

DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE ANNUAL REPORT | 2024-2025

1865



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE

Student Life





DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE DEANS STAFF

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MISSION

The Division of Student Life actively joins with students, faculty and staff to provide programs, services and co-curricular experiences that foster an inclusive and supportive community which not only enhances students' academic and personal growth but also positively contributes to the globally conscious and productive graduates they become.



VISION

Our vision is to actively and enthusiastically support the University of Maine as it aspires to be the most distinctively student-centered and community-engaged of the American Research Universities. We will accomplish this through the development of fully engaged students in a vibrant and purposeful community life that nurtures, guides, and motivates them to realize their fullest academic and personal potential.

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FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

I am thrilled to provide this 2024-2025 Annual Report highlighting the many Student Life accomplishments. For more information on any department, visit the website located on each department's page.

Sincerely,

Andrea Gifford

Andrea L. Gifford
Dean of Students



Executive Summary

Presented here is the Student Life Annual Report, though in many ways it is more accurately a Student Life Impact Report. It reflects how the collective dedication, compassion, and creativity of our staff continue to shape the lives of UMaine students, strengthen the student experience, and support student success. Throughout the report are examples of how staff have supported students as they navigate important aspects of college life, including identity development, career exploration, civic engagement, leadership growth, work experience, interpersonal communication, and more.

The Division of Student Life advances student success through partnership, service, support, and meaningful learning opportunities that help students grow both personally and academically. We promote student success, access, and inclusion by building strong partnerships with faculty, staff, families, and organizations at the local, state, national, and global levels. Through this work, we help students develop into thoughtful, compassionate, and responsible citizens and leaders.

Student Life remains committed to creating and supporting programs and experiences that help students live, learn, and thrive in an engaging and supportive environment. Even as we continued to navigate lingering challenges following the pandemic, our team remained steadfast in serving students and providing support and information to students, families, faculty, staff, and community members. Throughout it all, we continued to find thoughtful and creative ways to help students develop the skills, resilience, and confidence needed for lifelong success. Our commitment to being kind, caring, and compassionate remains at the center of everything we do.

Campus Life

Our dedicated staff remains deeply committed to creating and sustaining exceptional programs and services that support both current and prospective students. At the heart of our work is a genuine care for students and a commitment to meeting them where they are, with compassion, responsiveness, and intention. Through strong collaboration with academic programs and campus partners, we continue to provide meaningful and transformational opportunities in student life, health and wellness, leadership, service, personal development, and beyond.

As student needs and challenges continue to evolve, we have worked to be even more responsive by offering comprehensive programs and services that support students' academic success, personal well-being, and overall sense of belonging. Across all Student Life departments, our teams have brought creativity, care, and purpose to their work, keeping student engagement, development, belonging, and holistic support at the center of everything we do.



Campus Recreation

<https://umaine.edu/campusrecreation>

<https://umaine.edu/mainebound>

3,178

participants in intramural sports

329,781

participants in open recreation

10,871

visits to the climbing wall

216,232

individual students who visited the Rec

6,085

community service hours completed

\$60,000

raised by sports clubs this year

887

sports club participants

25

free fitness classes offered each week

Program Highlights

Youth Program ran nine weeks of summer camp and a school-year-round after-school program with Orono. Additionally offered swim lessons and youth rock climbing

Maine Bound celebrated 40 years as a program and received a \$70k Cora Grant to fund a gear library. Maine Bound also conducted 125 contract programs for the community

636,896+ views on Instagram and added 500+ new followers on IG/FB

Campus Rec employed 220 students with a payroll of 675K

The Rec Center and Maine Bound were open 7816 hours this year





Career Center

<https://umaine.edu/career/>

Program Highlights

Over 2,900 students attended our events, 4,142 students logged into their CareerLink account more than once.

Our career management program, Symplicity (CareerLink) is where students can access job postings, schedule interviews, register for programs, report internship and employment outcomes, and gain access to career development resources such as GoinGlobal and Infobase.

Several career exploration events were held in partnership with the Pathways to Careers program and UMS Transforms. These included: Environmental Science, Energy, Sustainability, and Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Careers in Behavioral Health, Careers in Outdoor Recreation, and Careers in Law and Justice.

Two large employer events, the Engineering and Computing Job Fair and the Career Fair were held in the New Balance Recreation Center. Both student and employer turnout was significant and we are happy to share that employers are engaging with our students.

Our Peer Advisor program was launched with 4 upperclass students representing different colleges. Peer Advisors were available in the Career Center to answer basic questions and marketed career services across campus.

Expanded programming at the University of Maine at Machias which included a resume workshop, career trivia night, interview practice workshop, and an in-person Career Fair; nearly 30 employers across a variety of sectors engaged in programming.

318

employers at virtual fairs

2,060

students reached through presentations

81

career presentations delivered

97%

satisfaction rate from students

225

organizations participated in on campus recruitment

76,114

jobs and internships were posted in CareerLink

8,745

employers registered in CareerLink yielding us 12,419 employer contacts



Center for Student Involvement

<https://umaine.edu/studentinvolvement>

Program Highlights

The 2024-2025 academic year marked a dynamic period of growth and innovation for the Center for Student Involvement. With a focus on building community, enhancing student organizations, and reimagining engagement, the Center played a pivotal role in shaping the student experience at UMaine.

A key achievement was the full implementation of the Chapter Success Program, which allowed fraternity and sorority chapters to reflect on and strengthen their operations across essential areas like health and safety, academic support, member education, and community service. The Event Management Team model was also overhauled, creating intentional advisor relationships between event staff and student organizations. This new structure provided deeper, more consistent support for event planning and risk management.

Campus Groups, UMaine's student engagement platform, has continued its campus-wide adoption with the addition of many UMaine departments and academic colleges. It streamlined student organization management, event planning, and communications, enhancing how students connect with opportunities across campus and creating a more cohesive and accessible experience for student leaders.

The Center also played a leading role in planning and executing UMaine's newest tradition, the Hearty Maine Farewell. This event helped bookend the student experience at UMaine and provided an opportunity for graduates and their families to connect with campus before leaving to follow their own paths.

Whether by fostering new organizations, advising student leaders, or facilitating hallmark campus traditions, the Center for Student Involvement continues to cultivate an environment where students feel empowered to lead, connect, and thrive.



36

students given awards for exemplary leadership

211

new fraternity/sorority members

209

active student organizations

16

new student organizations

600+

hours advising Fraternity & Sorority Leaders

\$24,000+

received in grants and outside donations

3,500+

family members at Family and Friends Weekend

367

unique users in the eSports Arena over the two semesters

420+

hours of advising with greek leaders

23

student staff

4,879

followers on Instagram

12,659

active users on Campus Groups

Community Standards, Rights, and Responsibilities

<https://umaine.edu/communitystandards>

553

Educational / Retention Interventions

13

Days on average case turnaround time
from incident to adjudication

82

Academic Integrity Interventions

Program Highlights

Focused on connecting students with campus resources like counselors, academic advisors, or mentors who can provide ongoing support and community service that directly relates to the harm caused or helps students develop empathy for others.



Commuter and Non-Traditional Student Programs

<https://umaine.edu/studentinvolvement>



3000

Student program participants

900

Bagels shared / served

50

Programs facilitated

10

Collaborations established

Program Highlights

Designed new events to connect non-traditional students, including Family Movie Night, a Non-Traditional Student Mixer, and Non-Trad Coffee Chats.

8 events developed and led by our phenomenal CNTSP student workers.

Partnered with UMPD, Orono Police Department, and Orono Fire Department for Safety Week

Focused on meeting students where life happens, whether that was in commuter parking lots, local restaurants, or other everyday spots on and off campus.

Top 5 Events- First Friday Bagels, Iced Coffee Bar, Boba Tea, Trivia, and Grilled Cheese.

Counseling Center

<https://umaine.edu/counseling/>

938

Initial consultations

4573

Total Mental Health and Substance Use appointments

3306

individual Counseling Appointments

284

Urgent Care Appointments

1048

Individual Students Served

7372

Total Students and Staff Impacted



Program Highlights

Maintained no wait list for counseling services for the third consecutive year, demonstrating strong capacity and student access.

Provided initial appointments within 6 days of first contact, reinforcing timely and student-centered care.

Expanded collaboration with campus partners to strengthen the Counseling Center's integration into the broader university community.

Delivered critical crisis support services following campus community tragedies, supporting students, faculty, and staff

Office of Community and Connections

<https://umaine.edu/studentlife/office-for-community-and-connections/>



\$5,400

Hamm Grants Awarded

20+

Campus and Community Connections made

80

Student Programs Facilitated

20

Educational Trainings Facilitated

8

Flag Raisings

Program Highlights

Designed programs to foster meaningful conversation, community engagement, and networking opportunities

Centered student voice by allowing Student Leads to help shape topics and content based on issues most relevant to them and their communities.

Advanced the office mission of building community and providing education through purposeful, belonging-focused events.

We were to represent UMaine at Bangor's 30th Pride Parade. We were able to bring students and staff together and celebrate as Proud Black Bears!

Leveraged Hamm Grant funding to support innovative programming, including Naloxone Training, Hijab and Feminism, Connection Dinners, and an Iftar Meal celebrating Ramadan.

Residence Life

<https://umaine.edu/reslife>

3.43

average RA GPA

86

undergraduate staff members

9

graduate staff members

4844

documented 1:1 student interactions

722

In-Hall Programs

311

RA Applications Received

Program Highlights

Launched "Wellness Community" in first-year housing to provide a living option where residents are all committed to maintaining a healthy environment conducive to personal wellness.

Partnered with CSI to bring "Rumble on the Hill" to students during the first six weeks of their experience on campus.

Sustained strong momentum in Living Learning Community development, with several communities, including Honors and Education, experiencing enrollment growth.

Staff remained highly engaged in supporting students' transition to college, with strong attention to mental health needs and consistent response to student concerns during late-night hours.



Student Wellness Resource Center

<https://umaine.edu/wellness>

Program Highlights

Provided ongoing educational engagement through initiatives such as Mental Health Monday and Wellness Wednesday, creating regular opportunities for student learning and connection.

Promoted student well-being beyond prevention education by offering programming centered on mental health and the 8 Dimensions of Wellness.

Maintained a strong campus-wide prevention presence through passive programming, including health promotion campaigns, tabling events, posters, social media outreach, and timely public health alerts on issues such as opioid awareness, BORGs, and drugged drinks

Sustained broad campus collaboration by partnering with numerous departments and academic units, reinforcing a coordinated and community-wide approach to student wellness.

997

Students attendance at first-year student presentations

483

Student Athletes educated

961

Fraternity and Sorority members received risk management training

174

Students recieved group BASICS education

65

Students recieved individual BASICS education

10000

contraceptives distributed to students annually



Student Accessibility Services

<https://umaine.edu/studentaccessibility>

1541

Students with Disabilities

439

Initial Appointments

235

Returning Appointments

2,789

Hours of Exam Proctoring

1480

Individual Exams and Quizzes Proctored

175

Individual Classes requested for Peer Notetaking

389

note taking accommodation requests

Program Highlights

Reintroduced student-centered programming through initiatives such as a Mindfulness Workshop and final exam week swag bags.

Increased outreach and visibility by reactivating the SAS Instagram page to promote engagement and connection.

Renewed focus on the student experience by launching a student satisfaction survey to inform future enhancements.

Reinstated test proctoring services in the spring semester, restoring an important support for students and faculty.



The Bodwell Center for Service and Volunteerism

<https://umaine.edu/volunteer/>

Program Highlights

The Black Bear Exchange expanded its impact with 4,700+ visits and 58,000+ pounds of food distributed, reflecting substantial growth over the previous year.

The Black Bear Mentors program sustained meaningful community engagement, with 15 mentor pairs meeting weekly across 3 local schools.

Advanced community impact through special projects, including donating 96 fleece blankets to Project Linus and contributing to Georgia State University research on halal food in college pantries.

Strengthened institutional visibility through conference presentations, statewide leadership participation, and broad campus and community engagement.

Completed 138 service projects with 39 community organizations, totaling 8,020 service hours.

Engaged 1,849 students in service and volunteerism efforts.

38

Hours per week of Programming

\$257,682

Value of Volunteer Time Calculated

1849

Student Participants

138

Service Projects Completed

600

local students mentored/tutored

8020

hours of community service completed



Title IX Student Services

<https://umaine.edu/titleix>



Program Highlights

Title IX Student Services continued to promote a safer campus community across UMaine and UMaine Machias through direct student support, outreach, and resource development.

TIXSS case activity reflects service to students across multiple gender identities and racial/ethnic groups, underscoring the office's broad reach and inclusive support role.

Updated Let's Talk materials and printed/digital brochures strengthened student awareness of available supports, including private and confidential resources.

Improved access to support through updated outreach materials and visible resource information and direct support to vulnerable student populations, including pregnant and parenting students.

University of Maine Police Department

<https://umaine.edu/umpd>



Program Highlights

Achieved Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation in April 2025, reflecting a strong commitment to professional excellence, accountability, and best practices.

UMPD was the first university police department in the nation to receive the FBI LEEDA Agency Trilogy Award and only the third agency in Maine to earn it.

The department continued expanding its public safety reach, with services requested for UMA campuses in Augusta and Bangor beginning in 2025-2026.

The Black Bear Safe app reached 5,357 downloads to date, expanding student access to safety tools and campus resources.

UMPD's Facebook presence grew to more than 4,613 followers, reflecting increased community visibility and engagement.

The University Incident Management Team was redesigned to align more closely with national standards and now includes 16 trained members.

Veterans Education and Transition Services (VETS)

<https://umaine.edu/veterans>

226

Post 9/11 GI Bill recipients

\$1.8 MILLION

in tuition paid for by GI Bill

532

students using GI Bill benefits

\$125,000

Pledge, Roger K. Williams Vet -Fund

Program Highlights

#1 in Maine for GI Bill utilization and #3 among public universities in New England

Significantly expanded its reach through integration with UMaine Machias and the Maine Graduate School of Business in Portland, while advancing important VA compliance and academic alignment efforts.

Veterans Week 2024 highlighted UMaine's strong commitment to military-affiliated students through a successful Veterans Open House, the second annual Veteran Community Connection Dinner, and continued partnership with Army and Navy ROTC.





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The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.