



Life After M.Ed.

Imagining all the possibilities:

Strategies to help you get a job after your M.Ed.



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Let's Dream – Think about the following:

- What does your perfect job look like?
- Who are you working with? (developmental level)
- What is the setting?
- What is the nature of the work that you are doing?
Ex. organizing, helping, teaching, supporting, creating, mediating, planning, guiding, leading, inspiring...
- Think about your preferred context. Where are you working?
Ex. School, community hospital, business, privately for families...



Complete the following:

- I am working in a ... (context)
- I am working with ... (developmental level)
- I am doing ... (nature of your work)
- Each day I ... (a day in the life of your job)





Now let's look at gaps that exist

Identify gaps from childhood and into adulthood in your preferred context and with regard to the nature of the work you identified.

- Focus on the following:
 - Context (community centre, school)
 - Nature of the work (coaching, teaching)
 - Development level (young children, teens)
- Examples:
 - Parents who had no one to go to for help understanding the IEP process.
 - Parents in need of respite.
 - Parents concerned about the lack of activity for their children.
 - Teachers in need of ongoing and focused daily support to meet the needs of all students.





Keep in mind:

- Was there a lack of services, places for individuals to seek support?
- Was there a lack of support personnel?
- Were there specific groups that lacked support (preschool, children, teenagers)?





Now comes the brainstorming:

- Going back to your preferred context, developmental level and the nature of your work, and in light of specific gaps, how might you alter your dream job?
- Make a connection between you dream job, your passion and the gaps that exist.





Complete the following with all of the information gathered:

- I want to work in the following setting(s)
- I want to work with the following developmental level(s)
- This is the nature of the work I would like to do.

Now you can be more specific given the gaps that exist





Be creative! Resolve a problem that exists:

- I could expand my development level to include...
- I could add to the context by...
- The nature of work I could do could be...





Communicating your goal

- Try to write out (or share with a partner) in a four sentence explanation, the work you want to do. Explain the imperative for this work based on your life experience from childhood and into adulthood.
- Be specific about the nature of work you want to do and will excel at, and the imperative for this work: Who will you be helping? What will you be doing? In what way will you be addressing such a critical need?





Making the most out of your M.Ed.

Take every opportunity to speak, ask questions, learn, write, present in your area of interest

- Write papers about your area of interest
- Choose the project option, focus on your area of interest
- Do classroom presentations in your area of interest
- Create a group of colleagues, present to one another in your area of interest
- Visit sites that seem to be doing work that you are interested in
- Ask classmates, professors about examples of sites, contexts that are models of best practice
- Find classmates who have similar interests, work together





To summarize

- Take the time to hone in on the context, developmental level and nature of work that you find most interesting and rewarding
- Think about gaps that exist and fine tune your areas of interest based on these gaps
- Make sure you can articulate your dream job and speak about the imperative for this work based on gaps that exist
- Take every opportunity to further your interest, dream job throughout your M.Ed.

