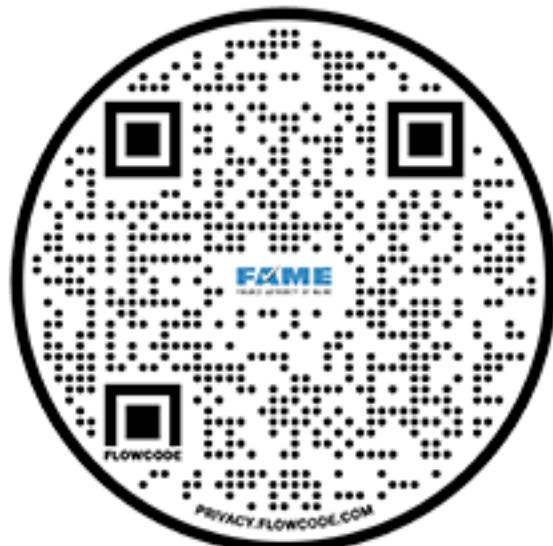


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Finance Authority of Maine



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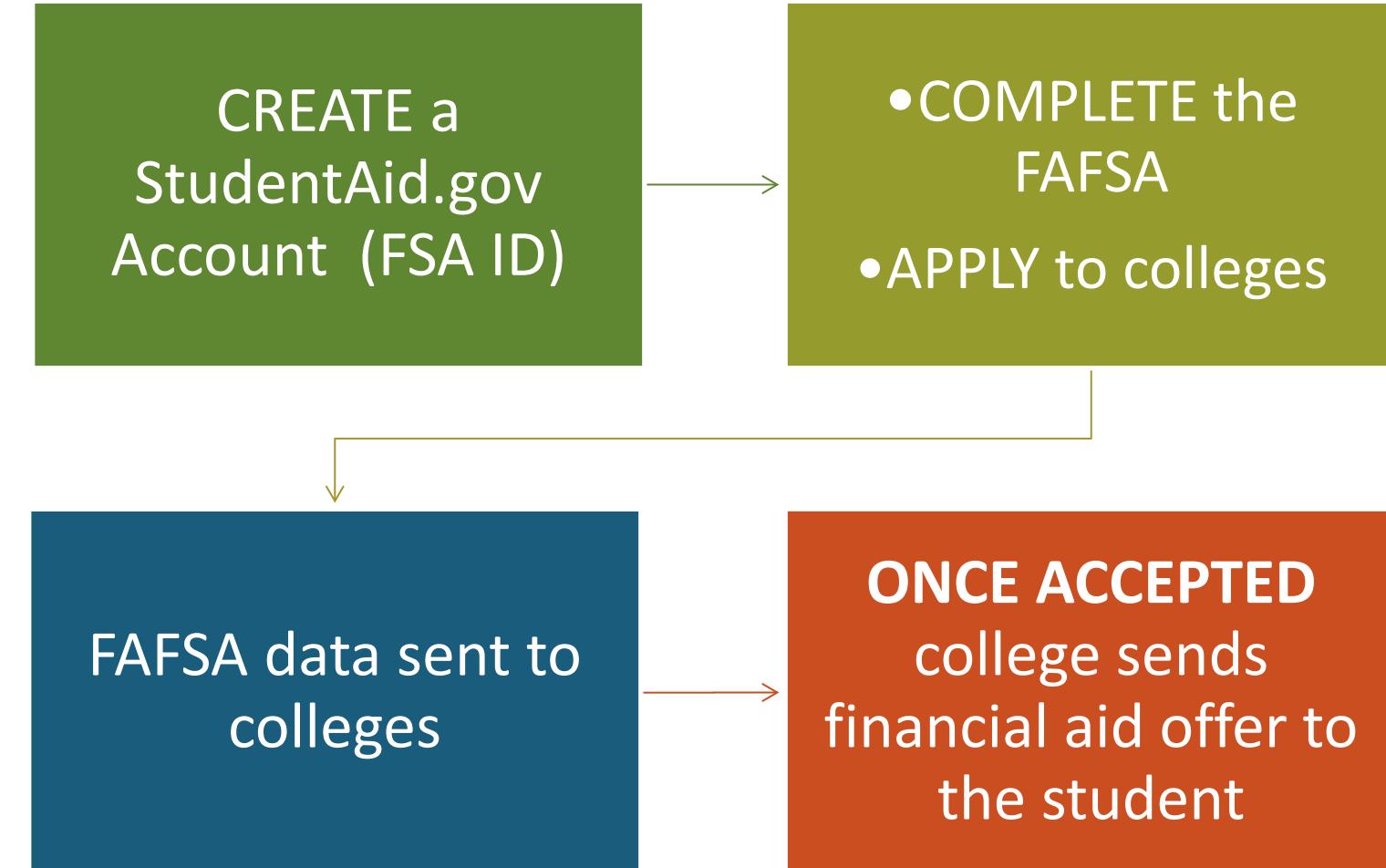
# Understanding and Comparing Financial Aid Offers

February 11th, 2026

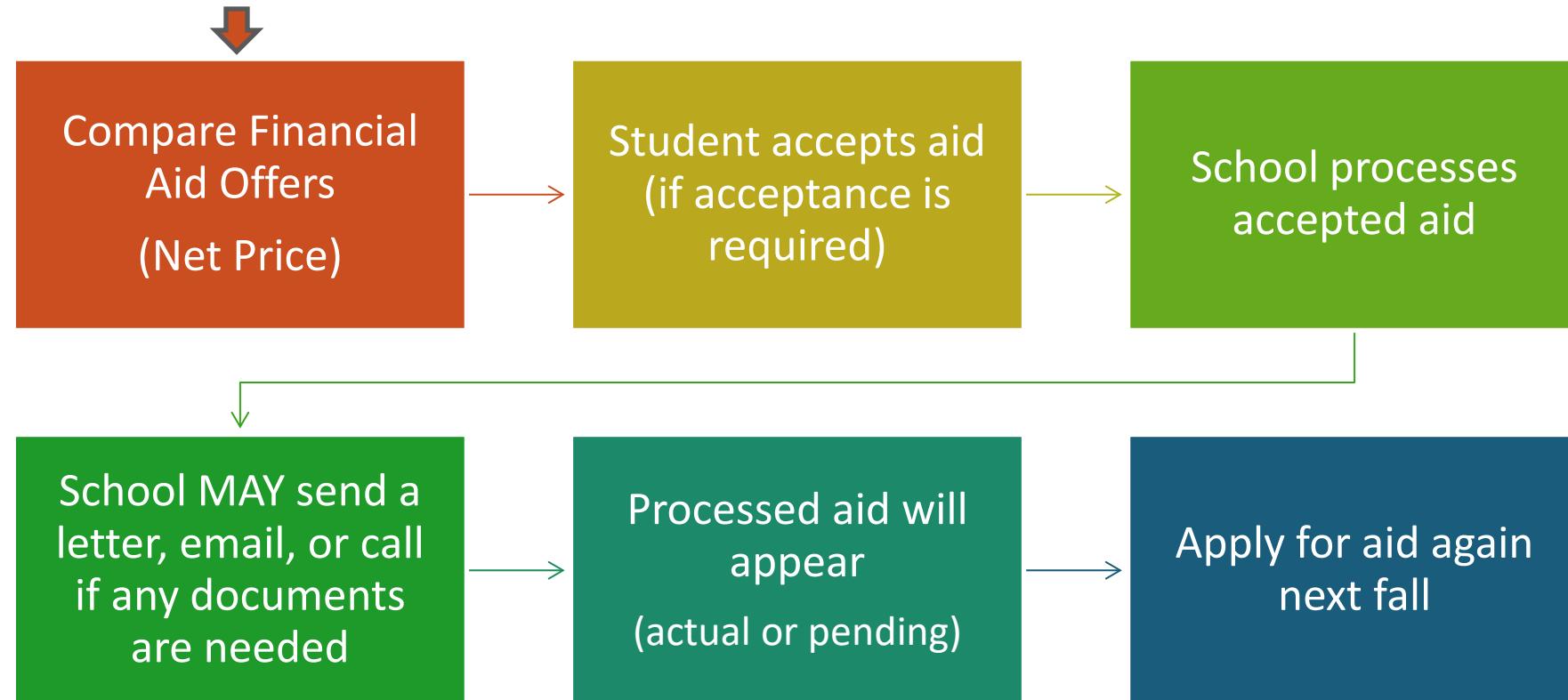
PRESENTED BY

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

- 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



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 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

# FAME

What does this mean??

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

03/22/2025

**Total Cost of Attendance 2025-2026**

	On Campus Residence	Off Campus Residence
Tuition and Fees	\$14,114	\$13,686
Housing and Food	\$1,000	
Books and Supplies	\$1,100	
Transportation	\$1,170	
Other Education Costs		
<b>Estimated Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$31,070 / yr</b>	<b>0</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	
Merit-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>	<b>\$14,000</b>

Grants	
Need-Based Grant Aid	
Federal Pell Grants	
Institutional Grants	
State Grants	
Other Forms of Grant Aid	
Total Grants	

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

Loan Options*	
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
Total Loan Options	\$5,500 / yr

\* 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 loan, 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

**NORTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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

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

**Estimated Cost of Attendance Direct + Indirect Costs** **\$16,170.00**

**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
<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
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$990.00	\$10.00	\$1,000.00
Total Loans	<b>\$990.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
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	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Total Other Funding** **\$0.00**

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	Estimated Total Direct Costs	Estimated Total Indirect Costs	Estimated Total Cost of Attendance
tuition and fees	\$24,886	\$11,000	\$39,886
room & board	\$24,886	\$1,150	\$26,036
books & supplies	\$24,886	\$1,200	\$26,086
miscellaneous	\$24,886	\$50	\$24,936
transportation	\$24,886	\$14,600	\$39,486

**Financial Aid Offer for: xxxxxxxx**  
**Student ID: 00000000**

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

**Federal Student Aid Index (SAI) from the FAFSA:**

- \$1,500
- Off campus housing
- 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.

# FAME

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

NORTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE		Financial Aid Overview		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			
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		
<b>Cost of Attendance (Estimated)</b> <small>This estimate is based on full-time attendance for one academic year. This is not a bill.</small>							
Estimated Direct Costs	Charges by institution		Estimated Indirect Costs	Non-institution expenses			
Tuition .....	\$5,596.00		Bank Fees .....	\$10.00			
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	
<b>Grants &amp; Scholarships</b>							
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					
Total Grants & Scholarships		\$9,895.00					
Your estimated Net Cost (Cost of Attendance - Grants & Scholarships):							
\$6,275.00							
<b>Loans &amp; Work-Study</b>							
Funding Description	Net Amount	Fee	Gross Amount	Total Loans			
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$990.00	\$10.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00			
Total Loans	\$990.00	\$10.00	\$1,000.00				
Total Federal Work Study		\$0.00					
Your estimated Net Cost (Cost of Attendance - Grants & Scholarships, Loans & Work-Study):							
\$5,275.00							
<b>Other Funding</b>							
Funding Description	Total Amount		Total Other Funding				
Total Other Funding	\$0.00		\$0.00				
Your estimated Net Cost (Cost of Attendance - Grants & Scholarships, Loans, Work-Study and Other):							
\$5,275.00							

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

**Total Cost of Attendance 2025-2026**

	On Campus Residence	Off Campus Residence
Tuition and Fees	\$13,686	
Housing and Food	\$14,114	\$1,000
Books and Supplies		\$1,100
Transportation		\$1,170
Other Education Costs		
<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.  
Based on Institutional Methodology  
Used by many private institutions in addition to the FAFSA.

**31,604 / yr**

**Scholarship and Grant Options**

Scholarships and Grants are considered "Gift" aid - no repayment is needed.

Scholarships		Grants	
Merit-Based Scholarships		Need-Based Grant Aid	
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</b>	<b>\$7,000 / yr</b>	<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$0 / yr</b>

**VA Education Benefits**

VA Education Benefits

**\$0 / yr**

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

Net Price To You  
Total cost of attendance minus total grants and total scholarships

**\$24,070 / yr**

**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</b>	<b>\$5,500 / yr</b>	Other Campus Job	\$0 / yr

\* 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

**\* 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>.

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

Estimated 2025-2026 Cost of Attendance (COA)		
Budget Category	Amount	
Tuition and Fees	\$24,886	
Total Direct Costs	\$24,886	
Budget Category	Amount	
Food & Housing Off	\$11,000	
Books & Supplies	\$1,150	
Miscellaneous	\$1,200	
Transportation	\$1,200	
Loan fees	\$50	
Total Indirect Costs	\$14,600	
Estimated Total Cost of Attendance	\$39,486 /year	
*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
Institutional Grant(s)		Total
Husson Eagle Grant	\$1,600	\$1,600
Husson Transfer Academic Award	\$1,000	\$1,000
U&Husson Scholarship	\$4,643	\$4,643
PineTree Grant	\$1,000	\$1,000
Federal Grant(s)		
FSEOG	\$300	\$300
Pell Grant	\$3,698	\$3,697
Total Grant(s)	\$12,241	\$12,240
Estimated net out-of-pocket cost (direct cost – gift aid)	\$405	
Loan Options (to be paid back by borrower)		
	Fall25	Spring26
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$1,750	\$1,750
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total	\$4,750	\$4,750
*Direct Loan amounts are subject to origination fees of 1.057% until 9/30/2025		
Estimated net price, including loans	\$-9095	
Work Options*** (not applied to student account)		
	Total	
Federal Work-Study	\$4,000	
Total Work-Study	\$4,000	
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 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.
- 

# 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>-\$26,100</b>	-\$ 15,000	-\$ 32,000	-\$ 55,000
<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>	-\$ 5,105	-\$ 13,105	-\$ 18,105
<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>	-\$ 5,500	-\$ 5,500	-\$ 5,500
<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>	-\$ 605	-\$ 8,805	-\$ 14,605
<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/](http://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 [FAMEiGrad.com](http://FAMEiGrad.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 X	School 1 School A	School 2 School B	School 3 School C
<b>Estimated Total Cost</b>				
Estimated Total Cost (out-of-pocket cost from the front of this sheet)	<b>\$12,07</b>	-\$ 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>	-\$ 1,605	-\$ 5,805	-\$ 12,605
<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>	-\$ 3,805	-\$ 3,605	-\$ 10,405
<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>	-\$ 5,805	\$ 1,605	\$ 8,405
<b>Additional Options for Bridging the Gap</b>				
Monthly Payment Plan (paid over 10 months)	\$ 4407/10 -\$ 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



## 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**



Search Scholarships:



Search

**Areas of Study**



Search Scholarships:



Search

### 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](#)

# FAMEmaine.com/ Scholarships

### 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

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 →**

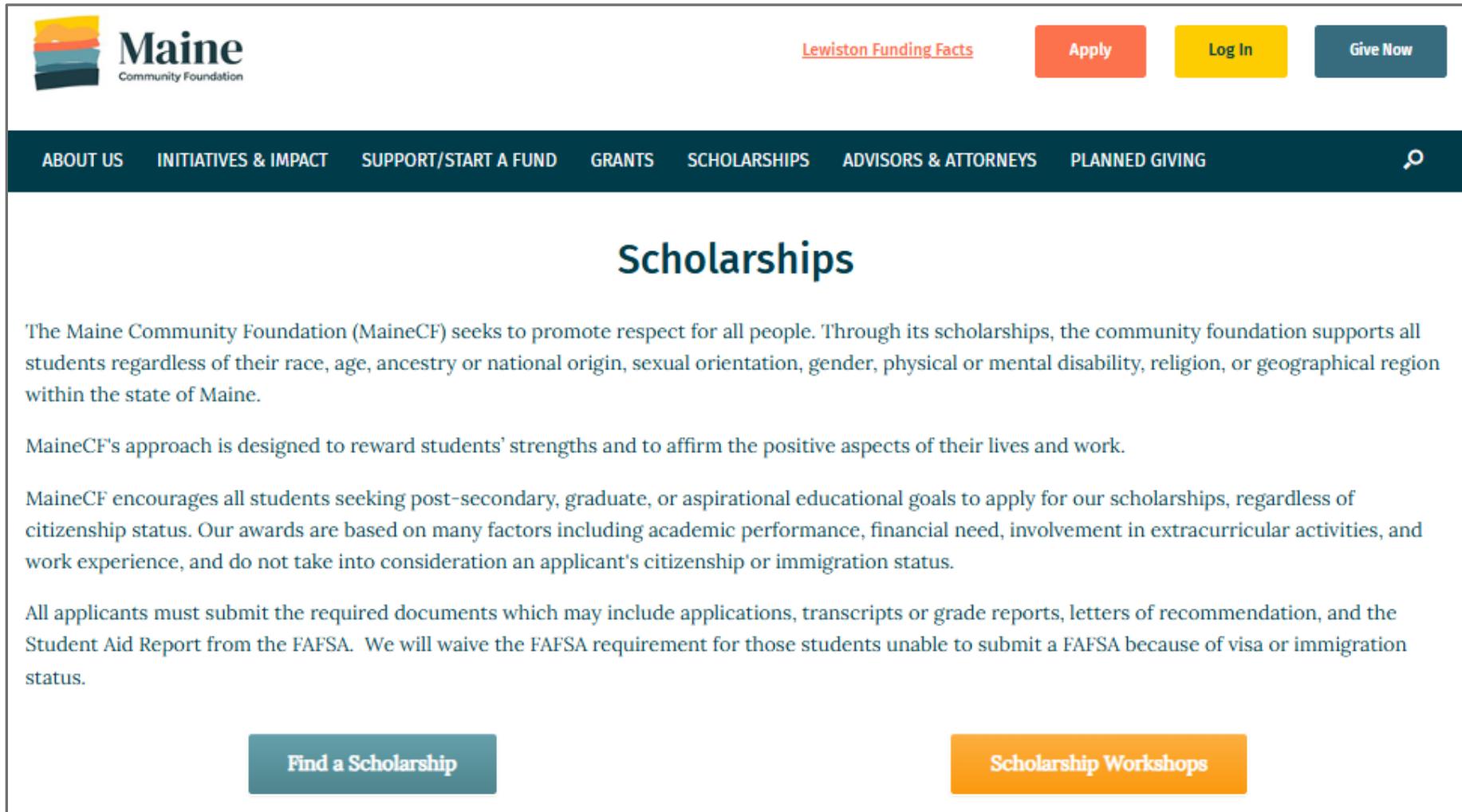
**Jeanne L. Hammond Memorial Scholarship**

**SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT:**

**\$3,000**

**DEADLINE:** April 15th

**View Full Details →**



The screenshot shows the Maine Community Foundation website. The header features the FAME logo on the left and the text "Maine Community Foundation - MaineCF.org" on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for "ABOUT US", "INITIATIVES & IMPACT", "SUPPORT/START A FUND", "GRANTS", "SCHOLARSHIPS", "ADVISORS & ATTORNEYS", "PLANNED GIVING", and a search icon. To the right of the navigation bar are four buttons: "Lewiston Funding Facts" (red), "Apply" (orange), "Log In" (yellow), and "Give Now" (dark blue). The main content area is titled "Scholarships" in a large, bold, blue font. Below the title, a paragraph explains the foundation's commitment to supporting all students regardless of their background. It then describes the application process, stating that applicants must submit required documents like applications, transcripts, and letters of recommendation, and that the FAFSA requirement is waived for students unable to submit it due to visa or immigration status. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Find a Scholarship" (blue) and "Scholarship Workshops" (orange).

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

ABOUT US INITIATIVES & IMPACT SUPPORT/START A FUND GRANTS SCHOLARSHIPS ADVISORS & ATTORNEYS PLANNED 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 Foundation

2026 Community College Scholarship

### 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

Worthington Scholarship - Due 4/15  
[worthingtonscholars.org](http://worthingtonscholars.org)



# WORTHINGTON

Scholarship Foundation

2026 Four-year College Scholarship

### 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/)



ABOUT

THE SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARS

NEWS & EVENTS

RESEARCH

SUPPORT US



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

The 2026 Mitchell Scholarship application is now open!



SAVE, SAVE, SAVE

**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](http://NextGenforME.com)
- Do you have an Alfond Grant? Visit [myalfondgrant.org](http://myalfondgrant.org)

The screenshot shows the homepage of myAlfondgrant.org. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'CHECK YOUR GRANT', 'ABOUT THE GRANT', 'CHAMPIONS', 'RESOURCES', 'YOUR STORIES', and 'ABOUT US'. The 'myAlfond grant' logo is positioned above the navigation. The main content area has a green header with the text 'About the Grant'. Below this, there is a section titled 'What is the Alfond Grant?' with a brief description of Harold Alfond and his vision for the grant. At the bottom right, there is a small 'Privacy - Terms' link.

CHECK YOUR GRANT →

myAlfond grant

Contact Us Blog

ABOUT THE GRANT CHAMPIONS RESOURCES YOUR STORIES ABOUT US

## About the Grant

### What is the Alfond Grant?

The Alfond Grant: \$500 for Maine Children

Harold Alfond was a Maine businessman and philanthropist who wanted to make a difference for Maine children and their future. He understood how education after high school can open doors for the future, and he wanted all Maine children to get a head start on that bright future.

Privacy - Terms

## 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: 6 %

Repayment Period: 10 (years)

#### How much can I afford to borrow?

Expected salary:

52000

Annual

It is recommended that you should borrow no  
more than \$31,225.46

#### What salary would I need to support this debt?

Current Debt: 0

Future Borrowing Needs: 50000

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



## Special Circumstances/Appeals



## Special Circumstances

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](#)



### 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](http://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-coversation-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!





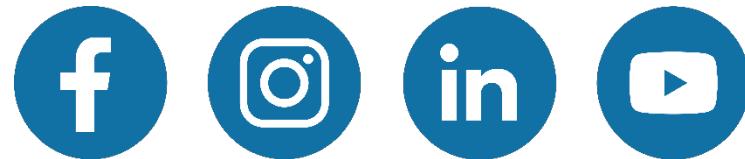
Questions?



Thank you for joining us today!

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

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[Education@FAMEmaine.com](mailto:Education@FAMEmaine.com)

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