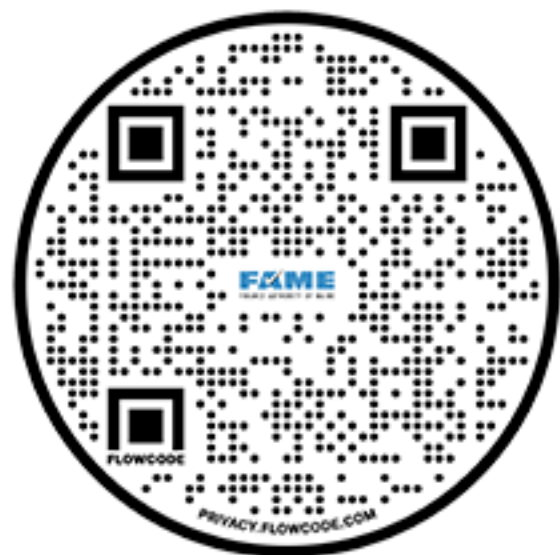


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FAMEmaineorg



FAME.maine



Finance Authority of Maine



FAMEMaine



Affording Higher Education: What Families Need to Know

April 2, 2026

PRESENTED BY

Nikki Vachon, Education Affordability and Financial Wellness Counselor
Mila Tapan, Education Affordability Content and Training Manager

- Starting EARLY
- Shopping for a College
- How Aid is Awarded
- Borrowing Tips

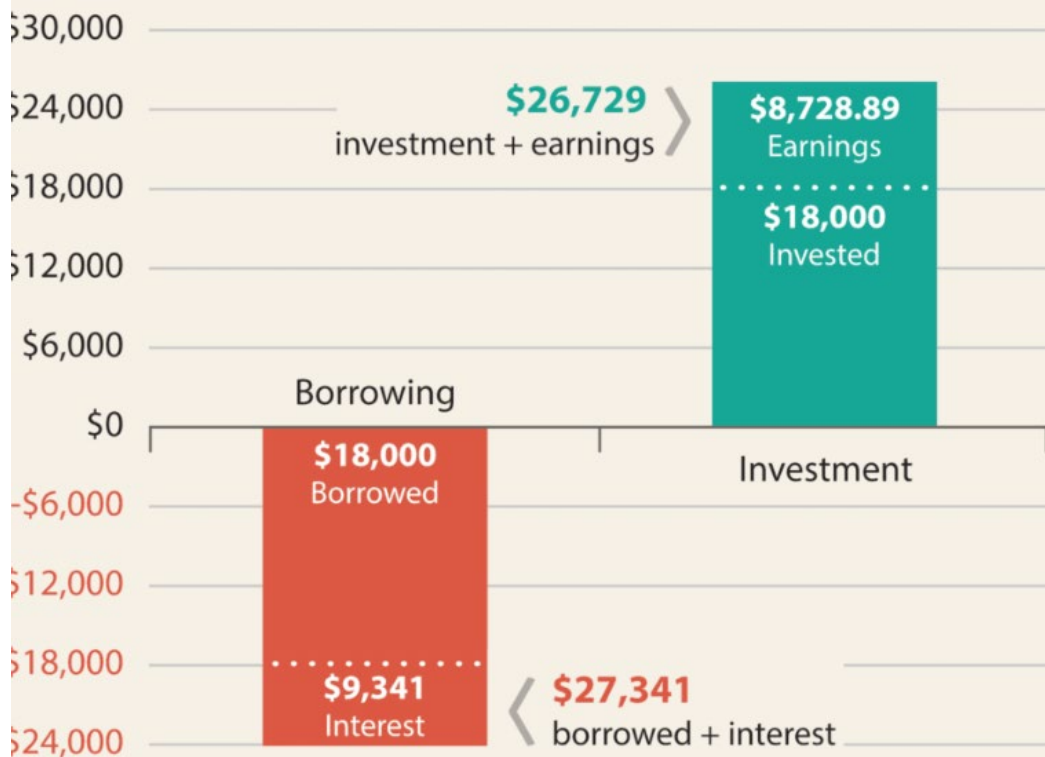




~~Financial Aid~~ Education Affordability 101

Saving vs. Borrowing

Borrowing vs. Investing



Saving \$18,000 earns \$8,700 +/- (\$26,000 in total)

Borrowing \$18,000 adds \$9341 +/- (\$27,000 in total)

www.nextgenforme.com

Maine C

Use the filters to narrow

Majors: Nursing X

Admissions **Read**

Get m
Get a list

15 Colleges found

University of M
Orono, ME

4-year • Public

57% graduation

\$17K average p

SAT 1060–1280

Affordability

Financial Need Met
The higher the percent met by a college, the less you need to pay.

65% or more

75% or more

90% or more

100%

No Preference

Application Fees

Application fee waivers offered

Free to apply
Some colleges don't require an application fee.

Aid for International Students
Offers financial aid for international students (either need based or non-need based).

Clear All **Show Colleges**

Major

Credit **Clear All**

Match me

Sort by v

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

Create the College List

- Search based on major, location, type of school, and/or campus life
- Click on “Affordability” near the top of the page.
- Under “Financial Need Met,” select the “90% or more” option to find schools that cover at least 90 percent of financial need.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>









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Create the College List

Overview Admissions Academics **Costs** Campus Life

Costs

 Average Per Year After Aid \$15,383	 Students Receiving Financial Aid 70.65%
 Average Aid Package \$16,360	 Financial Aid Application Due March 1

Tuition

Average Net Price \$15,383 per year

Your net price is a college's cost of attendance minus the grants and scholarships you receive. The net price you pay for a particular college is specific to you because it's based on your personal circumstances and the college's financial aid policies. Use the college's Net Price calculator for the most accurate estimate of your net price.

Net Price Calculator >

Average Net Price by Household Income

<\$30k	\$12,043 per year
\$30-48k	\$10,482 per year
\$48-75k	\$12,501 per year
\$75-110k	\$19,002 per year
\$110k+	\$20,505 per year

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>





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Schools That Meet Full Need

THE BASICS

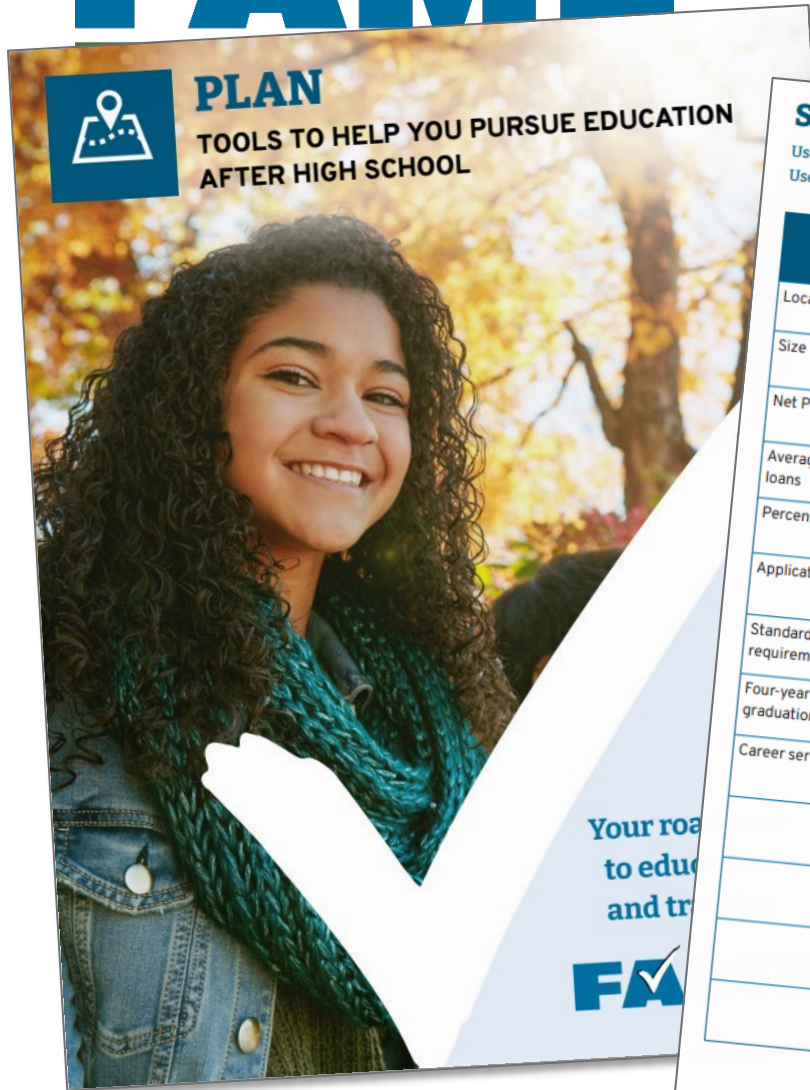
TUFTS MEETS 100% OF DEMONSTRATED NEED FOR ALL ADMITTED STUDENTS, REGARDLESS OF CITIZENSHIP STATUS, FOR ALL FOUR YEARS.

WHAT IS FINANCIAL NEED?

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{Cost of Attendance} \\ \text{Tuition and fees} \\ \text{Room and board (meal plan)} \\ \text{Books and supplies} \\ \text{Personal expenses} \end{array} \right) - \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{Expected Family Contribution} \\ \text{Parent contribution} \\ \text{Student contribution} \end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{Financial Need} \\ \text{Your award may include:} \\ \text{Grant aid*} \\ \text{Student loan} \\ \text{Work study} \end{array} \right)$$

Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is the amount your family is expected to pay for college for the academic year. It is calculated from the information provided on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), CSS Profile, and your family's federal tax returns. Your financial need is the difference between the annual cost of attendance and your calculated family contribution. Your financial aid package will make up the difference, for all four years—even if your family's situation changes. We generally do not include student loans for students whose families earn less than \$60,000 per year. All Tufts financial aid is need-based—we do not offer merit-based scholarships or athletic scholarships.

**Grants are need-based gift aid that are not paid back.*



SCHOOL COMPARISON WORKSHEET

Use the criteria below to help you compare your top schools.
Use the blank rows to add any other characteristics that are important to you.

SCHOOL				
Location				
Size				
Net Price estimate				
Average amount in loans				
Percent admitted				
Application deadline				
Standardized test requirements				
Four-year graduation rate				
Career services				

FIT TEST

Where do you want to live, work, and play for the next two to four years? What school characteristics matter to you?
Use your answers to help you find the best fit. To get started, check out the BigFuture.CollegeBoard.org and/or the NCES.Ed.gov/CollegeNavigator online search tools.

What type of school do you want to attend?
 Less than two-year program (certificate) Two-year college (associate degree)
 Four-year college or university (bachelor's) Public Private

What size school would you like?
 Large (over 10,000) Medium (3,000–10,000) Small (under 3,000)

What setting do you prefer?
 Urban Suburban Rural

Geographic location
 Northeast Southeast South Midwest Southwest Northwest Canada

How selective do you want the school to be?
 Most selective (<25% admitted) Very selective (25-50% admitted)
 Somewhat selective (50-75% admitted) Least selective (>75% admitted)

What off-campus opportunities are important to you?
 Public transportation Outdoor activities Volunteering Nightlife

Is there a particular sport or activity that you want to participate in?
 No Yes List _____

Is there a particular religious affiliation you would like the school to have?
 No Yes

Is financial aid important to you?
 No Yes*

*If yes, be sure to use the school's Net Price Calculator to get an early estimate of your cost to attend that school.

NET PRICE CALCULATOR

COST - SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS = NET COST TO YOU

The Net Price Calculator is a tool that provides an estimate of what a particular college will cost YOU! Net Price Calculator is student- and school-specific and calculates net price—the difference between the published price (full cost) and any grants or scholarships that you may be eligible to receive. Some of the most expensive schools offer the largest grants and scholarships, making them more affordable than you may think. Each school is required to have this tool on their website, and it can typically be found on the school's financial aid page.



~~Financial~~ Aid Education Affordability 101

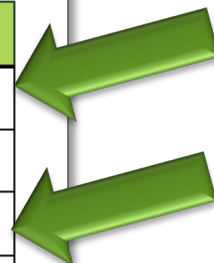
Ask How is Merit Aid Awarded

Would retaking SAT/ACT increase merit aid?



+ Bengal Academic Scholarship Policies

Scholarship Name	Residency	Eligibility Requirements	Amount
Bengal Gold (Freshman)	In-State & Canada	High School GPA 3.0	\$2,500.00
	Out-of-State & International	High School GPA 3.0	\$5,000.00
Bengal Silver (Freshman)	In-State & Canada	High School GPA 2.8 or higher	\$1,500.00
	Out-of-State & International	High School GPA 2.8 or higher	\$3,500.00
Bengal Transfer	In-State & Canada	Cumulative GPA of 2.8	\$1,500.00
	Out-of-State & International	Cumulative GPA of 2.8	\$3,500.00





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What is Tuition Break?

NEBHE's Tuition Break program, the New England Regional Student Program (RSP), provides significant tuition savings to residents of the six New England states when they enroll at out-of-state public colleges and universities within New England and pursue approved programs.

Tuition Break



New England Board of Higher Education

January 14 · 🌐



Live in CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, or VT? You may be eligible for reduced tuition at public colleges across New England with the Tuition Break program!

Learn more about Tuition Break → <https://nebhe.org/tuitionbreak/>

tuition break

New England residents pay less for college!

Get reduced tuition at public colleges in New England

Learn more at nebhe.org/tuitionbreak

Eligible States: CT • ME • MA • NH • RI • VT

NEW ENGLAND BOARD
of HIGHER EDUCATION 



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Apply for Aid EARLY

FAFSA Submitted in the fall		FAFSA Submitted after school's priority deadline		FAFSA Submitted during summer	
Pell Grant	\$7,395	Pell Grant	\$7,395	Pell Grant	\$7,395
State Grant	\$2,500	State Grant	\$2,500	Direct Loan	\$5,500
Supplemental Grant	\$2,000	Work-Study	\$1,000		
University Grant	\$3,500	Direct Loan	\$5,500		
Work-Study	\$1,600				
Direct Loan	\$5,500				
TOTAL OFFER	\$22,495	TOTAL OFFER	\$16,395	TOTAL OFFER	\$12,895



~~Financial~~ Aid Education Affordability 101

Estimating aid right away

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **U.S. Department of Education** <donotreply@studentaid.gov>

Date: Fri, Mar 21, 2025 at 8:12 AM

Subject: We've Received Your FAFSA Form

We received your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form.

Submission date: **March 21, 2025**

Date Release Number (DRN): **6872**

Note: Keep your DRN private. [Read about the Data Release Number](#) for more information.

Provisional Student Aid Index (SAI) = -1500

Based on the [eligibility criteria](#), you may be eligible for a [Federal Pell Grant](#) of up to \$7,395. You may also be eligible for other federal, state, or institutional grants; scholarships; and/or work-study programs.

We won't be able to calculate your official SAI until you confirm your circumstances with your financial aid office. Until then, we are providing only an estimate of your federal student aid eligibility as an independent



~~Financial Aid~~ Education Affordability 101

Federal and State Grant Funding

Pell Grant MAX - \$7385 (SAI of 0 to -1500)
Maine State Grant - \$2500 (SAI of 10,000*
or less and filing the FAFSA by May 1st)

\$9,895

- A student with an SAI of 4,895 will have tuition, books and fees covered at a Maine Community College

55%
*

- A student with an SAI of ZERO or less will have a large portion of their tuition and fees covered

50%

Maine Community Colleges

\$5000 Tuition, Books and Fees

UMaine System Schools

\$10,000 -\$15,00 Tuition and Fees

*Maine State Grant SAI cut off can change each year based on funding but has been at 10,000 for the last two years.

*55% represents the percentage of seniors in the class of 2025 who had SAIs of 5,000 or below.

How Schools Determine Need

Each school determines a student's financial *need*.

- All schools use the following formula:

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

Schools use the SAI in the same way they used the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

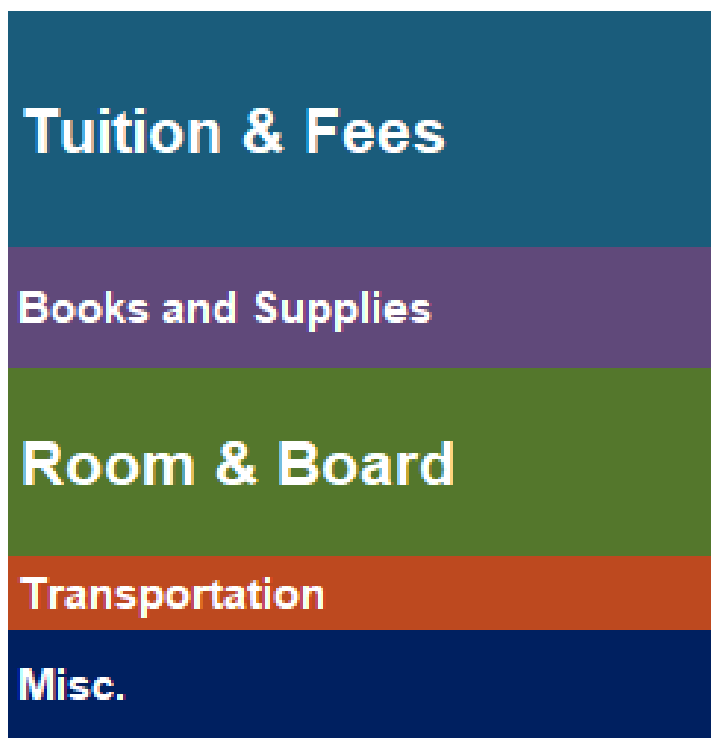
- The Cost of Attendance (**COA**) includes direct (tuition, fees, on-campus housing & food) and indirect expenses (books, supplies, travel, miscellaneous) and varies by school.
- The Student Aid Index (**SAI**) is determined when the student files the FAFSA and is the same at each school.
- Because COA varies, **need** varies by school.



~~Financial Aid~~ Education Affordability 101

How Aid is Calculated

Cost of Attendance (COA)



Need Based Financial Aid

Student Aid Index (SAI)

- Pell Grant
- SEOG Grant
- ME State Grant
- Institutional Scholarship
- Subsidized Stafford Loan
- Federal Work Study



Comparing Costs & Financial Aid Offers

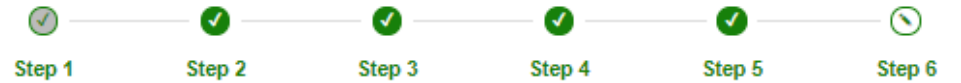
Use this worksheet to compare estimated college costs and financial aid offers. Find the information you need to complete this worksheet on your financial aid offer or your school's website. Costs and financial aid offers can vary significantly from one college or university to another.

College Name	Example	School 1	School 2	School 3
	School X			
Direct Costs to Attend				
Tuition & Mandatory Fees	\$12,900			
Housing & Food	+\$13,200	+	+	+
Direct Costs (Billed by the school)	-\$26,100	-	-	-
Financial Aid - Grants & Scholarships				
Grants & Scholarships	-\$13,893	-	-	-
Net Cost Before Loans	-\$12,207	-	-	-
Financial Aid - Loans				
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$3,500			
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	+\$2,000	+	+	+
Total Loan Amount¹	-\$5,500	-	-	-
Estimated Total Cost				
Balance Due (Direct Costs minus grants, scholarships, & loans)	-\$6,707	-	-	-
Indirect Costs (Books, supplies, travel)	+\$1,500	+	+	+
Estimated Total Cost² (Out-of-pocket cost)	-\$8,207	-	-	-
Financial Aid - Work Study				
Work Study³				

<https://www.famemaine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Comparing-Awards.pdf>

Shopping for a College Class Ideas

The University of Maine Net Price Calculator



Based on the information you have provided, the following calculations represent the average net price of attendance that students similar to you paid in the given year:
Academic Year: 2017-18

Estimated total cost of attendance \$24,238.00

Estimated tuition and fees \$10,902.00 +

Estimated room and board charges
(Includes rooming accommodations and meals) \$10,136.00 +

Estimated cost of books and supplies \$1,000.00 +

Estimated other expenses
(Personal expenses, transportation, etc.) \$2,200.00

Estimated total grant aid (\$7,170.00)
(Includes both merit and need based grant and scholarship aid from Federal, State, or Local Governments, or the Institution)

Estimated Net Price After Grants and Scholarships \$17,068.00

¹Controlled housing. ²Net price, however, student loans do have to be repaid. ³Cost in paying this net



~~Financial Aid~~ Education Affordability 101

Scholarships Resources

FAME

Scholarship Workshop

March 28, 2025

PRESENTED BY
Jessica Whittier, College Access Counselor
Floreka Malual, New Mainer Specialist

FAME

Scholarships Experts Spill the Tea

December 5, 2025

PRESENTED BY
Nikki Vachon, Education Affordability and Financial Wellness Counselor, FAME
Julie Bourgoin, President, Worthington Scholarship Foundation
Casey Near, Scholarship Director, The Mitchell Institute
Jackie Shannon, Scholarship Manager, Maine Community Foundation

0:52 / 57:20

Scholarships for New Mainers

HOME > AFFORDING HIGHER EDUCATION > MAKE A PLAN > PLANNING TIPS FOR ... > NEW MAINERS > PAYING FOR COLLEGE > SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NEW MAINERS

Make a Plan

- Planning by Age
- Maine Education Pathways
- Planning Tips For ...
 - Graduate School Students
 - Military Families and Veterans
- New Mainers**
 - Getting Ready for College
 - Paying for College
 - **Scholarships for New Mainers**
 - Credential Evaluation
 - Foreign Credentialing Grant Program
 - Resources
 - FAQ
 - Previously Incarcerated Students
- Join

Start to Save

Pay for School

Resources For Professionals

Scholarships are a great way for students to help pay for their higher education. Below are scholarships that may be available to new Mainers with various citizenship statuses. Additional Maine-based scholarships can be found via our [Maine Scholarship Search](#) tool. Use FAME's scholarship tracking spreadsheet (.xlsx format) to help stay organized.

[Scholarship Tracking Spreadsheet \(.xlsx\) →](#)

We regularly review the scholarships we share to make sure they are up to date. However,

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

[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

♥ No Favorites Selected

Search Scholarships:

Sort Scholarships By:

Deadline (Nearest First)

8 of 141 scholarships matched your search.

William P. & Gloria E. Fleming Scholarship

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT:
Up to \$1,200

MaineGeneral Health Scholarship Program

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT:
\$500 - \$2,500

FAMEmaine.com



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Before Borrowing...



Make a Plan

Start to Save

Pay for School

Getting Financial Aid

Free Community College

Maine Scholarship Search

Maine Grant and Tuition Programs

Employer Tuition Assistance

Borrowing Student Loans

Repaying Student Loans

Education Tax Benefits

Resources and Tools

Videos

Calculators

→ [Student Loan/Salary Calculator](#)

Applications - Education Loans, Waivers & Loan Repayment Programs

Resources For Professionals

Student Loan/Salary Calculator

Before using the following calculator, we recommend that you visit CareerOneStop.org to get an estimate of the annual salary for your chosen career. Once you have that information, you can use the calculator to determine:

- How much student loan you can afford based on future earnings.
- The salary you will need in order to afford your future student loan payments.

Enter the salary you anticipate earning upon graduation, the tool will calculate the maximum amount of student loan debt you should borrow. You may also enter the current amount of student loans you have already borrowed, and any future anticipated borrowing and the calculator will return the salary required to afford the monthly payments on this debt.

The interest rate in the calculator defaults to 6 percent, however, you can update the interest rate to reflect the interest rate of your loans. For more information regarding Direct Loan interest rates, you can visit StudentAid.gov.

Please Note: This calculator is based on the recommendation that your student loan payment be no more than 8 percent of your gross earnings.

Interest rate: %

Repayment Period: (years)

How much can I afford to borrow?

Expected salary:

Hourly

What salary would I need to support this debt?

Current Debt:

Future Borrowing Needs:

Your estimated monthly payments to service \$100,000.00 of debt would be \$1,110.21 per month. To support repayment of this debt, you should earn at least \$81.63 Hourly, \$13,877.56 Monthly, or \$166,530.75 Annually

Debt/Salary Calculator

Check out FAME's [Student Loan/Salary Calculator](#)

Borrowing \$100,000

**Starting salary needed:
\$166,530**

**Loan Payment:
\$1,110/month**



~~Financial Aid~~ Education Affordability 101

Employer Tuition Assistance

Borrowing Student Loans

Consider Before You Borrow

Getting Ready to Borrow

→ Student Loan Programs

Federal Student Loan Programs

Private Student Loans

Maine Loan

Loans for the Health Professions

Educators for Maine Program

Repaying Student Loans

Education Tax Benefits

Resources and Tools

Applications - Education Loans, Waivers &
Loan Repayment Programs

Resources For Professionals

What Type of Loan?

Federal Student Loan Programs

Students and parents may borrow from the federal government to help pay for college. Federal loans offer some low interest rates and flexible repayment options.

Private Student Loans

Private student loans are credit-based loans offered through banks, credit unions, and state agencies. Usually, the student is the borrower and will need a creditworthy cosigner like a parent or grandparent.

Health Professions Loan Programs

There are several loan programs for Maine students pursuing a health professions degree.

[Loans for the Health Professions →](#)

<https://www.famemaine.com/affording-education/pay-for-school/borrowing-student-loans/student-loan-programs/>



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What Type of Loan?

Federal Loans (FAFSA required)

Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized

- Federal Loan (benefits)
- In student's name
- No credit check
- FAFSA required
- Fixed interest rate

Federal Parent PLUS Loan

- Federal Loan (benefits)
- FAFSA required
- In parent's name (cannot transfer)
- Credit based
- Fixed interest rate

Private Student Loans

- Bank Loan (some benefits)
- In student's name
- Co-borrower likely required
- Variable/fixed interest rate (depends on lender)

Loan through a bank for education



~~Financial Aid~~ Education Affordability 101

Federal Parent Plus vs Private Loan

Student Loan	Origination or Loan Fee	Fixed Rate	Variable Rate	Repayment Options	Term	Customer Service	Autopay Discounts	Prepayment Penalty
<u>Lenders in the Maine Private Education Network</u>	0 - 4%	No	Yes	Immediate, Interest Only, Full Deferment	Up to 15 years	Originated by local Maine lender	Yes, some lenders	No
<u>Maine Loan</u>	0%	Yes. 6.24% ¹ Fixed, Immediate Repayment; 7.24% ² Fixed, Interest-Only Payments; 7.99% ³ Fixed, Full Deferment	No	Immediate, Interest Only, Full Deferment	10 - 15 years	FAME	Yes ⁴	No
<u>Federal Direct (Parent/ Grad) PLUS</u>	4.228% (10/1/24-9/30/25)	Yes. 9.08% Fixed (7/1/25-6/30/26) (Updated annually in July)	No	Immediate, Full Deferment	10 years	Federal Loan service provider	No	No

<https://www.famemaine.com/affording-education/pay-for-school/borrowing-student-loans/getting-ready-to-borrow/>



SEABOARD
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Seaboard Federal Credit Union

Certified Private Student Loan

RATE TYPE: Variable
RATE RANGE: 6.75%, 11.00%, or 13.25% based on credit score

GUARANTEE FEE: 0%

COMPARE LOANS [Compare Now →](#)

[Learn More →](#) [Apply Now ↗](#)

Camden
NATIONAL BANK

Camden National Bank

Certified Private Student Loan

RATE TYPE: Variable
RATE RANGE: 6.75%, 8.75%, or 10.75% based on credit score

GUARANTEE FEE: 0%, 2%, or 4%, based on credit score

COMPARE LOANS [Compare Now →](#)

[Learn More →](#) [Apply Now ↗](#)

UCU

UCU

Certified Private Student Loan

RATE TYPE: Variable
RATE RANGE: 6.75%, 8.75%, or 10.75% based on credit score

GUARANTEE FEE: 0%

COMPARE LOANS [Compare Now →](#)

[Learn More →](#) [Apply Now ↗](#)

Bangor
Savings Bank

Bangor Savings Bank

Certified Private Student Loan

RATE TYPE: Variable
RATE RANGE: 6.75%, 8.75%, or 10.75% based on credit score

GUARANTEE FEE: 0%, 2%, or 4%, based on credit score

COMPARE LOANS [Compare Now →](#)

[Learn More →](#) [Apply Now ↗](#)

MAINE
STATE CREDIT UNION

Maine State Credit Union

Certified Private Student Loan

RATE TYPE: Variable
RATE RANGE: 6.75%, 8.90%, or 10.45% based on credit score

GUARANTEE FEE: 0%, 2%, or 4%, based on credit score

COMPARE LOANS [Compare Now →](#)

[Learn More →](#) [Apply Now ↗](#)

cPort
CREDIT UNION

cPort Credit Union

Certified Private Student Loan

RATE TYPE: Variable
RATE RANGE: 6.75%, 8.75%, or 10.75% based on credit score

GUARANTEE FEE: 0%, 2%, or 4%, based on credit score

COMPARE LOANS [Compare Now →](#)

[Learn More →](#) [Apply Now ↗](#)

Bath Savings
Since 1852

Bath Savings

Certified Private Student Loan

RATE TYPE: Variable
RATE RANGE: 6.50%, 7.75%, or 10.25% based on credit score

GUARANTEE FEE: 0%, 2%, or 4%, based on credit score

COMPARE LOANS [Compare Now →](#)

[Learn More →](#) [Apply Now ↗](#)

MAINE
LOAN
MAINE'S ALTERNATIVE STUDENT LOAN

Finance Authority of Maine

Maine Loan

RATE TYPE: Fixed
RATE RANGE: 6.24% Immediate Repayment, 7.24% Interest Only, 7.99% Full Deferment

GUARANTEE FEE: 0%

COMPARE LOANS [Compare Now →](#)

[Learn More →](#) [Apply Now ↗](#)



Financial Aid Calculator

Estimate your Student Aid Index (SAI) for the 2026–2027 school year

Finances

Have the parents filed 2024 tax returns?

 Yes

Adjusted Gross Income ⓘ

Income Tax Paid ⓘ

Filing Status

Parent 1 Income ⓘ

Untaxed Income ⓘ

Cash and Investments ⓘ

Do the parents own a business with more than 100 employees or an investment farm?

 No

Have the parents reported any scholarship or grant aid as part of their Adjusted Gross Income or any education credits, or earnings from Federal Work-Study (FWS)?

 No

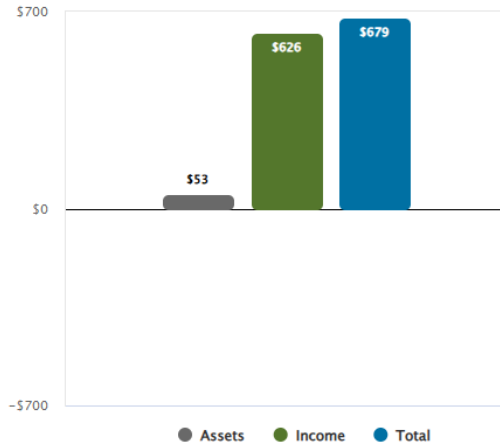
Does the parent receive child support?

 No

Back

Continue

Parents' Contribution



Sneak peek

Results

Parents' Contribution	\$679
	+
Student's Contribution	\$1,000

Your estimated Student Aid Index

\$1,679

Your estimated Pell Grant and Maine State Grant

Estimated Federal Pell Grant	+	Estimated Maine State Grant	=	Total Estimated Grants
\$7,395		\$2,500		\$9,895

Step 1: How is your Student Aid Index (SAI) used by colleges?

Colleges start by determining the full estimated *cost to attend* school and then subtract your SAI. The remaining amount reflects the *estimated financial need* you have at that school. Colleges try to fill as much of that need as possible with various types of financial aid.

SUMMER EMAIL SERIES

Class of 2026: Your Guide to Affording Higher Education

Higher education *can* be affordable. Our nine-week summer email series is a step-by-step guide on ways to make paying for your higher education more manageable. [Sign up](#) to receive the Class of 2026 summer email series, and we'll also send you helpful tips and timely reminders throughout your senior year to help you stay on track!

- [Week 1: The Piecemeal Approach to Paying for Higher Education](#)
- [Week 2: Summer Jobs and Saving](#)
- [Week 3: Scholarships](#)
- [Week 4: The Financial Aid Process](#)
- [Week 5: Applying for Need-Based Financial Aid](#)
- [Week 6: How Schools Determine Financial Aid Eligibility](#)
- [Week 7: How to Find Schools with the Best Financial Aid](#)
- [Week 8: Net Price-How to Estimate What a School Will Cost You](#)
- [Week 9: The Final Piece in the Piecemeal Approach](#)

<https://www.famemaine.com/affording-education/make-a-plan/planning-by-age/high-school/>



Affording Education

The Piecemeal Approach to Affording Higher Education

Welcome, Class of 2026!

We're so glad to be connecting with you!

This email is the first in a weekly series to help you stay on track with planning for your education after high school. In the coming weeks, we'll be sharing resources and information that will help make paying for higher education as manageable as possible.

We'll focus on financial aid and ways to maximize your aid eligibility. We'll also share information on scholarships, strategies for saving, and tools to help you manage your money.

Week 1: The Piecemeal Approach

For this week's topic, we're introducing the concept of the piecemeal approach to paying for higher education.

The idea is to have as many "pieces" (or sources of funding) as possible. Imagine a pie cut into six smaller pieces instead of two large pieces. Six smaller sources of funding means more options, and no one piece—like loans, for example—needs to be as large.

THE PIECEMEAL APPROACH
to Paying for Higher Education





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Questions?



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Thank you for joining us today!

Find more FREE resources and information at
FAMEmaine.com/education.

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