

Early College Across Maine's Public Universities and Community Colleges

Secondary schools are essential partners in early college offerings.

The Aspirations Program ensures that participating students have opportunities to explore or begin a post-secondary degree or certificate while still in high school. All stakeholders should work towards the goal that program participation mirrors student demographics at the state, regional, and school levels. *2025 MOU with MDOE, UMS, MCCS*

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.

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



- ▶ All Aspirations-eligible activity must be administered through the ExplorEC/OnCourse portal
- ▶ Retroactive credit is not available
- ▶ Schools and colleges share responsibility for student success
- ▶ Eligibility begins in the first semester of high school and ends after the spring semester of senior year
- ▶ Aspirations is not intended for credit recovery

College & Secondary Shared Responsibilities

- ▶ All students and families are aware of early college opportunities
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Semester course maximums help structure pacing:
 - ▶ Summer max: 2 courses; Fall max: 3 courses; Spring max: 3 courses
 - ▶ Year-long concurrent courses may count in either fall or spring
- ▶ **Career Pathway Modules** – Help 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. Schools have access to live information and reporting 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)



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

