Senior 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

- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Begin submitting admission applications for your top program choices. Research deadlines for scholarships and financial aid.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ You and at least one parent need an account for your FAFSA form. To learn more visit ICANsucceed.org/studentaidaccount.
- ❑ If interested, research military education benefits. Visit ICANsucceed.org/militaryoptions.

September

- ❑ Visit with ICAN to work on your college or career plan. Schedule at ICANsucceeed.org/apt.
- ❑ Will you need letters of recommendation for scholarships or applications? Remember to ask for them early.
- ❑ 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 for after Oct. 1 at ICANsucceed.org/apt.
- ❑ Explore options for FAFSA assistance at ICANsucceed.org/FAFSAreadyiaevents.

October

- ❑ Submit your completed FAFSA between Oct. 1 and your colleges' earliest priority date. ICAN can help - ICANsucceed.org/apt. Print a list of items you need to fill out the FAFSA at ICANsucceed.org/whattobring.
- ❑ Finalize 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.
- ❑ Talk to admission counselors at the colleges you are considering and find out if retaking the ACT® or SAT ® would be advantageous.

November

- ❑ Avoid scholarship search and financial aid companies that charge a fee. Begin your free search at ICANsucceed.org/scholarships.
- ❑ Save copies of all forms you submit to colleges.
- ❑ Need help filing the FAFSA? Visit ICANsucceed.org/apt to schedule an appointment.
- ❑ Considering taking the ACT® again? Register in early November to take the December test.
- ❑ Stay focused! Grades in your senior year can affect college admittance.
- ❑ Submit your completed FAFSA before your colleges' earliest priority date. ICAN can help - (877) 272-4692 or ICANsucceed.org/apt.

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.
- ❑ Research if any additional financial aid forms are required for programs/colleges that interest you.
- ❑ After filing the FAFSA, watch your email for the FAFSA Submission Summary. Check that it lists all the colleges requiring the FAFSA.
- ❑ Work with ICAN to create a plan to finance college with tools like Student Loan Game Plan - studentloan.org/gameplan.

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.
- ❑ Schedule a financial aid package review appointment with ICAN for this spring. An advisor will review your aid offers and help you determine a college budget to cover your costs. Visit ICANsucceed.org/apt.
- ❑ Ask your school counselor to send your updated transcript with senior year to your top colleges.
- ❑ Now is the time to submit college housing applications if you plan to live on campus.

February

- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Keep your grades up — second semester grades are important and can affect scholarship eligibility and college admittance.
- ❑ Review your budget and financial plan. Talk with your parents about cost responsibility.
- ❑ Continue to apply for grants and scholarships.

March

- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Heading to an apprenticeship? Make connections and determine your next steps. Visit ICANsucceed.org/career-training.

April

- ❑ Analyze your financial aid packages using the College Funding Forecaster tool at studentloan.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 2026.

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