Maine Community College System

2025-2026 Fact Sheet

Who We Are

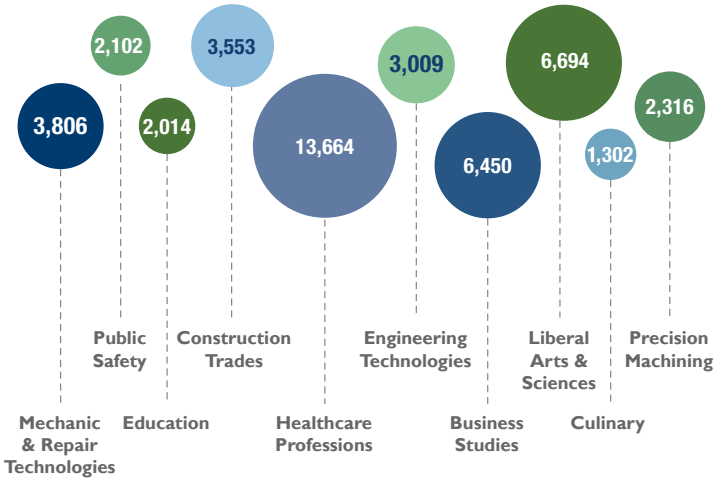
Maine's seven community colleges are the smart and affordable choice for lifelong learning in Maine serving more than 33,000 people a year.

- We're welcoming: Our community includes students in two-year associate degree and one-year certificate programs, short-term workforce training, early college programs, advanced certificates, and specialized skills training.
- We're affordable: Maine's community colleges have the lowest tuition and fees in New England, and generous scholarships and aid.
- We're vibrant: On-campus housing is available along with sports, clubs, athletic facilities, and campus events.
- We're practical: High-tech facilities mean students learn on equipment they'll use on the job.

Who We Serve

- 21,924 students enrolled in credit courses in fall 2025.
- MCCS educates 44% of all undergraduate students at public higher eds in Maine.
- 79% of degree-seeking students get some form of grant aid. For 79% of degree-seeking students, grant aid covers the full cost of tuition and fees.
- 67% of all students attend part time.
- 85% of degree-seeking students are enrolled in career and occupational programs.

MCCS has awarded 53,703 college credentials since 2003. These skilled workers form the bedrock of the Maine economy.



Serving All Ages and Aspirations

- The average age of degree-seeking students is 24. 31 percent are adult learners age 25 or older.
- Last year, 7,858 Maine high-school students earned free college credits through our early college programs.
- 55% of new, degree-seeking students are recent high school graduates.
- Under the new Transfer ME program, MCCS graduates in certain programs are guaranteed admission at one or more University of Maine System colleges. A similar agreement guarantees admission to College of the Atlantic, Husson University, St. Joseph's College of Maine, Thomas College, Unity Environmental University, and the University of New England.

Our Locations

The seven community colleges and their off-campus centers are within 25 miles of 94% of Maine's population.

Maine's community colleges offer the lowest tuition in New England

Free for many. Affordable for all.

$96 per credit hour

The average cost for a full-time student $4,156 a year in tuition & fees.

High school graduates from Classes of 2023-2025 qualify for a Free College Scholarship that pays 100% of tuition and mandatory fees.

Over $78 million in grant aid is awarded each year.

In 2024-2025, the community colleges served more than 33,000 individuals — through degree programs, customized training, and credit and non-credit offerings.

Building a Skilled Workforce for Maine

- In addition to degrees and certificates, we've vastly expanded our short-term workforce training programs. Get the skills and training you need — at low- or no-cost — for the job you want in just weeks or months.
- Since 2021, we've trained more than 45,000 short-term workforce students, and we're on track to train another 70,505 by 2030.
- Our most popular programs are in health care, business, and the trades, but there are short-term programs in all industry sectors. Among the classes: commercial driving, marine design, logging operations, CNC machine operator, e-vehicle repair, heat pump installation, medical assistant, electrician, pharmacy technician, Yamaha outboard motor repair, and welding.
- Short-term workforce training is coordinated by our Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce, with training delivered on-campus, online, at job sites, or at other locations across the state.
- Some programs include stipends and short-term housing options!

Free College Facts

- High school graduates from 2023-2025 qualify for a Free College Scholarship that covers 100% of tuition and mandatory fees after state and federal grant aid has been applied. No paperwork needed, the scholarship is automaticly applied for graduates in qualifying years.
- The Free College Scholarship has encouraged more male students to enroll in college.
- A total of 22,327 free-college eligible students have enrolled, many who previously thought they could never afford to go to college.
- 91% of Free College Scholarship recipients are pursuing associate degrees.

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