Enrollment for High School Students

University of Maine, Orono
Hutchinson Center, Belfast

The University of Maine has several programs designed to allow academically capable high school students to pursue and earn credit for college-level coursework. All registration information and grades earned will become a part of the student’s permanent academic record and will be included in the cumulative grade point average earned at the University of Maine.

Aspirations Program (a nondegree program)

Eligibility: Student must:
- Be a full-time high school junior or senior
- Have permission from the high school
- Have consent of his or her parent or guardian to register for coursework
- Have a B or better academic average
- Meet academic course prerequisites
- Be eligible to receive a state subsidy for postsecondary courses

Restrictions:
- Course registration is subject to space availability
- The Aspirations Program doesn’t generally cover courses taken during Summer University. Students will be charged the full per-credit tuition rate in effect at the time of registration
- Aspirations students are not eligible to be considered for federal financial aid
- Students interested in taking more classes than those approved through the Aspirations Program can do so as nondegree students
- All registration information and grades earned will become a part of the student’s permanent academic record and will be included in the cumulative GPA earned at UMaine
- A maximum of six credits can be paid for by Aspirations and Academ-e. Any expense resulting from enrollment in more than six credits will be the responsibility of the student

Records required to be sent directly to the Admissions Office:
- Completed Aspirations application (sent by applicant)
- Official high school transcript (sent by high school)
- Letter of recommendation from guidance counselor or principal (sent by high school)
- Official transcript for any prerequisite (with course/grade listed) not taken at the University of Maine or listed on the official high school transcript (sent by institution)
Nondegree Student Application

Eligibility:
- Students interested in taking college courses while completing high school
- Students must meet course prerequisites

Records required to be sent to Admissions Office:
- Completed nondegree student application (sent by applicant)
- Official high school transcript (sent by high school)
- Letter of recommendation from guidance counselor or principal (sent by high school)
- Official transcript for any prerequisite (with course/grade listed) not taken at the University of Maine or listed on the official high school transcript (sent by institution)

Restrictions:
- Course registration for any course is subject to space availability
- Student is not eligible for financial aid
- All registration information and grades earned become a part of the student’s permanent academic record and will be included in the cumulative GPA earned at UMaine
- Tuition waiver programs are not available for nondegree students who are not in Aspirations or Academ-e

Early First-Year Applicants (for high school students finishing their junior year who wish to enter the University of Maine as a matriculating degree candidate before they graduate from high school)

Student must:
- Have completed three years of college preparatory work, but not graduated from high school
- Demonstrate outstanding academic achievement
- Demonstrate the maturity and motivation to pursue university degree work
- Be recommended by their high school guidance counselor or principal

Restrictions:
- High school students who enter the University of Maine as degree candidates before graduating from high school are not eligible for federal financial aid
- Students entering the Early First-Year Applicant program at UMaine must arrange to complete high school graduation requirements in either the first or second semester of enrollment
- Upon completion of the first year in the Early First-Year Applicant program, students are required to have their high school submit the official high school transcript showing the date of graduation
- All registration information and grades earned will become a part of the student’s permanent academic record and will be included in the cumulative GPA earned during their first year of study at the University of Maine

Please Note: Early Admission is distinct from Early Action. Early Admission is for students entering at the end of their junior year in high school who plan to use coursework at the University of Maine to complete their high school graduation requirements. Early Admission students are enrolled at both their high school and the University of Maine until they graduate from high school. Students graduating from high school in three years would apply as regular admission applicants. Early Action refers to applicants who complete the application process before Dec. 15 and plan to enroll the following September.

Academ-e (early college, distance education)

Academ-e is an early college distance education program designed to offer qualified high school juniors and seniors University of Maine courses using state-of-the-art teaching and learning technologies, combined with on-campus experiences. All registration information and grades earned will become a part of the student’s permanent academic record and will be included in the cumulative GPA earned at the University of Maine.

Students must be nominated by high school principals, teachers and guidance counselors. Schools are encouraged to nominate students whose records demonstrate that they are college-bound and ready for university-level work, and students in whom they see potential for success, despite underperformance in high school. A student is eligible to receive a state subsidy for postsecondary courses.

A University of Maine Academ-e scholarship will be provided to all students who enroll. The scholarship will discount tuition by 50 percent for three-credit courses and will absorb all university fees. The Maine Legislature’s Aspirations Program through the Maine Department of Education is expected to cover the remaining 50 percent tuition of the three-credit courses for students enrolled in the Academ-e program. However, the university does not cover the entire cost of the fourth credit for four-credit courses. For further information, contact Academ-e.