

COLLEGE PREP PACKET

for Bishop Ryan Catholic School Students and Parents



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This information is also available on our website: bishopryan.com/collegechecklist

Getting Started...

Bishop Ryan Catholic School Graduation Requirements

22.5 total credits which include:

- 4.5 English** (including Speech; may be Dual-Credit courses)
- 3 Math**
- 3 Science** (Physical Science, Biology, and one additional)
- 3 Social Studies** (US History, Problems of Democracy, and one additional)
- 1 Physical Education/Health**
- 3 Foreign Language, Fine Arts, or CTE**
- 5 Elective** (including Religion credits)

Are you on track for the ND State Scholarship?

You must:

- 1) complete all of the Graduation Requirements listed above.
Algebra II must be completed as part of the Math requirement.
- 2) complete high school with a “B” average in the classes required for graduation and the state scholarship.
- 3) earn nothing lower than a “C” in classes required for graduation and the state scholarship.
- 4) choose one of the Pathways below that fits you best.

Career & Technical Education Pathway

- 2 credits in the same CTE Plan of Study
- 2 additional CTE credits in any area
- 1 additional CTE or fine arts credits
- A score of at least 24 on the ACT

OR

- A score of at least a 5 on the three following WorkKeys tests:
 - Locating Information
 - Reading for Information
 - Applied Math

**CTE Plans of Study are in a number of different career areas and can be found at:

www.nd.gov/cte/programs/career-dev/plans-of-study.html

Academic Pathway

- 1 credit of Math for which Algebra II is a prerequisite
- 2 credits in the same CTE plan or Foreign Language
- 1 credit AP course or ½ credit College/Dual-Credit course
- A score of at least 24 on the ACT

*If you have additional questions about your progress towards these goals,
please see Mrs. Mardikian in the Counseling Office.*

Qualifying ND Colleges and Universities

Bismarck State College
Cankdeska Cikana Community College
Dakota College at Bottineau
Dickinson State University
Lake Region State College
Mayville State University
Minot State University
North Dakota State College of Science
North Dakota State University
Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College
Rasmussen College
Sitting Bull College
Trinity Bible College
Turtle Mountain Community College
United Tribes Technical College
University of Jamestown
University of Mary
University of North Dakota
Valley City State University
Williston State College

Senior Year College Planning Checklist

August

- ✓ Start the school year with academically challenging classes to prepare you for college expectations. Consider taking dual-credit courses to begin gaining college credit.
- ✓ Start a calendar to keep track of college and scholarship applications and deadlines. Stay organized and up to date with your applications to prevent undue stress.
- ✓ Talk to your counselor if you need to retake the ACT.

September

- ✓ Register to take the October ACT or SAT if you have not done so or if you are not satisfied with your results. Remember that some selective schools often require some of the SAT Subject Tests in addition to the ACT or SAT. Register for the SAT online at www.sat.collegeboard.org and for the ACT at www.actstudent.org. Each test registration packet comes with a study booklet to help you prepare and improve your scores. Free practice tests for the ACT are available at <https://tn.actonline.act.org/client/index.html>.
- ✓ Futurepalooza at MSU: This College and Career Fair runs 8:00am to noon and will include information in various career fields.
- ✓ Deadline for Student of Integrity Scholarship, given through the Better Business Bureau.
- ✓ **Clarify your educational goals, needs, and preferences and develop a preliminary list of colleges.** Use resources in the counseling office, library, or on the internet to assist you.
- ✓ Schedule any remaining college/campus visits for some time during the fall.
- ✓ Reduce your preliminary college list to approximately 3-6 schools. Most schools have an online application process. If you have problems completing this or need assistance, see your counselor. Pay close attention to due dates as well as what you need to submit with your application.
- ✓ Update your resume. Make sure it includes your activities, awards, and community involvement.
- ✓ Schedule your senior meeting with your counselor. There are several things that will be discussed at this meeting: graduation requirements, college, scholarships and grants, and a lot more!

October

- ✓ Decide whom to ask for letters of recommendation, and ask them now. Be sure to choose people who know you well and can write effectively about your academic and personal qualifications. **When you ask, be sure to provide the person with your resume, any forms they might need, and an addressed/stamped envelope.** Make sure you read all your college applications thoroughly so that you have all the information needed.
- ✓ The **FAFSA** process begins October 1st. Access the FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov. If you have questions regarding the FAFSA, contact your counselor.
- ✓ **Mail all your applications as early as possible.** Do not wait until the application deadline. Be sure to make a **copy of all your application materials** in the case they get lost.
- ✓ Check for new scholarship opportunities. Your counselor will provide Pride teachers with new information as it becomes available. There are also scholarship opportunities posted outside Mr. Lee's door.

November

- ✓ Read through the application materials of the colleges you are interested in and write your **due dates** on your calendar.
- ✓ **If essays are required for your application, develop a rough draft.** Ask your English teacher to proofread your essays and make any changes based on their suggestions and corrections. Pay special attention to any requests for a “personal statement” as part of your application.
- ✓ Make sure you know which **financial aid forms** (such as the **FAFSA** or the **PROFILE**) your college requires.

December

- ✓ **Finalize your application essays.** They must be typed and free of errors.
- ✓ Check for additional scholarship opportunities.
- ✓ Make sure your **FAFSA** is completed.
- ✓ Turn in your **senior writing project** prior to Christmas break. This helps your counselor with letters of recommendation for your scholarships.

January

- ✓ Double check deadlines. Some schools have due dates as soon as the first week of January.
- ✓ Notify your counselor if you need a **copy of your current transcript sent to any schools for a mid-year report.**
- ✓ **Make copies of all forms you submit** and keep them organized by school.

February

- ✓ Continue checking for scholarships. **Many local scholarships become available in the spring.**

March

- ✓ **Listen for announcements for AP testing.** Please ask your AP teacher or counselor if you have questions.

April

- ✓ **Most selective schools start to announce their decisions in April.** If you are accepted by more than one of your choices, make your final decision on which school is right for you based on factors that are most important to you. While others may assist you in this process, the decision is ultimately yours.
- ✓ **Carefully review financial aid award notices from colleges.** Call financial aid and the admissions office if you have questions.

May

- ✓ As soon as possible after May 1, notify the **college of your choice of your decision to attend.** Also notify colleges that have accepted you of your decision not to attend.
- ✓ If you have been offered financial aid, **be certain to accept the offer** as instructed by your award letter. Remember financial aid must be applied for yearly.
- ✓ Remember to **notify your counselor of where you will be attending and request that your transcript be sent there.** Official transcripts will be sent out when final grades are recorded.
- ✓ **BRCS Graduation: May 23, 2018.**

Junior Year College Planning Checklist

Fall

- ✓ Meet with counselor to ensure you are on track for senior year.
- ✓ Schedule college visits to see what you like/dislike about different colleges.
- ✓ Take the ASVAB career inventory.
- ✓ Begin studying for the ACT. Stop in the counseling office for resources and how to find free prep exams.

Spring

- ✓ Continue college visits
- ✓ Register for the SAT, if needed based on university choice.
- ✓ Take the ACT. (Your counselor will help with registration.)
- ✓ Make an appointment with your counselor to discuss your schedule for senior year.
Consider taking dual-credit and AP courses.
- ✓ Explore sources of scholarships and financial aid. Create an account with Dollars for Scholars.
- ✓ Explore summer jobs, academic enrichment, and volunteer opportunities.
- ✓ Prepare for AP exams.

Summer

- ✓ If taking a summer vacation, include a college visit and a tour.
- ✓ Complete a draft of a personal statement that could be used on resumes or applications.
- ✓ Continue your college research. Read guidebooks, visit websites, talk to current students, visit college campuses, and read about admissions and application requirements.
- ✓ Work on narrowing down the list of schools you would like to apply to.
- ✓ Mark a calendar with important application dates.
- ✓ Organize yourself.
- ✓ Register for the Fall SAT/ACT, if you want to retake the exam.
- ✓ Update your resume with activities, jobs, and community service.
- ✓ Review your college admission requirements to ensure that you have taken/are taking everything required.
- ✓ Make a list of all essay and short answer topics for each college.
- ✓ Continue to explore scholarships.

Sophomore Year College Planning Checklist

- ✓ Explore careers by interviewing adults in occupations of interest
- ✓ Create an account with RU Ready ND at secure.ruready.nd.gov.
Take the Career Interest Inventory and discuss the results with your school counselor and parents.
- ✓ Visit college campuses and attend college and career fairs.
- ✓ Take the October PSAT. Your counselor will arrange this exam and complete your registration for you. (This test also can help with future placement in AP classes.)
- ✓ Focus on your academic work and meet your goals for good grades.
- ✓ Continue your extracurricular activities, sports, and volunteer work.
- ✓ Create a resume. Record all summer jobs, activities, volunteer work, and leadership activities for future use.
- ✓ Go online to locate college and financial aid information.
- ✓ Meet with your school counselor in the spring to plan which classes you will be taking during your junior and senior years, including any AP and Dual-Credit courses.
- ✓ Plan summer activities, find a summer job, or volunteer in your community.

Freshman Year College Planning Checklist

- ✓ Keep grades up and maintain a solid grade point average.
Remember, **every class counts now!**
- ✓ Get involved in extracurricular activities.
- ✓ Work on your four-year plan with your counselor.
- ✓ Get involved in your community.
- ✓ Start exploring your interests!

College Planning and Testing

College Exploration

The links below are a good place to start the process of college exploration. The first two sites are national sites that will give you information about colleges all over the U.S. (The RU Ready site is specific to North Dakota colleges.) It is recommended that students begin to explore colleges and getting ideas as early as their freshman year of high school. Finalized plans for college should be made at the end of junior year so senior year can be dedicated to college applications and applying for scholarships and financial aid.

Resources:

Big Future: bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges

College Navigator: nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

RU Ready ND: www.ruready.nd.gov

Career Exploration

RU Ready ND: www.ruready.nd.gov

This site is free for all North Dakota students to use and is a great place to start for career exploration, college planning, and financial aid information.

Gigniks: www.gigniks.org/videos.html

Want to know more about a career you are interested in? Watch these short videos made by students for students to learn more about an area of interest.

O*Net Online: www.onetonline.org

Look at statistics on the outlook, pay, and working conditions for future careers you are interested in. Also, look up careers that will match your abilities, interests, and values.

ND WIN: www.ndworkforceintelligence.com

Part of Job Service ND, this site focuses on labor market information in ND. Similar to O*Net, but specifically geared to information about jobs in ND.

ND Youth Forward: www.ndyouthforward.com

A great resource to help you explore careers, find an internship or job. It even has parent resources and is geared toward opportunities in ND.

ASVAB

ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is a standardized test that rates an individual's aptitude for service in the United States Armed Forces. It is not an intelligence test, but rather tests one's strengths and weaknesses in a number of areas. There are nine test sections: general science, arithmetic reasoning, work knowledge, paragraph comprehension, mathematics knowledge, electronics information, auto and shop information, mechanical comprehension, and assembling objects.

A National Guard representative will come to Bishop Ryan to administer the ASVAB to the juniors each year. The representative will also interpret the scores for the students and explain how these results will help in preparation for college and career choices, especially for a future in the military.

ASVAB Preparation Sites:

uniontestprep.com/asvab

www.4tests.com/asvab

www.asvabpracticetests.com

www.march2success.com/main/index

**Create a free account to get help with test preparation and much more.

ACT

The ACT is a college readiness standardized exam for high school students. Most colleges and universities in the Midwest require students to take the ACT as an entrance exam for college. These scores, along with high school transcripts, need to be sent with college applications to help determine acceptance. The exam has five sections: English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning and Writing, and scores range from 1 to 36.

The state of North Dakota pays for every junior to take the ACT in March each year. Students may re-take the test as many times as they'd like to work on increasing their scores for college applications. Any additional attempts of the ACT would be at the student's own expense.

Additional information about the ACT can be found at the following sites:

ACT Registration and Fee Information:

www.actstudent.org/regist/index.html

ACT Test Preparation:

actstudent.org/testprep

www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/act-online-prep.html

<https://tn.actonline.act.org/client/index.html>

www.ruready.nd.gov

www.march2success.com/main/index

PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a standardized test administered by the College Board and co-sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The test is administered during sophomore year. The scores from the PSAT/NMSQT are used to determine eligibility and qualification for National Merit Scholarships. It's also a good determinant of how successful you will be in AP classes. Bishop Ryan pays for each sophomore to take the PSAT/NMSQT each year.

Funding Your College Plans

FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the first step in the college financial aid process. **It must be completed every year by students seeking financial aid.** Financial aid includes grants, scholarships, work-study programs, and student loans. **This is needed to apply for all types of loans for college so it is very important that you complete it.** The application is free to complete.

Most financial aid is based on financial need. Financial need is the difference between the cost of attendance for a college and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The cost of attendance is determined by the school and includes tuition and fees, books, supplies, room and board, personal expenses and transportation.

The EFC is calculated from the information you put on the FAFSA. It is affected by dependency status, household size, income, assets, and the number of household members enrolled in college or trade schools.

Some people mistakenly believe they won't qualify for financial aid because they make too much money or have too many assets. **Almost every student qualifies for an unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loan, so it is important to complete the FAFSA.** Even if a student loan isn't necessary, it is a good idea to complete the application because it will identify any grants or scholarships available to you.

To complete the FAFSA, go to fafsa.ed.gov. You will need the student's social security number and date of birth; the tax return from the previous tax year for the parent and, if applicable, the student; untaxed income records from the previous year (veteran's benefits, child support, worker's compensation, etc.); and a list of assets.

The Bank of North Dakota hosts Financial Aid Information Nights through webinars which can be watched from home. The informational sessions are held on a variety of dates starting in October. More information on this is available at bnd.nd.gov/fain.

Once you complete the FAFSA, you'll need to list the schools you're interested in attending. Your FAFSA application is sent to those schools, and the ones that you've applied to and been accepted to will send you award letters stating how much you can receive in financial aid. In addition to the grants, scholarships and work-study programs you may qualify for, the letter will provide information on the type and amount of federal student loans you can receive.

Scholarships

FASTWeb Scholarships for Juniors

The following link is a giant search engine of scholarships available to juniors. Review the scholarship requirements to see if you are eligible and apply to start earning money for college.

www.fastweb.com/directory/scholarships-for-high-school-juniors

FASTWeb Scholarships for Seniors

If you feel you need more scholarship resources, this site is a search engine of scholarships for seniors. Look over the requirements to see if you are eligible and apply.

www.fastweb.com/directory/scholarships-for-high-school-seniors

Minot Area Dollars for Scholars

Dollars for Scholars gives out several scholarships for ND students. Create a profile at:

www.minot.dollarsforscholars.org

North Dakota Academic and CTE Scholarships

Award Amount: \$6,000 over 4 years; \$1,500/year

Eligibility Criteria: Meet all of the scholarship criteria found on the ND DPI website

www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/204/required.pdf

North Dakota Scholars Program

This program is a merit-based, full-tuition scholarship for qualifying ND high school graduates who choose to earn undergraduate degrees in North Dakota.

Eligibility Criteria: High school students who score at or above the 95th percentile among those who took the ACT prior to July 1st in the calendar year preceding the individual's enrollment in college will be considered for the award. Scholarships will be awarded in descending rank order until available funds are expended or until the pool of applicants has been exhausted.

How to Apply: Take the ACT Assessment prior to July 1st in the calendar year preceding your full-time enrollment in college. No separate application is needed.

North Dakota State Student Incentive Grant Program

Amount: North Dakota state grants awarded up to \$975 per semester or \$650 per quarter, based on enrollment status.

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must have graduated from a high school in North Dakota.

Mail or Fax supporting documentation to:

NDUS

600 E Boulevard Ave, Dept 21

Bismarck, ND 58505-0602

Fax: (701) 328-2979

Real DEAL Scholarship—Bank of North Dakota

Award Amount: Forty-eight (48) \$500 scholarships with the chance for each to win an additional \$3,000 at the end of the school year.

Eligibility Criteria: Have a 2.5+ GPA, demonstrate community and school involvement in at least three activities, and plan to attend a North Dakota college or university.

How to Apply: Complete the online application at bnd.nd.gov/scholarship.

Each month eight recipients are selected, October-March. The sooner you enter, the more chances you have to win.

Online Scholarships

The following scholarships are accessible online.

For more scholarship information, please visit Mrs. Mardikian in the counseling office or visit the Scholarship Board outside Mr. Lee's office.

Apple Award

applecorecommunity.com

The Associated General Contractors of North Dakota

www.agcnd.org

AXA Foundation

us.axa.com/axa-foundation/about.html

Burger King

bkmclamorefoundation.org/who-we-are/programs/burger-king-scholars-program

The Coolidge Scholarship

coolidgescholars.org

Drake University Physics Prize

drake.edu/physics/about/scholarshipsphysicsprize

Dushinske & Jamison Water Resources

ndwater.com/programs/north-dakota-water-education-foundation

Elks Legacy Award

www.elks.org/scholars/scholarweb/legacy/rules.cfm

Elks National Foundation Scholarships for Elks Families

www.enf.elks.org/leg

Enerbase Cooperative

enerbase.coop/scholarships

Farm Credit Services

www.farmcreditnd.com

Farm Credit Services Scholarship in Agriculture

www.farmcreditnd.com

Groth and Associates

www.grothlaw.com/scholarship

Heather Presser Annual Scholarship

Applicant must write a short essay, one-page or less, about how they have demonstrated one of the following attributes, which are some of Heather's legacy: kindness, friendship, consideration, thoughtfulness, or gratitude.

Email your essay to trydy@gundersonsoftware.com

Horatio Alger Career and Technical Scholarship

scholars.horatioalger.org/scholarships/about-our-scholarship-programs/technical

Hubert and JoAnn Seymore Scholarship

nfu.org/education/scholarships

Khan Law Firm

khaninjurylaw.com/scholarship

Lisa Burdolski Memorial Scholarship

nd.usjcsenate.org

National Honor Society

www.nhs.us/students/the-nhs-scholarship?SSO=true

National Wild Turkey Federation

www.nwtf.org/jakes

North Dakota Crop Improvement & Seed Association
www.ndcropimprovement.com

North Dakota Farmer's Union
ndfu.org/youth/scholarships

North Dakota Farmers Union Co-op House Scholarship
ndfu.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/SCHOLARSHIP_Co-opHouse_2016.pdf

North Dakota Implement Dealers
www.ndida.com/ndida/career_center/scholarship_program.php

North Dakota Mensa
www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships

North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association
www.ndrw.org

North Dakota School Counselor Association
www.ndsca.org/scholarship-application.cfm

North Dakota United
ndunited.org/benefits/scholarships-and-grants/nd-united-foundation-scholarships

Prairie Hills Scholastic Banquet
bhqnews.com/scholarship

RTC and FRS Scholarship
rtc.coop/resources/scholarships

Reuben T. Guenther Scholarship
www.nd.gov/cte/students/RTGScholarship.html

Ronald McDonald House US Scholarship Program
www.rmhcattanooga.com/what-we-do/rmhc-us-scholarship-program

Rotary Scholarship Fund
www.centerforcommunitygiving.com/receive/Scholarships

Rove Pest Control
www.rovepestcontrol.com/rove-pest-control-scholarship

SRT College Scholarship, Technical Scholarship, or Foundation for Rural Service
srt.com/onlinestore/do/content/srtcares

State Farm Companies Foundation
www.statefarm.com/about-us/community/education-programs/grants-scholarships/foundations-scholarships

studentscholarships.org
www.studentscholarships.org

United Community Bank
www.ucbnd.com/community-connections/scholarship-program

Verendrye Electric
www.verendrye.com/content/scholarship-application

Wace National Co-op Scholarship Program
www.waceinc.org/scholarship/index.html

Wendy's Heisman
www.wendyshighschoolheisman.com/application

Winfield Careers in Agriculture
usascholarships.com/winfieldcareers-in-agriculture-scholarship

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Awards
www.scholarshipsonline.org/2013/02/young-american-creative-patriotic-art.html#.Wn3PZKinGUK