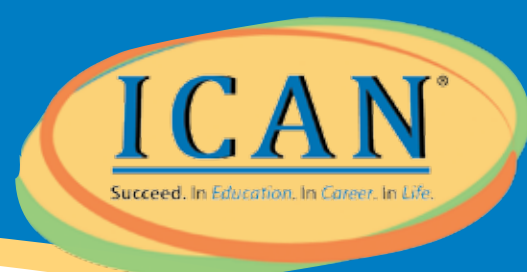


SOPHOMORE CALENDAR COUNTDOWN TO YOUR FUTURE



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August

- ☐ Visit an ICAN Center and work on your career and college plan with a Student Success Advisor. Call (877) 272-4692 or visit ICANSucceed.org/apt.
- ☐ Prepare for life after high school with the ICAN Tip of the Week; sign up at ICANSucceed.org/signup.
- ☐ Find a mentor who can assist you through high school and the planning process, such as a teacher, parent, family member, or family friend.
- ☐ Attend an ICAN career and college planning night this fall. Visit ICANSucceed.org/events for events near you or available to stream online.

September

- ☐ Attend the Golden Circle College & Career Fair, Iowa's largest. Talk with Iowa employers, colleges & universities from across the country. For event details visit ICANSucceed.org/goldencircle.
- ☐ Talk to your school counselor about taking the PreACT® or the PSAT/NMSQT® (Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) as practice for the actual college entrance exams.
- ☐ Get involved! Find an activity at your school or in your community that you enjoy.

October

- ☐ Compare several careers and consider the required education or training, tasks that have to be performed, starting salary, and the characteristics that appeal to you most. Visit ICANSucceed.org/careers for links to career research tools.
- ☐ Have you attended a college fair yet? Visit ICANSucceed.org/collegefairs.
- ☐ Visit MyACT.org and take or update your career assessment. Use the results to help plan your high school courses and activities.

November

- ☐ Talk to your school counselor about college admission requirements and make sure you take the right classes. Ask about adding a job shadow to your schedule for next semester.
- ☐ Visit ICANSucceed.org/financial-aid for information on tuition and other fees at colleges and universities, as well ways to cover costs.
- ☐ Talk to family members, friends, teachers, counselors, and coaches about how they picked their career and their planning experiences.
- ☐ Meet with college representatives or career speakers visiting your high school to learn more about your options.

December

- ☐ College can be affordable! Don't let the "sticker price" scare you. With financial aid and planning you can help ensure your out-of-pocket costs are manageable. Schedule an advising session with ICAN by visiting ICANSucceed.org/apt. Talk with a Student Success Advisor about your future and develop a plan and a budget for success.
- ☐ Education after high school doesn't have to include a four-year degree. Find out more about apprenticeships, certificate programs, two-year degrees, and other programs at ICANSucceed.org/careertraining.
- ☐ Spend winter break volunteering in your community.

January

- ☐ Keep a record of your extracurricular involvement in an activities resume — a concise summary of your achievements, talents and interests. Download our template ICANSucceed.org/activitiesresume.
- ☐ Become familiar with the types of financial aid available for college. Financial aid includes grants, scholarships, work-study and loans. Grants and scholarships don't have to be paid back. Work-study enables students to earn money by working. Loans must be repaid.
- ☐ Review your financial plan for post-high school education or training programs and make sure your plan aligns with your career assessment and salary options. Visit MyACT.org.

February

- ☐ Attend an ICAN career and college planning night this spring. Visit ICANSucceed.org/events for events near you or available to stream online.
- ☐ Meet with your school counselor to ensure your junior classes meet your career pathway recommendations.
- ☐ Begin thinking about potential careers. Which pathways match your skills and interests? MyACT is an online tool that can help you research your options. Visit MyACT.org.
- ☐ Check with your school counselor to see if AP® (Advanced Placement) classes will fit into your schedule. Challenging courses in high school can better prepare you for your next steps.

March

- ☐ Attend the ICR Future Career & College Fair, Eastern Iowa's largest, the last Sunday in March. Find your career pathway, talk with employers, colleges & universities from across the country. For event details visit ICANSucceed.org/icrfuture.
- ☐ Do you know people who work in a job related to your career interest? Talk to them about the educational/training requirements and daily work.
- ☐ If your family is planning a summer vacation, try to visit a few college campuses along the way.
- ☐ Review your financial plan for college and make sure it aligns with your career assessment and salary options. Visit MyACT.org.

April

- ☐ Saving money is the best way to prepare for the cost of a college education. Check out ICANSucceed.org/payforcollege for information on paying for college.
- ☐ Get a taste of a future career through job shadowing, volunteer work, or an internship.
- ☐ Talk with your parents about your college and career goals and how to attain them, including a plan to cover college costs. Start analyzing your Return on College Investment at iowastudentloan.org/ROCItool. The ROCI tool helps compare careers and costs in the current job market so you know how much to invest for each career that interests you.

May

- ☐ Check the status of your college savings plans and keep putting money away for college.
- ☐ Ask your school counselor if there are any summer camp programs you could attend to help get you ahead.
- ☐ Look for a summer job that's related to your interests. Be sure to save some of your summer earnings for college.

June

- ☐ Start a summer reading list. Try reading books that will help increase your vocabulary.
- ☐ Participate in hobbies and activities that enable you to explore your career interests.
- ☐ If you're an athlete hoping to play sports in college, plan ahead. Learn about the requirements of college athletics at ICANSucceed.org/collegeathletes.

July

- ☐ Are you attending summer camp on a college campus? If so, take a look around to see if you could imagine attending that college.
- ☐ Talk to your parents about college expenses and create a plan to cover them.
- ☐ Stay in touch with teachers, school counselors, coaches, and community members. Later you may ask them to write letters of recommendation for scholarship and/or college admission applications.

Visit www.ICANSucceed.org/apt or call (877) 272-4692 to schedule an appointment. Virtual appointments available.

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