

Maine

University of Maine System
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- 1) Does the state have an identifiable “P-16” effort visible? Who is in charge of this effort?
In 2004, Governor John Baldacci created the “The Task Force to Create a Seamless Pre-Kindergarten through Sixteenth Grade Educational System.” This task force was charged with recommending to the Governor a strategy that develops seamless Pre-Kindergarten through Sixteenth grade educational systems in the State of Maine. The task force was led by Commissioner of Education Susan Gendron and submitted its report, “Achieving Prosperity for All Maine Citizens” in January of 2005. Upon completion of its charge, the task force was dissolved. Information on the task force, including the final report, is available at: http://www.maine.gov/education/pk16_task_force/homepage.htm
 - a) Does the agency include a utility or function on its website designed explicitly to help potential students locate an appropriate college or university to attend?
The University of Maine System (UMS) website (www.maine.edu) has a specific section of its website intended for prospective students. The website includes information on undergraduate and graduate programs, transfer and articulation agreements, how to apply, and an online form that can be used to request more information about any of the seven institutions that make up the UMS.
<http://www.maine.edu/prospective/index.php>
- 2) Is a mandated or recommended college preparatory curriculum in place in the state’s public high schools?
The University of Maine System Chief Academic Officers issued a recommendation on College Readiness <http://www.maine.edu/collegeready/statement.php>; The Maine Department of Education has supported this statement. Additionally, the state of Maine has articulated learning outcomes and expectations for high school achievement in Maine’s Learning Results, located on the Maine Department of Education website.
- 3) Has the state articulated a set of explicit competencies or skills that define what it means to be “college ready?”
The University of Maine System has released a list of what courses the Chief Academic Officers of the system believe lead to college success. That list is available at <http://www.maine.edu/collegeready/statement.php> .

- 4) Are systematic programs in place in the state that encourage students to accelerate progress by taking college-level courses while still enrolled in high school?

Universities in the UMS offer early college and aspirations courses to qualified high school seniors.

- 5) Is there a statewide policy present that governs placement into college-level courses or remedial courses? Is a standard set of placement tests recommended or required? If yes, are common cut scores for placement decisions in place or do institutions get to set their own?

Each campus within the University of Maine System has clearly articulated guidelines for placement into both remedial and college-level coursework. There are not currently common cut off scores.

- 6) Is there a visible statewide transfer and articulation policy? Does this cover all institutions or only public institutions? What are the specifics of this policy?

The University of Maine System has a Transfer of Credit policy (<http://www.maine.edu/system/asa/adminprocman.php#Anchor4>) and a Transfer of Credit policy statement (http://www.maine.edu/system/policy_manual/policy_section304.php) that states the policy of the Trustees is to “provide the maximum opportunity for transfer within the University of Maine System.”

Each of the institutions in the UMS negotiates its own articulation agreements with schools outside of the system.

- a) Is the transfer/articulation policy accompanied by a statewide transferable general education requirement? Does this name actual courses and/or credits? Are specific competencies identified that the student should meet through this coursework? Is testing used to guarantee student competency for progress or transfer?

There is no statewide transferable general education requirement, although all institutions have established course equivalencies which meet most general education requirements at institutions within and outside of Maine.

- b) More specifically, does an AA or AS degree from a community college in the state meet general education requirements at public four-year institutions? What mechanisms are in place to make sure this actually happens?

Institutions in the University of Maine System have negotiated specific articulation agreements with schools in the Maine Community College System. Students who matriculate into the associate of arts in liberal studies program in the community colleges can sign up for a program called “Advantage U,” in which they are guaranteed admission and transfer into any UMS institution if they meet certain criteria.

- c) Does credit from transfer courses meet specific course requirements at the transfer institution (e.g. American History counts for American History) or do just the credits transfer to count against the total needed for graduation?

Whether credits transfer as course requirements or general elective credits depends upon the institutions involved and any articulation agreements negotiated between them. The final decision on whether a course from another institution counts towards specific requirements is ultimately up to department chairs at the institution a student is transferring into.

- 7) Are there statewide test-out or competency-based provisions that will allow a student to accelerate progress toward a degree?

Many institutions within the state have a “prior learning assessment” program which enable students to document their prior learning through portfolio, present relevant test scores (CLEP, AP, DANTEs, etc), and present military credit and other modes. These programs enable students to progress more quickly toward a degree. To date, not all institutions in the state have this capability.

- 8) Does the state have an easily-accessible state-supported alternative institution that allows students to complete their degrees more quickly or conveniently than through attendance at a traditional public institution?

The University College System, part of the UMS, offers access to courses and programs from the seven universities at more than 75 locations and online. Over 250 courses are available for students, who can work toward one of the 39 degree or certificate programs offered at a distance by the UMS campuses.

- a) Does the state have an accessible central bank or catalog of on-line courses contributed by many institutions that enable students to do “one-stop shopping” for electronic courses?

The University College System makes course information available on the web at <http://www.learn.maine.edu/courses/>

- 9) Does the state provide incentives to institutions for improvements in degree production or graduation rates? For minimizing the number of students graduating with excessive numbers of credits (e.g. more than 120 SCH)?

No such incentive programs exist in Maine.

- 10) Does the state provide incentives for students who successfully complete their degrees (e.g. tuition rebates or cash bonuses)? For students who complete their programs without amassing additional credits (e.g. within 120 SCH)? Are there financial disincentives for students to take more than the number of credits needed to graduate (e.g. full or out-of-state tuition)?

No such incentive programs exist in Maine.

