Welcome

I am writing to welcome you to the Onward Program. As the director of Onward, one of the University’s College Success Programs, I am looking forward to meeting each of you and getting to know you. Even though you have completed an extensive admission process and have been selected to become a member of the Onward Program, I am sure that you have many, many questions about the Program, the staff, financial aid, academic courses, etc. The Onward Orientation Week is designed to answer your questions and to begin one of the most challenging and exciting experiences of your life — your college career!

Alan Parks
Director, Onward and College Success Programs

The Academic Calendar

The University of Maine does not follow the same break schedule as public schools. Classes are in session Monday through Friday unless the University is on break. It is also in session during some national holidays. (Classes are in session on Veteran’s Day, for example.) A schedule for the Fall semester is listed below, which includes all breaks.

Tuesday, September 4
Fall semester begins

Saturday, October 6 — Tuesday, October 9
Fall Break: Classes are not in session

Wednesday, November 21 — Sunday, November 25
Thanksgiving Break: Classes are not in session

Friday, December 21
Fall semester ends

Dietary Restrictions

The lunch provided on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday offers many choices, and most people with dietary restrictions are able to find meal selections that meet their needs. Our meals on the camping trip don’t contain as much variety, but there will be vegetarian options as well as gluten-free options.

If you have a dietary restriction other than vegetarian or gluten-free, or if you have a severe food allergy that prevents you from being in proximity to a certain food type (like a peanut allergy, for example) please call us at (207) 581-2320 no later than Friday, August 17 to discuss your dietary needs.

Concerns About Financial Aid

If you have concerns about or unusual circumstances relating to financial aid and need to meet with someone in the Office of Financial Aid to discuss your financial aid package, please call 581-1324, ask for Tiffany Doescher, and identify yourself as an entering Onward student. Tiffany will be available to meet with you during Orientation Week. She will explain your financial aid package and all you need to know about financial aid.

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Collecting Your Financial Aid Refund

Many students will receive a refund from their financial aid that they will use to buy their books and pay their bills during the semester. Financial aid refunds will be mailed out to students the morning of Tuesday, August 28. It is extremely important that the university have your correct address in MaineStreet so that your refund check is sent to the proper location. Be sure to check your address in MaineStreet prior to the start of orientation.

Instead of having a check mailed to you, you can request that your refund be held for you to pick up at the Bursar’s Office on or after Tuesday the 28th. You can request that your refund be held by logging into MaineStreet. Go to Student Self-Service, then Self-Service, then Campus Finances, then Student Authorization. Select University of Maine, check the box that reads “Please select to hold a Credit Balance on your account for future charges,” and click Save. To have your check held for you, you must submit this request in MaineStreet by the morning of Monday, August 27.

Orientation Starts Monday, August 27, at 9:00 am (sharp)
Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, University of Maine
Call (207) 581-2320 with questions.
Disabilities

If you have a disability that may require some accommodation or assistance during your time at the University please contact Sara Henry or Ann Smith at 581-2319 so that we can meet with you and set up arrangements before school starts.

Getting Ready for the Camping Trip

We will be camping from Wednesday afternoon until late Friday morning. All new Onward students must participate in the whole week of orientation, including the camping trip. We would like to have you bring camping gear if you have it (not tents). Specifically, you will need:

- sleeping bag or bedding for your cot
- pillow
- flashlight
- clothes (make sure to bring warm clothes for nighttime)
- appropriate shoes for camping/walking
- toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, deodorant, etc...)
- bath towel
- mosquito repellent and sunscreen (optional, but encouraged)
- rain gear (optional, and hopefully unnecessary)
- swimsuit and beach towel (optional)

The Onward Program will provide meals, snacks, and all other amenities. If you have specific dietary needs, please call us as soon as possible at (207) 581-2320.

This trip is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow students and staff. More information about the camping trip will be available on Monday and Tuesday during orientation.

Included with this newsletter is a release for the camping trip. Please read it carefully, sign it, and bring it with you to Orientation. If you are under the age of 18, your parents will need to sign it.

If You Want to Stay On Campus During Orientation

If you plan to live in a dorm during the fall semester and want to stay on campus Sunday, Monday and/or Tuesday nights of orientation week, call the Onward Office immediately at 581-2320. We need to know who wants to move onto campus early so we can make arrangements with the Housing Office. Students who stay on campus Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday won’t be able to stay in their own dorm rooms for those days, but will stay temporarily in alternate campus housing. You will be able to move into your actual dorm room after your return from the camping trip on Friday.

If you want to live on campus in the fall but have not completed a housing application, you need to do so as soon as possible. Call the Housing Office at (207) 581-4580 to apply.

Parking Permits for August 27th

A temporary parking permit is included with this newsletter. Please bring this permit with you on Monday the 27th and display it in your front windshield. Please park in the lot indicated on the included campus map.

Orientation Week Schedule

Orientation week is mandatory for all incoming Onward students. Lunch is provided on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and all meals are provided on the camping trip. A map to the Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union is included with the newsletter. You will do a lot of walking during orientation so please wear comfortable shoes. You might also want to bring a water bottle.

Monday, August 27 9:00 - 4:00 Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union

Things to bring:
- 2 forms of ID, including a picture ID (to get your MaineCard)
- $50 for parking decal
- your license plate number (for parking decal)

Things you’ll do:
- Meet the staff and other students
- Get your parking decal and MaineCard
- Take a tour of campus, part 1: Bursar’s office, Financial Aid Office, and Bookstore
- Have your picture taken
- Meet with the teachers
- Learn about the camping trip
- Ask questions you still have

Tuesday, August 28 8:30 - 3:30 Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union

Things you’ll do:
- Meet Tiffany Doescher from Financial Aid
- Meet Stuart Marrs
- Meet with the Onward Counselors and Peer Advisors
- Learn about academic policies and being a student
- Take a tour of campus, part 2: classroom buildings

Wednesday, August 29 8:30 East Annex 1:00 Leave for the YMCA Camp of Maine

Things to bring:
- Your camping gear

Things you’ll do:
- Meet your Academic Advisor and talk about class schedules
- Leave for The YMCA Camp of Maine

Thursday, August 30 all day YMCA Camp of Maine

YMCA Camp emergency phone #: 395-4200

Friday, August 31 9:30 Depart YMCA Camp for campus

noon Arrive on campus - students are free to go home