

Onward Program

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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?

Onward provides the gateway to help eligible and appropriate students enter and develop the skills needed to successfully earn a bachelor's degree at the university. They are usually highly motivated students — the sort faculty love to have in their classrooms.

University Programs

Program Description

Onward provides a highly supportive environment to students who may not otherwise be eligible to enter or succeed at the University of Maine. The typical Onward cohort includes workers who have been laid off or 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 have achieved their GED, people who are the first in their family to attend college and people with disabilities. Onward may be the only way into the university for such students, yet they succeed.

The Onward Program does not award a degree. Rather, it is a gateway to the university for students who may need preparatory coursework in English, mathematics and science in a supportive environment.

Specialized Information

The Onward Program employs a service model that includes: intensive academic advising; counseling with trained professionals; peer advising and mentoring; academic support such as class-related study labs, online 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. This orientation helps students and staff members get to know each other very well, firmly fixes a sense of belonging and 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. Students can earn up to 18 university credits for their Onward coursework through competency exams, CLEP tests and portfolio reviews.

Career and Graduate Opportunities

As Onward students achieve success, they move on to the college and major of their choice at the university. Since 1970, Onward students have successfully completed nearly every major at the University of Maine.

Onward students enter careers in nursing, teaching, engineering, counseling and many other fields. Many continue on to graduate school. The annual Onward Graduate Recognition Reception is always a joyful and emotion-filled experience, as graduates share their stories of struggle and success.

Representative Courses

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
ONO 011 Onward Orientation
ONO100 Onward Orientation II
MAT 111 College Algebra

About UMaine

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls 12,000 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. Students are offered 88 bachelor's degree programs, 64 master's degree programs, 25 doctoral programs and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, go online (umaine.edu). Equal opportunity information also is available online (umaine.edu/eo).

How do I apply?

Visit go.umaine.edu for an application as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.



Academic Programs 2011–12

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online (factsheets.umaine.edu). This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.

