

Contact

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Web site: <http://www.umaine.edu/onward/>

Students who want more information about these services or who feel they could benefit from participation in these services should contact the Onward Program.

Admission Requirements

Candidates for admission to the Onward Program must have a high school diploma or its equivalent. After candidates complete an application, they must attain acceptable scores on a test of basic academic skills. They are then interviewed by a selection committee to determine motivation, willingness to persevere, and ability to use the services of the Onward Program.

Did You Know?

- The Onward Program began in 1970 as a way to make the University of Maine more accessible to students who, for academic and economic reasons, might not otherwise attend college.
- Onward provides the gateway to help eligible and appropriate students enter and develop the skills needed to successfully earn a baccalaureate at the University of Maine.
- The typical Onward cohort includes workers who have been laid off or who are looking for a better career, single parents who want to be better providers for their children, people who did not complete high school due to family or personal reasons but who have achieved their GED, people who are the first in their family to attend college, people with disabilities. Onward may be the only way into the University for such students, yet they succeed.

College Success Programs A member of the Division of Lifelong Learning

Program Description

The Onward Program is a gateway to the University for students who may need preparatory coursework in English, Mathematics and Science in a supportive environment. The program is designed to assist non-traditional students, low income students, first-generation students, and students with disabilities to earn college degrees. At the heart of the Onward Program is the development of a small, supportive learning community that engages students, faculty, and staff.

Onward students take a selection of Onward courses at the University of Maine designed to prepare them not only for the academic content of the courses they will take for their degree, but also for the process of taking classes. Onward courses require the same degree of rigor as other University courses. They are offered during the regular University schedule, and students taking them are, in all ways, University of Maine students. Students have the opportunity to earn up to 18 credits in Onward. Many of our students credit Onward classes for providing them with both the self-discipline and knowledge necessary to achieve their degrees.

The program counselors help Onward students through individual and small group counseling to achieve their academic, vocational, and personal goals. Counseling provides students with opportunities to gain information, develop skills, explore values, make decisions, address concerns, and resolve problems and conflicts associated with becoming a successful college student. Counselors provide a safe, confidential atmosphere for these discussions. Peer Advisors, a special group of upperclass students, assist counselors in providing support and orientation activities for the new students.

Specialized Information

The Onward Program offers special academic and support services to students enrolled at The University of Maine. Services include:

- academic advising;
- counseling with trained professionals;
- peer advising and mentoring;
- academic supports, such as class-related study labs, on-line resources, computer labs and software;
- faculty who are trained to teach developmental courses;
- extensive peer support—a community of learners;
- classes with cohorts;
- workshops designed to meet student interests and needs;
- and a five-day orientation session held prior to initial fall entry, which:
 - helps students and staff get to know each other very well;
 - firmly fixes a sense of belonging;
 - helps students transition into University academics.

Onward science courses include lab experiences and field experiences, such as the nearby Experimental Forest and a nature walk on campus.

Alumni/Student Comments

“In the beginning, the Onward Program was my lifeline. My state of mind was overcome with fear and insecurity. I remember days of feeling lost and so tired, not knowing if I could go on. A caring person gave me a hug and pointed me in the right direction. Through the support of the counseling staff, the professors, the secretarial staff and the camaraderie of my classmates, I have learned that I could not only achieve academically, but I could do it well.”

“I am thrilled to be a third-year student at the University of Maine. Earning a college degree has been a goal of mine since I finished high school almost 20 years ago. I entered the Onward Program with 50 other non-traditional students, and I had an immediate support network. Onward course work helped me to improve my skills in algebra, biology, writing, reading, and critical/abstract thinking. I am majoring in communication disorders and plan to do graduate study in the same area. My only regret is that I did not discover Onward sooner!”

Curriculum

Onward courses provide students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for success in college courses. Some courses carry degree credit. Onward courses, which are also available to non-Onward students, include:

- ONE 012: Onward Composition
- ONE 013: Advanced Onward Composition
- ONR 012: Introduction to Academic Reading
- ONR 013: Critical Reading
- ONS 011: Onward Biology
- ONS 012: Onward Chemistry
- ONS 014: Onward Zoology
- ONM 011: Pre-Algebra
- ONM 012: Introductory Algebra
- MAT 111: College Algebra
- ONO 011: Onward Orientation
- ONO100: Onward Orientation II

Students have the opportunity to earn up to 18 University credits for their Onward coursework through competency exams, CLEP tests, and portfolio reviews.

Ongoing Research & Awards

Onward has over a dozen scholarship funds, and annually disburses over \$20,000 to students. Many advanced Onward students (those who have completed program requirements and have changed to another UMaine college) continue to be served through the University's TRiO-Student Support Services Program (SSS). SSS annually disburses over \$90,000 to eligible students.

Career & Graduate Opportunities

As Onward students move on to any college and major at the University, they also may enter any career and graduate program. Since 1970 Onward students have successfully completed nearly every major at the University of Maine. Onward students become nurses, teachers, engineers, counselors, anything they want to! And many continue on to graduate school.

Academic Programs 2009-2010

Please refer to the web site (<http://factsheets.umaine.edu/>) for the most updated version of the fact sheets.

This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.