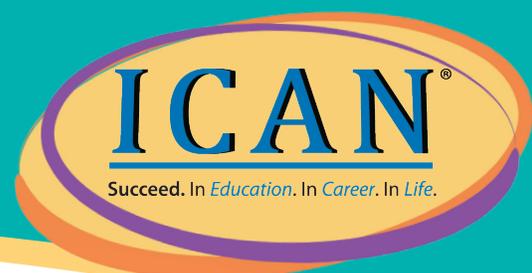


JUNIOR COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE CALENDAR



Visit www.ICANSucceed.org/apt or call (877) 272-4692 to schedule an appointment to create a plan for career and college, as well as financial aid.



August

- Learn about college fairs and events in your area. Visit ICANSucceed.org/events and ICANSucceed.org/collegefairs
- Keep your grades up. Colleges look at your overall GPA through all four years of high school.
- Review your college savings plan; start saving money if you haven't already done so.
- Learn about careers that interest you with an assessment at ACTprofile.org.
- Talk to your parents and your school counselor about careers and colleges that interest you.
- Prepare for college and career with the ICAN Tip of the Week; sign up at ICANSucceed.org/signup.

September

- Attend the Golden Circle College & Career Fair — Iowa's largest — at the Center for Higher Education in Des Moines the last Sunday in September. Talk with Iowa employers, colleges & universities from across the country, and attend breakout sessions. Visit ICANSucceed.org/goldencircle for details.
- Register for the PSAT/NMSQT,® a two-part exam similar to the SAT.® Scores are used to determine National Merit Scholars.
- Determine what factors are important to you in a college. Go to ICANSucceed.org/explore for information on choosing a college.
- If you're planning to play college sports, visit NCAAClearinghouse.net to register.

October

- Schedule a planning session at your local ICAN Student Success Center. Visit ICANSucceed.org/apt or call (877) 272-4692 to set up an appointment for career, college, or financial aid advising.
- Attend a college fair and talk with college representatives to start researching potential colleges. Visit ICANSucceed.org/collegefairs.
- Find information about Iowa colleges at ICANSucceed.org/explore. Request information from colleges that interest you.
- Visit with your school counselor to discuss ways to increase your chances of being admitted to the college of your dreams.
- If interested, research military education benefits.

November

- Review brochures and catalogs from colleges that interest you. Make a list of 10 to 15 colleges that fit your requirements, including careers.
- Download the College Checklist from ICANSucceed.org/materials to stay organized.
- Start planning to take the SAT® or ACT® exams, if required. Familiarize yourself with registration deadlines and test dates. Check colleges' entrance requirements to see which test(s) you need to take. Take advantage of online test preparation resources such as practice exams and study guides.

December

- Research scholarships. Keep an ongoing file of scholarship and financial aid information (such as criteria, amounts, contact persons and deadlines). Check out ICANSucceed.org/scholarships for free scholarship searches. Avoid scholarship searches that charge fees.
- Meet with college representatives at your school and keep looking at colleges online.
- Register now if you're planning to take the January SAT® or February ACT®. Visit Chegg.com for test prep tools and resources.

January

- Schedule a visit with ICAN at ICANSucceed.org/apt.
- Build a list of colleges to consider. Use online college match tools such as Chegg.com or CollegeRaptor.com to find the best fit and compare financial aid estimates. Schedule visits to the colleges that fit your profile.
- Register now to take the March SAT. Pick up a study guide or review online resources.
- Prepare for the financial aid process; attend an ICAN seminar this spring. Visit ICANSucceed.org/events for dates and times.

February

- Determine a college budget based on salary expectations for your chosen career or industry. Visit ACTprofile.org.
- Make sure you enroll in senior classes that fulfill the credits you need for college.
- Put together a resume listing your activities, volunteer experiences, academic achievements and employment.
- Register now if you plan to take the April ACT®. Visit Chegg.com for test prep tools and resources.
- Talk to your school counselor about AP® courses and CLEP® tests. Consider taking honors or college-level classes.

March

- It's time to schedule college visits. Revisit your career assessment results and schedule visits with schools that meet your career and budget needs. During each college visit, meet with the admissions and financial aid offices. Download a helpful checklist at ICANSucceed.org/materials.
- Find out about scholarships offered by your place of worship, civic, and business groups in career fields that interest you. Continue your search.
- If you plan to take the May SAT® register now. Visit Chegg.com for test prep tools and resources.
- Check out your Return on Investment, visit Iowastudentloan.org/ROCItool.

April

- If you take AP courses, consider AP exams.
- When visiting colleges take notes to help you determine your likes and dislikes, and highlight what is most important to you. Download the *Campus Visits worksheet* for questions to ask and departments to visit at ICANSucceed.org/resourcezone.
- Compare your impressions of each college and rank them according to preference.
- Register now for the June ACT® or SAT®.
- Visit Raise.Me and update your profile to earn scholarship dollars for your college planning activities and daily classes.

May

- Narrow your college choices to five or fewer and highlight the important features at each. Make a second visit if necessary.
- Take AP exams if you need to.
- Consider taking a summer course at a local college.
- Find a summer job related to your career interest or do community service.
- Polish your resume; if required, assemble writing samples, a portfolio, or audition DVD.

June

- Schedule campus visits for colleges you haven't seen yet.
- Begin completing private scholarship applications.
- Save your summer earnings to pay for college.
- Serve your community — grades aren't the only thing colleges evaluate.
- Prospective student athletes: Ask your school counselor to send an official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

July

- Obtain and review college admission applications.
- Prepare for your senior year.
- Consider which teachers, employers or other adults you'll ask to write letters of recommendation.
- Create a spending plan. It's easy to get in over your head. Talk with your parents to consider your options or learn more at ICANSucceed.org/budgeting.

This calendar is sponsored by:

SENIOR COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE CALENDAR



Visit www.ICANSucceed.org/apt or call (877) 272-4692 to schedule an appointment to create a plan for career and college, as well as financial aid.



August

- Finalize your list of colleges. Decide which colleges best suit you and your career interests. Review your campus visit notes and compare schools on academic, cultural, and financial fit.
- Find information on admission, scholarships, and financial aid for the top schools you're considering.
- Register now to take the September ACT®.
- Stay on top of your senior year to-do's with ICAN Senior Alerts. Visit ICANSucceed.org/signup to register for e-alerts and the ICAN Tip of the Week.
- Visit ICANSucceed.org/fsaid to learn about the FSA ID username and password. You and a parent each need an FSA ID for your financial aid form. Print a list of items you need to fill out the FAFSA at ICANSucceed.org/fafsachecklist.

September

- Visit an ICAN Center and work on your college and career plan. Call (877) 272-4692 to schedule.
- Register now to take the SAT® and/or ACT®. Pick up a study guide at a local bookstore or library, or review online resources.
- Begin writing essays for admission applications.
- Ask adults to write letters of recommendation.
- Research college scholarship days and deadlines at the schools you've applied to. Fill out any additional scholarship forms before the deadlines.
- Visit ICANSucceed.org/FAFSAreadyia to find a FAFSA Ready Iowa event near you. Volunteers will help you complete and file your FAFSA for free.
- Schedule your FAFSA appointment with ICAN for after **Oct. 1** at ICANSucceed.org/apt.

October

- Know the priority dates for filing the FAFSA at the colleges you're applying to. Submit your completed FAFSA after **Oct. 1** but before the priority date. ICAN can help - (877) 272-4692.
- Talk to admission counselors at the colleges you're applying to and find out whether retaking the ACT® or SAT® would be advantageous.
- Begin submitting your admission applications to the colleges you're most interested in. Be aware of deadlines! Try to have your applications submitted by **Nov. 1**.
- Obtain financial aid forms from colleges that require forms other than the FAFSA.
- Update your www.Raise.Me profile and earn scholarships for college planning activities and class grades throughout your senior year.

November

- Avoid scholarship search and financial aid companies that charge a fee. Begin your free search at ICANSucceed.org/scholarships.
- Remember to keep copies of all forms you submit to colleges and agencies.
- Need help filing a FAFSA? ICAN can help. Visit ICANSucceed.org/apt to schedule an appointment.
- Considering taking the ACT® one more time? Register now to take the December test.
- If interested, research military education benefits.

December

- Visit with your school counselor about application deadlines, local or state scholarships, and grants.
- Continue to apply for grants and scholarships.
- Stay focused! Grades in your senior year can affect college admittance.
- Watch for your Student Aid Report (SAR) if you've filed your FAFSA. Check that it lists all the colleges requiring receipt of your FAFSA.
- Work with ICAN to create a plan to finance college with tools like Student Loan Game Plan - iowastudentloan.org/gameplan.

January

- Submit your FAFSA, if you haven't already done so. Need help filing a FAFSA? ICAN can help. Call (877) 272-4692 to schedule an appointment.
- Schedule an award letter comparison appointment with ICAN for this spring. An advisor will review your award packages and help you determine your best options. Visit ICANSucceed.org/apt.
- Ask your school counselor to send your first-semester transcripts to your top colleges.
- Watch the mail for letters of acceptance.
- Send in college housing applications.

February

- Confirm that the colleges you've applied to have received your first-semester transcripts.
- Find out whether you need to submit a transcript of your federal tax forms or additional financial aid verification forms to the college(s) of your choice.
- Keep your grades up — second semester grades are important and can affect scholarship eligibility and college admittance.
- Review your budget and financial plan for college. Talk with your parents about cost responsibility.

March

- Visit an ICAN Center to review and compare financial aid packages from colleges. An advisor will analyze your packages using the *College Funding Forecaster* and help you determine the best financial option. You can also download the *Compare College Costs* worksheet from the ICAN Resource Zone.
- Finalize your www.Raise.Me activities to maximize your scholarship potential.
- Ask your school counselor about local scholarships.

April

- Decision Day is May 1.** 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.
- Tell other colleges you won't be attending.
- If you're securing a student loan, complete the required promissory note and entrance counseling.
- Begin making plans for a summer job.
- Analyze your award letters using College Funding Forecaster - iowastudentloan.org/forecaster Visit icansucceed.org/apt to schedule an appointment.

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 scholarships you received.
- Save money to help with college expenses.
- Attend orientation sessions to meet people, get familiar with campus and register for classes.
- Prepare a personal budget for college and review it with your parents.

July

- Check out our "College Packing List" to help make packing less of a chore, visit ICANSucceed.org/materials. Contact your roommate and decide who's bringing what so you don't double up.
- Thank your family and friends for their support.
- Continue your success in college; follow ICAN on Facebook & Twitter for continued tips and support.

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