Fall Financial Aid Training
Welcome and Keynote

PRESENTED BY

Mary Dyer, Education Affordability and Financial Wellness Manager
Mila Tappan, Education Affordability Training and Content Manager

Overview of the Day

- We'll be in this Zoom link for the entire event.
- After this session, we'll create the breakout rooms and you'll select your choice.
- When the session is done, we'll close the breakout rooms, you'll come back into this main room, and repeat!

FAME

Fall Virtual Financial Aid Training

Agenda

OCTOBER 30, 2026 • VIRTUAL SESSIONS

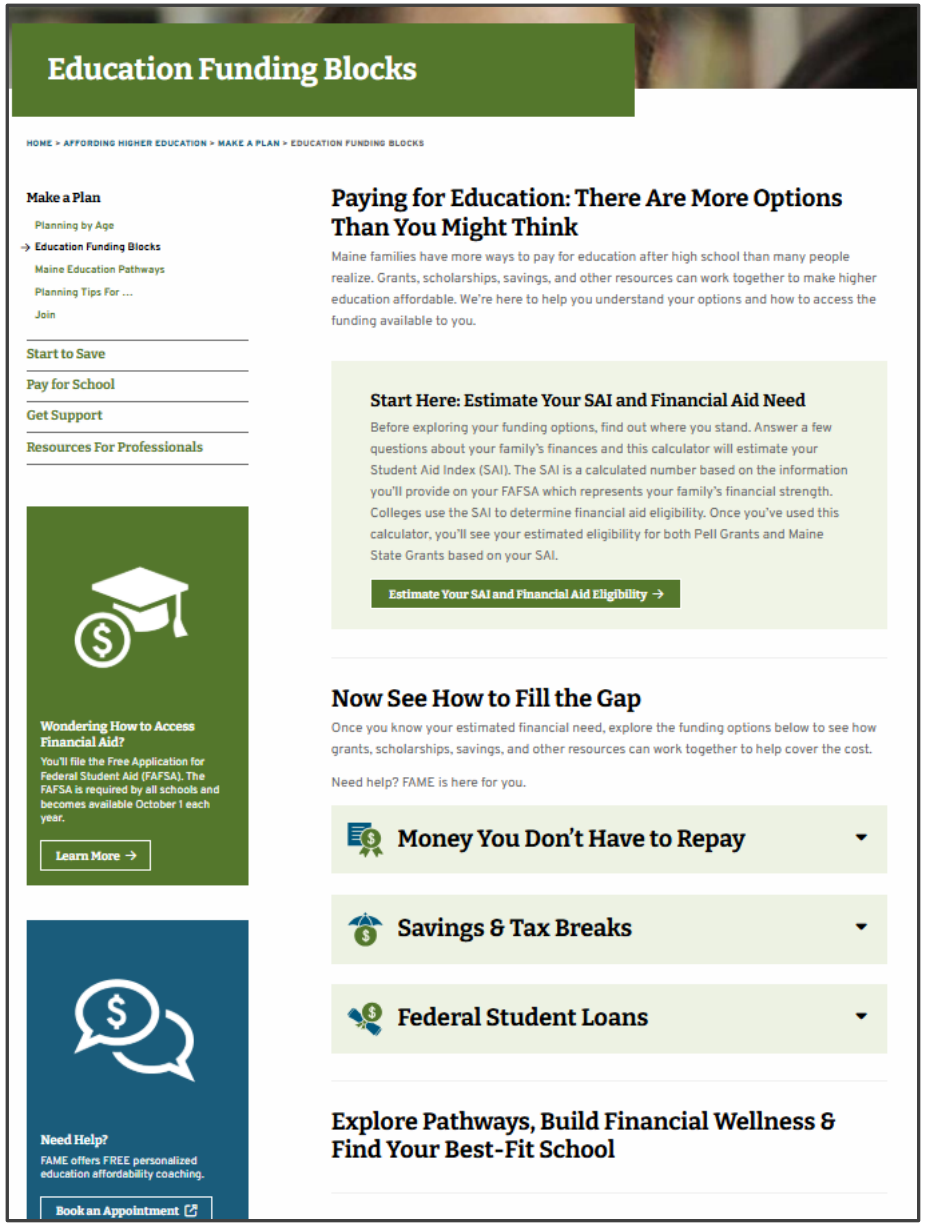
Session:	Option 1	Option 2
8:30 – 9:00	**Welcome and Keynote: Updates from the World of Financial Aid** **Presenters:** Mila Tappan and Mary Dyer	
9:05 - 9:55	**A. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – Part 1** **Presenters:** Floreka Mananga and Maire Pelletier **Moderator:** Mila Tappan	**B. Piecemeal Approach to Paying for Higher Education** **Presenters:** Jessica Whittier and Karin Parsons **Moderator:** Nikki Vachon
9:55 - 10:05	**BREAK**	
10:05 - 10:55	**C. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – Part 2** **Presenters:** Karin Parsons and Jessica Whittier **Moderator:** Sydney McLean	**D. Resources to Help Families Prepare to Pay for Higher Education** **Presenters:** Mila Tappan and Mary Dyer **Moderator:** Floreka Mananga
11:00-11:50	**E. Navigating the FAFSA in Unusual Circumstances** **Presenters:** Sydney McLean and Maire Pelletier **Moderator:** Jessica Whittier	**F. Helping Students & Families Navigate the New Student Loan Landscape** **Presenters:** Nikki Vachon and Mila Tappan **Moderator:** Mary Dyer
12:00 -12:15	**CLOSING and PRIZES!**	

Overview of the Day

- We'll be giving away a prize at the end of each session.
- Be sure to rename yourself so we'll know who you are if you win!
- At the end of the day, we'll all come back together for a short closing, and we'll give away a few more prizes.
- You must be present to win ☺!

New Resource!

- Check out our new *Education Funding Blocks* page at [Education Funding Blocks - FAME Maine]
- There you can:
  - Calculate your Student Aid Index (SAI)
  - Estimate Federal Pell Grant and Maine State Grant eligibility
  - Learn about multiple funding sources and more!



FAFSA Related Updates

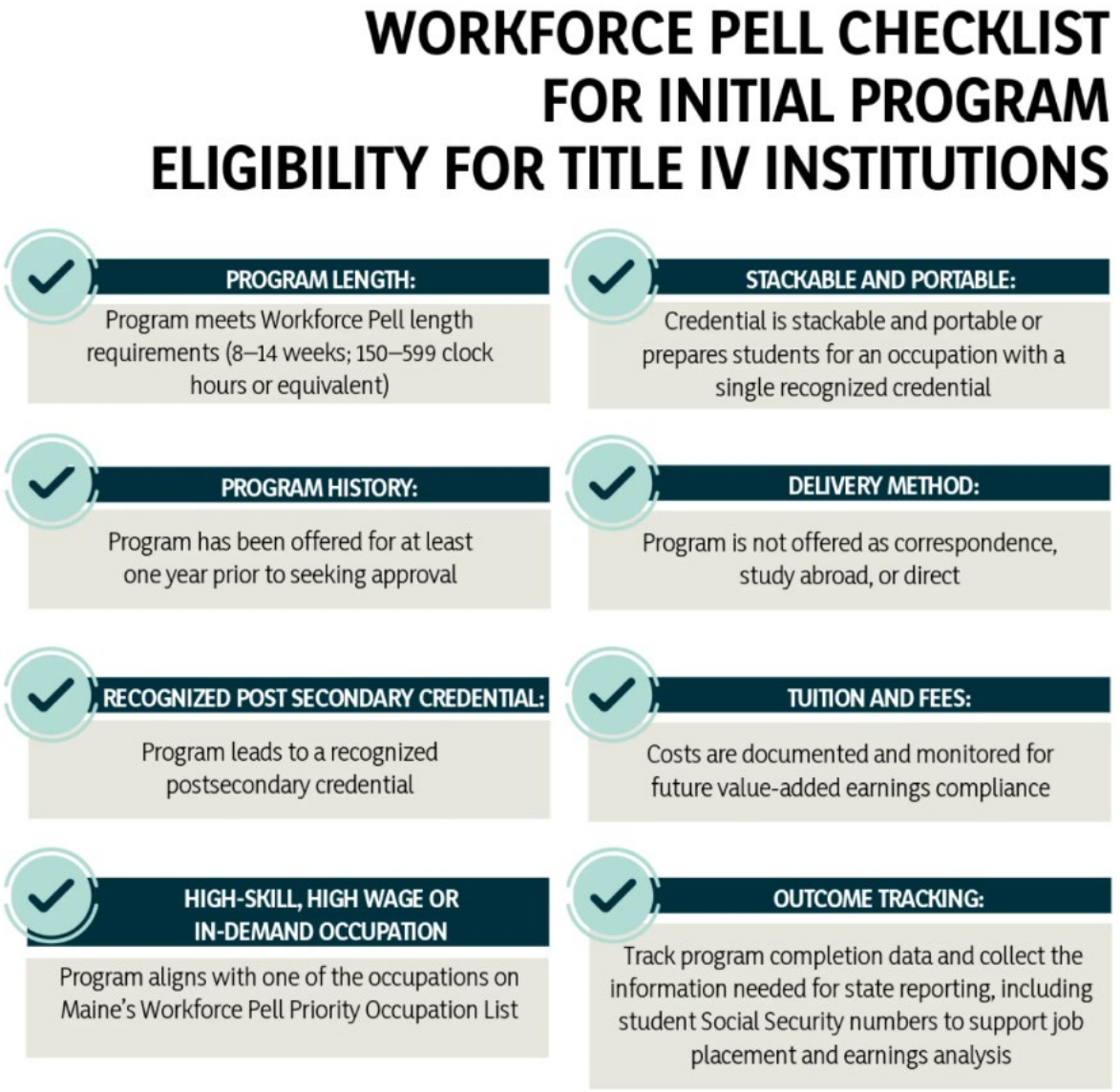
- StudentAid.gov account creation updates:
  - Flow of account creation has changed
  - No more challenge questions
  - Mobile phone numbers can be used across multiple accounts (up to five)
  - Phone number can no longer be used to log in in place of username
- FAFSA are being processed in real-time
- Identify verification – students should have their government issues photo ID handy

Student Loan Updates

- Borrowers in SAVE need to pick a new repayment plan.
- Enroll in autopay by December 31, 2026, to received 1% interest rate reduction through June 30, 2028.
- FAME Support:
  - Webpage with steps: Federal Student Loan Help - FAME Maine
  - Assistance through The Institute for Student Loan Advisors (TISLA): borrowers can email FAME@freestudentloanadvice.org or learn more about TISLA through their website.

Workforce Pell Update

- No programs have been approved
- Best source of information and location for program to apply is this Maine Department of Labor website: Workforce Pell | Work Source Maine
- Criteria is very strict



Workforce Pell Update

Applications can be submitted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed quarterly.

Year 1 Application Review Timeline

- Completed submissions received by **September 11, 2026** will be reviewed at the **September 25, 2026**, State Workforce Development Board meeting.
- Completed submissions received by **November 13, 2026** will be reviewed at the **December 11, 2026**, State Workforce Development Board meeting.
- Completed submissions received by **February 12, 2027** will be reviewed at the **March 12, 2027**, State Workforce Development Board meeting.
- Completed submissions received by **May 14, 2027** will be reviewed at the **June 11, 2027**, State Workforce Development Board meeting.

Upcoming Trainings

- Workforce Pell Training: date TBD
- Alfond Grant Training: date TBD
- Wednesday Webinars (second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 PM)
  - Student Loan Repayment – Here's What You Need to Know! (11/4/26)
  - Preparing Students for Scholarship Success (12/9/26)
- Financial Check-In w/ FAME (first Friday of the month at 12:00 PM)
  - The Student Loan Repayment Survival Guide (11/6/26)
  - More Than Just College - Exploring Education and Training Pathways (12/4/26)

Register at FAMEmaine.com/Events

Save the Date: Upcoming Trainings

- Education Affordability 101 (EA101) Training
  - Thursday, April 1, 2027
  - Augusta Civic Center
- Maine JumpStart Conference
  - Friday, May 7, 2027
  - August Civic Center

Questions?

Thank you for joining us today!

Find more FREE resources and information at **FAMEmaine.com/education**.

Follow Us:

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