



# University of Maine Student Government

## 2025 Spring Survey Report

*Compiled by Keegan Tripp, President '24 - '26*

### **Background**

The University of Maine Student Government Inc. (UMSG) is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation operated by UMaine students. Dedicated to enhancing student life on campus, UMSG continuously seeks to understand and address the needs and concerns of the student body.

Following the inaugural spring survey conducted in 2023, UMSG launched its third annual survey via Qualtrics on May 1, 2025, aiming to capture the opinions and experiences of UMaine undergraduates. The survey gathered 644 responses before closing on May 9, 2025. The insights gained from this survey will enable UMSG Inc. to more effectively advocate for the students' voice and implement initiatives that reflect the current needs and desires of the UMaine community.

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## Survey Demographics

### Sample Size:

Six hundred forty-four students (n=644) submitted complete responses, representing approximately 7.63% of the [2024–2025 undergraduate population of 8,442](#). (+0.36% from last year's survey)

### Q: Academic Year

<i>Year</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>
First Year	28%	164
Second Year	22%	127
Third Year	24%	138
Fourth Year	23%	136
Fifth Year	1%	7
Other...	2%	11

### Q: College Affiliation

<i>College</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>
CLAS	26%	152
COEHD	12%	72
MCEC	21%	122
ELHS	37%	213
MBS	12%	71
HONORS	9%	50

### Q: Where Did You Live Before UMaine?

<i>Location</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>
Maine	61%	356
New England, but Not Maine	20%	114
US outside New England	17%	96
Outside US	3%	15

**Q: Traditional Vs. Non-Traditional**

<i>Status</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>
<b>Traditional (Direct from HS)</b>	82%	478
<b>Non-Traditional</b>	18%	105

**Q: On vs. Off Campus**

<i>Status</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>
<b>On Campus</b>	49%	282
<b>Off Campus</b>	51%	298

**Student Entertainment****Q: Did you know that any undergrad can join UMSG's Student Entertainment Committee (SEC) to give input and plan UMSG-sponsored events?**

<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>
<b>Yes</b>	36%	194
<b>No</b>	64%	341

**Q: What is your preferred music genre?**

<i>Genre</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>
<b>Pop</b>	21%	111
<b>Folk</b>	10%	56
<b>Rap</b>	8%	43
<b>Indie</b>	20%	106
<b>Rock</b>	18%	98
<b>R&amp;B</b>	6%	30
<b>Other...</b>	14%	94

**“Other” Summary:** The responses reveal a dominant preference for country music, with over half of all “Other” entries explicitly naming country or closely related genres like folk and country-pop. Metal and alternative subgenres (e.g., heavy metal, punk, emo, grunge) also featured prominently, making up over 15 entries combined. Niche interests such as classical, musicals, sea shanties, and J-Pop emerged occasionally, highlighting a small but passionate subset of students with unique musical leanings. Overall, genre diversity was valued, but a strong undercurrent of rural and alternative cultural identity—anchored by country and metal—clearly shaped student preferences.

**Q: Artist Recommendations**

<i>Artist</i>	<b># of Mentions</b>	<b>Approx. Cost Estimate</b>
Noah Kahan	18	\$2 Million
Role Model	10	\$80,000
Morgan Wallen	9	\$6 Million
Zach Bryan	6	\$2.5 Million
Sammy Rae (Again)	6	\$75,000
Luke Combs	5	\$500,000
Caamp	5	\$200,000
Rainbow Kitten Surprise	5	\$200,000
The Lumineers	4	\$1.5 Million
Tyler Childers	4	\$300,000

**Further Summary:** The responses highlight a strong preference for country, folk, and indie artists (e.g., Morgan Wallen, Noah Kahan, Zach Bryan), which collectively account for over 40% of mentions. Local and regional acts (e.g., Oshima Brothers, Northern Hell Kult) were frequently suggested (noted in 15+ entries), often paired with calls to support Maine’s music scene. Cost-conscious recommendations emerged, with many advocating for affordable indie or emerging artists like Role Model or Sammy Rae again (10+ mentions). Conversely, high-cost mainstream acts (e.g., Luke Combs, SZA) were also popular but remarked as aspirational. Students emphasized diversity in genres, including rock (Metallica, Ghost), hip-hop (JID, Baby Keem), and cover bands (4+ mentions). A recurring frustration about UMaine’s capacity to attract big names was evident, with comparisons to UNH’s success (3 explicit mentions).

**Q: Would you prefer a comedian and a concert, or two concerts?**

<i>Response</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
Concert and Comedian	40%	217
Two Concerts	60%	319

**Q: Educational speaker topic recommendations:**

<i>Topic</i>	<b># of Mentions</b>
AI / Technology	23
Mental Health	17
Science	17
Politics	17

Climate Change	14
History / Archaeology	13
Life after College / Career Advice	13
Finance / Money	12
Environment / Sustainability	10
Motivation / Self-help	10

**Further Summary:** Beyond the top categories, students expressed diverse interests across psychology, religion/spirituality, women's issues, LGBTQ+ topics, and education. A handful of responses spotlighted niche but passionate topics such as archaeology speakers like Milo Rossi, space exploration, mycology, and independent learning techniques. Several responses emphasized practical life skills (e.g., how to change a tire, personal finance, post-grad transitions), while others leaned toward activism, intersectional justice, and mental resilience. Many students requested non-traditional speakers, hands-on or interactive presentations, or perspectives that challenge the academic status quo.

## About UMSG

**Q: Before taking this survey, did you know that UMSG is responsible for recognizing/funding nearly all clubs and organizations at UMaine?**

<i>Response</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
Yes	66%	357
No	34%	181

**Q: Before taking this survey, did you know that you pay the Student Activity Fee (soon to be \$100) each semester, \$84 of which is given to UMSG to distribute to student organizations?**

<i>Response</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
Yes	62%	333
No	38%	205

**Q: Before taking this survey, did you know that UMSG provides free legal services?**

<i>Response</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
Yes	43%	232
No	57%	306

**Q: Before taking this survey, did you know that UMSG's offices are located in the back of the Wade Center?**

<i>Response</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
Yes	53%	286
No	47%	252

**Q: Before taking this survey, did you know about UMSG's Concord coach bus ticket discount program through the UMaine Department of Parking and Transportation?**

<i>Response</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
Yes	42%	227
No	58%	310

**Q: What is the best way to reach you about Student Government?**

<i>Method</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
Instagram	19%	103
Campus Flyers	13%	71
UMSG Newsletter	5%	24
Email	48%	258
Campus Groups	3%	15
Word of Mouth	8%	42
Tabling	2%	8
Other...	2%	12

**Q: Do you follow @UMSGinc on Instagram?**

<i>Response</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
Yes	35%	187
No	47%	251
Do not have Instagram	19%	100

**Q: Use this space to provide any additional general feedback about UMSG...**

**Positive Feedback:**

- **Appreciation and Acknowledgement:** Many students took time to express gratitude, with responses like “Keep doing a great job!”, “Y’all are awesome!”, and “Thanks for all your hard work!” A current Senator wrote, “As a sitting senator at-large, I notice the unrecognized efforts day in and day out.”
- **Event Enjoyment:** There was strong support for campus programming, particularly concerts and comedians. One student wrote, “The comedian in the Fall was SICK and very relevant,” while another said, “Two concerts would be awesome, maybe one could be outside and one could be inside.”
- **Club Support:** Some students highlighted the value of financial assistance, noting it “*shapes the UMaine experience.*” A leader of a well-funded club shared, “*Funding isn’t an issue—we nearly have \$15k—but we’re building a 150 lb, 3x5 rover in a closet in the basement of Barrows,*” pointing to a need for space more than funds.
- **Creative Communication:** Several students submitted tangible ideas to improve UMSG's visibility. One proposed flyers with slogans like “UMSG? Sounds fake, but ok” and “We do stuff. Important stuff. Find out what on Insta”, accompanied by QR codes to the UMSG Instagram. Others suggested “a bulletin with a general ‘Our Services Offered’ title” or a weekly digest email.

**Negative Feedback:**

- **Bureaucracy and Intimidation in Funding:** Several club leaders described the funding process as overly bureaucratic and discouraging. One president stated, “It is really upsetting... we are treated like we are asking for gold bars. It makes running a student organization incredibly stressful and frustrating.” Another added, “The process of submitting a budget... is intimidating.”
- **CampusGroups Accessibility Issues:** CampusGroups drew widespread criticism for technical problems and equity concerns. A trans student noted, “It really doesn’t honor name changes well,” and said they “left multiple events” because of the requirement to use the app. Others described it as “not intuitive or user-friendly.”
- **Visibility and Awareness Gaps:** Many students expressed confusion or a lack awareness about UMSG. One wrote, “I didn’t know what the UMSG was or that it was even a thing until this survey,” while another said bluntly, “UMSG gets grouped in with all the other orgs that send mass emails—students tune it all out.”
- **Concerns Over Fee Use and Fairness:** Multiple students questioned using the Student Activity Fee, with one writing, “Cut the activity fee down. \$100 is too much... Get your money from tuition, not from charging us extra.” Another criticized, “From what I have seen, student gov is incredibly unfair and only gives money to their friends’ clubs.”

**Mixed Feedback:**

- **Need for Improved Communication Channels:** Students repeatedly requested better and more diverse outreach methods. Suggestions included “adding TikTok and Snapchat,” “posting more polls on social media,” and “being more in-person in the Union.” Many suggested Brightspace banners or better Portal integration to avoid email overload.
- **Student Input on Events:** Several students asked for UMSG to “send out a Google Form” and let students vote on concert or comedian options. The common critique: “UMaine often books events that 95% of the students have never even heard of.”
- **Mixed Perceptions of Club Funding Focus:** One student noted, “It used to be much easier to request funding... but now the main focus seems to be sports clubs and less creative outlets.” Still, others recognized the challenge of managing broad demand with limited resources.
- **Outreach to Commuters and Online Students:** A commuter student asked UMSG to “lean on the university to make MWF classes have Zoom options,” citing cost and accessibility. An online-only student appreciated being able to participate in the survey but noted feeling excluded from in-person services.

**Further Summary:** Among the 100+ responses, many students appreciated UMSG’s programming, staff efforts, and impact on club life. However, key challenges emerged. The funding process was frequently described as intimidating, bureaucratic, or unfair, especially by club leaders. CampusGroups is widely disliked for its inaccessibility and poor user experience, particularly for marginalized students. Students consistently want more visibility, clarity, and input, especially around how their money is spent. The \$100 Student Activity Fee was criticized twice, with concerns that “UMSG isn’t transparent about where it goes.” As for communication, students favor informal, relatable outreach over formal emails, and suggested social media, Brightspace integration, and clever physical flyers as solutions. Despite criticisms, students also offered solutions, acknowledged the complexity of UMSG’s work, and demonstrated a clear desire for more connection, fairness, and trust in how the student government serves them.

## **Student Organizations**

**Q. Are you part of a club or organization that has received funding from UMSG?**

<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>
Yes	51%	273
No	49%	262

**Q. Have you ever been involved in the UMSG funding process? (of those “yes” above)**

<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>
Yes	28%	74
No	72%	195

**Q: How satisfied were you with the UMSG Club funding process? (of those “yes” above)**

<i>Genre</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>
Satisfied	30%	23
Somewhat Satisfied	39%	30
Neither	14%	11
Somewhat Dissatisfied	12%	9
Dissatisfied	5%	4

**Further Summary:** Roughly a third of respondents described the funding process as straightforward, responsive, or positive overall. Comments included, “*It was simple and efficient*” and “*Very clear about how to request and receive funding.*” Several praised specific individuals, with one writing, “*Oliver did an excellent job this year... helpful to those of us who are very busy.*” Clubs expressed appreciation for how UMSG supported their activities: “*We received more than enough funding for the Permaculture and Gardening Club,*” and “*It went as smoothly as possible, and we got what we needed.*” Other students noted that “*Student gov obviously cares about supporting their peers’ passions,*” and some newer participants shared that while their involvement was limited, they felt things seemed “*pretty good*” or “*very chill and easy to navigate.*”

A significant portion of students found the funding process confusing, frustrating, or overly bureaucratic. Some common complaints included a lack of clarity: “*The process and steps felt unclear,*” “*There are no simple*



guides,” and “It’s a convoluted and complicated process.” Long wait times for short presentations were a major pain point: “It is tedious and unnecessary to make us wait for over an hour to give a three-minute presentation,” and “We had to sit through a 2-hour meeting to present for 30 seconds.” A few club leaders expressed disappointment with the tone or conduct of UMSG members, including one who shared, “A member of student government called our conference a ‘luxury trip to Pennsylvania.’ It was disappointing.” Others pointed to structural inequities, confusion around recognition processes, or an assumption that certain clubs were already funded by departments, which complicated their access.

Several students offered feedback that was mixed or tentative. Some were still going through the process (“I’m in the process right now”, “We just received funding, so I’m not sure how it’s affected us yet”), while others expressed that it was “fine,” but could use improvements in efficiency or communication. For instance, one noted, “It was overall quick and easy, but I wish there were a way to present to the senate without sitting through the whole meeting,” while another added, “It was fine, but a little hard to figure out who to reach out to.” A few mentioned helpful individuals like Oliver, but critiqued broader inconsistencies across UMSG operations: “UMSG is not on the same page across all its operations.” For some, unclear timelines and vague paperwork created challenges even when the result was successful.

**Q. Are you an officer of a UMSG-recognized club or organization? (of those “yes” on being part of a UMSG club)**

<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>
<b>Yes</b>	45%	120
<b>No</b>	55%	147

**Q. What aspect of UMSG x Club relations are you the Least Familiar with? (of those “yes” above)**

<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>
<b>The Funding Process</b>	28%	34
<b>The Recognition Process</b>	34%	41
<b>UMSG Advocacy</b>	21%	25
<b>Student Organization Support (Advertising, resources, etc.)</b>	17%	21

**“Do you have any suggestions on better clarifying UMSG processes?” Summary:** Many students desire better communication and clearer guidance regarding UMSG’s processes and support offerings. A common theme was the need for step-by-step instructions, with several students suggesting “*guidebooks*,” “*step-by-step instructions with a timeline*,” or “*a flyer that clarifies what UMSG and its members do*.” Others advocated for early-semester outreach, such as “*emails at the beginning of the semester outlining all UMSG processes*” or optional meetings to walk through funding and recognition procedures with club officers. There were concerns about confusing terminology, unclear expectations, and navigation issues, especially for newer students or clubs juggling multiple responsibilities. One student noted that the recognition process is too convoluted. Several suggested that UMSG make its resources and instructions more accessible, including “*an email with all the support you can offer*,” “*assistance with UCU paperwork*,” or using platforms easier to navigate than the current UMaine website. Overall, students aren’t asking for less structure—they’re asking for more transparency, simplification, and proactive education about succeeding within it.

**Q. Do you use campus groups?**

<i>Response</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
<b>Yes</b>	60%	319
<b>No</b>	40%	211

**Q. How do you use CampusGroups? (Select all that apply) (of those “yes” above)**

<i>Response</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
<b>Coordinating and Advertising</b>	24%	75
<b>Email Building Software</b>	9%	27
<b>Browsing the University</b>	54%	166
<b>Register for Events</b>	64%	197
<b>Internal Club Communication</b>	17%	52

**Q. How often do you use CampusGroups? (of those “yes” above)**

<i>Response</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
<b>More than once a week</b>	6%	20
<b>Once a week</b>	22%	71
<b>Once a month</b>	41%	131
<b>Once a semester</b>	31%	98

**Advocacy and Campus Issues****Q. Select the areas that UMSG should MOST focus its advocacy:**

<i>Response</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
<b>Academic Support / Advising</b>	8%	44
<b>Mental Health and Wellness</b>	19%	98
<b>Housing, Dining, and Basic Needs</b>	28%	143
<b>Campus Accessibility</b>	4%	20
<b>Campus Infrastructure / Parking</b>	21%	107
<b>Student Representation in Campus Decision-Making</b>	17%	87

Other...	4%	21
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**“Other” Summary:** Students emphasized a wide range of advocacy priorities, focusing on campus accessibility and disability services, often cited alongside concerns about housing and dining. Several responses argued that accessibility should be treated as a basic need, noting that many buildings remain inaccessible to disabled students. Mental health and wellness services were another key concern, commonly paired with calls for expanded basic needs support, such as hygiene products in campus restrooms. Academic support and advising were mentioned as areas needing stronger systems, transportation, parking, and general infrastructure improvements. A few students highlighted the importance of student representation in university decision-making. In contrast, others called for UMSG to take a more active stance in defending student interests and advancing equity, particularly through diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Overall, the responses reflect a desire for UMSG to prioritize advocacy that improves daily student life and promotes equity across campus systems.

**Q. Use this space to leave any other comments/specific issues about the campus you want us to see!**

**Campus Infrastructure and Accessibility:**

- Potholes and roads: Widespread frustration over campus road conditions; students asked for repaving, not just patchwork.
- Sidewalks & winter safety: Students cited slip hazards and accessibility issues in snow. Requests for more timely plowing and attention to cracked or uneven walkways were common.
- Restroom & Rec Center facilities: Students asked for more hooks, wipes instead of toilet paper, cleaner locker rooms, and improved fitness equipment.
- Dorm infrastructure concerns include:
  - Overheating in rooms without control.
  - Long-stalled maintenance projects (e.g., locked disabled restrooms).
  - Inconsistent or broken accessibility features in dorms like Aroostook.
- Students stressed that many buildings and dorms are still inaccessible, especially to wheelchair users.
  - Specific dorms mentioned: Aroostook and others lacking functional accessible restrooms or ramps.
  - Students asked for universal access upgrades, including elevators, ramps, and winter sidewalk safety.

**Parking:**

- Overwhelming demand: Many students cited *parking* as a significant ongoing issue, especially for commuters. Requests included:
  - More commuter-designated spots.
  - Building a parking garage.
  - Preventing the reallocation of commuter spaces to staff/residents.
  - Easier traffic flow around CCA and game days.

**Dining and Basic Needs:**

- Repeated criticism of Sodexo and food quality:
  - Requests for nutritional and vegetarian options.
  - Concerns about *undercooked or unhealthy food*.
  - Students want *whole, local foods* and *expanded hours* past 8 p.m.
  - Multiple students shared that food has caused physical discomfort.

**Student Support and Basic Needs:**

- Several expressed concern over the mental health safety net in dorms, citing cases of silently suffering students not being checked on. Requests included:
  - More accessible mental health crisis support
  - Expanded basic needs services (including menstrual products and healthier food)
  - Greater awareness/support for international and marginalized students

**Academic Equity:**

- Students urged that academic and professional clubs (e.g., Robotics, SAE) be treated with respect comparable to athletics, due to their high educational value.
- Students noted underfunding in departments (e.g., MBMS) while athletics receive significant investment.

**Communication and Engagement:**

- Calls for:
  - Easier access to academic advising.
  - Clearer updates about Major requirement changes.
  - A better platform than the current UMaine website for navigating resources
- Students (2) want UMSG to partner more closely with media outlets like *The Maine Campus* to surface student concerns and help them reach administration.

**Sustainability and Campus Appearance:**

- Students want more:
  - Trees, grass, and green spaces
  - Recycling and waste reduction
  - Campus to feel “livable and beautiful” again, rather than run-down or underdeveloped

**Takeaway:** Students want a university that invests in its people, infrastructure, and shared environment, not just athletics and capital projects. There’s a strong call for basic, tangible improvements—paved roads, functioning bathrooms, good food, parking, and accessibility. GSS can respond by advancing legislation, opening direct channels to administration, and ensuring student voices are amplified and acted upon.

## Student Feedback on Campus Issues

- Overcrowding in dorms
- Accessibility issues and poorly plowed sidewalks in winter
- Repair potholes on campus roads
- Lack of parking
- Poor food quality and limited options in dining halls
- Make sustainability a higher priority
- Deferred maintenance of campus infrastructure
- Make academic advising easier to access