



JUNIOR COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE CALENDAR

FIND IT FAST

Download materials mentioned below in the Resource Zone at www.ICANSucceed.org.

Visit www.ICANSucceed.org or call (877) 272-4692 to schedule an appointment for assistance with college planning or financial aid applications.

August

- Obtain dates and locations of college fairs and "parent nights" in your area. Check the ICAN presentation calendar at www.ICANSucceed.org.
- Keep your grades up. Colleges look at your overall GPA through all four years of high school.
- Review your college savings plan; start saving money if you haven't already done so.
- Talk to your parents and your school counselor about where you want to go to college.
- Research careers at www.ICANSucceed.org.

September

- Register for the PSAT/NMSQT,® a two-part exam similar to the SAT.® Scores are used to determine National Merit Scholars.
- Determine what factors are important to you in a college. Go to www.ICANSucceed.org for information on choosing a college.
- Review college and career resources at your high school.
- Plan to attend Golden Circle College Fair — Iowa's largest — Oct. 3 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. Visit www.ICANSucceed.org/collegefairs for date, time and information.
- If you're planning to play college sports, visit www.ncaaclearinghouse.net to register and complete the amateurism questionnaire.

October

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT.
- Attend a college fair and talk with college representatives to start researching potential colleges. Visit www.ICANSucceed.org for a link to local college fairs.
- Find information about Iowa colleges at www.ICANSucceed.org.
- Visit with your school counselor to discuss ways to increase your chances of being admitted to the college of your dreams.
- Attend an ICAN College Planning Night at your school. Ask your school counselor about time, date and location.

November

- Review brochures and catalogs from colleges that interest you. Make a list of 10 to 15 colleges that fit your requirements.
- Download the College Checklist from www.ICANSucceed.org to stay organized.
- Start planning to take the SAT and/or ACT® exams, if required. Familiarize yourself with registration deadlines and test dates. Check colleges' entrance requirements to see which test(s) you need to take.

December

- Research scholarships. Keep an ongoing file of scholarship and financial aid information (such as criteria, amounts, contact persons and deadlines). Check out www.ICANSucceed.org for free scholarship searches. Avoid scholarship searches that charge fees.
- Meet with college representatives at your school and keep looking at colleges online.
- Register now if you're planning to take the January SAT or February ACT. Pick up a study guide at a local bookstore or library.

January

- Begin scheduling visits to colleges.
- Organize scholarship information by deadline. Keep a calendar with application deadlines so you don't miss any.
- Register now if you're planning to take the March SAT. Pick up a study guide at a local bookstore or library.
- Become familiar with the financial aid process and forms. See Paying for College in the high school section of www.ICANSucceed.org.

February

- Keep saving money for college!
- Make sure you enroll in senior classes that fulfill the credits you need for college.
- Put together a resume listing your activities, volunteer experiences, academic achievements and employment.
- Register now for the April ACT if you plan to take it.

March

- It's time to schedule college visits. Download a helpful checklist at www.ICANSucceed.org.
- Arrange campus tours. During each college visit, meet with the admissions and financial aid offices.
- Talk to your school counselor about AP® courses and CLEP® tests. Consider taking honors or college-level classes.
- Register now for the May SAT if you plan to take it.

April

- If you take AP courses, consider AP exams.
- Compare your impressions of each college and rank them according to preference.
- Continue to search for scholarships.
- Find out about scholarships offered by your place of worship, civic and business groups in career fields that interest you.
- Register now for the June ACT or SAT.

May

- Narrow your college choices to five or fewer and highlight the important features at each.
- Take AP exams if you need to.
- Consider taking a summer course at a local college.
- Find a summer job related to your career interest or do community service.
- Polish your resume; if required, assemble writing samples, a portfolio or audition tape.

June

- If you haven't visited all the colleges on your list, schedule visits.
- Begin completing private scholarship applications.
- Save your summer earnings to pay for college.
- Serve your community — grades aren't the only thing colleges evaluate.
- Prospective student athletes: Ask your school counselor to send an official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

July

- Obtain college admission applications, and learn what they require.
- Prepare for your senior year.
- Consider which teachers, employers or other adults you'll ask to write letters of recommendation.
- Create a spending plan. It's easy to get in over your head. Talk with your parents to consider your options or learn more at www.ICANSucceed.org.