.g. GED) by beginning of fall term.

**When you should apply:** American Honors is on a rolling admissions basis but here are a few priority deadlines to consider:

- **Early Action (Fall 2016):** November 15<sup>th</sup>
- **Regular Deadline:** January 20<sup>th</sup>
- **Spring Deadline:** April 5<sup>th</sup>
- **Summer Deadline:** June 1<sup>st</sup>

### Funding Available

If a student has already applied to the Foundations of East Chicago and decides to participate in the American Honors program at Ivy Tech, he/she will receive a renewable one-year scholarship for the American Honors tuition.

All funding will be governed under the existing contract between Ivy Tech Community College and the Foundations of East Chicago. Payments will be sent directly from the Foundations to Ivy Tech Community College. The Foundations will send American Honors a summary of funding provided student-by-student for in the Honors program and American Honors will update the Foundations on the students in the program as they progress.

## Application Requirements and How to Apply for FEC Scholarships

Detailed criteria are listed for each scholarship description in this guidebook. All applicants applying for a Foundations of East Chicago Scholarship are required to apply online by visiting [www.foundationsec.org](http://www.foundationsec.org). In addition to the general questions, you are required to complete and turn in the following information:

- **Official transcript:** All high school applicants require a current official transcript. If you are a Non-Traditional Scholarship applicant you will need to provide a GED certificate or transcripts from the last school or college you attended.
- **Attendance record:** High School student's attendance records will be reviewed by committee.
- **References:** All applicants require three completed recommendation forms. As a courtesy, please allow your references at least two weeks to complete the form. References should be from either of the following: Educator, Coach, Mentor, Pastor, Work Supervisor, etc. References from relatives will not be accepted.
- **Essays:** All applicants all required to write one essay 250-300 words. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- **Financial Information:** Applicant of all Foundations of East Chicago Scholarships are required to turn in their completed FAFSA report as well as complete the Indiana College Costs Estimator (<http://www.indianacollegecosts.org/project/fecsn2016>).

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. How do I receive my scholarship?

You must first fill-out the "[2016 FEC Scholarship Recipient Contact Information Update Form](#)" along with the "[Video/Voiceover and Photography Release Waiver](#)" that are included with your Scholarship Award Packet and return them to the Foundation office before we can begin to process your scholarship. Once we receive this information, we will then schedule a check to be sent to your school.

2. When will my check be sent to my school?

We plan to send checks to individual schools between June and July. In order for your check to be in this group, you must have all your required documentation turned into our office by June 3, 2016.

3. Can I have my check sent directly to me instead of my school?

Unfortunately, the answer is no. Because of restrictions placed on our giving policies, we cannot give dollars directly to individuals. We can only distribute scholarship dollars to your college or university.

4. What can my scholarship be used for?

Scholarship dollars can only be used toward expenses generated directly from your college or university for the purpose of financing your academic activities for that particular semester. Items that your scholarship can cover are the following:

- Tuition Costs
- Room and Board
- Lab and/or Activity Fees
- Meal Plans
- Books
- Any other associated fees assessed by the college or university

5. How much will be sent?

**High School Students:** We will send 50% of your scholarship award amount to your school in June/July for your fall semester. We will send the remaining 50% of your scholarship in December for your spring semester, pending you provide us with a copy of your fall grades and a copy of your class schedule for the spring.

**Ivy Tech:** We will send 50% of your scholarship award amount to Ivy Tech in June/July for your fall semester. We will send the remaining 50% of your scholarship to Ivy Tech in December for your spring semester, pending you provide us with a copy of your fall grades and a copy of your class schedule for the spring.

**Non-Traditional Scholarship:** We will send 100% of your scholarship award amount once we receive all the required documents necessary to finalize your scholarship.

6. Is my scholarship renewable?

**High School Students:** Your scholarship is renewable for three years. If you comply with all the requirements for renewing your scholarship, you will be eligible to receive the same amount for the next 3 academic years as long as you are enrolled at a college or university.

**Ivy Tech:** Your scholarship is renewable for one year. If you comply with all the requirements for renewing your scholarship, you will be eligible to receive the same amount you received this year for the 2015-2016 academic year as long as you are enrolled at Ivy Tech.

**Non-Traditional:** Non-Traditional scholarships are only for one year. You can reapply on an annual basis if you maintain a 2.5gpa.

7. What happens to my scholarship if I decide to change schools during the academic year?

If we have already sent your scholarship dollars to your school, you must do the following:

- A. Notify the Foundation that you are changing schools.
- B. Contact the school your scholarship dollars were sent to and inform them you are transferring and have them refund the dollars to the Foundation. (If you are transferring from IVY Tech then you will possibly forfeit your scholarship because your scholarship is to be used only at an Ivy Tech campus.)
- C. Submit to the Foundations a copy of your acceptance letter and a copy of your class schedule from your new school. You also need to submit a revised Contact Information Form to our office.
- D. Once we have received the unused funds from your previous school and the required documentation from you, we can then forward your scholarship dollars to your new school.
- E. If we have not forwarded any scholarship dollars to your old school, you only need to complete steps B & C for your scholarship dollars to be sent to the correct institution.

8. What happens to my scholarship if I decide to sit out a semester or an academic year?

If you decide to not attend school for either the fall or spring semester, you must contact the Foundations and submit a brief letter explaining your situation. When/if you decide to resume your academic pursuits, you must contact the Foundations and your situation will be evaluated by the Scholarship Committee who originally awarded you your scholarship. You are only allowed to be sit out for one year.

9. If I move or change my phone number and/or email address, what should I do in regards to notifying FEC?

You should first call our office at (219) 392-4225 and provide us with your new contact information. We will then instruct you as to what is needed next. Please keep in mind that we will be contacting you periodically throughout the year via email, regular mail and sometimes by phone. If we are not able to contact you in a timely manner, you will put your scholarship in jeopardy.

10. Can I use any of my scholarship dollars for summer classes?

Our scholarships are intended for use only for the fall and spring semesters. Under normal circumstances, you will not be able to use any funds for a summer session. Should you feel your situation is unique; you may contact our office and discuss it with Foundations staff.

11. May I receive awards from more than one organization?

Yes. You may apply to any scholarship that you are eligible for. It is possible to be considered for multiple awards.

12. Can I start an application and finish it later?

Yes. You will set up an online profile that will allow you to save your application and return to it later.

13. I am a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar, how will the FEC Scholarship affect this?

If you have not already done so, notify our office of your status. We will include a clause in our information letter to your school that our scholarship funds cannot be used for Tuition expenses. Foundations scholarship dollars would be eligible to cover other expenses outlined in number 4. This way, our scholarship will not impact your 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholarship.

14. I have a question regarding my situation that is not addressed by any of the previously listed questions?

Please contact the Foundation office and speak to a staff member regarding your situation. We are willing to work with you to ensure that you remain eligible to retain your scholarship. It is our goal to help you receive a college degree and we are willing to help you, either directly or connect you with a resource that can. However, we can only assist you if we know you have a problem. We ask that you do not allow your scholarship to go into default due to either inaction or lack of communication between yourself and the Foundation.

***Good luck and we wish you success as you complete the upcoming academic year.***

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program

Being a Scholar means giving school your best effort now so you'll be ready to be a successful college student—and college graduate!—later. Build your college-ready skills with the following 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars requirements and recommendations. For a list of academic requirements by grade level and enrollment year, please view the website <http://www.in.gov/21stcenturyscholars/2353.htm>.

### GPA Requirements

Beginning with the graduating high school class of 2015, all Scholars must earn a cumulative (overall) high school grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Scholars who graduate from high school in 2013 or 2014 must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale upon graduation.

While you may drop below a 2.5 (or 2.0) GPA one or more semesters and still graduate with a cumulative (overall) GPA of 2.5, it's not a wise move. Strive to do your best in every class, and treat school like it's your job to make sure you stay on track to succeed.

Additionally, note that these are the minimum GPA requirements for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars, but students are encouraged to set their sights even higher. A higher GPA means more college choices and better academic preparation to succeed in college-level courses. Good grades can also earn you other scholarships that will pay for college costs (like books and living expenses) that aren't covered by your 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholarship.

### High School Diploma Options

Beginning with the class of 2017, all students who start high school in the fall of 2013 or later are required to graduate from high school with a Core 40 diploma in order to earn their Scholarship. Scholars are highly encouraged to pursue a Core 40 diploma with Academic Honors or Technical Honors to increase their level of academic preparation and to offer a wider range of college options after high school graduation.

Always strive for the highest level diploma you think you can earn, and don't be afraid to push yourself. Colleges look for students who complete challenging courses and commit to earning a more rigorous high school diploma.

Your diploma options include:

**Core 40:** Indiana's [Core 40](#) diploma is the academic foundation all students need to succeed in college, apprenticeship programs, military training and the workforce. Even if you are planning to go directly to work after high school graduation, you will still need to be prepared for training and retooling throughout your lifetime. Core 40 gives you more options — and more opportunities — to find a career with a real future. Students who take strong academic courses in high school are more likely to enroll in college and earn a degree. For even more options and opportunities after high school, you should push yourself by earning a Core 40 diploma with Academic Honors or Technical Honors.

*(To graduate with less than Core 40, a student must complete a formal opt-out process involving parental consent. Please note that if Scholars chose to opt out of Core 40, they will no longer be eligible for their scholarship in the 2017 cohort and younger. See your school counselor for full details.)*

- **Core 40 with Academic Honors:** The [Academic Honors](#) diploma is required for admission to some Indiana colleges, including Indiana University Bloomington and Purdue University West Lafayette. You must earn an overall grade point average (GPA) of B or higher, take additional classes (many of which are required for college admissions anyway) and choose one of several options to enhance your high school résumé (such as Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses or high scores on the SAT or ACT). The Core 40 with Academic Honors pays off, too: you'll be eligible for more financial aid from the State of Indiana, and some Indiana colleges offer scholarships just for students who have earned this diploma.
- **Core 40 with Technical Honors:** The [Technical Honors](#) diploma includes all the Core 40 requirements. In addition, you must earn an overall grade point average (GPA) of B or higher, and choose one of several options to enhance your technical skills, such as completing an industry-recognized workforce certificate or earning college credit. Like the Core 40 with Academic Honors, the Core 40 with Technical Honors opens the door to more state financial aid while making you more competitive for apprenticeships or college.
- **International Baccalaureate:** [The International Baccalaureate](#) program, available at some high schools, is designed to prepare you intellectually, personally, emotionally and socially to live in a rapidly globalizing world. You can choose courses in languages, business and more.

### Contact Information:

101 West Ohio Street, Suite 670  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
1.888.528.4719

<http://www.in.gov/21stcenturyscholars/2353.htm> -Website  
[Scholars@che.IN.gov](mailto:Scholars@che.IN.gov) – Email

## SAT Dates

SAT Date	SAT Subject Tests Available	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline		Deadline for Changes
			Mail	Phone/ Online	
<b>Dec 5</b>	<a href="#">Subject Tests</a>	Nov 5	Nov 20	Nov 23	Nov 23
<b>Jan 23</b>	<a href="#">Subject Tests</a>	Dec 28	Jan 8	Jan 12	Jan 12
<b>Mar 5</b>		Feb 5	Feb 19	Feb 23	Feb 23
<b>May 7</b>	<a href="#">Subject Tests</a>	Apr 8	Apr 22	Apr 26	Apr 26
<b>Jun 4</b>	<a href="#">Subject Tests</a>	May 5	May 20	May 25	May 25
<b>Mar 14</b>		Feb 13	Feb 27	Mar 3	Mar 3
<b>May 2</b>	Subject Tests	Apr 6	Apr 17	Apr 21	Apr 21
<b>Jun 6</b>	Subject Tests	May 8	May 22	May 27	May 27

For more information please view: <https://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-us-dates>

## ACT Dates

<b>Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>	<b>(Late Fee Required)</b>
September 12, 2015	August 7, 2015	August 8–21, 2015
October 24, 2015	September 18, 2015	September 19–October 2, 2015
December 12, 2015	November 6, 2015	November 7–20, 2015
February 6, 2016*	January 8, 2016	January 9–15, 2016
April 9, 2016	March 4, 2016	March 5–18, 2016
June 11, 2016**	May 6, 2016	May 7–20, 2016

For more information please view: <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html#first>