Junior Calendar
Countdown to Your Future

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

Visit 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; create a plan for saving if you haven't already done so.
- ❑ Learn about careers that interest you with an assessment at ICANsucceed.org/career-planning or talk to your school counselor.
- ❑ Talk to your parents about your career interests.

September

- ❑ Attend the Golden Circle College & Career Fair, Iowa's largest. Talk with colleges from across the country, as well as apprenticeship and military programs, and employers. 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 the ACT or SAT sites for test prep tools and practice tests.
- ❑ 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 if taking the March SAT. Pick up a study guide or review online resources.
- ❑ Explore your options by meeting with college representatives and career speakers at your school.
- ❑ Start researching the cost of education or training for your area of interest. Check out your Return on Investment (ROCI) tool at studentloan.org/ROCItool.

February

- ❑ 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.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ 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 & apprenticeship programs 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/materials.
- ❑ 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 researching scholarships and make note of deadlines for senior year.
- ❑ Save your summer earnings to pay for college.
- ❑ Prospective student athletes, there are lots of steps to becoming a college athlete. Learn about college requirements at ICANsucceed.org/collegeathletes.

July

- ❑ Find information and deadlines for admission applications at colleges that interest you.
- ❑ Consider which teachers, employers or other adults you'll ask to write letters of recommendation.
- ❑ Create a spending plan to manage your finances. Talk with your parents and consider your options or learn more at ICANsucceed.org/budgeting.

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