# M.W.A.C
### MAINE WORD ABOUT COLLEGE

## The Maine Word About College

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## Q. Is college easy, hard, or fun?

**A.** I have found that college is as hard as you make it. As long as you are on top of your work and you stay organized, college is an excellent time to grow and develop in many different areas of your life. College will challenge you to better yourself, and as long as you use the tools you're given, you will succeed. —Rachel

I feel like college as a whole is relatively easy because I'm doing something I love. It can be challenging in the best of ways if you choose to challenge yourself. Finding ways to grow and build upon as many opportunities as you can is something you should pursue wholeheartedly and without hesitation. —Noah

## Q. What college is good for learning about science? How can I prepare?

**A.** Colleges like MIT, Columbia, and Harvard are good for learning about science, but they are not the only ones. Most if not all colleges and universities will have various science programs. Science is a broad term and can include anything from being in the laboratory to conducting experiments in the field. Depending on what kind science you are interested in, many colleges will have specific programs. For example, if you're interested in health science, colleges like Husson University, University of Maine, Southern Maine Community College, and Saint

## Q. Is there an age over 18 when you can't go to college anymore?

**A.** You can go to college at any time in your life after you've graduated high school, and you can always count on there being someone there to help you. You just have to know where to look for those people. —Mac
Coming from a community college where most of the student population is nontraditional, I've seen people from all ages prosper in the school setting. We're all trying to better ourselves and there should never be an age restriction associated with learning. —Rachel

## Q. What if you don't want to go for 4 years?

**A.** That's perfectly fine. Many degrees can be completed in 1 or 2 years at a community college for a fraction of the price. Even if you are looking to go for a 4-year degree like myself, I have found that starting at a community college saves you a substantial amount of money, and most, if not all, credits transfer towards your 4-year degree. Then, after your first 2 years, you're left with a diploma in your hand that you can use to jumpstart your work experience. —Rachel

Joseph's College all mention health science programs on their websites. If you're interested in environmental science, then University of Maine, Colby College, and Unity College offer various degree programs related to environmental science. If you are interested in science, find out what kind of science you are interested in, and it's totally fine if you do not know now. Just explore your options, take science classes that capture your interest, and see if you want to go further with that particular field. —Rosemary



## Q. How about architecture?

**A.** I think Wentworth is a great school for learning about architecture. I am biased, obviously, but the school has a great "return on value." The co-op program, location in Boston, four-year bachelor's program and one-year master's is a huge plus. While studying out-of-state is a bit more expensive, it beats commuting to Augusta for five years for a bachelor's. (The University of Maine at Augusta has the only architecture program in Maine.) —Noah

## Q. Computer programming?

**A.** There are tons of unique programs to learn about computer science entirely based on what school you choose, but make sure you select a school that has one of these programs. When you start to actually apply to college, you'll want to look at what kinds of clubs the school has, too. For example, the school I go to (UMaine) has a cybersecurity club, a "hackerspace," and a few other computer science-related clubs that you can learn a lot from. If you want to be a coder, one of the best things you can do right now is to start looking online to find resources on programming (coding). Try looking up "Websites to teach programming for kids" in Google. You'd be surprised how many things there are out there to help you learn to code. —Mac

# STUDENT STORIES ABOUT PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Every month we will feature profiles of Maine students, sharing their experiences with paying for college, in order to show that affordability is possible!

Although I had not originally planned on attending the **University of Maine** while I was applying to colleges in high school, it was one of the best decisions I could have made. I am very grateful to say I will be finishing my degree this spring with NO DEBT at all while paying for everything myself. The sole reason I have been able to do this is through the **scholarships** I received.

Coming from a rural Maine school district I did not have as many resources as some students, but I worked hard in my studies and was accepted at UMaine with a very generous academic scholarship from the school. After this I was lucky enough to receive the **Mitchell Scholarship**, as well as several other scholarships to be applied during my freshman year. With room and board my first year school did cost a few thousand dollars, but the next three years have been almost entirely covered by the university's scholarship, the continued support of the Mitchell scholarship and institute, and grant money through my financial aid. Unique to the Mitchell scholarship, I not only have received helpful financial aid, but also introductions to a variety of recourses and connections throughout college which have helped with far more than just the task of paying for school. I also have been committed each year to applying to yearly scholarships made available to college students through the school and national programs which have also been extremely helpful. While a full-time student often taking 16 or 17 credits a semester I have been able to keep most semester bills **below $500** while some semesters completely paid for themselves. This has allowed me to finish my Bachelor's degree on my own without a single loan or any debt towards my schooling and for these opportunities and scholarship programs that made it possible I will forever be grateful.

— Reilly Romanoski, a senior at the University of Maine, originally from Strong, ME

# CKB CHALLENGE #6

Every month we will provide a crossword & challenge question to help you start prepping for the College Knowledge Bowl in the spring!

The final practice crossword is going out this month, but this time, it is **double the usual size!** Half of the clues are ones we've used before, so this will be a good test of your memory. The crossword is *so big* that we can't even fit it all on one page, so we are attaching it as a PDF.

Even if you cannot physically come to the College Knowledge Bowl this month, you can still get competitive with your classmates. Form teams of four (with a creative team name), and compete against each other to see who can correctly answer the crossword first! If you email us (mainecollegecircle@gmail.com) your team names, we will post shoutouts on our website (collegeanswers.weebly.com)!

Ready, set, GO!