**OER:** The Office of Outreach & Engagement Recruitment exists to establish a Notre Dame presence in 30 cities throughout the country and develop a pipeline of high ability students who have the potential to attend Notre Dame and other highly selective institutions.

**Vision:** Foster the development of intellectual inquiry, academic and professional networks, and personal confidence of high ability students.

**Mission:** Through college readiness programming and the Notre Dame cornerstones of Leadership, Service and Faith, we aim to shape and cultivate high ability students' natural gifts, ignite their imaginations and prepare them to impact the world for the greater good.

**NDignite Connection Cities: Current Programming**

- **Face-to-Face Programs**
  - Led by Notre Dame Alumni
  - 3 Service activities annually
  - 3 Social/educational activities annually
  - Time commitments vary from a minimum of 3 hours to a full day depending on the activity

- **Coupled with Online Programming Two Sundays Per Month (September-December; February-May)**
  - Google+ Hangouts: Students join a live broadcast on Sundays from 4-5pm and hear from featured speakers such as ND faculty, students and alumni, as well as influential community leaders; assignments are introduced by OER counselors
  - Edmodo.com: Assignments are distributed to students twice per month through the virtual classroom; students turn ePortfolio assignments back in through the same portal
  - Time commitments range from 1-2 hours to participate in Hangout and complete assignment in Edmodo classroom

**Student Expectations** - Students shall abide by the following expectations of the NDignite Connection staff and Notre Dame Alumni:

- All NDignite Connection participants should be enrolled in grades 7-9 unless otherwise approved by OER staff
• Students should rank in the top 5% of their class (3.8 GPA; A's or 97 grade average)*
• Students should be self-motivated, self-disciplined and exhibit a sincere interest in participating in the program
• Students should have regular access to a computer with Internet
• Students shall make every effort to attend and participate in all NDignite Connection activities
• Students will successfully complete and upload assignments by Wednesday at 11:59pm following the Sunday Google Hangout
• Students are expected to e-mail or call their NDignite counselor if they are unable to complete the Edmodo assignment on time. Students will be asked to share their plan for completing the assignment with their NDignite counselor
• Students will be accountable for checking all communications (e-mail and otherwise) from the office, registering for events and responding to communications within 72 hours of initial request
• Students are expected to commit 100% of themselves to all program activities and assignments (participation will be tracked to determine future eligibility in the program)
• Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that benefits their family and themselves at all times

Parent Expectations

• Parents are expected to encourage, motivate and assist their son/daughter in meeting his/her expectations and deadlines
• Parents will be responsible for assisting their son/daughter in responding to all requests from Alumni Coordinators and/or OER staff within 72 hours
• Parents will ensure that their son/daughter attends and participates in all programmatic activities
• Parents will attend all orientations and family activities (when applicable)

Program Opt-Out/Student Dismissal

We understand that NDignite Connection participants are involved in many other activities and have various time commitments outside the program. If a student or parent determines that the NDignite Connection program is not a "good fit" for them at any time, they may request to be moved to the alumni cohort by contacting the OER office. In the alumni cohort students will continue to receive college readiness

*We understand that ranking systems vary by school. Please contact the OER office with any questions regarding academic requirements.
communications and information regarding University webinars but will no longer be eligible to participate in programming activities.

In addition, students who exhibit any of the following will be dismissed from the program and will be moved to the alumni cohort:

- Student does not complete an assignment by the required deadline and fails to communicate with their NDignite Connection counselor prior to missing the deadline
- Student does not complete three consecutive assignments (unless otherwise approved by NDignite Connection counselor)
- Student fails to attend an event/program activity without notifying the OER staff prior to the event

NDignite Connection Curriculum

The curriculum will prepare students to successfully navigate middle and high school, prepare for admissions into pre-college programs and ultimately gain admissions into highly selective colleges and universities. This goal is achieved through the REAL model:

- **Reflection** – 7th grade activities will focus on developing students’ identity and purpose
- **Exploration** – 8th grade activities will focus on aligning students’ gifts and talents to academic, career and personal interests
- **Actualization & Leadership** – 9th grade activities will focus on college readiness preparation, and leadership through service

The NDignite Connection curriculum is designed to prepare students for the college admissions experience and expose them to the Notre Dame cornerstones of Service, Leadership and Faith. We utilize the following core competencies, the First Year of Studies Dean’s A-List and college preparation activities to accomplish this mission:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Competencies</th>
<th>FYS Dean’s A-List Challenge</th>
<th>College Prep Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Self-Awareness &amp; Discovery</td>
<td>• Active Learning, Discovery, &amp; Inquiry</td>
<td>• Navigating High School &amp; Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Respect for Diversity</td>
<td>• Creative Thinking and Action</td>
<td>• Introduction to Test-Prep Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Resiliency &amp; Adaptability (EQ)</td>
<td>• Pursuit of Truth and Knowledge</td>
<td>• Financial Aid Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Creativity (CQ)</td>
<td>• Mastery of a Skill/Talent</td>
<td>• Admissions</td>
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<td>• Leadership</td>
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<td>• Professional Consulting</td>
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<td>• Spirituality</td>
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<td>• Service</td>
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Office of Outreach and Engagement Recruitment
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The curriculum also utilizes the following assessments in order to evaluate non-cognitive characteristics of all participants:

- Pre-Semester/Post-Semester Assessment
- GRIT Assessment

**NDignite Connection Successful Completion**

Successful completion of the NDignite Connection program is contingent upon the following:

- Student has maintained a class rank in the top 5% of their class through the duration of their enrollment in the program
- Student has completed all ePortfolio assignments
- Student has participated in all program activities

**Pre-College Scholarship**

NDignite Connection city alumni who complete the following will be eligible for a **$4000 Pre-College Scholarship** (this covers the application fee, tuition, airfare and other miscellaneous expenses)

- Attend Live Pre-College Fair
- Attend Pre-College Application Process workshop
- Complete application review with NDignite Connection staff
- Attain acceptance into the Summer Scholars Program

**Communications from the University of Notre Dame Admissions Office**

Students will begin to receive email communications from the University of Notre Dame’s Recruitment and Communications office once they reach 9th grade. From 9th through 12th grades, students will receive mailings specific to their grade level regarding Pre-College opportunities, undergraduate admissions and financial aid.

In addition, students in 10th and 11th grade will have the opportunity to apply for Notre Dame’s Pre-College programs and will receive guidance throughout the application process from the NDignite Connection team.

In 12th grade, students will begin communicating with their admissions counselor and may have the opportunity to participate in the one of the University’s spring visitation programs.
Notre Dame Admissions & Financial Assistance

- Students who apply for undergraduate admissions, are admitted to the University and who have completed the financial aid process are automatically considered for ALL University need-based scholarship programs. The University is committed to offering financial assistance designed to meet the financial need of all undergraduate applicants for financial aid. The level of University assistance is based on both demonstrated financial need and academic performance, and thus varies from student to student. Typically, students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds have full financial needs met without the use of student loans.
NDignite Connection Student Progression

7th Grade
- Students enroll in NDignite Connection program
- Students participate in online programming (Reflection activities)
- Students participate in face-to-face programming with Notre Dame Alumni

8th Grade
- Students participate in NDignite Connection online programming (Exploration activities)
- Students participate in NDignite Connection face-to-face programming with Notre Dame Alumni
- Students are invited to the NDignite Connection Conference on the campus of Notre Dame

9th Grade
- Students participate in NDignite Connection online programming (Actualization & Leadership activities)
- Students participate in NDignite Connection face-to-face programming with Notre Dame Alumni
- Students receive a “Nowhere Else But Notre Dame” brochure accompanied by a letter from the Director of Admissions
- Students receive e-invites to local events (school visits & info nights), e-invites to ND Admissions LIVE web events and invites to Pre-College programs

10th Grade
- Students are transitioned to NDignite Connection Alumni group
- Students participate in Live Pre-College Fair, Pre-College Application Workshop & Complete Pre-College application review process with OER staff
- Students receive Sophomore Admissions Puzzle, e-invites to local events (school visits & info nights), e-invites to ND Admissions LIVE web events and invites to Pre-College programs
- Students apply for Pre-College

11th Grade
- Students participate in Live Pre-College Fair, Pre-College Application Workshop & Complete Pre-College application review process with OER staff
- Students receive Junior mailer, e-invites to local events (school visits & info nights), e-invites to ND Admissions LIVE web events and invites to Pre-College programs
- Students apply for Pre-College

12th Grade
- Students receive Undergraduate Viewbook, Financial Aid mailing, Notre Dame postcard series, e-vites to local events (school visits & info nights), e-vites to ND Admissions LIVE web events and e-vites to the Financial Aid Preparation web event series
- Students apply for Undergraduate Admissions

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