Sophomore Calendar
Countdown to Your Future

ICAN
Succeed. In Education. In Career. In Life.

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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.
- ❑ Plan to attend a college fair this fall. Visit ICANsucceed.org/collegefairs and pick a fair.
- ❑ Get involved! Find an activity at your school or in your community that you enjoy.
- ❑ 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 apprenticeship and military programs, colleges from across the country, and employers. 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.
- ❑ Meet with college representatives or career speakers visiting your high school to learn more about your options.
- ❑ Explore careers and sign up for a job shadow.

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.
- ❑ If interested, research military education benefits. Visit ICANsucceed.org/militaryoptions.
- ❑ Find a mentor who can assist you through high school and the planning process, such as a teacher, parent, family member, or family friend.

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.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Talk to family members, friends, teachers, counselors, and coaches about how they picked their career and their planning experiences.

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.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Spend winter break volunteering in your community.

January

- ❑ Visit ICANsucceed.org/careercoach and take or update your career assessment. Use the results to help plan your high school courses and activities.
- ❑ Meet with your school counselor to ensure your junior classes meet your career pathway recommendations.
- ❑ Visit ICANsucceed.org/financial-aid for information on tuition and other fees at colleges and universities, as well as ways to cover costs. Become familiar with the types of financial aid available for college. Financial aid includes grants, scholarships, work-study and loans.

February

- ❑ Attend an ICAN career and college planning night this semester. Visit ICANsucceed.org/events for events near you or available to stream online.
- ❑ 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 ICAN Future Ready Career & College Fair, Eastern Iowa's largest. Find your career pathway, talk with employers, colleges & universities from across the country. For event details visit ICANsucceed.org/futurereadyfair.
- ❑ 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 studentloan.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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