

# IU-Bloomington 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar Program

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*A Unit of the Vice President's Office for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs*

More than 2,400 students are pursuing undergraduate degrees on the IU-Bloomington Campus as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars. The Indiana General Assembly established the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program to encourage students from low and moderate income families to attend college by reducing the financial burden on students and their families. Students from income eligible families can sign a pledge of good citizenship, responsible behavior, and academic commitment in the seventh or eighth grade. Since joining Indiana's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program while in middle school, they have taken the initiative to be responsible students and good citizens.

IU-Bloomington is likewise committed to providing support services and enriching experiences to help 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars succeeded academically and personally. The IUB 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program Office (21<sup>st</sup> CSP) is the major support and advocacy office for IUB 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars. Our primary goal is to provide support and programming to assist students to the timely completion of their degrees. It provides academic advising, financial literacy education, career counseling and career path advice, and other programs to help 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars navigate their way through college. 21<sup>st</sup> CSP works with all of the units DEMA (primarily in tutoring and mentoring) to provide a full college experience for our students. 21<sup>st</sup> CSP serves as a liaison between 21<sup>st</sup> century scholars and other academic units, administrative offices, and provides advice on everything from financial aid to dealing with parents.

A major impetus for all this programming and support services is the fact that 85-90% of the IUB 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars are First-Generation college students. IUB can be an intimidating place if you know nothing about college, college life, financial aid, how to work with faculty and their syllabi, etc. Many students get overwhelmed at times, and lots of what we do is to make a really large university a small and warm place to be. This First-Generation support extends to the parents as well. Lots of education in the financial aid area, Registrar, and Bursar's area is done with parents, along with helping them understand campus policies and processes that affect their student. We also spend a lot of time with our First-Generation students dealing with "homesick" issues, and parents too. Helping everyone understand that not going home every weekend is a good thing. Being involved in the life of the campus is also going to greatly help them in their timely completion to their degree.

IUB 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars represent a broad spectrum of majors and academic talents as well as diverse ethnicities and interests. Almost every county in the State of Indiana is represented with a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar at IU-Bloomington. What they have in common is the goal, with financial support from the state of Indiana to obtain a quality education and a degree.

IU Bloomington supplements the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholarship with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Covenant. This financial aid is designed to cover average costs for room and board, and books. IUB is the only school in the State to provide such full financial aid support. It enables Scholars to take advantage of the complete residential experience on the Bloomington campus, and most graduate debt free. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars office at IU coordinates the following activities to encourage student participation and success:

- Leadership workshops/seminars
- Senior Graduation Recognition Ceremony
- Regular email contact, reminders, and follow-up
- Overseas Studies Assistance
- Service learning referrals

**Contact Information**

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