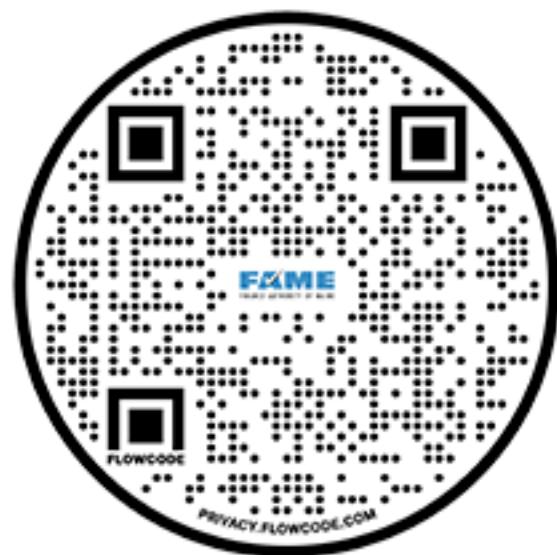


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# Understanding and Comparing Financial Aid Offers

February 11th, 2026

PRESENTED BY

**Maire Pelletier**, Education Affordability and Financial Wellness Counselor

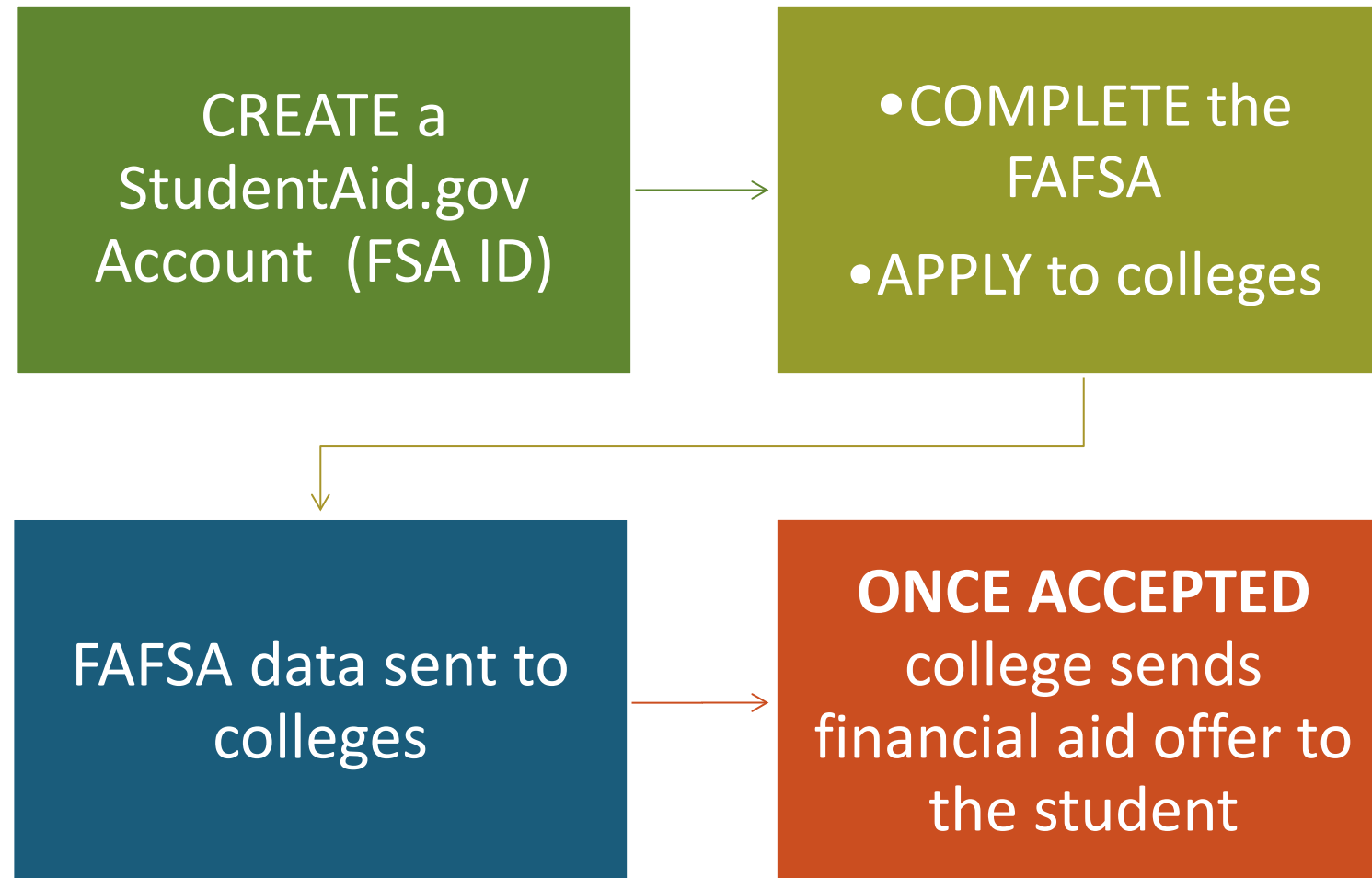


## Today's Topics

- Where we are in the financial aid process
- Net price vs. sticker price
- Determining financial “need”
- Reviewing and understanding financial aid offers
- Helpful tools
- Paying the rest of the balance
  - Scholarship
  - Savings
  - Loans
- Special Circumstances/Appeals
- Additional thoughts



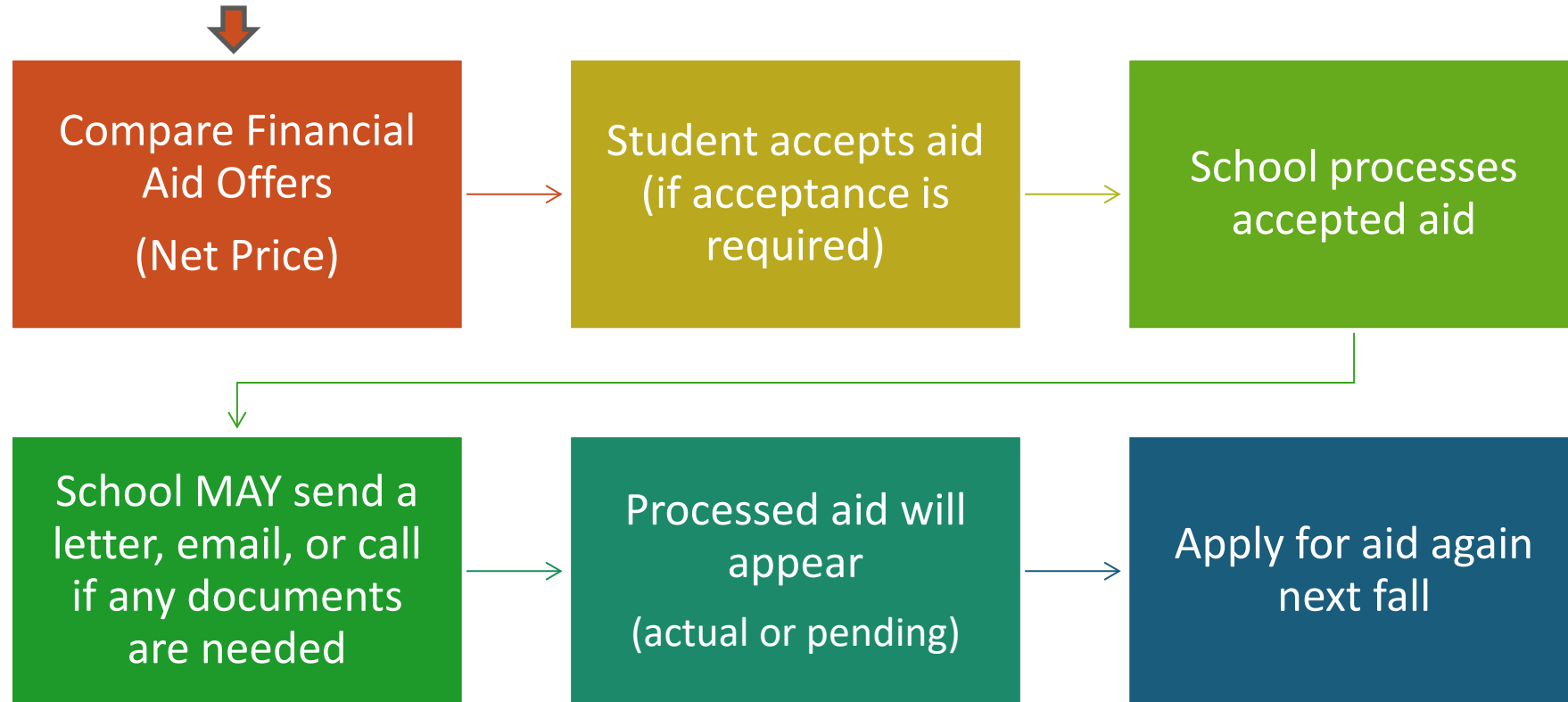
# Financial Aid Process Review





# Financial Aid Process Review

Here's where many students now (likely)....





# Net Price vs. Sticker Price and Determining Need

## Net Price

- Annual cost of attendance minus grants, scholarships, tuition waivers, and any other gift aid a student receives.
- The net price is student specific based on each school's resources.

## Sticker Price/COA

- Total cost of attendance (COA) encompassing yearly expense for a specified school - not taking aid into account.



# How Schools Determine Need?

## How do schools determine the aid a student receives?

- All schools use the following formula:

$$\text{COA} - \text{SAI} = \text{NEED}$$

- The Cost of Attendance (**COA**) includes direct and indirect expenses.
- The Student Aid Index (**SAI**) is determined when the student files the FAFSA.
- Because COA varies, **need** varies by school.



Financial Aid Offers



What does this mean??

03/22/2025

**University of Maine (UMAINE)**  
Undergraduate College Financing Plan

	On Campus Residence	Off Campus Residence
<b>Total Cost of Attendance 2025-2026</b>	\$13,686	
Tuition and Fees	\$14,114	\$1,000
Housing and Food		\$1,100
Books and Supplies		\$1,170
Transportation		
Other Education Costs	\$31,070 / yr	
<b>Estimated Cost of Attendance</b>		

**Student Aid Index**  
Based on the FAFSA  
As calculated by the institution using information reported on the FAFSA or to your institution.  
Based on Institutional Methodology  
Used by many private institutions in addition to the FAFSA.

**Scholarship and Grant Options**  
Scholarships and Grants are considered "Gift" aid - no repayment is needed.

Scholarships	Amount
Ment-Based Scholarships	\$7,000
Scholarships From Your School	\$0
Scholarships From Your State	\$0
Other Scholarships	\$0
Employer Paid Tuition Benefits	\$7,000 / yr
<b>Total Scholarships</b>	

**Grants**

Grants	Amount
Need-Based Grant Aid	
Federal Pell Grants	
Institutional Grants	
State Grants	
Other Forms of Grant Aid	
<b>Total Grants</b>	

**VA Education Benefits**  
VA Education Benefits

**College Costs You Will Be Required to Pay**  
Net Price To You  
Total cost of attendance minus total grants and total scholarships  
You must repay loans, plus interest and fees.

**Loan Options\***

Loan Options*	Amount
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan (6.53% interest rate) (1.06% origination fee)	\$0 / yr
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (6.53% interest rate) (1.06% origination fee)	\$5,500 / yr
<b>Total Loan Options</b>	

\* For federal student loans, origination fees are deducted from loan proceeds.

**Other Options**  
You may have other options to repay the remaining costs. These include:

- Tuition payment plan offered by the institution
- Parent PLUS loans, which your parent can apply for
- Non-Federal Private education loan, which you or your parent can apply for after passing a credit check
- Other Military or National Service Benefits

**Customized Information from UMAINE**  
The estimated figures on this Financial Aid College Financing Plan are meant to help you easily compare financial aid packages offered by different institutions, and ultimately make an informed decision on where to invest in your higher education. Although we've done our best to accurately calculate these figures, please remember these are only estimates. Should you choose to attend our institution, your final

**Work Options**

Work Options	Amount
Work-Study Hours Per Week (estimated)	
Other Campus Job	
<b>Total Work</b>	

**For More Information**  
University of Maine  
Office of Student Financial Services  
5781 Wingate Hall  
Orono, ME 04469-5781  
Telephone: 207-581-1324  
E-mail: um.sfs@maine.edu

**\* Loan Amounts**  
Note that the amounts listed are about loan repayment of monthly payment, go to: [https://www.finaid.org/loans/repayment/plans](#)

**NORTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Campus: Northern Maine Community College  
Program of Study: Liberal Studies  
Academic Year: 1 - 08/26/24 to 05/07/25  
Printed Date: 03/04/2025

### Financial Aid Overview

Estimated Direct Cost to Institution	Grants & Scholarships	Loans (Net Amount)	Other funding	Estimated Remaining Cost
\$6,996.00	\$9,895.00	\$990.00	\$0.00	-\$3,889.00

### Cost of Attendance (Estimated)

This estimate is based on fulltime attendance for one academic year. This is not a bill.

Estimated Direct Costs	Charges by institution	Estimated Indirect Costs	Non-institution expenses	Estimated Cost of Attendance Direct + Indirect Costs
Tuition	\$5,596.00	Bank Fees	\$10.00	\$16,170.00
Books & Supplies	\$1,400.00	Food & Housing	\$3,070.00	
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$6,996.00</b>	Transportation	\$2,198.00	
		Personal	\$3,896.00	
		<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$9,174.00</b>	

### Grants & Scholarships

Funding Description	Award Year	Total Amount	Total Grants & Scholarships
Federal Pell Grant	2024-25	\$7,395.00	\$9,895.00
State of Maine Grant	2024-25	\$2,500.00	
<b>Total Grants &amp; Scholarships</b>		<b>\$9,895.00</b>	

Your estimated Net Cost (Cost of Attendance - Grants & Scholarships): **\$6,275.00**

### Loans & Work-Study

Funding Description	Net Amount	Fee	Gross Amount	Total Loans
Federal Direct	\$990.00	\$10.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Unsubsidized Loan				
<b>Total Loans</b>	<b>\$990.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	
<b>Total Federal Work Study</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Total Federal Work Study \$0.00</b>

Your estimated Net Cost (Cost of Attendance - Grants & Scholarships, Loans & Work-Study): **\$5,275.00**

### Other Funding

Funding Description	Total Amount	Total Other Funding
Federal Direct	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Other Funding</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

Your estimated Net Cost (Cost of Attendance - Grants & Scholarships, Loans, Work-Study and Other): **\$5,275.00**

**HUSSON UNIVERSITY**

**Estimated 2025-2026 Cost of Attendance (COA)**

Budget Category	Amount
Tuition and Fees	\$24,886
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$24,886</b>
Budget Category	Amount
Food & Housing	\$11,000
Books & Supplies	\$1,150
Cellaneous	\$1,200
Transportation	\$1,200
Isportation	\$50
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$14,600</b>
<b>Estimated Total Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$39,486 / year</b>

Costs are additional expenses that contribute to a student's cost of attendance, but are not charged to the student by Husson.

### Scholarships (gift aid)

Grant(s)	Fall25	Spring26	Total
Single Grant	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$3,200
Transfer Academic Award	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Scholarship	\$4,643	\$4,643	\$9,286
Grant	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$600</b>
	\$3,698	\$3,697	\$7,395
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,241</b>	<b>\$12,240</b>	<b>\$24,481</b>

Out-of-pocket cost (d): \$405

### Cost back by borrower

Loan	Fall25	Spring26	Total
Unsubsidized Loan	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$3,500
Subsidized Loan	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,750</b>	<b>\$4,750</b>	<b>\$9,500</b>

Subject to origination

### Student account

Account	Amount
Student account	\$-9095
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>

Still eligible to work on information sheet for

Financial Aid Offer for: XXXXXXXX  
Student ID: 0000000

**YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFER IS BASED ON:**

- Federal Student Aid Index (SAI) from the FAFSA: \$1,500
- Housing Plan: Off campus housing
- Enrollment: Full Time

Should your enrollment or housing plans change, please indicate that on the Offer Acceptance Form or contact the Office of Financial Aid.

**Your Total Financial Aid Offer is: \$37,981**

This offer represents the maximum amount of institutional, federal, and state aid for which you are eligible. Your offer is based on the number of credits in which you enroll, housing status, and other fees associated with each program.

**\*\* THIS IS NOT A BILL \*\***


Information about your awards:

- Federal Work Study is NOT credited to your student account.
- The Pine Tree Grant is awarded to incoming domestic students from states other than Maine.



The financial aid offer may have some combination of the following:

- **Direct Costs = billed to you**
- **Indirect Costs = not billed by the school-based on average - you have more control over these expenses**
- **Gift Aid (funds that don't have to be repaid)**
  - Grants funded by federal or state gov and/or school
  - Scholarships funded by federal or state gov and/or school
  - Tuition Waivers or Housing Waivers
- **Self Help Aid (funds that must be earned or repaid)**
  - Loans funded by federal government and/or school
  - Work-Study



Student:  
Student Number:  
Campus: Northern Maine Community College  
Program of Study: Liberal Studies  
Academic Year: 1 - 08/26/24 to 05/07/25  
Printed Date: 03/04/2025

### Financial Aid Overview

Estimated Direct  
Cost to Institution  
\$6,996.00

-

Grants &  
Scholarships  
\$9,895.00

-

Loans (Net  
Amount)  
\$990.00

-

Other funding  
\$0.00

=

Estimated  
Remaining Cost  
-\$3,889.00

#### Cost of Attendance (Estimated)

This estimate is based on full-time attendance for one academic year. This is not a bill.

Estimated Direct Costs		Estimated Indirect Costs		Estimated Cost of Attendance Direct + Indirect Costs
	Charges by institution		Non-institution expenses	
Tuition .....	\$5,596.00	Bank Fees .....	\$10.00	<b>\$16,170.00</b>
Books & Supplies .....	\$1,400.00	Food & Housing .....	\$3,070.00	
Total Direct Costs .....	\$6,996.00	Transportation .....	\$2,198.00	
		Personal .....	\$3,896.00	
		Total Indirect Costs .....	\$9,174.00	

#### Grants & Scholarships

Funding Description	Award Year	Total Amount
Federal Pell Grant	2024-25	\$7,395.00
State of Maine Grant	2024-25	\$2,500.00
Total Grants & Scholarships		\$9,895.00

Total Grants & Scholarships  
**\$9,895.00**

Your estimated Net Cost (Cost of Attendance - Grants & Scholarships):  
**\$6,275.00**

#### Loans & Work-Study

Funding Description	Net Amount	Fee	Gross Amount
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$990.00	\$10.00	\$1,000.00
Total Loans	\$990.00	\$10.00	\$1,000.00
Total Federal Work Study			\$0.00

Total Loans  
**\$1,000.00**

Total Federal Work Study  
**\$0.00**

Your estimated Net Cost (Cost of Attendance - Grants & Scholarships, Loans & Work-Study):  
**\$5,275.00**

#### Other Funding

Funding Description	Total Amount
Total Other Funding	\$0.00

Total Other Funding  
**\$0.00**

Your estimated Net Cost (Cost of Attendance - Grants & Scholarships, Loans, Work-Study and Other):  
**\$5,275.00**



# Understanding the Parts

The financial aid offer will have some combination of the following:

- **Student Aid Index (SAI)**
  - This is a result of filing the FAFSA and the same at all schools
- **Loan terms**
  - Loan amount and interest rates
- **Other funding options**
  - Tuition payment plan
  - PLUS Loans
  - Private Loans

**MAINE University of Maine (UMAINE)** Undergraduate College Financing Plan 03 / 22 / 2025

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**Total Cost of Attendance 2025-2026**

	On Campus Residence	Off Campus Residence
Tuition and Fees		\$13,686
Housing and Food	\$14,114	
Books and Supplies		\$1,000
Transportation		\$1,100
Other Education Costs		\$1,170
<b>Estimated Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$31,070 / yr</b>	

---

**Student Aid Index**

Based on the FAFSA  
As calculated by the institution using information reported on the FAFSA or to your institution. 31,604 / yr

Based on Institutional Methodology  
Used by many private institutions in addition to the FAFSA. 0 / yr

---

**Scholarship and Grant Options**  
Scholarships and Grants are considered "Gift" aid - no repayment is needed.

Scholarships	Grants
<b>Ment-Based Scholarships</b>	<b>Need-Based Grant Aid</b>
Scholarships From Your School \$7,000	Federal Pell Grants \$0
Scholarships From Your State \$0	Institutional Grants \$0
Other Scholarships \$0	State Grants \$0
Employer Paid Tuition Benefits \$0	Other Forms of Grant Aid \$0
<b>Total Scholarships \$7,000 / yr</b>	<b>Total Grants \$0 / yr</b>

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**VA Education Benefits**

VA Education Benefits \$0 / yr

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**College Costs You Will Be Required to Pay**

**Net Price To You** \$24,070 / yr  
Total cost of attendance minus total grants and total scholarships

---

**Loan and Work Options to Pay the Net Price to You**  
You must repay loans, plus interest and fees.

Loan Options*	Work Options
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan (6.53% interest rate) (1.06% origination fee) \$0 / yr	Work-Study \$0 / yr
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (6.53% interest rate) (1.06% origination fee) \$5,500 / yr	Hours Per Week (estimated) 20 / wk
<b>Total Loan Options \$5,500 / yr</b>	Other Campus Job \$0 / yr
	<b>Total Work \$0 / yr</b>

---

**Other Options**  
You may have other options to repay the remaining costs. These include:

- Tuition payment plan offered by the institution
- Parent PLUS loans, which your parent can apply for
- Non-Federal Private education loan, which you or your parent can apply for after passing a credit check
- Other Military or National Service Benefits

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**For More Information**  
University of Maine  
Office of Student Financial Services  
5781 Wingate Hall  
Orono, ME 04469-5781  
Telephone: 207-581-1324  
E-mail: um.sfs@maine.edu

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**\* Loan Amounts**  
Note that the amounts listed are the maximum available to you. To learn about loan repayment choices and calculate your Federal Loan monthly payment, go to: <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/plans>

---

**Customized Information from UMAINE**  
The estimated figures on this Financial Aid College Financing Plan are meant to help you easily compare financial aid packages offered by different institutions, and ultimately make an informed decision on where to invest in your higher education. Although we've done our best to accurately calculate these figures, please remember these are only estimates. Should you choose to attend our institution, your final

**Estimated 2025-2026 Cost of Attendance (COA)**

Budget Category	Amount
Tuition and Fees	\$24,886
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$24,886</b>
Budget Category	Amount
Food & Housing Off	\$11,000
Books & Supplies	\$1,150
Miscellaneous	\$1,200
Transportation	\$1,200
Loan fees	\$50
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$14,600</b>
<b>Estimated Total Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$39,486 /year</b>

\*\*Indirect costs are additional expenses that contribute to a student's cost of attendance, but are not charged to the student by Husson.

**Grants and Scholarships (gift aid)**

	Fall25	Spring26	Total
<b>Institutional Grant(s)</b>			
Husson Eagle Grant	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$3,200
Husson Transfer Academic Award	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
U&Husson Scholarship	\$4,643	\$4,643	\$9,286
PineTree Grant	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
<b>Federal Grant(s)</b>			
FSEOG	\$300	\$300	\$600
Pell Grant	\$3,698	\$3,697	\$7,395
<b>Total Grant(s)</b>	<b>\$12,241</b>	<b>\$12,240</b>	<b>\$24,481</b>

Estimated net out-of-pocket cost (direct cost – gift aid)	<b>\$405</b>
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**Loan Options (to be paid back by borrower)**

	Fall25	Spring26	Total
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$3,500
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,750</b>	<b>\$4,750</b>	<b>\$9,500</b>

\*Direct Loan amounts are subject to origination fees of 1.057% until 9/30/2025

<b>Estimated net price, including loans</b>	<b>\$-9095</b>
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**Work Options\*\*\* (not applied to student account)**

	Total
Federal Work-Study	\$4,000
<b>Total Work-Study</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>

If no amount appears above, you are still eligible to work on campus. See the enclosed Important Information sheet for more information.

Financial Aid Offer for: xxxxxxxx  
Student ID: 0000000

**YOUR FINANACIAL AID OFFER IS BASED ON:**

Federal Student Aid Index (SAI) from the FAFSA:

- \$-1,500

Housing Plan:

- Off campus housing

Enrollment:

- Full Time

Should your enrollment or housing plans change, please indicate that on the Offer Acceptance Form or contact the Office of Financial Aid.

**Your Total Financial Aid Offer is: \$37,981**

This offer represents the maximum amount of institutional, federal, and state aid for which you are eligible. Your offer is based on the number of credits in which you enroll, housing status, and other fees associated with each program.

**\*\* THIS IS NOT A BILL \*\***

Information about your awards:

- Federal Work Study is NOT credited to your student account.
- The Pine Tree Grant is awarded to incoming domestic students from states other than Maine.
- 

# Understanding the Parts

The financial aid offer will have some combination of the following:

- What your award is based on
  - Is this accurate?
- Important notices about your offer
- Federal Work-Study
  - Not available to pay the bill
  - This is the option for an on-campus job



Helpful Tools



## Check out FAME's Dynamic Worksheet!

### Direct Costs

- Grants & Scholarships

= **Net Cost Before Loans**

- This step is critical to getting an “apples to apples” cost comparison.
- Total Direct Loans will typically be the same amount at each school - \$5,500 for first year students.
- Worksheet can be found at: [FAMEmaine.com/affording-education/pay-for-school/resources-tools/](http://FAMEmaine.com/affording-education/pay-for-school/resources-tools/)



### Comparing Costs & Financial Aid Offers

Use this worksheet to compare estimated college costs and financial aid offers. Find the information you need to complete this worksheet on your financial aid offer or your school's website. Costs and financial aid offers can vary significantly from one college or university to another.

College Name	Example	School 1	School 2	School 3
	School X	School A	School B	School C
<b>Direct Costs to Attend</b>				
Tuition & Mandatory Fees	\$12,900	\$ 5,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 40,000
Housing & Food	+ \$13,200	+ \$ 10,000	+ \$ 12,000	+ \$ 15,000
<b>Direct Costs</b> (Billed by the school)	<b>- \$16,100</b>	<b>- \$ 15,000</b>	<b>- \$ 32,000</b>	<b>- \$ 55,000</b>
<b>Financial Aid - Grants &amp; Scholarships</b>				
Grants & Scholarships	- \$13,893	- \$ 9,895	- \$ 18,895	- \$ 36,895
<b>Net Cost Before Loans</b>	<b>- \$12,207</b>	<b>- \$ 5,105</b>	<b>- \$ 13,105</b>	<b>- \$ 18,105</b>
<b>Financial Aid - Loans</b>				
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$3,500	\$ 0	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	+ \$2,000	+ \$ 5,500	+ \$ 2,000	+ \$ 2,000
<b>Total Loan Amount<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>- \$5,500</b>	<b>- \$ 5,500</b>	<b>- \$ 5,500</b>	<b>- \$ 5,500</b>
<b>Estimated Total Cost</b>				
Balance Due (Direct Costs minus grants, scholarships, & loans)	- \$6,707	- \$ 395	- \$ 7,605	- \$ 12,605
Indirect Costs (Books, supplies, travel)	+ \$1,500	+ \$ 1,000	+ \$ 1,200	+ \$ 2,000
<b>Estimated Total Cost<sup>2</sup></b> (Out-of-pocket cost)	<b>- \$8,207</b>	<b>- \$ 605</b>	<b>- \$ 8,805</b>	<b>- \$ 14,605</b>
<b>Financial Aid - Work Study</b>				
<b>Work Study<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000

<sup>1</sup> Most schools do not list Federal Parent PLUS or private loan eligibility on the award, as these loans are credit-based and may not be approved for everyone. If Parent PLUS or private loan eligibility is listed, please exclude for the purposes of comparing awards.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated Total Cost would be the amount paid by the student and/or the student's family using savings, outside scholarships and/or loans.

<sup>3</sup> Federal Work Study funds are earned throughout the year so not available to help pay the fall balance.



## Consider the Piecemeal Approach

- Scholarships
- Student savings
- Summer earnings
- Parent savings
- Contribution from other family members
- Monthly payment plan
- Tax credits
- Additional loans

Worksheet can be found at:  
[FAMEmaine.com/affording-education/pay-for-school/resources-tools/](https://FAMEmaine.com/affording-education/pay-for-school/resources-tools/)



## Calculating Resources to Pay the Balance

After you have used the "Comparing Costs & Financial Aid Offers" tool on the front of this sheet, use this calculator to determine what resources you have or will have available to help cover the "Estimated Total Cost" at each school. Prefer an electronic version? Check out the iGrad Financial Aid Award Letter Analyzer. Create a free account at [FAME.iGrad.com](https://FAME.iGrad.com). FAME is here to help, contact us if you are having a hard time finding other ways to pay for your higher education.

	Example	School 1	School 2	School 3
	School X	School A	School B	School C
<b>Estimated Total Cost</b>				
Estimated Total Cost (out-of-pocket cost from the front of this sheet)	\$8,207	-\$ 605	\$ 8,805	\$ 14,605
<b>Outside Scholarships</b>				
Grants & Scholarships	- \$1,000	- \$ 1,000	- \$ 3,000	- \$ 2,000
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>- \$7,207</b>	<b>- \$ 1,605</b>	<b>- \$ 5,805</b>	<b>- \$ 12,605</b>
<b>Student Savings</b>				
Student's Current Savings	\$200	- \$ 1,000	- \$ 1,000	- \$ 1,000
Student's Estimated Summer Savings	- \$1,100	- \$ 1,200	- \$ 1,200	- \$ 1,200
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>- \$5,107</b>	<b>- \$ 3,805</b>	<b>- \$ 3,605</b>	<b>- \$ 10,405</b>
<b>Family Savings/Resources</b>				
College Savings	- \$1,000	- \$ 2,000	- \$ 2,000	- \$ 2,000
Family Savings/Investments	- \$0	- \$ 0	- \$ 0	- \$ 0
Other (i.e. gifts from relatives)	- \$500	- \$ 0	- \$ 0	- \$ 0
<b>Remaining Balance</b>				
Remaining Balance (after scholarships, student savings, family resources)	<b>- \$4,407</b>	<b>- \$ 5,805</b>	<b>- \$ 1,605</b>	<b>- \$ 8,405</b>
<b>Additional Options for Bridging the Gap</b>				
Monthly Payment Plan (paid over 10 months)	\$4,407/10 = \$441/month	\$ 0	\$ 1,600	\$ 2,000
Federal Plus Loan (parent borrows) or Private Loan (typically student borrows with a cosigner)	\$4,407 plus interest	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 6,500
Other		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0



## Exploring Options to Pay the Remaining Balance

# Maine Scholarship Search



HOME > AFFORDING HIGHER EDUCATION > PAY FOR SCHOOL > MAINE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

## Your Guide to Finding Scholarships

Scholarships are a form of gift aid—meaning they don’t need to be repaid. Most are awarded outside of the college’s financial aid process, so it’s up to you to search and apply. Start with FAME’s Maine Scholarship Search tool below to explore opportunities.

- Stay organized with our [tracking spreadsheet](#) (.xlsx format) or [Google Sheets version](#).
- Want more options? Visit the [Maine Community Foundation’s scholarship directory](#) for even more listings.

Do you currently manage a scholarship? Do you want to add a new scholarship? Find all FAME’s Scholarship Administrator [resources below](#).

### Filter Scholarships By

♥ No Favorites Selected

↻ CLEAR FILTERS

Eligibility +

Areas of Study +

Search Scholarships:

## Don’t See What You’re Looking For?

In addition to looking on FAME’s Maine Scholarship Search, you can also find scholarships through the following:

- [Maine Community Foundation](#)
- [iGrad Online Scholarship Search](#)
- Your high school guidance office
- College financial aid office
- Your employer
- Your parent’s employer
- Faith-based institutions
- Local civic organizations
- Town office Nationwide Scholarships

### Nationwide Scholarships

For a selection of nationwide scholarships, visit the additional websites below for FREE scholarship searches. These sites are considered reputable but keep in mind that certain scams may find their way into some searches. Be sure to do your research and be cautious before submitting your information.

- [Access Scholarship](#)
- [UCanGo2](#)
- [CollegeBoard](#)
- [FastWeb!](#)
- [Petersons](#)

### Filter Scholarships By

♥ No Favorites Selected

↻ CLEAR FILTERS

Eligibility —

- ☐ Enrolled in College
- ☒ High School
- ☐ Open to Non-US Citizens
- ☐ Open to Postgrads
- ☐ Returning to School

Areas of Study —

- ☐ Agriculture, Animals, and the Environment
- ☐ Architecture, Construction, Trades, and Manufacturing
- ☐ Arts, Media, and Communication
- ☐ Business and Marketing
- ☐ Computer Science and Information Technology
- ☐ Education and Teaching
- ☒ Engineering and Technology
- ☐ Exploratory and General Studies

Search Scholarships:

Sort Scholarships By:

Name (A-Z) ▼

13 of 139 scholarships matched your search.

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Maine Section

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT:  
**\$2,000**  
DEADLINE: February 28th

View Full Details →

Jeanne L. Hammond Memorial Scholarship


SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT:  
**\$3,000**  
DEADLINE: April 15th

View Full Details →

FAMEmaine.com/  
Scholarships



# Maine Community Foundation - MaineCF.org

[Lewiston Funding Facts](#)[Apply](#)[Log In](#)[Give Now](#)

ABOUT USINITIATIVES & IMPACTSUPPORT/START A FUNDGRANTSSCHOLARSHIPSADVISORS & ATTORNEYSPLANNED GIVING

## Scholarships

The Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) seeks to promote respect for all people. Through its scholarships, the community foundation supports all students regardless of their race, age, ancestry or national origin, sexual orientation, gender, physical or mental disability, religion, or geographical region within the state of Maine.

MaineCF's approach is designed to reward students' strengths and to affirm the positive aspects of their lives and work.

MaineCF encourages all students seeking post-secondary, graduate, or aspirational educational goals to apply for our scholarships, regardless of citizenship status. Our awards are based on many factors including academic performance, financial need, involvement in extracurricular activities, and work experience, and do not take into consideration an applicant's citizenship or immigration status.

All applicants must submit the required documents which may include applications, transcripts or grade reports, letters of recommendation, and the Student Aid Report from the FAFSA. We will waive the FAFSA requirement for those students unable to submit a FAFSA because of visa or immigration status.

[Find a Scholarship](#)[Scholarship Workshops](#)



# Worthington Scholarship - Due 4/15

worthingtonsscholars.org



## Quick Facts:

- \$1500 per semester, renewable up to four semesters
- Additional funding available if student goes on to a 4-year partner college, or is enrolled in a 3-year community college program
- Student support provided throughout college career

## Eligibility:

- Maine Resident graduating in 2026 from a WSF partner high school
- High School GPA in the "C range" or higher as determined by the high school
- SAI of \$30,000 or less
- Must be accepted to college prior to applying
- Full-time enrollment at a Maine Community College



## Quick Facts:

- \$2500 per semester, renewable up to 8 semesters (up to \$20,000 total)
- Student support provided throughout college career

## Eligibility:

- Maine Resident graduating in 2026 from a WSF partner high school
- High School GPA in the "B range" or higher as determined by the high school
- SAI of \$30,000 or less
- Must be accepted to college prior to applying
- Full-time enrollment at a WSF 4-year partner college:

## Partner Colleges:

Bowdoin College  
Bates College  
Colby College  
College of the Atlantic  
Husson University  
Maine College of Art & Design  
Maine Maritime Academy  
Saint Joseph's  
Thomas College  
University of Maine  
UM - Augusta  
UM - Farmington  
UM - Fort Kent  
UM - Machias  
UM - Presque Isle  
University of New England  
University of Southern Maine



Mitchell Scholarship – Due 3/1  
[mitchellinstitute.org/a-10000-college-scholarship-plus-so-much-more/](https://mitchellinstitute.org/a-10000-college-scholarship-plus-so-much-more/)



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**A \$10,000 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PLUS SO MUCH MORE**

The 2026 Mitchell Scholarship application is now open!



\$AVE, \$AVE, \$AVE

**SAVE** as much as possible! It's not too late and every little bit helps!

- Learn more about Maine's college savings program at [NextGenforME.com](https://NextGenforME.com)
- Do you have an Alfond Grant? Visit [myalfondgrant.org](https://myalfondgrant.org)





# Student Loans

## Federal Student Loans (Dept. of Ed)

Interest rates on federal student loans in **2025-26** are:

- Federal Direct Loan (on aid offer):
  - 6.39% with a 1.057% Origination Fee
  - Has flexible repayment
  - Has limited forgiveness options
- Parent Plus loan:
  - 8.94% with a 4.228% Origination Fee
  - Parent is the borrower; credit based

## Private Loans (banks, states, etc.)

Many banks offer a private education loan

- Interest rates and fees are based on credit and income-to-debt ratio
- Origination fees may be charged

Maine Loan rates for **2025-2026** are:

- 6.24% Immediate Repayment; 120-month term
- 7.24% Interest Only; 180-month term
- 7.99% full deferment; 180-month term
- Applications become available for 26/27 in **June**



Don't borrow more than what's affordable

Interest rate: <input type="text" value="6"/> %	
Repayment Period: <input type="text" value="10"/> (years)	
<b>How much can I afford to borrow?</b> Expected salary: <input type="text" value="52000"/> <input type="text" value="Annual"/> <div>It is recommended that you should borrow no more than \$31,225.46</div>	<b>What salary would I need to support this debt?</b> Current Debt: <input type="text" value="0"/> Future Borrowing Needs: <input type="text" value="50000"/> <div>Your estimated monthly payments to service \$50,000.00 of debt would be \$555.10 per month. To support repayment of this debt, you should earn at least \$40.82 Hourly, \$6,938.78 Monthly, or \$83,265.38 Annually</div>



Special Circumstances/Appeals



If FAFSA didn't reflect your current situation, contact the financial aid office to discuss changes.

- Loss of income/unemployment
- Divorce or separation
- Unusual medical expenses
- Multiple family members attending college

[Financial-Aid-Appeals Overview-Steps-Tips.pdf](#)

# Special Circumstances



## Steps to Appeal a Financial Aid Offer

When it comes to appeals, students and families should plan to discuss their circumstances openly, even when it is difficult, and work together with the financial aid office to find solutions.

- 1. EVALUATE YOUR SITUATION.** What situation is impacting your ability to pay for school? Though you can simply ask for more money, most of the time you will need to identify a "special circumstance" or change in situation to be considered for more financial aid.
  - Special circumstances may include: loss of job, reduction in income, cost of a family member attending college, parental divorce or separation, death of a parent, significant out-of-pocket medical expenses, parent education loan repayment, or other significant non-discretionary expenses.
  - Determine how much you (the family) can contribute ("here's what we can do") and how much more is needed. Wait to see what the school is able to offer, but it is helpful to have an amount in mind in case they ask how much you need.
- 2. CONTACT THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE TO ASK ABOUT THE APPEAL PROCESS.** Provide a quick overview of your situation. If a specific form is required, ask how to obtain the form. Also ask the appeal response time once submitted. If you call, be sure to make a note of when you called and the name of who you spoke with on the phone.

You can use a free online service called SwiftStudent that will help you write your appeal letter. This website will guide you through your circumstances and prefill an appeal letter to send to your college's financial aid office. This is a free and easy-to-use service. Go to [FormSwift.com/swift-student](https://formswift.com/swift-student).
- 3. COMPLETE REQUIRED FORMS AND/OR WRITE AN APPEAL LETTER.** It is helpful to write a letter, even if a standard form is required.
  - Summarize the situation (see the back of this page for more specifics) and the impact on the family.
  - Emphasize when the special circumstance was beyond the family's control.
  - Include documentation of the situation; letter and documentation are kept confidential in the student's file.
  - Provide contact information in case the financial aid office has follow up questions.
  - Keep the letter concise—no more than a page or two.
- 4. THANK THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE FOR CONSIDERING THE APPEAL.** The decision whether or not to make adjustments is ultimately up to the financial aid administrator. However your appeal is handled, make a good impression with a thank you. You never know if more assistance might become available in the future.



Additional Thoughts




- Compare the entire cost of education vs. first year aid
- Consider what funding is/is not renewable for 2nd, 3rd & 4th years?
- Have the chat
- Role of community college?
- Consider the piecemeal approach!


[Affordability-Handout-conversation-starters.pdf](#)

Other thoughts...

## The Path to Affording HIGHER EDUCATION




The key to affording higher education is to start planning early. The longer families have to save, the better, and starting early also gives families more time to get "financially fit." Early planning can also help students understand the importance of good grades and the role of scholarships. Follow the path to see how you can better plan ahead to afford higher education!



### Consider the PIECEMEAL APPROACH


Families who take a piecemeal approach find paying for higher education more manageable. More "pieces" lead to more options and less reliance on any one source of funding. Here are some of the "pieces" families use to pay for higher education:

- Financial Aid (need-based grants and scholarships)
- Merit Scholarships (offered by the college)
- Private Scholarships (for example from your high school or employer)
- Savings
- Parent Earnings
- Student Earnings
- Tuition Payment Plans
- Tax Credits
- Federal Direct Loans
- Private Student or Parent Loans




### SAVE

For most families, financial aid doesn't cover the full cost of education. Having savings available can make a big difference and has little or no impact on financial aid eligibility. Remember that family contributions and gifts to college savings can also help, as will a student's own earnings.




### Get FIT

Families who start thinking about how to pay for higher education when their student starts high school have more options. Start by paying down debt and resisting the urge to take on new expenses. This helps make room in the monthly budget for a tuition payment plan.




### Have a CHAT

It's a challenging conversation to have, but families who have an early discussion to clarify who is paying for what and how much the family can afford will find the final school selection process easier.



### BUILD A LIST of Affordable Schools

Many factors determine which schools might be a good fit, but too often affordability isn't considered until late in the process. When searching for schools, focus on net price, not sticker price. To get a sense of net price, use each school's Net Price Calculator which can usually be found on the school's financial aid website. Make sure that list includes a school that is affordable even without great financial aid. For some students, community college and/or trade-based certificate programs are a good solution.



### COMPARE Financial Aid Offers

All financial aid offers look different, making them hard to compare. To help get an "apples-to-apples" comparison, families can use FAME's [Comparing Costs and Financial Aid Offers Worksheet](#). If borrowing is needed, families should use FAME's [Student Loan/Salary Calculator](#) to get a better understanding of the return on investment.

See the reverse side for some conversation starters to help families have a productive discussion.



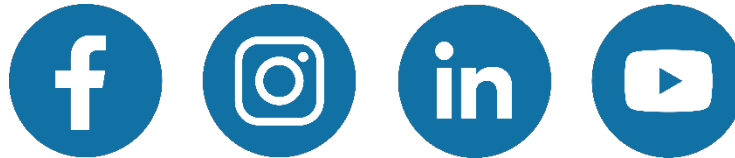
Questions?



Thank you for joining us today!

Find more FREE resources and information at  
[FAMEmaine.com/education](https://FAMEmaine.com/education).

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TTY: 207-626-2717