



Beginning in elementary school, I Know I Can College Advisors and volunteers encourage students like you to dream big, work hard, and achieve your dream of going to college.

To help you reach your goal, I Know I Can will provide all the tools you need to make college a reality. From advice on preparing for college to information on applying and paying for it, we'll be right by your side throughout the journey.

Please visit **iknowican.org** and **columbus.k12.oh.us** for more information and resources.



DREAM BIG. WORK HARD. WE'LL HELP.™

The I Know I Can College Planning Checklist is designed to help you make the most of your time in school and to prepare you for college. It's never too soon to start planning your future!

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11th Grade College Planning Checklist

FALL

- ❑ Attend Blueprint: College workshops with your family to learn more about getting ready for college and how to make the most of your high school years.
- ❑ Consult with your IKIC College Advisor and school counselor, who are there to offer advice and assistance to achieve your college goals.
- ❑ It's never too late to improve your grades. Colleges consider improvements in performance as well as grades.
- ❑ Sign up to meet with college representatives who visit your high school. Check I Know I Can's website for college tours or visits scheduled at the IKIC office.
- ❑ Register and prepare to take the ACT and/or SAT this year. By taking them early, you will have the opportunity to re-take them and improve your scores, if desired, before college applications are due. Talk to your I Know I Can College Advisor about prep courses and fee waivers for each test.
- ❑ Attend local college fairs. See your counselor for dates and times.
- ❑ If you are interested in one of the military academies, start the application process now. See your counselor for assistance.
- ❑ Develop your leadership skills by taking on more responsibility in your groups and activities. Participate in projects that help your school or community.
- ❑ Make sure you are enrolled in challenging courses required for graduation and college admission including English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Phys. Ed. /Health and Technology, as well as your Elective and Internship credits.
- ❑ It's not too late to consider College Credit Plus (CCP) and early college programs, which allow you to earn college credit while in high school.
- ❑ When you plan your senior class schedule, sign up for a full course load, including those courses you still need to graduate and prepare for college. If you make it a bit tougher on yourself now, you'll have an easier time later.
- ❑ Keep up with current events by reading whenever you can.
- ❑ Use the computer to help make the most of your time, and stay informed by using the Internet to gather information from a variety of sources.
- ❑ This year has a lot of deadlines. Be sure to keep things up to date in your student planner so you can stay on top of school work and extracurricular commitments.
- ❑ Attend the Blueprint: College High School workshops with your parents.
- ❑ Talk with you school counselor or IKIC advisor about taking the PSAT and how those results can lead to scholarship opportunities in the future.

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- Prepare for and take the ACT and SAT at least once in preparation for college applications and scholarships.
- Explore Naviance and begin aligning your future goals with the colleges that will help you reach them. Meet with you I Know I Can advisor to help guide you in your research.

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WINTER

- If you haven't done so yet, register for the ACT and/or SAT in the spring.
- Start thinking seriously about where you would like to go to college. Consider size, cost, location and academic programs.
- Visit colleges that you are considering. Talk to students and alumni from those colleges about their experiences.
- Research information about scholarships and financial aid. Keep a list of possible scholarships and their requirements in your college binder.
- Attend a Save Smart Individual Development Account information session with your parents/guardian.

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SPRING

- Take the ACT or SAT and discuss your scores with your counselor.
- Apply for a summer job and save most of your earnings for college. Be prepared to pay for college application and test fees in the fall.
- Even though it's a busy time, read, read, read—books, newspapers, magazines. Many are available online.
- Participate in summer academic enrichment programs. Ask your IKIC College Advisor or school counselor for more details.
- Create a list for your college binder including your high school sports, clubs, work and community service experiences along with honors, awards and AP or CCP classes. These will be important to include on college and scholarship applications. Ask you IKIC College Advisor or school counselor for help.
- Register with NCAA Clearinghouse if you are interested in participating in college sports. See your high school Athletic Director for details.
- Explore Naviance and begin aligning your future goals with the colleges that will help you reach them. Meet with your I Know I Can advisor to help guide you in your research.
- Attend I Know I Can's ACT Bootcamp over the summer to reach your greatest ACT score potential.

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SUMMER

- Register for the ACT or SAT if you are seeking a higher score.
- Look into college tours and visits you can make during your summer break.
- Narrow down your college list to about 4-6 schools.
- Begin your scholarship search—look at iknowican.org/scholarships for a full list.
- Begin writing college essays and looking at college websites for their academic and admission requirements. Note these in your college binder.
- Visit iknowican.org for more strategies and tips on how to complete this list.

