**What is the Free College Scholarship?**

The Free College Scholarship is new. Starting immediately, recent high school graduates from the Classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 get free tuition at Maine’s seven community colleges. It pays for 100% of tuition and mandatory fees.

**Who is eligible for the Free College Scholarship?**

If you graduated high school (or earned the equivalent of a high school diploma, like a GED or Hi-SET) in 2020, 2021, 2022, or 2023 – you’re eligible. It’s that simple. There are no income or age limits. All you have to do is enroll full-time in a degree or certificate program and accept any state or federal aid you qualify for. That’s it – you’re in!

**What does the Free College Scholarship cover?**

The free college scholarship covers tuition and mandatory fees for two (2) years. It is a last-dollar scholarship which means that it is applied after federal and state grant aid has been applied. Those students who qualify for maximum grant aid may use any additional grant funds to cover the cost of books, supplies, and other related educational expenses.

**It sounds too good to be true. Is it?**

The Free College Scholarship is as good as it sounds. We know that recent and current high school students have been the most impacted by the pandemic. Their high school experience was significantly disrupted and their families faced health and financial challenges. Many graduating high school seniors delayed going to college. The Free College Scholarship is designed to help the Classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 by removing the financial barrier of college and helping them to get back on track with their education and their life.

**What Can I Study?**

You can choose from any of our degree or certificate programs. There are hundreds of options to choose from.

**How long does the Free College Scholarship last?**

For as long as your program lasts – up to two years. You just need to stay on track for an on-time graduation.

**How do I apply?**

All you have to do is apply to one of Maine’s seven community colleges. The college will reach out to you to award the scholarship. There is no specific application you need to fill out. Just go ahead and apply to get started. Go to freecommunitycollegemaine.com to get started.

**I am already a community college student. Do I qualify?**

Yes! If you graduated from high school in 2020 or 2021 you qualify for Free College, even if you're already enrolled as a current student. You do not need to apply for the scholarship. The financial aid office at your college will work with you to award the scholarship.

**Can I get a refund for previous semesters?**

Unfortunately, you cannot use the Free College Scholarship to get a refund on previous semesters.

**How is the Free College Scholarship Funded?**

Governor Janel Mills included the one-time $20 million allocation for free college in her 2022 supplemental budget.

**What is the FAFSA, and do I need to complete it?**

* The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is the form used by schools to determine eligibility for federal, state, and often institutional financial aid. It is the gateway to free money and other types of financial aid to help students afford higher education.
* Once you apply to one of Maine’s community colleges, we’ll assign you an advisor who will work with you to complete your FAFSA and pick out a program. We can do it over the phone, on Zoom, or in person. Whatever you need, we’ll help you get there.
* Or you can get free help filing the FAFSA at FAMEmaine.com/fafsa

**Again, how do I get started?**

Go to freecommunitycollegemaine.com. Or you can go directly to the community college you are most interested in by visiting them online, by phone, or in person.