
MAINE WORD ABOUT COLLEGE

The Maine Word About College

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

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Today's writers

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Megan Hall, current student at the University of New England and a Mitchell Scholar.

Hunter White, current student at Bowdoin College.

Bob Stuart, Director of Maine College Circle and a not-so-recent graduate of Bowdoin College and Harvard University.

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

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Q. Are there requirements to go to college?

A. Yes.

You need to have a heartbeat. If you are uncertain whether or not you have a heartbeat, you can check with your mother or father. They probably know. You could also ask your teacher but she or he will probably start telling you all about how you need more than just a heartbeat to go to college; you need to work hard in school and show up everyday and turn in your homework and pay attention in class. You know how that goes.

Generally, you need to have graduated from high school, but I have known students who have gone to college without graduating from high school. Some students are required to pay some money to go to college, but I have known plenty of students who didn't pay anything to go to college. They worked hard in high school and did really well and their parents didn't have a lot of money. I don't know if they were smart.

You don't need to be smart to go to college. You just have to have the interest and be willing to put in some effort.

But, if you have a particular college that you want to go to — maybe DigiPen or Harvard or NASCAR Tech or the University of Maine or Springfield College where John Cena went — colleges that lots of other students want to go to too . . . you had better check with your teacher about your heartbeat. You know how that goes.

— Bob Stuart



Q. Are the teachers nice?

A. Yes, they are all there to help you succeed! In order to gain respect you need to be respectful and hard-working.

Q. Is there a dress code in college?

A. I'm not sure what the official dress code is. You do need to wear clothes, and I recommend looking appropriate around the college and classes. You can wear PJs when you're in the dorms and relaxing. College is a great place to express your style—nobody looks or dresses the same.

Q. If I wanted to major in marine biology, what college should I go to?

A. It depends on what type of marine life you are looking to work with. If you want to work with smaller creatures, seals, small sharks, etc, then UNE is the place to go! If you are looking for larger marine life it may be smarter to go in an area where they live, like Florida or California. — Megan Hall

Q. Is college harder than high school?

A. College is much harder than high school, but it is a good type of hard. There is certainly far more work, and there is a higher expectation for the quality of the work. However, it challenges students to improve on a vital lifelong asset: work ethic. Doing college work is far more rewarding, as it requires far more individual insight, critical thinking and personal experience. Not to mention professors absolutely LOVE the subject they teach, as most of them have dedicated their lives to that one academic interest. This passion sort of enables students to discover something they find interesting about the class. In addition, professors love to help students understand the material. They offer what are called “office hours,” which are times the professor is available for any and all student generated questions. Trust me, if you ask a professor about a book/article/object of research that they love, they will discuss it with you forever!

— Megan Hall

Q. If you don't know what you want to be when you graduate from high school, can you still go to college?

A. Absolutely! In fact, most students starting out at college don't know what they want to do after college, so they take classes in many different subjects and then find something that they like. Also, many students (including me!) enter college knowing exactly what job they want, but then change their minds. So while it is a very good idea to be thinking about potential careers and college majors, you don't have to have these things decided completely by the time you start college.

— Hunter White