

JUNIOR CALENDAR COUNTDOWN TO YOUR FUTURE



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. Virtual appointments are available.



August

- Prepare for college and career with the ICAN Tip of the Week; sign up at ICANSucceed.org/signup.
- 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 MyACT.org or talk to your school counselor about your high school's assessment.
- Talk to your parents about your career interests.

September

- Attend the Golden Circle College & Career Fair, Iowa's largest. Talk with Iowa employers, colleges from across the country. For details visit ICANSucceed.org/goldencircle.
- Check with your school counselor to register for the PSAT/NMSQT, a two-part exam similar to the SAT. Scores are used to determine National Merit Scholars.
- If interested, research military education benefits. Visit ICANSucceed.org/militaryoptions.
- Learn about apprenticeship opportunities at ICANSucceed.org/careertraining.

October

- Schedule a planning session for career, college, or financial aid with an ICAN advisor. To schedule visit ICANSucceed.org/apt or call (877) 272-4692. Virtual appointments are available.
- Attend a college/career fair and talk with representatives to start researching potential education and training programs. 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 your education/training program of choice.

November

- Review brochures and viewbooks from colleges that interest you. Make a list of 10 to 15 colleges that fit your career pathway interests.
- 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. Take advantage of online test preparation resources.
- Explore your options by meeting with college representatives and career speakers at your school.

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.
- Register now if you're planning to take the January SAT or February ACT. Visit number2.com for test prep tools and resources.
- Make a list of colleges to consider. Use online college match tools such as CollegeRaptor.com to find the best fit.

January

- Go over your plans for the future with ICAN - schedule an appointment at ICANSucceed.org/apt.
- 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. Visit ICANSucceed.org/events for dates and times.
- Review your school's master calendar for 'No School' days to schedule campus visits.
- Explore your options by meeting with college representatives and career speakers at your school.

February

- Determine an education/training budget based on salary expectations for your chosen career or industry. Visit MyACT.org. Check out your Return on Investment (ROI) tool at iowastudentloan.org/ROItool.
- Make sure you enroll in senior classes that prepare you for your career pathway that fits your assessment results. Include job shadows or internships that give you a hands-on look at your future opportunities.
- Register now if you plan to take the April ACT.
- Talk to your school counselor about AP courses and CLEP tests. Consider taking honors or college-level classes.

March

- Attend the ICAN Future Ready Career & College Fair, Eastern Iowa's largest. Find your career pathway, talk with employers, colleges & universities from across the country. Visit ICANSucceed.org/futurereadyfair for details.
- It's time to schedule college and apprenticeship program visits. Revisit your career assessment results and schedule visits with programs and schools that meet your career and budget needs. During each visit, meet with the admissions and financial aid offices. Download a helpful checklist at ICANSucceed.org/materials.
- If you plan to take the May SAT register now.
- Consider taking a summer course at a local college.

April

- If you take AP courses, consider AP exams. You could earn college credit.
- When visiting colleges or training programs take notes 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. Narrow your list.
- Register now for the June ACT or SAT.
- Update your activities resume with volunteer work, academic achievements and employment.

May

- Narrow your college or apprenticeship choices to your top five and highlight the important features of each. Make a second visit if necessary.
- Take AP exams if needed.
- Find a summer job related to your career interest.
- Polish your resume; if required, assemble writing samples, a portfolio, or audition/highlight video.

June

- Schedule final campus visits.
- Begin completing private scholarship applications.
- Save your summer earnings to pay for college.
- Prospective student athletes, there are lots of steps to becoming a college athlete. Learn about college athletic requirements at ICANSucceed.org/collegeathletes.

July

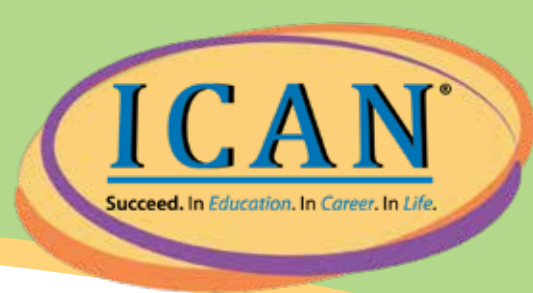
- Obtain and review college admission applications.
- Consider which teachers, employers or other adults you'll ask to write letters of recommendation.
- Create a spending plan. It's easy to get in over your head. Talk with your parents to consider your options or learn more at ICANSucceed.org/budgeting.

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SENIOR CALENDAR COUNTDOWN TO YOUR FUTURE



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. Virtual appointments are available.



August

- Stay on top of your to-do's with ICAN Senior Alerts. Visit ICANSucceed.org/signup to register for e-alerts and the ICAN Tip of the Week.
- Find information on admission, scholarships, and financial aid for your top program choices.
- Talk to admission counselors at the colleges you're applying to and find out whether retaking the ACT® or SAT® would be advantageous.
- Register now to take the SAT® and/or ACT® this Fall.
- Visit ICANSucceed.org/studentaidaccount to learn about the username and password. You and at least one parent need a StudentAid.gov account for your financial aid form.

September

- Visit with ICAN to work on your college or career plan. Schedule at ICANSucceed.org/apt.
- Begin writing essays for admission applications.
- Ask adults to write letters of recommendation.
- Update your activities resume and get organized for upcoming admission and scholarship applications. Download our template at ICANSucceed.org/activitiesresume.
- Visit ICANSucceed.org/priority for the FAFSA filing priority dates of each colleges you're applying to. Once you know your earliest priority date, schedule a FAFSA completion appointment with ICAN at ICANSucceed.org/apt.
- Explore options for FAFSA assistance at ICANSucceed.org/FAFSAreadyiaevents.

October

- 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**.
- Research scholarship days and deadlines at the schools to which you've applied. Fill out any additional scholarship forms before the deadlines.
- Print a list of items you need to fill out the FAFSA at ICANSucceed.org/whattobring.
- If interested, research military education benefits.
- Research scholarship days and deadlines at the schools to which you've applied. Fill out any additional scholarship forms before the deadline.
- Schedule a FAFSA appointment with ICAN. Visit ICANSucceed.org/apt to schedule an appointment.

November

- If not yet submitted, finalize and submit your admission applications by **Nov. 1**.
- Avoid scholarship search and financial aid companies that charge a fee. Begin your free search at ICANSucceed.org/scholarships.
- If you haven't setup your StudentAid.gov Account yet, do it now. Visit ICANSucceed.org/studentaidaccount.
- Considering taking the ACT® again? Register in early November to take the December test.
- Save copies of all forms you submit to colleges.

December

- Visit with your school counselor about application deadlines for local or state scholarships and grants. Spend winter break completing applications.
- 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.
- Work with ICAN to create a plan to finance college with tools like Student Loan Game Plan - iowastudentloan.org/gameplan.
- Stay focused! Grades in your senior year can affect college admittance.

January

- Need help completing your FAFSA? Visit ICANSucceed.org/FAFSAreadyia to find a FAFSA Ready Iowa event near you OR schedule your FAFSA appointment with ICAN at ICANSucceed.org/apt.
- Research if any additional financial aid forms are required for programs/colleges that interest you.
- Ask your school counselor to send your updated transcript with senior year to your top colleges.
- Ask your school counselor about local scholarships and complete applications.
- Send in college housing applications.

February

- After filing the FAFSA, watch your email for the FAFSA Submission Summary. 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.

March

- Submit your FAFSA, if you haven't already done so. Need help? Contact ICAN at (877) 272-4692.
- Visit with an ICAN advisor to review college financial aid packages. An advisor will analyze your aid offers and help you determine the best financial option. Schedule at ICANSucceed.org/apt. You can also download the *Compare College Costs* worksheet from ICANSucceed.org/materials.
- Review your budget and financial plan for college. Talk with your parents about cost responsibility.

April

- Analyze your financial aid packages using the College Funding Forecaster tool at iowastudentloan.org/forecaster.
- Decision Day is May 1**. Decide which college or program you'll attend. Sign and send the required documents and make note of 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.

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.

Congratulations on your high school graduation!

June

- Notify the college about 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.

July

- Check out our "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.
- Remember to renew your FAFSA every year you plan to attend. Schedule with ICAN for Fall 2025.

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