



# Pathways Program

*Preparing and supporting students along their path from high school to career.*

When students join Quest Forward Academy, they are focused on succeeding in high school.

But success in high school only matters if it leads to success in the path beyond school. Their years at Quest Forward Academy will enable them to lay the foundation necessary for this success, preparing them for their path into further learning and career and a life of purpose.

But what will that path be? How will they figure out which path to follow?

At the Academy, each new student begins the work on defining their longer-term path the day they join the school. Through the Pathways Program, students identify, explore, and develop their long-term career trajectory.

**The Pathways Program supports Quest Forward Academy students during high school, and extends 6 years beyond graduation, through college and into their first full-time job.**



The Pathways Program is built on 4 pillars:

### **1. College and Career Counseling**

Every year, students explore interests, identify skills, and formulate long-term goals pertaining to college and career. These activities, guided by their Quest Forward Academy Counselor, consider student interests, passions, academic capabilities, and economic goals. The process, which continues through their time at the Academy, leads to applications to colleges or universities, or to training programs or military service, as appropriate for each student.

### **2. Internships**

During their last 2 years at the Academy, students will complete at least 2 internships at local, regional, or national organizations or companies. Internships can last a few weeks, a summer, or span the full academic year. The Academy Internship Coordinator will ensure that students select relevant internships consistent with their counseling profile and long-term goals.

### **3. Post-High School Support**

In their final terms at the Academy, students connect with a Pathways Program Counselor, who will support them through the transition from Quest Forward Academy to their next step, with counseling, grade reviews, suggestions for summer work, and more. Students will be supported up to 6 additional years after high school to ensure they find success along their chosen path.

### **4. Career Support**

As Quest Forward Academy alumni are ready to embark upon their chosen career, the Pathways Program team will provide support for job selection, resume development, interviewing skills, networking, and more, helping each Academy graduate identify and secure a suitable, interest-aligned job. This support will continue through their first 2 years in their chosen position.

The Pathways Program is open to all Quest Forward Academy students, at no cost to them or their families. The Pathways Program is funded by Opportunity Education's Founder and CEO, Joe Ricketts.

Graduating from high school, gaining admission to a suitable college, trade school, job with training opportunities, or the military, and finding an appropriate career — these are all challenging steps in the growth of a young adult. The Pathways Program is designed to support Quest Forward Academy students through each of these steps.

**The mission of Quest Forward Academy is to enable young adults to gain the mindset, habits, and skills they need to succeed and achieve their dreams.**

*The Pathways Program will help to get them there.*