

Student success is possible, no matter where and how you are learning. Preparation is key for academic and financial success. The following checklist will set you up for success.

### DETERMINE IF YOU ARE READY

- Establish your goals. What do you want to do?
- Assess your priorities:
  - Do you have housing?
  - Are your basic needs able to be met?
  - Are you in recovery?
  - Is now a great time to pursue higher education?
- Create a school plan.
  - How many courses can you reasonably take at one time and be successful?
  - How long will it take you to complete the program?
  - How will you manage your time?
  - Do you have all the required technology?
  - Will you need to work while in school? If yes, what kind of job?

### GET PREPARED ACADEMICALLY

- Earn your high school credential.
- Complete any required placement testing.
- Brush up on skills to get ready.
  - Study skills
  - Math/reading/writing
  - Technology
- Consider a Work Ready program through Adult Education.

### RESEARCH CAREER & EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

- Examine transferrable skills.
- Update your resume and identify jobs or roles you enjoyed.
- Explore careers at [careeronestop.org](https://careeronestop.org), including things like roles and responsibilities, salary, and required education.
- Use [mainespark.me/adult-promise/adult-promise-hub](https://mainespark.me/adult-promise/adult-promise-hub) to find a college that offers programs you are interested in.

### GET PREPARED FINANCIALLY

- Identify the status of and resolve any issues with prior student loans. Check Federal Student Aid at [StudentAid.gov](https://StudentAid.gov).
- File the FAFSA at [FAFSA.gov](https://FAFSA.gov), search for scholarships, and make a plan to pay for college.
- Determine the cost of books and be prepared to purchase them.
- Create a budget to keep you financially on track during your program.

Visit the **Adult Learners** section of [FAMEMaine.com/Education](https://FAMEMaine.com/Education) for tips about education planning.

We're here to help Maine people reach their higher education goals.