

SEARCHING for SCHOLARSHIPS

You may be eligible for scholarships based on financial need, academic merit, talent or other criteria – we can help you get started in your search!

University of Maine Scholarships

All undergraduates pursuing their first bachelor's degree who meet our **MARCH 1** priority filing deadline are automatically considered for UMaine need-based scholarships. If you qualify for any of these scholarships, they may appear as part of your Financial Aid package on MaineStreet, however, scholarships are awarded throughout the year.

Some UMaine academic departments and colleges also have scholarship funds to award to students enrolled in their degree programs. Please check your department or college website for any additional information on specific scholarships.

First-Year Student Merit Scholarships

By applying for Fall admission to UMaine, students are automatically considered for merit scholarships offered by the Office of Admissions. To be assured full consideration for most institutional merit-based awards, students should:

- Apply for Fall admission and be accepted through UMaine's non-binding Early Action Admission program which has an application completion date of **DECEMBER 1**;
- Be a first-time, first-year or transfer undergraduate applicant and a citizen or permanent resident of the United States of America. International students may visit [www.umaine.edu/international](#) for more information on International Scholarships.
- Have completed a strong college preparatory program in high school, rank at least in the top 40% of your class at the time of application and have achieved a minimum combined SAT critical reading and mathematics score of 1120. Meeting these criteria means you will be considered for merit scholarships — *it does not guarantee that you will be awarded a merit scholarship*;
- Plan to enroll as a full-time student, in an approved undergraduate program at the University of Maine (awarded are valid only on the Orono campus of the University of Maine).

For more information on merit-based scholarships, please visit the Office of Admissions website: www.go.umaine.edu.

University of Maine Selective Scholarships

A listing of selective scholarships is available on the Office of Student Financial Aid's website, located at [www.umaine.edu/financialaid](#). We invite eligible UMaine students to complete the Selective Scholarship Application, available for download on our website, for **each** scholarship for which they may qualify. The dead-line for priority consideration for all selective scholarships is **MAY 15**. Most of these scholarships fall into one of several categories including:

- Residents of a town, county or state
- Graduates of a specific high school
- Descendants of a particular family
- Descendants of University alumni
- Children of union members or of company employees

Some scholarships require certification, such as obtaining the signature and seal of the town clerk. In most cases, applicants must first apply for financial aid (by filing the FAFSA) to be considered for a selective scholarship. Applicants who still meet eligibility requirements are automatically reconsidered for selective scholarships each year.

Office of Student Financial Aid

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A Member of the University of Maine System

Additional Resources

FirstClass

Scholarships are available from agencies and organizations other than The University of Maine, and many of them send flyers and applications to our office. We post this information on FirstClass (under Campus Connection, University Organizations, Office of Financial Aid).

Finance Authority of Maine

An additional resource of particular interest to Maine residents is the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME). This non-profit organization provides educational resources including a scholarship search located on their website, www.famemaine.com.

Higher Education Department

For out-of-state students, we recommend contacting the higher education department in your home state for any state-specific scholarships that may be available. You can search online using the phrase “(your state) higher education scholarships” for state-specific scholarships.

Community Organizations

Many community organizations such as the Rotary, Kiwanis, American Legion and other groups provide funds for local students. Clubs, unions, fraternal organizations, professional associations and even church membership offices may all be sources of private scholarships or loan funding.

Employers

Many employers have scholarships for dependents of their employees. Check to see if your employer offers scholarship programs for yourself, your spouse or your dependents.

Armed Forces

If you are a member of the Armed Forces, or a dependent or spouse of one, you may be eligible for benefits through programs offered by the specific branch which you are affiliated with. Talk with the Veteran’s Affairs Office, the campus ROTC office or with Armed Forces recruitment officers.

High School Guidance Office

High school seniors should work closely with their high school guidance office for information on local scholarships. Once enrolled in college, you may still find a local high school guidance office helpful in securing information on community loan and scholarship programs. Some high schools even have endowment funds which are available only to their alumni.

Free Online Searches

We **DO NOT** recommend that you pay for any scholarship search. Research all scholarship search organizations carefully. Listed below are several reliable scholarship searches that are available on the Web. All of these searches are available free of charge.

BrokeScholar
www.brokescholar.com

College Board Fund Finder
www.collegeboard.com

FastWeb
www.fastweb.com

Finaid
www.finaid.org

Finance Authority of Maine
www.famemaine.com

Maine Community Foundation
www.mainecef.org

Sallie Mae
www.salliemae.com

Helpful Tips

Keep in mind there may be hundreds of applicants for the same scholarship – don’t give anyone a reason to disqualify you! Small things you can do that really make a difference:

- Keep your grades up
- Pay close attention to deadlines
- Complete every portion of the application, do not leave anything blank
- Carefully proofread your work – run Spellcheck!
- Read all instructions carefully
- Provide all the application materials requested
- Give your references plenty of time to prepare letters of recommendation
- Neatness counts – if you can, type your work, if you hand write anything, make it neat and legible.