

Money Coach Week 10: Life After High School

Vocabulary

Know the Lingo—Your Money, Your Path, Your Future!

MINDSET Reminders for Life after High School

- “Not all paths look the same, **but they all need a plan.**”
 - “Debt is not a default setting. **Choose wisely.**”
 - “**Success = doing what’s right for YOU**, not just what’s trendy.”
 - “You can always pivot, **but start with purpose.**”
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COLLEGE & CERTIFICATES

- Financial Aid: Money to help pay for school — grants, scholarships, loans, work-study. Start with FAFSA: it’s the key to unlocking a lot of aid.
 - FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Opens the door to federal grants, loans, and work-study money. 👉 Apply every year — it’s free.
 - Scholarship: Free money for school that you **don’t** have to pay back. Based on grades, community work, identity, or your talents.
 - Grant: Also, free money, usually need-based. Example: Pell Grant = big help for low-income students.
 - Student Loan: Borrowed money for school, you **do** have to pay back (with interest). *Federal loans > private loans (safer and more flexible).*
 - Subsidized Loan: The government pays your interest **while you’re in school**. *Best kind of loan to take out.*
 - Unsubsidized Loan: You’re responsible for all the interest, even while you’re in school. *More expensive over time.*
 - Work-Study: Part-time job (on or off campus) that helps pay for college. *Included in financial aid offers if you qualify.*
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TRADES / APPRENTICESHIPS

- Apprenticeship: A paid job where you learn a skilled trade (plumbing, electrical, HVAC, etc.) while working. *Earn money while you learn. No debt.*
- Trade School / Technical College: Short-term programs to learn job-specific skills (usually 6 months–2 years). *Lower cost, faster job entry.*
- Union: An organization that protects workers’ rights, wages, and benefits, common in trades. *Unions can lead to better pay and job security.*
- Certification: A document that proves you’ve learned a specific skill or trade. *Ex: CNA, Welding Certificate, CompTIA for IT.*

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WORKFORCE

- Resume: A document that highlights your education, skills, and experience. *Your first impression at any job; update it often!*
 - References: People who can speak to your work ethic or character. *Ask permission before listing someone.*
 - Interview: A meeting with an employer to see if you're a good fit. *Prep, dress the part, and ask questions, too.*
 - Hourly Wage: Pay based on hours worked (Ex: \$15/hour). *Multiply by hours/week to estimate income.*
 - Salary: A fixed yearly pay (Ex: \$45,000/year), not based on hours worked. *Includes sick days, holidays, etc.*
 - Taxes: Money taken from your paycheck to fund government programs (Social Security, Medicare, etc.). *You'll see this on your pay stub.*
 - Digital Footprint: Everything you post or do online can impact jobs, scholarships, and more. *Protect your rep.*
 - Networking: Building relationships with people who can help with jobs, internships, or advice. *It's not just what you know, it's who you know.*
 - Soft Skills: Personal traits like communication, time management, and teamwork. *Critical for success in any path.*
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MILITARY PATHWAY

- Enlistment Bonus: Cash offered for joining certain branches or roles in the military. *It can be thousands of dollars, but read the fine print on the contract.*
 - GI Bill: Pays for college or trade school after military service. *Includes tuition, housing, and books, a HUGE benefit.*
 - Basic Training: First stage of military service, physical and mental prep. *It's tough, but it transforms you.*
 - Reserve / National Guard: Part-time military service with training a few weekends a month and 2 weeks a year. *Good option if you want to stay close to home.*
 - MOS (Military Occupational Specialty): Your specific job in the military, from IT to medics to mechanics. *This skill can transfer to civilian careers later.*
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