



# SENIOR COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE CALENDAR

Visit [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org) or call (877) CPC-IOWA to schedule a free appointment for assistance with college planning or financial aid applications.

## August

- Decide which colleges best suit you and your career interests.
- Find information on admission, scholarships and financial aid for the top schools you're considering.
- Select at least three colleges to visit, if you haven't already done so. Download a *Make The Most of College Visits* work sheet at [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org).
- Download the College Checklist on [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org). Keep a folder for each college to keep track of the information.
- Research military education benefits, if you're interested.

## September

- Visit with your school counselor about application deadlines, local or state scholarships, and grants.
- Register now to take the SAT® and/or ACT® if you haven't already done so.
- Meet with college admissions counselors when they visit your high school.
- Ask adults to write letters of recommendation for your admission and scholarship applications.
- Begin writing essays for your admission applications, if required.

## October

- Talk to admission counselors at the colleges you're applying to and find out whether retaking the ACT or SAT would be advantageous.
- Be wary of scholarship search and financial aid companies that charge a fee. Find free services at [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org).
- Begin submitting your admission applications to the colleges you're most interested in. Be aware of deadlines!
- Search for scholarship and grant opportunities.

## November

- Obtain financial aid forms from colleges that require forms other than the FAFSA.\*
- Start learning how campus life will be different than living at home.
- Attend a financial aid presentation with your parents. Ask your school counselor when presentations take place.
- Finalize your college admission applications.
- Research college scholarship days and deadlines at the schools you've applied to. Fill out any additional scholarship forms before the deadlines.

## December

- Continue to look and apply for grants and scholarships.
- Stay focused! Grades in your senior year can affect college admittance.
- Visit [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) to get a personal identification number for your financial aid form. Print a FAFSA pre-application work sheet at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- Parents:** Save your year-end payroll stubs if they show your earnings for the year. You may need them for the FAFSA.
- Know the priority dates for filing the FAFSA at the colleges you're applying to.

## January

- Submit your completed FAFSA as soon after Jan. 1 as possible.
- Remember to keep copies of all forms you submit to colleges and agencies.
- Ask your school counselor to send your first-semester transcripts to your top colleges.
- Parents:** Get your federal income tax returns prepared early. Colleges may request copies.
- Need help filing a FAFSA? The ICAN College Planning Centers can help. Call (877) CPC-IOWA to schedule an appointment.
- Send in college housing applications.

## February

- Confirm that the colleges you've applied to have received your first-semester transcripts.
- Submit your FAFSA, if you haven't already done so.
- Begin making plans for a summer job.
- Watch the mail for letters of acceptance.
- Keep your grades up — second semester grades are important and can affect scholarship eligibility and college admittance.
- Visit [www.IowaCGS.org](http://www.IowaCGS.org) to find an Iowa College Goal Sunday location near you. Volunteers will help you with your FAFSA for free.

## March

- Watch for your Student Aid Report (SAR). Check that it lists all the colleges requiring receipt of your FAFSA.
- Be prepared to submit a copy of your federal tax forms to the college(s) of your choice.
- Find out whether you need to submit any additional financial aid verification forms.
- Ask your school counselor about local scholarships.

## April

- Compare the financial aid packages from colleges.
- Decide which college you'll attend. Send the required deposit, and sign and return the financial aid award letter, if required. Note other important deadlines (financial aid, student housing, etc.).
- Tell other colleges you won't be attending.
- If you're securing a student loan, complete the required promissory note.
- Prospective student athletes: Review your amateurism questionnaire at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) and request final certification.

## May

- Take any AP®/CLEP® exams you can.
  - Finalize your summer job plans.
  - Ask your school counselor to send your final transcript to the college you'll be attending.
  - Return all necessary documents, including financial aid forms, to your college.
- Congratulations on your high school graduation!**

## June

- Notify the college about any scholarships you receive.
- Save money from your summer job. Your savings will help with college expenses.
- Attend orientation sessions to meet people, get familiar with the campus and register for classes.
- Prepare a budget for college and review it with your parents.

## July

- Contact your roommate and decide who's bringing what so you don't pack the same items.
- Thank your family and friends for their support.
- Beware of credit card offers! Talk with your parents to consider your options.
- Continue your success in college; sign up for the ICAN e-newsletter at [www.ICANSucceed.org/ignite](http://www.ICANSucceed.org/ignite).

\* The FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is a free form that may be completed without professional assistance via paper or electronic forms provided by the U.S. Department of Education at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).