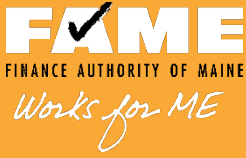


WELCOME

NEW MAINERS



Getting Ready for College What Parents and Students Need to Know

It's important to keep in mind that many New Mainers may:

- be the first person in their family to attend college;
- attend college part-time so that they can earn money to support their family, and/or
- take an "un-traditional path."

Understanding what colleges are looking for: It's important to explain to students what colleges are looking for, the different elements of a college application process, and how much weight each element carries. Colleges will often ask for scores from the SAT, ACT and/or for English second language students to take the TOFEL test. Student should also fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Understanding the differences between kinds of institutions: First-generation students may not be familiar with the difference between two-year community colleges and four-year colleges or universities, as well as the difference between public and private schools. Depending on the student's financial situation, family structure, and academic success, they may consider one kind of school rather than another.

- **Private school:** These schools are also known as independent, privately funded or non-state schools and are not administered by local, state or national governments.
- **Public school:** These schools are supported in part by public funds.
- **Community college:** A two-year school similar to a junior college.

Writing student essays: Most teachers can help students think about strong topics for their student essays. One common recommendation is that students reflect on the challenges they have faced in their personal or academic life in their essay. A good place to start is by talking with your English teacher. It is also a good idea to start over the summer so you'll have more time to edit and proofread your essay.

Choosing a course of study: Students may not be ready to choose a major when they enter college, and that's okay. Talking with students and let them know that exploring different majors can help or they can go in as undeclared.

Special Programs

There are many federal programs designed to help first-generation college students and/or those from low income families prepare for college. Programs such as Upward Bound, TRIO, and GEAR UP are often available through high schools and local colleges and universities.

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