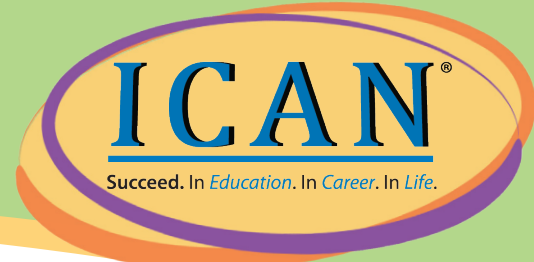


# SENIOR CALENDAR COUNTDOWN TO YOUR FUTURE



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).
- ☐ Begin writing essays for admission applications.

### 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/priority](http://ICANSucceed.org/priority) for the FAFSA filing priority dates of each colleges you're applying to.

### 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).

### 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.

### 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.

### January

- ☐ Need help completing your FAFSA? Visit [ICANSucceed.org/FAFSAReadyia](http://ICANSucceed.org/FAFSAReadyia) 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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!**

### 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.

### 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.

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