

MAINE WORD ABOUT COLLEGE

The Maine Word About College

Questions about college from young Maine students, answered by old Maine students.

Today's writers

Lindsay Morong, junior field hockey player at Thomas College, originally from Liberty, ME

Pierce DiMauro, sophomore swimmer at Occidental College, originally from Mount Desert Island, ME

Offered by Maine College Circle and the Mitchell Institute to great young students throughout Maine.

Q. What does it mean to get recruited?

A. Recruitment into college sports can work in different ways — sometimes a coach can reach out to you, while other times, you can fill out online recruitment forms for different schools. Recruitment also varies across sports; if you play basketball for instance, you might go to a showcase



that contains several coaches watching you play. If you run track or swim, you usually just need to send a coach your times. In my case, as a swimmer, I emailed coaches directly at schools I was interested in after researching their teams and times to see if I could compete for them. — Pierce

Q. How do you balance schoolwork and sports?

A. It takes A LOT of time management and willpower. Juggling classes, practices and games, homework, as well as on and off campus jobs, you



have to be on top of your game. You have to be focused in the classroom, on the field, and in every aspect of your life if you'd like to succeed. Having a daily scheduler/planner is really useful for many students to set priorities and to be organized.

— Lindsay



Q. What do DI, DII, and DIII mean?

A. Division I and II schools are larger and offer athletic scholarships. Division III schools, like the one I swim for, are smaller, liberal arts colleges that do not give athletic scholarships but often give scholarships for merit or academic achievement. Athletes in DIII have a less intense practice schedule and do not have to perform testing to compete. —Pierce

Q. What if you're not recruited?

A. During preseason anyone can try out for a sport if they sign all necessary register papers. It is up to the coaches to then accept them onto the team or not. If someone does not make the cut, most schools have intramural sports (teams formed within your college, not varsity) which are just as fun! —Lindsay

Q. Can you watch your school's teams play?

A. Yes, school spirit is a big thing in college! Students love going to games for their favorite teams. Often students can get free passes to games. —Pierce

Q. Is it fun being on a sports team?

A. Being on a college sports team is like nothing else — you'll likely meet some of your best friends. I spend a lot of time with people on my team, and although it's a lot of hard work, my teammates and I put the effort in together. I love having a group of people on campus that I'm close with and get to spend time at practice with. I also have had a lifelong passion for swimming; there's no other feeling quite like being in the water for me. If you have a sport that is one of your passions, college is a great place to expand upon it and explore. Being on your own for the very first time in your life, having a team and a program to be a part of is a great way to meet people on campus and structure yourself with many of the freedoms that come with being in college.

— Pierce

Of course! I love being on my college's field hockey team. It gives me a great sense of campus pride, and it was a great way to meet people during my first semester. I couldn't imagine not being so busy. During the off season (when we don't have games or nearly as many practices) I tend to slack off because I'm not being pushed to accomplish tasks right away. I absolutely love my team. We are truly a family unit and having 20+ other girls there to support you on the field and off the field for the school year is something we are all grateful for, not to mention this is how we all made our first/closest friends here.

— Lindsay

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Blog: <http://collegeanswers.weebly.com/>

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7bFHg_mbWlU6Kg8UTNpE4Q