



Career & College Readiness Curriculum Program - Grades 6-8

The ICAN Middle School Career and College Readiness Curriculum guides students in grades 6-8 to explore their interests, strengths, and potential career paths while understanding the importance of academic planning and skill-building for future success. Through interactive lessons and practical activities, students gain essential skills in decision-making, problem-solving, and self-management, laying the groundwork for high school, college, and career readiness.

Program Highlights

- **Encourages Informed Exploration:** Students learn about various careers, examine their personal interests, and explore pathways to match their strengths with future opportunities.
- **Develops Core Skills:** Fosters critical middle school skills such as decision-making, problem-solving, and goal-setting to build confidence in planning for high school and beyond.
- **Connects Education to Career Goals:** Students begin understanding the academic steps needed to achieve their goals, emphasizing the importance of ongoing education and career planning.

Why Career and College Readiness Matters

College and career readiness requires students to develop the knowledge, skills, and strategies essential for success beyond high school. ICAN's curriculum aligns with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model Mindsets and Behaviors, as well as national career and college readiness standards, to support a comprehensive, individualized learning journey. These standards ensure that students gain valuable experience in each component of an Individual Career and Academic Plan, preparing them for a smooth transition into high school.

Features of the ICAN Career & College Readiness Curriculum

- **Flexible Integration:** Designed to work alongside career information systems, this curriculum can be implemented as an enhanced, personalized program or as a stand-alone curriculum.
- **Personalized Experience:** Provides an individualized approach that allows students to dig deeper into career interests and academic plans tailored to their aspirations.

Middle School Program Details - Grades 6-8: License and Training - \$2,000 *(year one base price)*

This classroom-based program is tailored for middle school students, equipping schools and organizations with:

- **Access to an Online Portal:** Includes ready-to-use lesson plans, interactive slide decks, worksheets, and student-centered 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, along with ongoing support from the ICAN curriculum team to ensure effective program implementation.

Curriculum Lessons

The curriculum is designed for students in grades Sixth through Eighth, and is centered on the following categories:

Career Clusters

- Exploring Career Clusters
- Investigating Career Paths within Clusters
- Big Picture: Thinking About the Future

Interest/Career Assessment

- Connecting Interests to Careers
- Connecting Skills to Careers
- Assess, Improve, Succeed. Mapping Your Skills to Career Growth

Beyond High School

- Education After High School
- College is for All
- Differences & Benefits of College

Financial Literacy

- Money Management Basics
- My First Apartment: Budgeting for Success
- Building a Real-Life Budget
- Financial Aid Basics (FAFSA)

Academic Preparation

- Understanding Learning Styles & Effective Study Habits
- Developing Personalized Study Plans Based on Learning Styles
- Getting Involved: Community Service & Extracurricular Activities
- Charting Your Path: Four-Year Plans
- Building Your Skillset: The Key to Future Careers
- Transition to High School

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.

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



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.

