

ICAN & Iowa College Aid  
present

# On Track

Fall Kick-Off to College Planning  
**2023**



ICAN<sup>®</sup>  
Succeed. In Education. In Career. In Life.



Success Strategies for College & Career Planning

# CLASS OF 2024



DES MOINES UNIVERSITY  
MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

**HAWKEYE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**SIMPSON**  
**COLLEGE**

**IOWA**

**UNI** / University of  
Northern Iowa.

**P** UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**PLATTEVILLE**

## **Our Mission:**

**ICAN empowers lowans to find success  
in career, college, and life.**

*Succeed. In Education. In Career. In Life.*

# ICAN Advising Services

- ▶ Career Exploration and Assessment
- ▶ College Exploration
- ▶ Paying for College
- ▶ College Visits
- ▶ College Selection & Applications
- ▶ Scholarship Process
- ▶ CSS Profile
- ▶ Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- ▶ FAFSA/Financial Aid Offer Review
- ▶ Understanding Student Loans
- ▶ Alternative Funding Options for College

**To Schedule a Virtual Appointment:  
Call (877) 272-4692 or visit [ICANSucceed.org/apt](https://ICANSucceed.org/apt)**

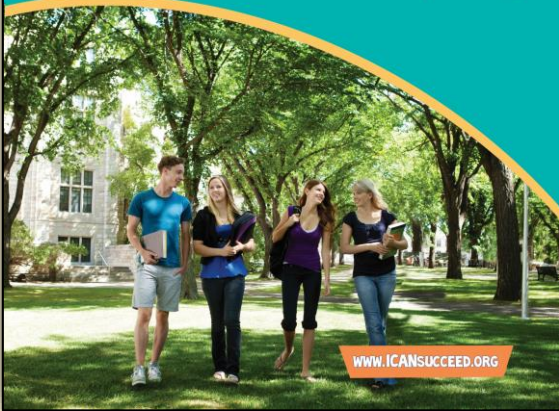




2023-2024

## LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

A Guide to Career and College Planning



WWW.ICANSUCCEED.ORG



2023-2024

## HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

A Guide to the Financial Aid Process



WWW.ICANSUCCEED.ORG



## SENIOR CALENDAR COUNTDOWN TO YOUR FUTURE



Visit [www.ICANSucceed.org/apt](http://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. Virtual appointments are available.

- August**
- Stay on top of your to-do's with ICAN Senior Alerts. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/signup](http://ICANSucceed.org/signup) to register for e-alerts and the ICAN Tip of the Week.
  - Register now to take the September ACT®.
  - Update your activities resume and get organized for upcoming admission and scholarship applications. Download our template at [ICANSucceed.org/activitiesresume](http://ICANSucceed.org/activitiesresume).
  - Begin finalizing your list of colleges. Compare schools on academic, cultural, and financial fit at [CollegeRaptor.com](http://CollegeRaptor.com).
  - Visit [ICANSucceed.org/priorities](http://ICANSucceed.org/priorities) for the FAFSA filing priority dates of each college you're applying to.
  - Begin writing essays for admission applications.

- November**
- Avoid scholarship search and financial aid companies that charge a fee. Begin your free search at [ICANSucceed.org/scholarships](http://ICANSucceed.org/scholarships).
  - If you haven't setup your FSA ID yet, do it now. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/fsaid](http://ICANSucceed.org/fsaid).
  - Schedule a FAFSA appointment with ICAN. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/apt](http://ICANSucceed.org/apt) to schedule an appointment.
  - Considering taking the ACT® again? Register in early November to take the December test.
  - Save copies of all forms you submit to colleges.

- February**
- Submit your FAFSA. If you haven't already done so, need help? Contact ICAN at (877) 272-4692.
  - After filing the FAFSA, watch your email for the FAFSA Summary Sheet (FSS). Check that it lists all the colleges requiring the FAFSA.
  - Keep your grades up — second semester grades are important and can affect scholarship eligibility and college admittance.
  - Determine if you need to submit additional financial aid verification forms to the college(s). If yes, complete paperwork right away! Waiting could delay your financial aid.

- May**
- Take AP®/CLEP® exams and earn college credit.
  - 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.
  - If you're securing a student loan, complete the required promissory note and entrance counseling.
  - Congratulations on your high school graduation!**

- September**
- Visit with ICAN to work on your college or career plan. Schedule at [ICANSucceed.org/apt](http://ICANSucceed.org/apt).
  - Register now to take the SAT® and/or ACT®. Pick up a study guide or review online resources.
  - Begin submitting your admission applications to the programs you're most interested in. Be aware of deadlines! Try to have your applications submitted by **Nov. 1**.
  - If interested, research military education benefits.
  - Ask adults to write letters of recommendation.
  - Visit [ICANSucceed.org/priorities](http://ICANSucceed.org/priorities) for the FAFSA filing priority dates of each college you're applying to.

- December**
- Visit with your school counselor about application deadlines for local or state scholarships and grants.
  - Watch the mail or email for letters of acceptance.
  - Submit your completed FAFSA before your colleges' earliest priority date. ICAN can help - (877) 272-4692 or [ICANSucceed.org/apt](http://ICANSucceed.org/apt).
  - Work with ICAN to create a plan to finance college with tools like Student Loan Game Plan - [iowastudentloan.org/gameplan](http://iowastudentloan.org/gameplan).
  - Stay focused! Grades in your senior year can affect college admittance.

- March**
- Visit with an ICAN advisor to review and compare college financial aid packages. An advisor will analyze your packages and help you determine the best financial option. You can also download the Compare College Costs worksheet from [ICANSucceed.org/materials](http://ICANSucceed.org/materials).
  - Schedule an advising session with ICAN to review your financial aid packages and help you determine your best options. Schedule in-person or virtual at [ICANSucceed.org/apt](http://ICANSucceed.org/apt).
  - Begin making plans for a summer job.

- June**
- Notify the college about scholarships you received. Send thank you cards or emails for the scholarships you received.
  - If you are heading to an apprenticeship, confirm you have the tools and certifications needed.
  - Save money to help with education/training expenses. Prepare a personal budget and review it with your parents.
  - Attend orientation sessions to meet people, get familiar with campus, and register for classes.



- October**
- If not yet submitted, finalize and submit your admission applications by **Nov. 1**.
  - Talk to admission counselors at the colleges you're applying to and find out whether retaking the ACT® or SAT® would be advantageous.
  - Research scholarship days and deadlines at the schools to which you've applied. Fill out any additional scholarship forms before the deadlines.
  - Visit [ICANSucceed.org/fsaid](http://ICANSucceed.org/fsaid) to learn about the FSA ID username and password. You and at least one parent need an FSA ID for your financial aid form. Print a list of items you need to fill out the FAFSA at [ICANSucceed.org/whattobring](http://ICANSucceed.org/whattobring).

- January**
- Need help completing your FAFSA? Visit [ICANSucceed.org/FAFSAreadyto](http://ICANSucceed.org/FAFSAreadyto) to find a FAFSA Ready Iowa event near you OR schedule your FAFSA appointment with ICAN at [ICANSucceed.org/apt](http://ICANSucceed.org/apt).
  - Obtain financial aid forms from programs that require forms in addition to the FAFSA.
  - Ask your school counselor to send your first-semester transcripts to your top colleges.
  - Ask your school counselor about local scholarships and complete applications.
  - Send in college housing applications.

- April**
- Analyze your financial aid packages using the College Funding Forecaster tool at [iowastudentloan.org/forecaster](http://iowastudentloan.org/forecaster).
  - Review your budget and financial plan for college. Talk with your parents about cost responsibility.
  - Decision Day is May 1.** Decide which college or program you'll attend. Sign and send the required documents and make note of other important deadlines.
  - Tell other colleges you won't be attending.

- July**
- Check out our "Packing List" to help make packing less of a chore. Visit [ICANSucceed.org/materials](http://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.
  - Remember to renew your FAFSA every year you plan to attend. Schedule with ICAN for Fall 2024.

This calendar is sponsored by:



©2010-2023 ICAN® | ICAN is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization funded through donations, grants and partnerships. ICAN® does not endorse the product, service or advice of any outside institution or entity. Students should consider many options in pursuing higher education and find the right fit for their life situation and career aspiration.



## Ready to File the FAFSA? Here's What You'll Need

Filing for financial aid is less stressful when you are prepared. Use the checklists below to help you fill out the **2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.\*\*



### \*\*\*FSA ID

The FSA ID is a username and password that confirms your identity when signing the FAFSA.

To sign the FAFSA online, the student needs an FSA ID. Dependent students will also need ONE parent to sign with a separate FSA ID.

When creating an FSA ID you must have access to your phone or email. During setup you will be asked to verify your cell phone and/or email address by entering a code sent by text or email to the contact information listed.

Learn more at [icansucceed.org/fsaid](http://icansucceed.org/fsaid).

### When should I file?

The 2024-25 FAFSA form will be available in December 2023. Each college has a priority date for the FAFSA. You should file the FAFSA before the priority date. If you are applying to multiple schools, file by the earliest date.

### IRS Data Retrieval

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool within the FAFSA application can be used to automatically pull MOST of your 2022 tax information into your FAFSA application. You will still need to have copies of your 2022 taxes and W-2s on hand as a reference.

**Questions?** Call (877) 272-4692 or email [ICAN@ICANSucceed.org](mailto:ICAN@ICANSucceed.org). If you would like FAFSA completion assistance from an ICAN Student Success Advisor, it is highly recommended that you setup your FSA ID\*\* prior to your appointment.

\* See backside for applicable investment and asset accounts.

\*\*The FAFSA is a free form that may be completed without professional assistance via paper or online forms provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

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# Apply for College

## ▶ Senior Year

- Finish high school strong (academics/involvement)
- Have two to five schools you're serious about and apply
- Beware of deadlines (admission, scholarship, housing and financial aid)

# Apply for College

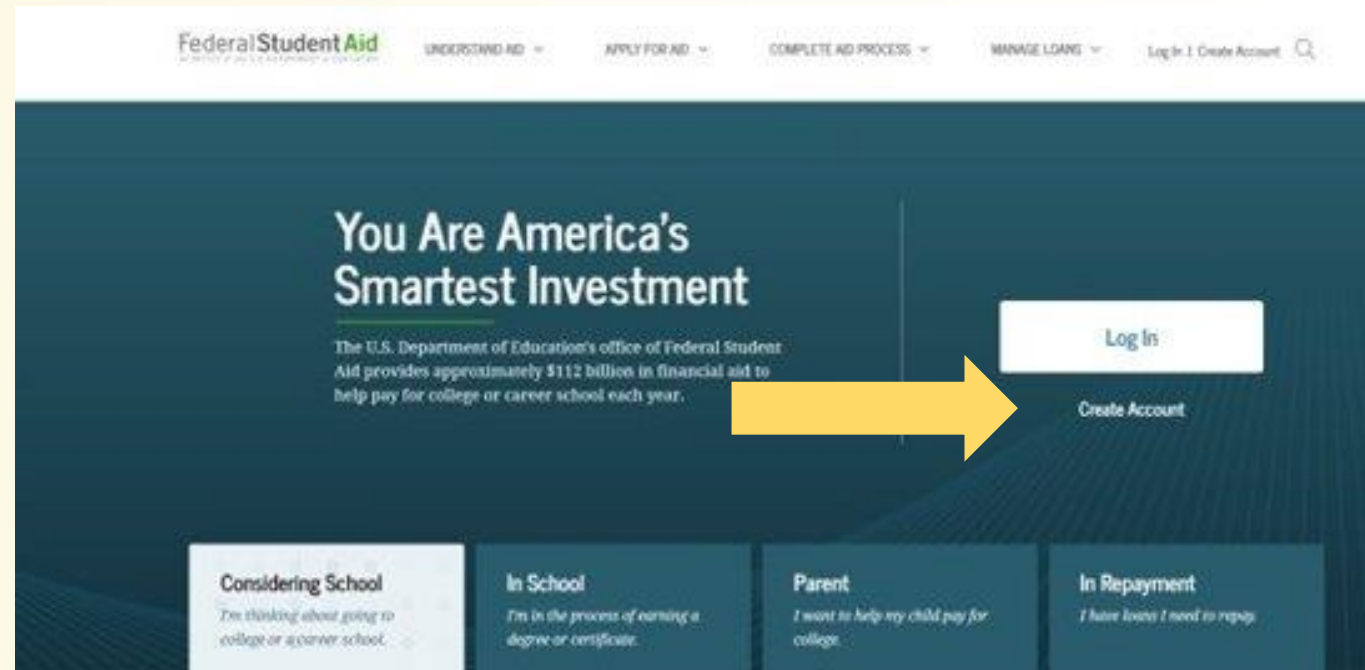
- ▶ Parts of application
  - Basic demographic information
  - College essay
  - Official high school transcript
  - ACT/SAT scores
  - Letters of recommendation
  - Activity resume
  - Fees (if any)
  - Interview
  - Any other steps required by schools





# Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID

- ▶ FSA ID serves as your legal signature
- ▶ Create the FSA ID at — [www.studentaid.gov](https://www.studentaid.gov)
- ▶ **EVERYONE** will need an FSA ID to access the form



# When to File the FAFSA

- ▶ FAFSA is available late December 2023/January 2024
- ▶ Each school has a priority date
  - Priority date is the recommended filing date
  - File by priority date for the best chance at financial aid
  - Applying to multiple schools? – Use the earliest date



# Tips for Filing the FAFSA

- ▶ Have federal tax forms and W2s on hand
- ▶ Read the directions carefully
- ▶ Ask questions
- ▶ Keep a copy for your records
- ▶ Complete the FAFSA each year



# FAFSA Ready Iowa Events

- ▶ Goal: 60% statewide completion
- ▶ 2022-2023: 54.5% completion rate
- ▶ Free assistance program offering help completing the FAFSA
- ▶ Events held
  - ICAN Centers (virtually and in-person)
  - School-Based Events (grant or sponsored)
  - Community-Based Events (hosted by partner sites – walk-in basis)



For more information  
[www.ICANsucceed.org/FAFSAreadyIA](http://www.ICANsucceed.org/FAFSAreadyIA)

# Types of Financial Aid

- ▶ Gift aid
  - Grants and scholarships
  - Merit-based and need-based
- ▶ Self-help aid
  - Work-study
  - Loans



# Activities Resume

- ▶ School information
- ▶ Academic information
- ▶ Activities
  - Number of activities
  - Years in activities
  - Leadership in activities
- ▶ Honors/awards/talents
- ▶ Community Service
- ▶ Volunteer Work

Mallory Morgan	
419 Main Street • Anytown, Iowa 12345 • (999) 555-1234 • mmorgan@gmail.com	
<b>Education</b>	
Iowa High School	
GPA 3.77; Class Rank 84/386	
ACT Composite - 26	
Academic Awards: Academic Letter, National Honor Society and Honor Roll (4 yrs)	
<b>School Activities</b>	
Editor-in-Chief of The Spectator (school newspaper)	Grades 11-12
Student Council Vice-President	Grade 12
Class Treasurer	Grade 11
School Play - set designer	Grades 10-12
Soccer	Grades 9-12
Team Captain - Grade 12	
<b>Community Involvement</b>	
Assistant Little League Coach	Grades 11-12
Church Youth Group	Grades 9-12
Hospital Volunteer	Grade 11
Food Pantry Volunteer	Grades 9-11
Humane Society Volunteer	Grade 10
Total Community Service Hours	232 Hours
<b>Employment</b>	
Waitress, The Restaurant	Grades 11-12
Provided menus, met special customer needs, took orders, brought food to tables, refill glasses, and cleaned tables.	
Grocery Clerk, The Store	Grade 9
Provided customer service, including greeting customers, bagging groceries and answering their questions. Also assisted with stocking shelves and maintaining a clean and safe environment. Assisted with other duties as assigned.	
<b>Honors &amp; Awards</b>	
AP Scholar	Grades 11-12
Service & Leadership Award	Grade 11
Soccer MVP	Grade 11



# Private Scholarships

- ▶ Check with your school counselor
- ▶ Employers (yours, parents', etc.)
- ▶ Professional & Religious organizations
- ▶ Local businesses
- ▶ Learn the process at [ICANSucceed.org/scholarships](https://www.ICANSucceed.org/scholarships)
- ▶ Search online and use apps

# Scholarships Online & Apps

## ► Websites

- [ICANSucceed.org/ICAN-scholarship-database](https://www.icansucceed.org/ICAN-scholarship-database)
- [iowacollegeaid.gov](https://iowacollegeaid.gov)
- [finaid.org/](https://finaid.org/)
- <https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/>
- [Bigfuture.collegeboard.org](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org)

# Scholarships Online & Apps

## ▶ Apps

- [Scholarsapp.com](https://scholarsapp.com)
- [scholarships.com](https://scholarships.com)
- [Fastweb.com](https://fastweb.com)
- [Goingmerry.com](https://goingmerry.com)
- [Myscholly.com](https://myscholly.com)



# How Can Parents Help?

- ▶ Layout family expectations early so there are no surprises
- ▶ **Academic** - Grade expectations and consequences
- ▶ **Financial** - Who's paying the bills?
  - Where will spending money come from?
  - Are there spending limits?
  - Are credit cards part of the plan?
- ▶ **Social Life** - Is a car going to campus?
  - Whose car and when can it be used?





- Tip of the Week Video
- Grade-Level Alerts
- Event Alerts & Reminders
- Social Media



[ICANSucceed.org/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ICANSucceed)



[twitter.com/ICANSucceed](https://twitter.com/ICANSucceed)



CHANNEL: [IowaCollegeAccess](https://www.youtube.com/channel/IowaCollegeAccess)



Instagram

[instagram.com/iowacollegeaccess](https://www.instagram.com/iowacollegeaccess)

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## STREAM ICAN ANYTIME ANYWHERE

Get your planning information on demand.  
Watch a live or pre-recorded ICAN seminar.

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[Donate](#)

### Quick links

- [What to Bring to Your FAFSA Appointment](#)
- [How to Setup Your FSA ID](#)

### Mission

Empowering Iowans to achieve lifelong success through education, training, and informed decision-making.

[ICANSucceed.org](https://ICANSucceed.org)



33rd Annual

# GOLDEN CIRCLE College & Career Fair

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 24, 2023**

1p.m. - 3 p.m.

Prairie Meadows Conference Center  
(Next to Adventureland)

1 Prairie Meadows Dr - Altoona

**IOWA'S LARGEST  
COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR**  
**BRINGS TOGETHER EXHIBITORS**  
**COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES**  
**CAREER TRAINING**  
**APPRENTICESHIPS**  
**IN ONE PLACE**

[ICANSucceed.org/goldencircle](https://ICANSucceed.org/goldencircle)



Sponsored by:



# ISL Education Lending Scholarship

[www.iowaStudentLoan.org/CollegeSavings](http://www.iowaStudentLoan.org/CollegeSavings)

- ▶ 45 \$1,000 deposits into college savings accounts
- ▶ Open to Iowa residents who are:
  - Iowa high school student
  - Undergraduate college students
  - Parents/guardians or individuals who hold College Savings Iowa accounts for the student
- ▶ Open September 1–November 30, 2023
- ▶ Recipients chosen through random drawings
- ▶ Educational components
  - Tips with multiple-choice questions at registration
  - Emailed tips throughout program period



# SP<sup>3</sup> – Student Planning Pointers for Parents

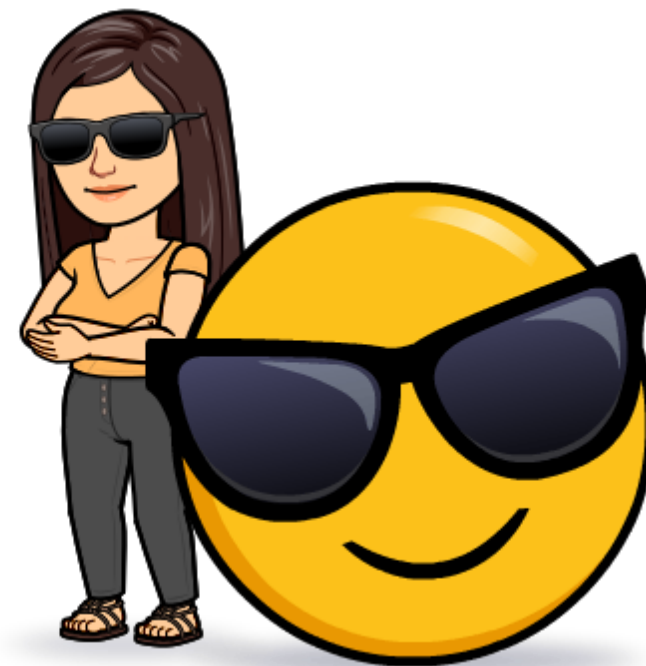
- Email service for parents of students in 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- The email service is designed to help parents and their students plan for education and training after high school by:
  - Giving timely information based on the grade of the student and time of the year
  - Helping prompt conversations between parents and students about preparing for life after high school
- How It Works
  - Register at [www.SP3.org](http://www.SP3.org)
  - Receive two emails per month on relevant topics
  - Use the tools and tips with your student
  - Be entered into quarterly drawings for 529 colleges savings plan deposits (40 winners of \$250 deposits each quarter)





# Virtual College Coach - Texting

- **What?**
  - College coach to guide you through the college-going process via text
- **Why?**
  - Your coach is available to answer questions right through your phone!
  - Assistance navigating the college-going process
  - Guidance through the summer transition
- **Who?**
  - High school students, grades 9-12
  - High school student parents, grades 9-12



# Text with your Virtual College Coach

- Receive tips & reminders throughout the college-going steps:
  - Prepare
  - Apply
  - Finance
  - Decide
  - Go
- Deadline-driven:
  - Scholarship Alerts
  - FAFSA Completion
  - Submitting Applications
- Information about state-wide or regional college-going events



# Sign Up!

Students & parents can sign up for text message support on our webpage:  
[www.iowaCollegeAid.gov/VirtualCoach](http://www.iowaCollegeAid.gov/VirtualCoach)

Or scan the QR Code:



**SIGN  
ME UP** 

