

Early College Across Maine's Public Universities and Community Colleges

Expand your options and aspirations while still in high school

Through the Aspirations program, eligible Maine high school students can enroll in college courses on campus, online, or at their local high school or CTE **tuition-free**. These offerings allow students to earn high school and college credit or explore a post-secondary degree or certificate while still in high school.

Over 10,000 students participate annually

Credit eligibility starting in academic year 25-26

Starting with the Class of 2027, eligible **students can earn up to 18 college credits tuition-free** over their lifetime within semester limits.

The Class of 2026 can access 12 tuition-free credits in 25-26.

Career & technical education students on approved CTE pathways are eligible for an additional six MCCS course credits on their career path.

Students may choose to take additional courses beyond the limit but will be charged the early college rates (regular fees waived, course specific fees may apply):

- ▶ **UMS:** reduced tuition
- ▶ **MCCS:** full tuition
- ▶ **All Concurrent:** \$60/cr



A growing body of research that suggests that **students who participate in dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities** are more likely to:

- ▶ **build the confidence** and navigation skills needed to succeed in college
- ▶ **attend college**
- ▶ **transfer successfully** from a community college to a four-year college or university
- ▶ **complete a college degree** ahead of or on time
- ▶ **succeed** in their college program

Student Success Strategies

- ▶ Students intentionally choose courses that align with interests and aspirations
- ▶ Students select courses which meet their academic readiness and schedule capacity
- ▶ Students and families understand that early college courses are college courses and may have different expectations and rules than high school courses
- ▶ Students access support and guidance from high school and CTE staff, college advisors, faculty, and family
- ▶ **Career Pathway Modules** – students choose and plan early college course activity

Early College Tools

ExploreEC & OnCourse



These two course management portals are connected. All student activity should occur through the portals. Students have access to course applications across both UMS and MCCS courses.

Career Pathway modules available in each portal.

College Portals & Websites

Individual colleges websites have current information on course enrollments and textbook requirements. Students should use their college portal and email for tasks related to taking the course such as communications with faculty, buying books/materials, or ordering a transcript.



Learning Management System (Brightspace)

D2L
BRIGHTSPACE

This is where content and activities for online courses and some in-person courses will be.



Early College Resources:

Maine Community College System



Maine Department of Education

University of Maine System

