



**Maine's**  
Community Colleges

# FREE COLLEGE - HOW IT WORKS

## 1 Have A High School Diploma

(or equivalent) from 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, or 2025.



## 2 Enroll

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

**2020-21 grads:** No later than Summer 2024

**2022 grads:** No later than Fall 2024, Spring 2025, or Summer 2025

**2023 grads:** No later than Fall 2025, Spring 2026, or Summer 2026

**2024 grads:** No later than Fall 2026, Spring 2027, or Summer 2027

**2025 grads:** No later than Fall 2027, Spring 2028, or Summer 2028



## 3 File the FAFSA

File online at [studentaid.gov/FAFSA](https://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

while enrolled



## 5 Complete Your Certificate or Degree

You can access the scholarship for up to 200% of the program completion time. (i.e. if your program takes two years, you have up to four years to complete it.)

**New this year: Part time is okay!**



### 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!

