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The Maine Word About College

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

Today's writers

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

Q. Are there certain colleges for certain things?

A. Some colleges are specialized to teach certain things.

Technical schools focus only on teaching certain skills, such as engineering. Some colleges offer classes in everything but primarily focus on certain subjects. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for example, specializes in math, science, technology, and engineering. Some colleges, like Bowdoin, teach more of a variety of subjects, from art to English to government to math to biology. Some colleges are most well-known for certain departments. Northwestern University, for example, teaches everything but is famous for its very strong journalism department. If you know what you are interested in pursuing, then you may want to consider going to a school that specializes in that subject. But if you have no idea what you want to pursue, then it can be fun to go to a college that offers a variety of subjects so that you can try things out! —Julianna

Q. What if you don't have a lot of money to pay for college?

A. Fortunately, you can apply for scholarships and financial aid! Most schools offer different scholarships to help students pay for college based on merit. This means that you may have to write an essay or attend an interview or show your interest in a certain subject in order to be chosen for a scholarship. Financial aid, however, is need-



Q. What should I bring to college?

A. You should bring lots of stuff for your room, and stuff that you need for school. For example: notebooks, pens, bed sheets, clothes, decorations.... Usually your college's website will have a packing list somewhere on their website or you can talk to friends who have gone off to college already. —Anna

Q. Do you take trips in college?

A. Yes! Some classes may have field trips to cool places. For my oceanography class, we get to take a trip out on the ocean to do our experiments. Some classes get to travel even farther, and lots of schools offer opportunities for field research. If you find something that you want to research, you may be able to go on a trip to another part of the state or another part of the country (maybe even out of the country). —Julianna

Q. What are good schools for art and drama nearby?

A. Maine College of Art (MECA) has a great art program in Portland. Emerson and Boston University have great drama programs in Boston. —Bob

based. This means that all you have to do is fill out some forms after you have applied to college. When you hear back from colleges, you will find out how much financial aid you have been awarded. A lot of colleges also have work study programs that allow you to work an on-campus job so that you can earn money while you are attending school. In the meantime, keep working hard in school so that you can have as many options as possible when it comes time to apply for college! —Julianna

Q. Is there a close doctor college?

A. You can go ALMOST anywhere to study medicine in grades 13, 14, 15, and 16. You would study a lot of science -- biology, chemistry and more. They often call it pre-med. You would earn your bachelor's degree. Then you would go to med school. The closest med school is UNE, the University of New England, in Biddeford. Tufts and Boston University and Harvard are all in or close to Boston.

—Bob

**If you have more questions,
ask your teacher if you can
submit them to Maine College
Circle! You can find your
answers, along with others, at
<http://collegeanswers.weebly.com/>**

Have a great summer!