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 will appear as part of your Financial Aid package on MaineStreet. Initially these scholarships will be awarded from a general fund under the name “University Grant” but will eventually be replaced with the name of the specific scholarship fund.

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 15;
- Be a first-time, first-year or transfer undergraduate applicant and a citizen or permanent resident of the United States of America (International students should contact the Office of International Programs for information on merit-based international tuition waivers);
- 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 1100. 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; taking a minimum 12 credits per semester, in an approved undergraduate program at the University of Maine (awards 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/stuaid/restrict.html. 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 deadline 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.
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.

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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.