

FREE COLLEGE - HOW IT WORKS

1 Have A High School Diploma

(or equivalent) from 2023 or later



2 Enroll

Pursue a degree or certificate program at least part time during the following time frames:

2023 grads: No later than Summer 2026

2024 grads: No later than Summer 2027

2025 grads: No later than Summer 2028

2026 grads: No later than Summer 2029



3 File the FAFSA

File online at studentaid.gov/FAFSA.

Please note: If you aren't eligible or can't complete the FAFSA, contact the colleges' Financial Aid Office. All federal and state aid is applied before the Free College Scholarship.



4 Live in Maine

2023 - 2025 grads: while enrolled

2026 grads and beyond:

For full year immediately prior to admission and while enrolled



5 Complete Your Certificate or Degree

2023 - 2025 grads: Scholarship available up to 200% of program completion time. (Four years available for a two-year program.)

2026 grads and beyond: Scholarship available for up to 150% of program completion time. (Three years available for a two-year program.) **Part time is OK!**



Please note:

- You cannot earn more than one associate degree under the Free College Scholarship.
- You can use the Free College Scholarship to get two stacked, one-year certificates or a certificate and an associate degree in the following scenarios:
 - If the two certificates are stackable. (Ex. Heating certificate, Plumbing certificate)
 - If the certificate leads to the associate degree. (Ex. Automotive Chassis certificate + Automotive Technology degree)
 - If the two certificates are directly related. (Ex. Construction Technology certificate and Electrician Technology certificate)

Learn More!

