



# Career & College Readiness Curriculum Program - Grades 9-12

The ICAN High School Career and College Readiness Curriculum prepares students in grades 9-12 for life beyond high school, helping them define their career interests, set academic goals, and create actionable plans for college and career success. Through in-depth, practical lessons, students build skills in critical thinking, time management, and goal-setting, giving them the confidence to pursue their chosen paths and adapt to an evolving workforce.

## Program Highlights

- **Guides Intentional Planning:** Students assess their skills and interests, explore diverse career options, and develop plans that connect their academic choices with career aspirations.
- **Builds Advanced Skills:** Focuses on essential skills like critical thinking, time management, and goal-setting, preparing students to make informed decisions and navigate post-secondary pathways.
- **Connects Education to Career Success:** Emphasizes how academic achievement, skill development, and personal growth contribute to long-term career satisfaction and resilience.

## Why Career and College Readiness Matters

Being college and career ready means having the skills, knowledge, and strategies to excel in a chosen path after high school. The ICAN curriculum aligns with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model Mindsets and Behaviors, as well as national readiness standards, offering a structured approach that fits seamlessly into each student's Individual Career and Academic Plan. This alignment supports students in understanding the connections between academic achievement, career exploration, and success beyond high school.

## Features of the ICAN Career & College Readiness Curriculum

- **Flexible Integration:** Designed to work in conjunction with career information systems, this curriculum can be used as a comprehensive, personalized experience or as a stand-alone program.
- **Individualized Pathways:** Supports students in creating tailored career and academic plans, empowering them to take ownership of their futures with a clear sense of direction.

## High School Program Details - Grades 9-12: License & Training - \$2,000 *(year one base price)*

This high school-focused program offers schools and organizations:

- **Access to an Online Portal:** Comprehensive, easy-to-access lesson plans, interactive slide decks, worksheets, and student-driven activities.
- **Implementation Guide:** Includes scope and sequence, resource list, and step-by-step lesson outlines for easy transitions and implementation.
- **Comprehensive Training:** Virtual training for educators, with dedicated support from the ICAN curriculum team to ensure smooth program implementation.
- **Curriculum PLUS:** Program enhancements, CIS integration and more.

# Curriculum Lessons

The curriculum, ideal for students in grades 9-12, is centered on the following categories:

## Career Preparation/Selection

- The Big Picture: Thinking About the Future
- Career Assessment
- Employability: Building Skills for All Careers
- Defining Career & Technical Education
- Exploring CTE Careers
- Exploring Apprenticeships

## Academic Preparation

- Academic Preparation: GPA & World Language
- Activities Resume
- Building Effective Study Skills
- The Impact of Social Media
- Digital Citizenship
- Effective Communications

## College Selection/Application

- Education/Training Comparisons
- College 101
- Return on College Investment (ROCI)
- Scholarship Process
- How to Apply
- Understanding & Comparing Programs of Study
- College Course Planning

## Financial Literacy

- Basic Budgeting
- Basics of Borrowing
- Understanding Credit
- Income Taxes and Financial Aid
- LifeStore: A Family Budget Scenario
- Student Debt Reality
- Understanding Student Loans

## Learn more

ICAN offers a comprehensive K-12 curriculum program, segmented into elementary, middle, and high school levels. Used individually or together, this curriculum ensures that every student has the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to set achievable goals and succeed in high school, college, and future careers.



ICAN hosts regular information sessions on the program for counselors, administrators, and educators who are interested in implementing the ICAN curriculum program.

Information sessions last 30-45 minutes and include time for questions. These sessions include an overview of training and content, a review of the implementation guide with scope and sequence, and sample lessons. For information session and training dates visit [www.collegeplanning.org](http://www.collegeplanning.org).

If you are ready for an in-depth conversation about implementing in your school, complete the interest form at [www.collegeplanning.org](http://www.collegeplanning.org), scan the QR code, or email [curriculumteam@icansucceed.org](mailto:curriculumteam@icansucceed.org).



The Iowa School Counselor Association (ISCA) board of directors has endorsed the ICAN Career and College Readiness Curriculum for grades 9-12. The curriculum is a student-centered resource that aligns with Iowa standards for District Career and Academic Plans and aligns with the professional school counseling standards of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA.)

## About ICAN

ICAN has served the educational community and the students of Iowa since 1998. ICAN is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing solutions and resources to advance career and college readiness. The ICAN team have more than 150 years of combined experience in career and college readiness advising including K-12 school counselors, collegiate financial aid advisors, students services, admissions, and community college access organizations.

