



# Student Workbook

### **Account Creation**

## With the power of the Money Path app, you can chart a course to reach your lifelong career and financial goals. Use the directions below to get started!

- 1. Go to moneypathapp.org. DO NOT USE Internet Explorer as your browser.
- 2. Click on "Have a Class Code?".
- 3. Enter the code you were provided.
- 4. Complete registration information and set password. It is recommended you use your **personal email**, so you don't have to change it after graduation.
- 5. Log in.
  - Next time you log in, simply enter your email and password. No need to use the code again.



## **Tips for Getting Started**

Before you start making paths, become familiar with the different features of Money Path.

- 1. "How to Use Money Path" video Watch this video first. It will give you a quick overview of the whole app.
- 2. "Get Started" button After you've watched the video, click here to start building paths.
- 3. User Badge This menu is where you will find your account settings, saved paths, and other resources.



#### **Need Help?**

You can find the "How to Use Money Path" video in your User Badge menu. For more detailed directions, check out the "User Guide" which is in the same menu.

If your questions still aren't answered, email SecureFutures at <u>moneypathsupport@securefutures.org</u>.

## Saving and Comparing Paths

You can build multiple post-high school paths, save them, and compare the paths against each other.

- 1. You should start by creating at least 3 paths. You can start new paths from the "My Paths" page. Access the "My Paths" page by clicking on "My Paths" in the User Badge menu.
  - Be creative with your paths! Consider different careers or different majors. Create paths that are completely different from each other or ones that are similar, but have key differences, such as where you may go to college or how much you plan to put away for retirement each month. Pay attention to how the big AND small decisions can affect your financial future.
  - To download a PDF report of a path, first view the path, then, when you are on the "Path Profile" page, click the green printer button in the lower right corner.



2. To compare paths, go to the "My Paths" page and click "Compare Paths" at the top. Select the paths you want to compare, then click the green "Compare" button in the lower right corner.





## **Reflection Questions**

#### 1. Choose your Career or Major

- a. What are your observations regarding starting pay amounts based on what career you choose?
- b. How can different incomes impact your financial future?

#### 2. College Costs

a. How are college costs different based on the type and location of the school you choose as well as your room and board arrangement?

#### 3. Student Loans

- a. How do you feel about the estimated amount of student loans you may need to borrow?
- b. Do you know the amount your family or others may contribute each year toward your education costs?
- c. How can you reduce your student loan amount?

#### 4. Future Monthly Budget

- a. What are the top expense categories you changed and why?
- b. Did you change your savings amounts at all? Why?
- c. What are your observations about how much it costs to live independently?

#### 5. Goal Timeline

- a. How do you feel about your ability to fund your goals in a reasonable timeframe?
- b. What can you do if you want to achieve your goals sooner or want to save even more money than this?

#### 6. Retirement Savings Plan

- a. What is the amount of money you have after 40 years of contributing to your retirement savings account?
- b. What do you notice about how your money grows over the 40 years?

#### Summa

- a. ‡ will you discuss your plan with?
- b. What are you most excited about regarding your plan?
- c. What are you most concerned about regarding your plan?

#### **Additional Resources**

#### Military Pay

- Military pay is based on a set schedule based on the rank you achieve. Base pay is the same across all Service branches, and pay increases are based on rank and time in the Service.
- In Money Path, for **enlisted personnel**, we are assigning you the **average starting pay in year five** of your military career. It includes your base pay and housing allowance. This is the amount you will use to create your budget later in the app.
- For officers, we are assigning you the average starting pay in year one of your military career.

#### **Military Education Repayment Programs**

Military repayment programs are provided by most branches of the military to help officers repay their student loans. You will have an opportunity in the app to factor this in to help pay for any student loans you may need to pay for your college education.

https://www.military.com/education/money-for-school/student-loan-repayment.html

Enlisted personnel are also eligible for significant education and training support based on the length of their service.

https://www.military.com/education/gi-bill/20-top-fags-for-the-new-gi-bill.html#4

#### Apprenticeships in the Skilled Trades

There are many opportunities for apprenticeships in the skilled trades. Apprenticeship is a career pathway where individuals can earn and learn at the same time! It includes:

- Paid job: Earn a competitive wage from day one.
- Education: on-the-job learning and job-related classroom training.
- Credentials: Earn a portable, nationally-recognized credential within your industry.

#### https://www.apprenticeship.gov/become-apprentice

#### Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The first step to accessing financial aid is to complete the FAFSA. Before each year of college, apply for federal grants, work-study, and loans with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. Your college uses your FAFSA data to determine your federal aid eligibility. Many states and colleges use FAFSA data to award their own aid. After submission, you'll receive your Student Aid Report. Be sure to complete the FAFSA by the deadline. Many states and colleges set priority deadlines by which you must submit the FAFSA form to be considered for the aid programs they administer. There is also a federal deadline each academic year.

#### https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

#### **Scholarships**

Some scholarships for college are merit-based. You earn them by meeting or exceeding certain standards set by the scholarship-giver. Merit scholarships might be awarded based on academic achievement or on a combination of academics and a special talent, trait, or interest. Other scholarships are based on financial need.

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https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/scholarships
https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/tools/scholarship-search/
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SecureFutures empowers teenagers with the knowledge, tools, and mentoring for a lifetime of financial capability. Our engaging volunteers, dynamic schools, and generous supporters share a vision of stronger communities built by an investment in "money smart" teens.

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