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The Maine Word About College

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

Today's writers

Cassie Donald, current freshman at University of Maine at Farmington, originally from Searsport District High School.

Emily Thibeau, current sophomore at Rivier University, originally from Eliot, Maine.

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

Q. How do I apply to college?

A. The application process varies depending on the school you are applying to, as some may require an application through the school itself, or through an application known as the Common Application. This allows you to just fill out one application, and send it to your desired schools online. If you ever get stuck, I highly suggest seeing your guidance counselor as they know the process well.

— Cassie



Q. How do I know where to apply?

A. Find what you like! Look into what programs the school offers. Do you want to major in English? Make sure you find a school that offers that major. Some schools are small and have a small teacher-to-student ratio, and some hold lectures of more than 400 students. When applying to a school match what you would like and would find most beneficial to your education and you will find the right school. Make sure to go to the school too! Campus visits are very helpful because you can see the classrooms, the feel of the school and the environment you're going to be in!



— Emily



Q. Will I have to interview?

A. This all really depends on what you're applying for. In terms of scholarships, some of them may require an interview. The process isn't really that scary, though. Just be yourself!

— Cassie

Q. Who can help me with my application?

A. Lots and lots of people! Going to your guidance counselor is definitely helpful, and even teachers will be able to help, too. I also suggest sitting down with your parents/guardians and have them help you. It's good when everyone in your family is on the same page about college.

— Cassie

Q. Can I also apply for financial aid and/or scholarships?

A. Yes, and it is important that you do so! Filling out financial aid isn't as hard as it seems, and usually your school will provide an informational session about it. As for scholarships, the process of writing all the essays and filling out applications may seem a little daunting, but trust me when I say it's worth it. Not only do you get a little help with your college expenses, but you also make many great connections!

— Cassie

Q. What advice do you have for young people thinking about college?

A. My advice is if you ever have a question regarding the application process, don't be afraid to ask! There are so many resources available to you that will make the application process so much easier. Also, I recommend starting early. I filled out what I could of the Common App, and wrote my essay, in the summer before senior year, then filled the rest in as the school year progressed (which made it less stressful).

— Cassie

My best advice is to not be afraid to ask for help. Utilize your guidance counselors at school, that's what they are there for.

— Emily

Have more questions? Ask your teacher to submit them to Maine College Circle, and real college students will answer them on this blog: <http://collegeanswers.weebly.com/>

Check out Maine College Circle's YouTube video about dining hall food at Bowdoin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aml6-VwmHw&t=1s>