

MAINE WORD ABOUT COLLEGE

The Maine Word About College

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

Today's writers

Isaac Michaud, a senior at University of Maine-Farmington, from Presque Isle

Noah Holmes, a senior at Evangel University, from Houlton

Lexi Clark, a junior at Thomas College, from Lee

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

Q. Where do I go to be a teacher? What do I have to study and for how long? How can I start preparing now?

A. There are a lot of colleges and universities that have education programs. I personally chose the University of Maine at Farmington because they are known throughout the state for a great education program that prepares great teachers for the state of Maine. I believe there are three important things to look for in an Education program at a university. 1) How many faculty teach in the program? The more faculty specializing in Education may help you understand what the field is all about. 2) What are the class sizes like? Most classes teachers teach in high schools are 15-25 students. I believe that in order to teach classes this size, one should be involved in classes this size. It also allows for more hands-on learning and engagement between the professor and students. 3) When do you get into a real classroom? It is very important to get into a K-12 classroom and experience what it would like to be a teacher. You want to make sure you are getting into a profession that is what you want to do. Experiences matter!



—Isaac



Q. Can you study for more than one job at a time?

A. I definitely think students can study for more than one job at a time. For example, I personally am working towards a Secondary Education degree to become a high school teacher, but I also am minoring in Political Science. A **minor** is like an addition to a degree, it allows you to focus and gain more knowledge on a different area of study. I added this minor because I have thought of going into this field after graduation as well. This minor makes me more marketable for jobs in the Political Science field. Who knows where I will end up!

—Isaac

Q. What about a doctor or nurse?

A. To be a doctor or nurse, one starts in an undergraduate program. Schools usually have programs specifically designed for both. Nursing is about 2 years at a university, then nursing school, which is usually offered at a university that is connected to a hospital because there are so many clinicals. This is usually another 2 years and is a CNA. Then, there are options to work and go to school to become a LPN or RN. Becoming a doctor is a longer process. You go to undergraduate for various majors but you just need to cover organic chemistry, biochemistry, and various biology courses. These courses are crucial to help prepare you for the MCAT (a big test that medical schools use in their application process). Then, after your undergraduate, you apply to medical school for about 4 years and then you apply to a residency program which vary anywhere from 3-5 years. As far as what you should be doing right now, I would suggest shadowing or volunteering wherever you can in a hospital setting that allows you to interact with patients.

—Noah



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!

Many young students think that if they learn a trade they don't need to go to college to be successful. I was thinking the same thing when I went to NPT Region III, a technical school for Culinary Arts. This is where I fell in love with baking and cake-decorating and decided I wanted to open my own bakery. Many of the people in my class were either going to take culinary in college or were going straight into the workforce. I decided on a different route. I figured that the baking was my passion, the easy part, and the business was what I was going to struggle with. I decided to invest in myself and learn how to successfully run a business and build a company so I could have a place to do what I love. That's exactly what I did. College was scary to me because it costs so much money. I am from a relatively low-income family and I knew I couldn't afford the big sticker prices of some of the colleges at which I was looking.

I go to Thomas College, and the overall price is \$38,000+ a year. That is extremely high and scary for any student looking at going to college. However, I cannot stress enough that it is not that expensive after Merit Scholarships, other outside scholarships, and financial aid. On average **I pay about \$4,500 a year out of pocket or in personal loans a year at Thomas College.** That may still sound like a large number to many people, but you don't have to start paying those loans back until six months after you graduate college. Also, you can apply for many scholarships while in college as well.

Many students think scholarships are only for students the first year at college but that's not the case. I have applied for many scholarships and received two of them just last year. Another strategy I have tried is working a lot over the summer and paying my bill in full without taking out a loan. It's definitely more challenging, but it works, and you don't have to worry about losing money while interest builds up. All in all, college is expensive; but there are so many ways to offset the costs without taking out large loans. Remember, loans have to be paid back. Grants and scholarships are free money! So go do it! Apply for as many scholarships as you can.



College is an investment in yourself and your future.

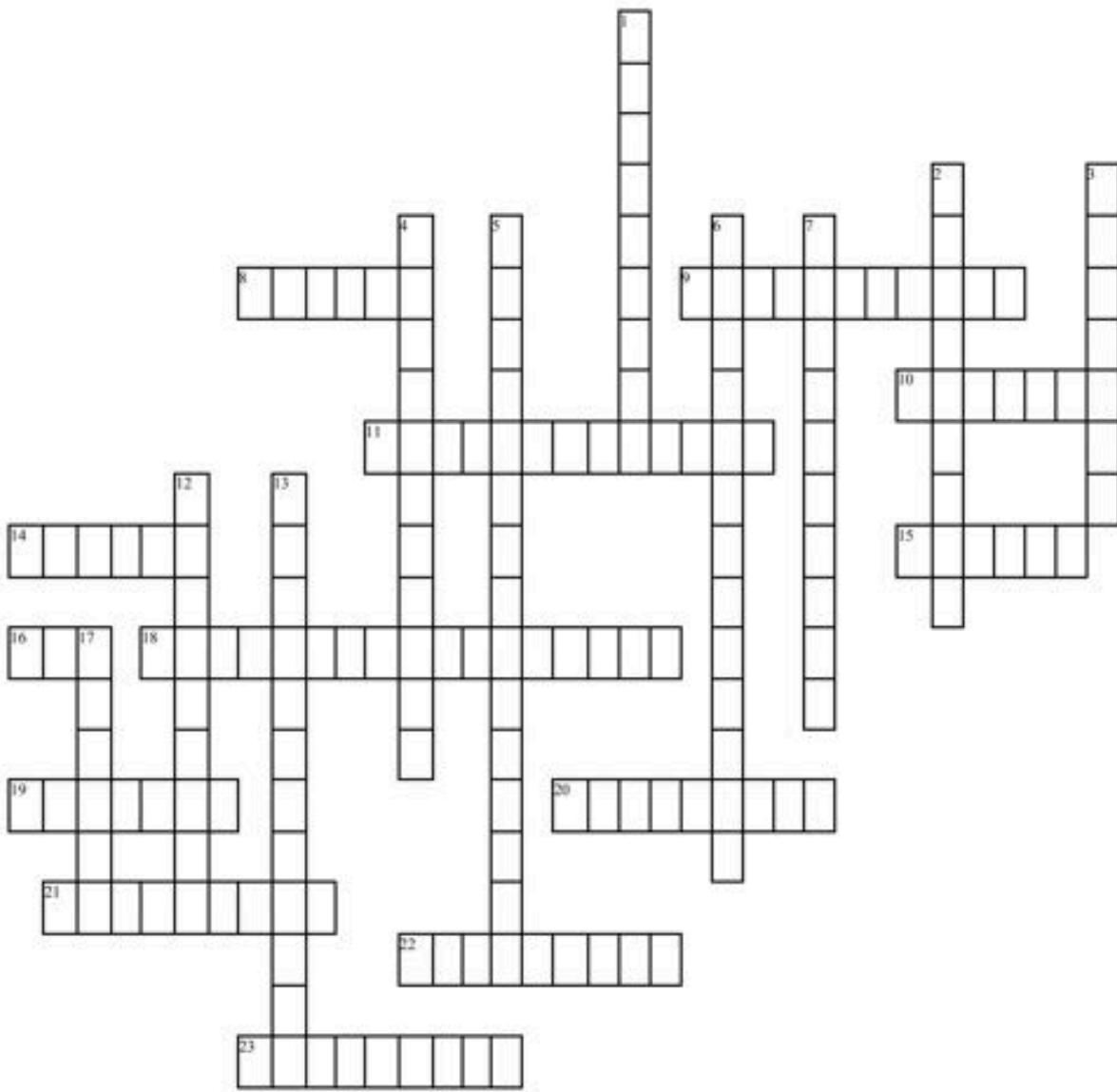
—Lexi

CKB CHALLENGE #3

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

Time to study up on Maine geography! Do you know where all the colleges in the state are located? Print or draw a map of Maine and make arrows/signs to as many colleges as you can. Feel free to get creative with your map-making!

Email pictures of your maps to a member of Maine College Circle (or our group email: mainecollegecircle@gmail.com) and we may post them on our website!



Across

- 8. location of Husson University
- 9. college major to study the movement of the body
- 10. an academic talk that a professor gives to students
- 11. home state of Boston College
- 14. lake at St. Joseph's College
- 15. equestrian majors study _____
- 16. school grade average on scale from 0 to 4
- 18. a decision-making body of students
- 19. a small, discussion-based college class
- 20. a student music group with string, brass, wind, and percussion instruments
- 21. town with main campus of UNE
- 22. the study of the brain
- 23. college admissions conversation

Down

- 1. department that manages sports teams at a college
- 2. a university teacher's title
- 3. a large exam taken at the halfway point of a course
- 4. college major to study ancient ruins and artifacts
- 5. adjective that describes activities outside of class
- 6. mascot of Notre Dame
- 7. the study of the mind
- 12. type of degree beyond Master's
- 13. doctor who takes care of animals
- 17. graduates of a college