



**Paving the Pathway: Steps for Helping Students Beyond
High School**

WILL BEGIN IN A MOMENT

While you wait...

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- ✓ College Pathway
- ✓ Time off
- ✓ Workforce Pathway
- ✓ Military Pathway
- ✓ No plan
- ✓ **Resources**

Post-graduation plans are NOT one-size-fits-all.

There **ARE** strategies for success in all pathways!



The majority of students I work with plan to do the following after graduation:

Go on to college (2 or 4 year)

Work

Gap year/time off

Military

No plan

No majority; overlap in plans or evenly split

- College- goers include:
 - Recent high school graduates
 - Adult learners/returning adult students
 - Transfer students



For all college-goers, a lot
is the same during the
transition...



What students need to do:

■ **Get Excited!**

- It's an exciting time; encourage students to celebrate their acceptance.
- Be their cheerleader to keep the momentum going
- Encourage them to show school spirit and share their accomplishment

■ Get Organized!

- Make sure they gather & complete all paperwork(many are time sensitive)
 - Deposit
 - Housing forms
 - Immunization records
 - Financial aid related paperwork
- Get registered for classes
- Create a plan to pay the bill



■ **Get Connected!**

- Activate and regularly check student email account and campus portal
- Participate in orientation (in-person or virtually)
- Follow their school's social media accounts
- Visit campus (in-person if able) and locate important offices:
 - Registrar
 - Financial aid
 - Billing
 - Student support center

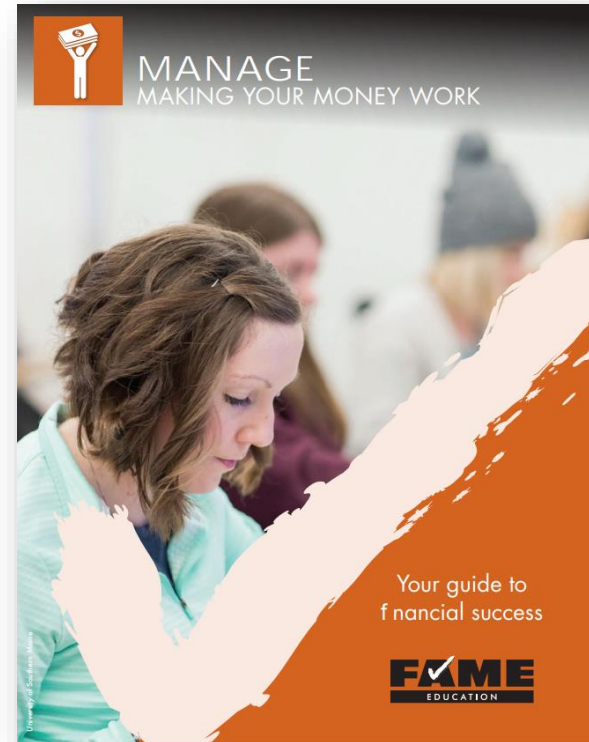
■ Get Funded!

- Confirm students have filed a FAFSA
- Have them complete all financial aid related paperwork in a timely manner
 - Verification
 - Promissory Notes & Loan items
 - Work study paperwork
- Review **scholarships**



■ Get Financially Fit!

- Encourage students to:
 - continue searching and applying for scholarships throughout the summer
 - work and save as much money as possible
 - open and/or contribute to a college savings plan
 - consider a payment plan to reduce remaining balance
- If students plan to borrow beyond federal loans, recommend they review credit score/history



...but some things are different, depending on what type of college-goer the student is.

- **Students who are transferring colleges and/or adults returning to college after a break:**
 - Obtain transcript(s) from prior college(s)
 - This may mean paying off old balances
 - Make sure new school is listed on the FAFSA
 - Make sure any prior loans are in good standing
 - Ask admissions for a Prior Learning Assessment
 - Connect with employer to ask about tuition assistance



Quick Poll

More students than “usual” are still unsure about college this fall due to the pandemic, financial issues, or other factors.

True or false?

Some students may not be ready to go to college just yet. That's okay. Here are some ways to guide them!

■ Gap year plan

- Encourage students to stay connected to college email, social media, news & events
- Connect with college to see if they need to reapply for admissions, if merit remains the same etc.
- Suggest ways to make the most of the gap year

- **Gap year plan**

- Strong gap year activities:





■ **“Figuring it out”**

- Students may not have a plan but may not be ready for next steps yet
- Suggest they think about their passions and interests; can they make money from it? Is there a related educational field?
- Suggest adult education offerings in their area
- Encourage career exploration...which brings us to...

The next step for some is going to work.



- **Areas for Career Exploration**
 - Career Center
 - Adult Education
 - Industry specific training such as Cianbro Institute
 - Maine Career Compass
 - Maine Community Colleges

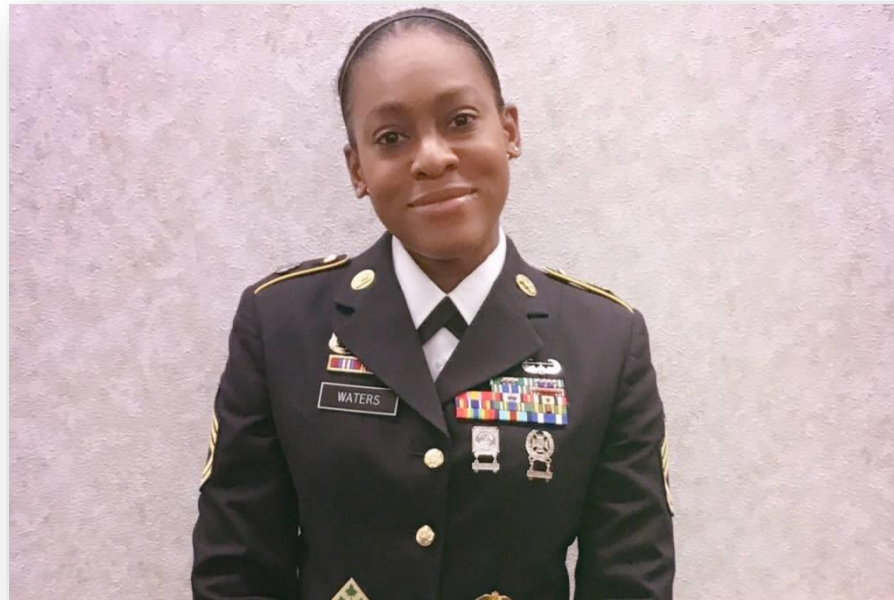
■ Students already working

- Encourage them to ask about tuition assistance for earning a credential of value
- Consider stackable workplace training/industry-specific certifications etc.
- Put emphasis on saving money; they may need to pay for education later



- **Long-term Career Planning**
 - Have them map out possible career paths
 - Remind them to examine transferrable skills
 - Consider pandemic impact
 - Discuss adding degrees/credentials for more earning & promotion potential

Let's not forget the military as an option!



- **Training AND Educational Opportunities**
 - Military service has the benefit of offering skills training AND educational training
 - Certain military roles/jobs can lead directly to a career after active duty
 - Students who are in the military may have access to education benefits to help them pay for their education

It's also possible that students might not have a plan at all!

■ **Present students with options**

- Ask what is holding them back from one of these pathways
- Suggest a job/military shadow
- Remind students that there is no right or wrong pathway or timeline
- Explain the benefits of each path
- Be a champion/cheerleader



- **Find ways to stay connected with students**
 - Encourage them to connect with school social media
 - Ask them to join alumni groups
 - Provide resources for each pathway
 - Find peer mentoring opportunities





Closing and Resources

FAME

<https://www.famemaine.com/education/>

https://www.famemaine.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/16_FAM_3580_PAY_0217.pdf

<https://www.famemaine.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Transition-to-College-Checklist.pdf>

<https://www.nextgenforme.com/>

Career Planning/Exploration

<https://www.careeronestop.org/>

<https://www.zippia.com/>

<https://fame.igrad.com/>

<https://www.onetonline.org/>

<https://www.mainecareercenter.gov/>

Gap/Time Off

<https://mainecareercatalyst.org/>

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/vcla/state/maine>

<https://www.volunteermaine.gov/>

Military

<https://www.me.ng.mil/>

<https://www.goarmy.com/>

<https://www.navy.com/>

<https://www.marines.com/>



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