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The Maine Word About College

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

Today's writers

Tate Yoder, a sophomore at University of Maine-Orono from Penobscot, ME

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

Q. Why is college so expensive?

A. I am not exactly sure why college is so expensive, but getting a degree is an investment in your future! The expense of going to college is less daunting if you think about it as a means of meeting your long term career goals. — Summer



College is an investment in your career, so it means that initially your time, energy, and money spent on getting a degree is a bit overwhelming. But like many other safe investments, it means that what you get back is more than what you put in. There are of course cases with some people where college wasn't necessary, but in general the payoff from attending college will almost always give you a better paycheck and more importantly, a more satisfying career. — Tate



Q. How can I get a scholarship?

A. (A scholarship helps to pay for a student's education. There are a bunch of ways to get them.)

From my experience there are 3 different "places" someone can apply for a scholarship. 1) Most high schools help their students find local scholarships that you can apply to. 2) From each of the colleges I have been accepted to, they all offered their own form of academic scholarship—these usually are based off of your GPA from high school. These can



Q. How much do most colleges cost?

A. Typically anywhere from \$5,000 - \$35,000 per year (a whole lot of money, I know). There's this rumor that I heard in high school a lot that most colleges cost over \$60,000, and while yes, some of the more prestigious schools cost that much, it is rare to see costs this high, not to mention rarely does anyone actually pay "full-price." — Tate

Q. What schools in Maine offer financial aid?

A. All schools in Maine offer financial aid. You are bound to get financial aid if you had good grades in high school or if your family is unable to contribute towards your tuition, as long as you fill out the FAFSA form! — Summer

Be sure to check out MeCC's blog and YouTube Channel!

range anywhere from \$500 - \$20,000. 3) Other institutions, organizations, businesses, etc. offer aid. — Tate

Getting a scholarship can be as easy as filling out a simple form or as time consuming as writing an essay. Sometimes it can be hard to find the motivation to apply for scholarships, but it is important to make an effort! Receiving just one scholarship can suddenly make your dream school affordable. — Summer

Most applications require a written piece, so make sure to pay attention in English class!

— Kylie



Q. Are there ways to save and earn money in college?

A. There are so many ways to save in college! Going off campus to buy food may be fun, but if you have a meal plan it is probably best to just eat on campus. Is there a work study position (a campus job) available in a department that interests you? Apply for the position and save your paycheck to pay for things like toothpaste and gas. — Summer

I've worked a part-time job most of my years in college so far and it has really helped. Some of the things I have done to save money is to buy used textbooks, find cheaper housing off-campus, get off the meal plan and cook for myself, work a part-time job, apply to scholarships, and take advantage of all the various price discounts and perks about being a University of Maine student. — Tate

Getting a job to help pay for college is a possible option, and many people do so, including myself. I make sure to set aside a certain amount of money each payday to put into my savings. Even just setting \$10 aside each payday, or week, adds up over time.

— Kylie