



Resources for New Mainers

March 21, 2025

PRESENTED BY

Floreka Malual New Mainer Specialist



Today's Agenda

- **Free Higher Ed and Work Force Training**
 - Free Community College
 - Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce
 - Eastern Maine Development Corporation's Workforce Development Services
- **FAME's New Mainer Section**
 - Getting Ready
 - Paying for College
 - Parents without SSN#
 - Scholarships
 - Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program
 - New Mainer Resources
 - FAQs
 - Other Resources



Tuition-Free Community College

What is the free community college initiative?

- Provides two years of tuition-free community college to the Maine high school graduates in the Classes of **2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.**
- 100% of tuition and mandatory fees are covered at any one of the seven colleges across the state.
- Tuition and fees are covered by the **Free College Scholarship** unless the student's tuition and fees are already covered by a Federal Pell Grant and/or Maine State Grant.



Tuition-Free Community College

To qualify, students must:

- Have a high school diploma or equivalent. This includes home schooled students, and students earning a GED or Hi-SET during those years.
- Pursue an associate degree or academic credential
- Live in Maine at the time of enrollment and while enrolled in the program
- **Accept all federal and state grants**
 - Eligible students need to file a FAFSA to see if they are eligible for a Pell Grant and/or a Maine State Grant.



Tuition-Free Community College

What if the student is not eligible for federal student aid? Are they eligible for the Free College Scholarship?

- Yes – students not eligible for federal student aid are eligible for the Free College Scholarship.
- Students **do not need to file a FAFSA!**
- Instead, the student needs to **contact an advisor at** the community college they plan to attend.
 - The advisor will document their circumstances and notify the appropriate campus offices.



Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce

Workforce Training, All in One Place

The Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce coordinates all short-term workforce training programs for Maine's community colleges, working closely with business leaders and workforce specialists throughout the state.

The Center, launched in 2021, speeds the delivery of critical training to both trainees and employers. The Alfond Center will serve almost 100,000 Mainers by 2030 in these three areas:

Pre-Hire Training – learn the skills needed to enter a new profession.

Incumbent Worker Training – upskill your current, front-line workforce.

Scholarships – continue on in a certificate or degree program.

Training is grant-funded and usually free for the trainee. Let's get started!



HAROLD ALFOND CENTER
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
MAINE'S WORKFORCE

Short-term workforce training through Maine's community colleges



Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce



Pre-Hire Short-Term Training

Designed to equip underemployed individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to secure employment.

Designed to meet the needs of regional employers and developed in collaboration with business and industry leaders. Short-term pre-hire training programs offer pathways into certificate and degree programs at Maine's community colleges.

Advancement and Equity

- Unemployed
- Underemployed
- Students 18-24
- Rural Mainers
- Individuals in Recovery
- New Americans
- Justice Involved
- Career Changers
- Remote Workers

Learn more at: mccs.me.edu/workforce-training/for-trainees/non-credit-courses/



Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC)

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Do you have barriers to employment? Are you looking for a new job and don't know where to start? Our team works with you to determine your skills and interests. From there we make a plan for your future, and support you each step of the way. Our goal is to help you find meaningful, self-sustaining employment and make a livable wage in one of Maine's growing industries, including: construction/boat building, hospitality/tourism, healthcare, information technology, and manufacturing.

Education


- **Occupational Training For In-Demand Careers:** We partner with educational institutions to provide occupational training for in-demand careers at no cost to our workforce development clients. We help you find a career at a local business with growing employment opportunities.
- **High School Diploma & HiSET Assistance:** By working with adult education providers, we can help you earn your High School Diploma or High School Equivalency Test (HiSET).

Training

- **Paid Mentorships:** Work Experience is a 6-week paid mentorship that helps you learn on the job. The short-term experience acts like an internship; though you aren't an employee, with the experience you gain boosts your resume and helps you prepare to start your own business.
- **Hands-On Job Training:** On-the-Job Training gives your employer financial support for the training you need to perform the job at the highest capacity. We also partner with the Maine State Apprenticeship Council to offer apprenticeship opportunities similar to On-the-Job Training. This hands-on training provides you with basic workplace skills, and need support learning the technical aspects of a job.

 WORKFORCE@EMDC.ORG

 [HTTPS://WWW.EMDC.ORG/WORKFORCE/](https://www.emdc.org/workforce/)

 (207) 991-0147

WHO ARE OUR PROGRAMS FOR?

- Young Mainers – 14 to 24 years old
 - Dislocated Workers
 - Public Assistance Recipients
 - Low-Income Individuals
 - Difficulty with Math or Reading
- Employment affected by the pandemic or the opioid crisis

Please do not attempt to determine your eligibility. WIOA staff will assist you as there are many paths to eligibility.



Welcome to FAME's New Mainers Website

- Meet Floreka!
- Get Ready for College
- Paying for College
- Credential Evaluation
- Resources
- FAQ
- How Floreka Can Help!

[FAMEmaine.com/newmain](https://famemaine.com/newmain)

New Mainers


HOME > AFFORDING HIGHER EDUCATION > MAKE A PLAN > PLANNING TIPS FOR ... > NEW MAINERS

Make a Plan

- Planning by Age
- Planning Tips for ...
 - Graduate School Students
 - Military Families and Veterans
- New Mainers**
 - Getting Ready for College
 - Paying for College
 - Credential Evaluation
 - Foreign Credentialing Loan Program
 - Resources
 - FAQ
 - Previously Incarcerated Students
- Resources For Professionals
- Financial Wellness
- Join

Start to Save

Pay for School



FREE COLLEGE IS HERE!
High school graduates from the Classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 qualify for a Free College Scholarship at any of the seven community colleges across Maine.

[Learn More](#)



WHERE TO GET HELP
Maine has a number of agencies and organizations offering a variety of programs and services to new Mainers.

[Additional Resources](#)


FAME Can Help New Mainers with Higher Education

We're glad you're here! In Maine and throughout the United States, higher education is one of the best ways to open the door to a better-paying job and more opportunities. But as a new Mainer, navigating higher education may include some additional steps or challenges. If you are the first in your family to attend college, the process may be unfamiliar and intimidating. If you attended college in another country, higher education in the United States might look very different.

FAME can help recent immigrants and refugees navigate higher education in the United States. FAME offers College Access and Financial Education staff working across Maine to help students reach their higher education goals. Floreka Malual is FAME's dedicated college planning advisor working with new Mainers.

Regardless of your starting point, FAME is here to provide information, resources, and personalized support. Let us know how we can help you reach your educational goals!



Meet Floreka Malual, College Planning Advisor



Floreka Malual
(she/her)
College Planning Advisor
(207) 620-3530
[Email Floreka](#)

Floreka Malual is FAME's dedicated college planning advisor working with new Mainers. At one time a new Mainer herself, Floreka spent her first nine years in Africa, living seven years in South Sudan and two years in Egypt. She is fluent in both Arabic and Dinka. In the early 2000s, Floreka and her family moved to Maine in order to have more opportunities. She attended Portland area schools and graduated from Portland High School in 2009. In 2014, she received her bachelor's degree in Health Care Studies from Husson University. As an immigrant and first-generation attending college, Floreka felt this was her calling. She joined the FAME team in 2017 as a college planning advisor and enjoys working with new Mainers exploring the college world for the first time- just as she once did.

Learn more about...

-  [Getting Ready for College](#) →
Knowing how higher education is organized in the U.S. can help you understand and explore your options.
-  [Paying for College](#) →
Whether you're an immigrant, refugee, or a new U.S. citizen, there is money available to help new Mainers pay for higher education.
-  [Credential Evaluation](#) →
Do you have a degree or certificate from your home country? If so, you may be able to use it in the United States for work or schooling.

Student Testimonials



Getting Ready for College

College Going Information

Higher education is structured very differently in the U.S. than in other countries.

There are great programs to support college going students!

- Talent Search
- Upward Bound
- Student Support Services

Getting Ready for College

HOME > AFFORDING HIGHER EDUCATION > MAKE A PLAN > PLANNING TIPS FOR ... > NEW MAINERS > GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE

Make a Plan

Planning by Age

Planning Tips for ...

Graduate School Students

Military Families and Veterans

New Mainers

→ **Getting Ready for College**

Paying for College

Credential Evaluation

Foreign Credentialing Loan Program

Resources

FAQ

Previously Incarcerated Students

Resources For Professionals

Financial Wellness

Join

Start to Save

Pay for School

Need Help?

Contact Floreka Malual

College Planning Advisor

(207) 620-3530

[Email Floreka](#)



Getting Ready for College

You may be the first person in your family to attend college or may have attended college in a different country, but the options and processes are very different in the United States. Regardless of your starting point, here are a few things to keep in mind.

Types of Institutions

There are many types of colleges and universities in the United States. Each has its own purpose and funding and certain schools may meet your needs better than others.

Two-Year versus Four-Year Colleges

Two-year colleges: The most common two-year schools are community colleges. These schools typically offer two pathways: programs that are more applied and career-training focused that award certificates or associate degrees, or programs that are strictly academic and prepare students to transfer to a four-year school. Community colleges are public schools but there are also private two-year schools.

Four-year colleges and universities: These schools typically offer programs that take four years of full-time enrollment to complete and award bachelor's degrees (though some also offer associate degrees). There are both public and private colleges and universities.

Public versus Private Colleges

Public colleges: These schools, often referred to as state schools, are supported in part by public funding. As a result, tuition rates are typically lower for residents of that state than for students from out-of-state.

Private colleges: These schools are privately funded and tuition rates are the same for in-state versus out-of-state students.

Admissions Criteria

Each college uses its own criteria when deciding whether or not to offer admission to a student. Most schools are going to ask for grades from current or previous schools, and some will also ask for SAT or ACT scores. Depending on a student's major, if English is a second language, students may be asked to take the TOEFL test. Check with the college's admissions office or website to learn more about that school's admissions criteria.

Special Programs to Support College-Going

There are many federal programs designed to help first-generation college students and/or those from low-income families prepare for college. Programs such as Upward Bound, TRIO, and GEAR UP are often available through high schools and local colleges and universities.

Ready to take the next step?

Visit our [Paying for College](#) page for helpful tips on affording higher education.



Paying for College Federal Student Aid Eligibility Determination

Paying for College

HOME > AFFORDING HIGHER EDUCATION > MAKE A PLAN > PLANNING TIPS FOR ... > NEW MAINERS > PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Make a Plan

Planning by Age

Planning Tips For ...

Graduate School Students

Military Families and Veterans

New Mainers

Getting Ready for College

→ Paying for College

Credential Evaluation

Foreign Credentialing Loan Program

Resources

FAQ

Previously Incarcerated Students

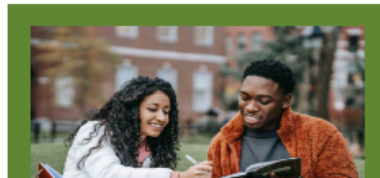
Resources For Professionals

Financial Wellness

Join

Start to Save

Pay for School



Paying for College

Whether you're an immigrant, refugee, or a new U.S. citizen, there is money available to help new Mainers pay for higher education. However, where the money comes from largely depends on whether or not you are eligible for federal student aid.

Are You Eligible for Federal Student Aid?

To be eligible for federal student aid, you must be a U.S. citizen OR an eligible noncitizen. If you already know you're eligible for federal student aid, your next step is to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

If you already know you're eligible for federal student aid, your next step is to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

[Yes, I'm eligible. ↗](#)

Generally, you are *not* eligible for federal student aid if:

- You have been granted DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) status.
- You have only a "Notice of Approval to Apply for Permanent Residence" (I-171 or I-464).
- You are in the U.S. on an F-1 or F-2 nonimmigrant student visa, or on a J-1 or J-2 nonimmigrant exchange visitor visa.
- You hold a G series visa (pertaining to international organizations).

If you know you are not eligible for federal student aid at this time, you still have options.

[No, I'm not eligible at this time. ↗](#)

Not sure if you're eligible?



Paying for College Helpful Tools

- Tracking Status of Immigration Application
- Paying for Higher Education Video
- Scholarships for New Mainers

Not sure if you're eligible?

If you're not sure of your eligibility, you can use our interactive eligibility questionnaire to help you determine your status:

Interactive Eligibility Questionnaire:

1.) Are you a US Citizen?

- Yes
- No

Track Your Case Status Online

Are you waiting to hear back about your case status immigration application, petition, or request with the [online case status tool](#).

VIDEO: Paying for Higher Education for New Mainers



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Are you a new Mainer wondering how you'll pay for your higher education? This video will tell you what you need to know, guide you through options for paying for college, and help you navigate the New Mainers section of the FAME website.

Scholarships for New Mainers

Scholarships provide money, often from private institutions or community organizations, that you will not need to repay. If you are not eligible for federal or state financial aid, you may be able to pay for some of your higher education expenses using scholarships.



Paying for College

Yes, I'm eligible for federal student aid!

- FAFSA tips for new Mainers
- FSA ID information and resources
- Pathway worksheet

YES, I'm eligible for federal student aid.

If you are a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen, the next step is to file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Use FAME's [FAFSA 1-2-3 for New Mainers](#) to make filing the FAFSA easier.

To learn more about how to file a FAFSA, visit FAME's [Filing the 2024-2025 FAFSA](#) page or [watch this short video \(in Arabic\)](#). If you are an eligible noncitizen, you will need to enter your eight or nine-digit Alien Registration Number (ARN) on the FAFSA.

Parents who already have a Social Security number will need to provide it when creating their FSA ID.

New with the release of the 2024-2025 FAFSA: Parents who do *not* have a Social Security Number are able to create an FSA ID. For step-by-step instructions, see our [FSA ID Worksheet for those without a Social Security number](#).

If one or more of your parents live outside the United States, below are some tips to help you complete the FAFSA. If you are considered a [dependent student](#), you typically need to provide parent information. Your parents' specific situation will determine whose information is required, so review the below information carefully:

- If your parents are married and one parent lives outside the United States, information for both parents will be required. Additionally, both parents will need to create their own FSA ID (see below for more information on FSA IDs) and provide "consent and approval" to allow federal tax information to be retrieved from the IRS and disclosed to Federal Student Aid and to the schools you listed on the FAFSA. Parents will indicate that they are "Married filing separately." The U.S.-residing parent will provide their requested federal tax information (if applicable). The international parent will provide their income and asset information, converted into U.S. dollars, and indicate "Foreign Country" and "Foreign Tax Return" where appropriate.
- If your parents are not married (and don't live in the same household) or are divorced, information will be required only for the parent who provided you the most financial support in the last 12 months.
- If both parents reside outside the United States but continue to provide most of your financial support, you will provide information for both parents. Your parents will indicate "Foreign Country" and "Foreign Tax Return" where appropriate.

Important FSA ID Information

One of the first steps when filing a FAFSA is to create a Federal Student Aid account, often referred to as an FSA ID. The FSA ID is a username and password you will use to access and sign your FAFSA. All students need an FSA ID, and at least one parent of a dependent student will also need their own FSA ID to sign the FAFSA.

Parents who have a Social Security number (SSN) will provide their SSN when creating their FSA ID. Parents who do *not* have a Social Security number can still create their FSA ID. For more information and instructions on creating FSA IDs and to keep track of all FSA ID information, use the appropriate FAME FSA ID worksheet(s) for your situation:

- Get the [Student FSA ID Worksheet](#).
- Get the [Parent FSA ID Worksheet](#).
- Get the [FSA ID Worksheet for those without a Social Security number](#).

For more information on creating an FSA ID, watch this [short video](#). If you speak Arabic, we've created this video to help with creating and retrieving FSA IDs: [Creating an FSA ID \(in Arabic\)](#).

College Pathways Worksheet

FAME's College Pathways Worksheet will help keep your planning on track as you work through the financial aid and scholarship processes and pursue other options to pay for college.

[Download College Pathways Worksheet →](#)

Have you had a change in citizenship status?

If your status has changed from an eligible noncitizen to a U.S. citizen, contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) to update your status. If you do not update your citizenship status with the SSA, it could delay your student financial aid. To contact the SSA call 1-800-772-1213 or visit the Social Security Administration's website at [ssa.gov](#).



Parents Without Social Security Number

- **Parents** without a Social Security number (SSN) must create a StudentAid.gov account (FSA ID) to access, complete and sign their portion of the FAFSA.
- **Students** must have a regular SSN (not one for work purposes only) and be a citizen or eligible non-

Create an Account

Step 1 of 7

Personal Information

I understand that I'll be required to certify that the information I provide to create an account is true and correct and that I'm the individual I claim to be.

If I'm not the person I claim to be, I understand that I'm not authorized to proceed, that I should exit this form now. If I provide false or misleading information, I understand that I might be subject to a fine, prison time, or both.

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

Date of Birth

Month Day Year

Social Security Number

[What if I don't have a Social Security number?](#)

What if I don't have a Social Security number?

If you don't have a Social Security number (SSN) and at least one these two statements describes you, you can check the box below to create an account without an SSN:

- I am a citizen of the Freely Associated States who needs to complete the FAFSA® form online.
- I am a parent or spouse of a student who is applying for aid.

I do not have an SSN.
I am a citizen of the Freely Associated States and I do not have a Social Security number (SSN); OR I am a parent or spouse of a student who is applying for aid and I do not have an SSN.

Warning: You must enter an SSN if you have one

If you create an account without a Social Security number (SSN) when you actually have one, you can be prevented from completing or contributing to a FAFSA form. You can also experience delays in verifying your identity and be prevented from contributing to other applications on StudentAid.gov.

You should only continue creating an account without an SSN if you do not have an SSN and one of the following statements is true for you:

- I am a parent or spouse of a student who is applying for aid, and I do not have an SSN.
- I am a citizen of the Freely Associated States and need to complete the FAFSA® form online.

Note: Any previously completed FAFSA forms won't be linked to your new account. You will still be able to access information from 2023-24 FAFSA form if you use your identifiers on the FAFSA roles page.



Parents Without Social Security Number

- The remainder of the FSA ID creation process similar process for those w/ an SSN except that individuals must certify their identity by checking a box. Additionally, some individual will see knowledge-based verification questions.
- When the account is created, the confirmation screen will inform the individual of their verification status.
 - If the account is verified, individuals can immediately begin fully using their account.
 - If the account is created, but not verified, individuals will be able to access the FAFSA form, but the account will have limited functionality. No additional steps are currently needed.
- **For step-by-step instructions to create an account without a SSN, see our [FSA ID Worksheet for those without a Social Security number](#)**



Parents Without Social Security Number



How to Create a Federal StudentAid.gov Account for those without a Social Security number

When you create your [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) account, you'll set up a username and password that will give you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and serves as your legal signature. You can only have one StudentAid.gov account. You'll use the same username and password whether you are a parent completing a FAFSA for your first child, a parent completing a FAFSA for a subsequent child, or student completing a FAFSA for yourself.

Only create a [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) account using your own information and for your own use. The same username and password will be used to access and complete the FAFSA, sign federal loan documents, and access student loan information. You'll need your StudentAid.gov account information for years to come, so use this form to keep track of information associated with it and store this form in a secure location.

Instructions

1. Go to [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) and click on "Create Account".
2. Enter personal information.
 - Legal name and date of birth.
 - Click the box to indicate that you don't have a Social Security Number (SSN) and then confirm that you don't have an SSN on the next screen.
 - Create username and password.
 - Provide your email address, mailing address, and mobile phone number. Confirm your communication preferences.
3. Answer the challenge questions. Select answers that are easy to remember and won't change over time.
4. Confirm and verify your information and agree to FSA's terms and conditions.
5. Confirm and certify your identity by checking the box at the bottom of the page.
6. Enter a validation code to confirm your mobile phone number and email address. You can also set up the Authenticator app on your mobile phone.
7. Answer knowledge-based verification questions, if provided.
8. Your account has been created, and the confirmation screen will inform you of your verification status.
 - If your account is verified, you can immediately begin fully using your account.
 - If your account is created, but not verified, you'll still immediately be able to access the FAFSA form, but your account will have limited functionality. No additional steps are currently needed.
9. Save your information in the space provided on the back of this worksheet.

Are you a new Mainer looking for information on higher education or credential evaluation?

Visit FAMEmaine.com/NewMainers

11/20/21 FSA 10.0125



Your StudentAid.gov Account Information

Email Address: _____ Username: _____

Password: _____ Mobile Phone Number: _____

Answers to Challenge Questions (answers are case sensitive)

Challenge Question/Answer 1: _____

Challenge Question/Answer 2: _____

Challenge Question/Answer 3: _____

Challenge Question/Answer 4: _____

Your Back Up Code

When you set up the required two-step verification, you will be assigned a backup code. Your backup code lets you access your account if you can't use any other two-step verification method. A backup code can only be used once.

To generate a new backup code:

1. Log into your account at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).
2. Click on Settings > Two Factor Verification > Generate a New Back Up Code.
3. Write your backup code here:



Parents Without Social Security Number

In the FAFSA...

- When completing the invitation section there's a box to indicate parents don't have an SSN.
- When box is checked, screen will update to display request for mailing address.
- No longer will parents without an SSN fill in all zeros in the SSN box.

The screenshot displays two identical forms side-by-side, representing the FAFSA parent information section. Each form contains the following elements:

- Date of Birth** (with a help icon): Three input boxes for Month, Day, and Year.
- Social Security Number (SSN)** (with a help icon): A single wide input box.
- My parent doesn't have an SSN.**
- Email Address** (with a help icon): A single wide input box.
- Confirm Email Address** (with a help icon): A single wide input box.
- Send Invite** button.

At the bottom of the entire form is a **Previous** button.



Parents Without Social Security Number

Remaining issues for mixed-status families (student has SSN but parent does not):

- IRS match is not working for anyone without SSN
 - Contributors will need to **manually enter tax return related data.**
- If the student enters slightly incorrect information when inviting contributor, system is having trouble finding the contributor so can't send an invitation.
 - If the student starts the FAFSA and the invite isn't working, have the student delete their section of the FAFSA and have the parent start the FAFSA.



Paying for College

Not sure if eligible for federal student aid!

Use this tool!

Not sure if you're eligible?

If you're not sure of your eligibility, you can use our interactive eligibility questionnaire to help you determine your status:

Interactive Eligibility Questionnaire:

1.) Are you a US Citizen?

- Yes
 No

You indicated you are not a U.S. citizen, but you may be an eligible noncitizen. We'll ask a few more questions to help you find out.

2.) Are you are a U.S. national (includes natives of American Samoa or Swains Island)?

- Yes
 No

3.) Are you a U.S. permanent resident with a Form I-551, I-151, or I-551C (Permanent Resident Card, Resident Alien Card, or Alien Registration Receipt Card), also known as a "green card"?

[View examples](#)

- Yes
 No

4.) Do you have an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) showing one of the following statuses?

- Refugee
- Asylum granted
- Cuban-Haitian Entrant
- "Conditional Entrant" (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980)
- "Parolee" (you must be paroled for at least one year, and you must be able to provide evidence from the USCIS that you are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a U.S. citizen or permanent resident).

- Yes
 No

5.) Do you hold a T nonimmigrant status ("T-visa") (for victims of human trafficking) or does your parent hold a T-1 nonimmigrant status?

- Yes
 No

6.) Are you a "battered immigrant-qualified alien" who is a victim of abuse by your citizen or permanent-resident spouse, or are you the child of a person designated as such under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)?

- Yes
 No

7.) Are you a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau?

- Yes
 No

Based on your answers, it appears you're not eligible for federal financial aid at this time, but you still have some options.

Check out our resources and next steps for ineligible students.

[Resources & Next Steps →](#)



Paying for College

Not Eligible for Federal Student Aid

- School Choice
- Resources to Explore
- Pay As You Go
- Employer Educations Benefits

NO

NO, I'm not eligible for federal student aid at this time.

Even if you are not eligible for federal student aid, other options do exist. Consider the following:

School Choice

Attend a school that has policies and funding dedicated to supporting students who are not eligible for federal student aid funds. Here are some [questions to ask](#) when researching schools.

If the school you are planning to attend offers funding to DACA students or other students who are not eligible for federal student aid, ask them how to apply for those funds. In some cases, and if you have a Social Security Number, the school may want you to complete a FAFSA.

Resources to Explore

- [USM's Promise Scholarship](#) is open to asylum seekers under certain circumstances. [Contact Daniel Barton](#) for more information.
- The [Adult Learner Scholarship](#) is for nontraditional students and supports a range of training, including two- and four-year degrees, certificates, and other non-degree programs.
- Learn more about [admission policies, financial aid, and scholarships](#) for undocumented students.
- Additionally, scholarships are available to students in many different situations, including asylum seekers or others who are ineligible for federal student aid. FAME has compiled a [list of scholarships new Mainers may be eligible for](#).

Pay As You Go

Pay as you go by attending school part-time, ideally with the help of [scholarships](#), payment plans, and possible limited funding from the school. Most schools have payment plans that allow you to spread the cost of your course(s) over several payments throughout a semester or school year, making paying for classes easier to manage.

Employer Education Benefits

[Work for an employer](#) that provides education assistance for their employees. Some employers will cover a portion of your tuition or help support your educational goals in other ways.

Start by contacting your employer's Human Resources office and asking them [these questions about employer education benefits](#).



Scholarships for New Mainers

Check out those listed in the New Mainer section

Also connect with the following to ask about scholarships:

- Local high school or guidance office
- College financial aid office
- Employer/parent employer
- Faith based institutions
- Local service organization

[Scholarship Tracking Spreadsheet \(.xlsx\) →](#)

We regularly review the scholarships we share to make sure they are up to date. However, scholarship criteria, deadlines, and availability can change without our knowledge. If you find a scholarship that is out of date, please let us know.

Scholarship	Amount	Deadline	Eligibility	Course of Study
American Federation of Ramallah Palestine	\$8,000	May 31	Palestinian and Palestinian American students	Any
American Legion Children and Youth Scholarship	\$500	May 1	Must be a Maine resident	Any
Asian Pacific Fund	\$1,000–\$20,000	See website	Must plan to be enrolled full-time in the fall. Minimum GPA of 3.0. Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident unless otherwise stated.	Any
Avesta Housing Scholarship	\$1,000	May 9	Avesta residents who are enrolling in a post-secondary program. Eligible programs include college, trade school, and certificate programs.	Any
Ayn Rand Essay Contests	Varies	See website	Offers three different worldwide essay contests: Anthem (for 8th–12th grade students); Fountainhead (for 11th & 12th grade students), and Atlas Shrugged (for 12th grade, college, and graduate students).	Any
Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund	up to \$10,000	April 1	Available to applicants who demonstrate activism in the struggle to achieve civil rights, economic justice, international solidarity, and/or other progressive causes.	Any



Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program

Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program

- Grants for up to \$1,000 are available to help pay for the costs associated with the process of becoming work-ready while waiting for issuance of a work permit by federal immigration authorities.
- Funds are limited – first come, first served

Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program

The Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program assist eligible immigrants living in Maine who are not yet eligible to prepare for entry into the workforce.

Grants for up to \$1,000 are available to help pay for the costs associated with becoming work-ready while waiting for issuance of a work permit by federal immigration authorities.

How do I apply?

The Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program is available online. Funds are limited and grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications will be accepted as long as funds are available.

1. The application for the Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program must be completed online. *You will not be able to save an application until you have completed it—once you begin the application, you will need to complete it.*
2. Before you begin, have all documents required to complete your application ready to upload (e.g., photo, scan, PDF):
 - A copy of identification documentation, such as a passport (valid for at least 6 months), consular identification card, or other government-issued identification, even if expired;
 - Either a copy of your USCIS receipt (electronic or paper) for your I-765 with an eligibility category beginning with C, or a copy of your USCIS Form I-589 is currently pending, a copy of your filing receipt;
 - Invoices or screenshots of expenses that the grant funds can be used for.

What can the grant be used for?

Grants can be used for eligible costs.

“Eligible costs” include, but are not limited to, the following examples incurred or to be incurred by an applicant prior to obtaining a work permit and incurred or to be incurred for the purpose of improving the applicant’s work-readiness once they obtain a work permit:

- Costs of translation into English of any diplomas, transcripts, certifications or other proof of trainings or experience in trades, or other documents establishing courses studied or the completion of secondary school or of higher education at either the undergraduate or graduate level.
- Fees related to education evaluations establishing the equivalency level of education or experience attained abroad.
- Costs of translation into English of documents related to professional licenses, registrations, or certifications of trainings or other experience obtained abroad.
- Costs of translation into English of letters of reference or recommendations related to education or experience obtained abroad.
- Fees related to test preparation courses or registration fees for a standard test of English as a foreign language such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language® (TOEFL) or other standardized test recognized worldwide that measures English language proficiency, when necessary for an immigrant’s work.
- Expenses for employment or professional applications, certifications, licensing fees and related requirements for seeking employment, including but not limited to fingerprinting and required tests.
- Fees related to obtaining a Maine driver’s license, including a commercial driver’s license, including but not limited to driver’s education course fees, learner’s permit application fees and driver’s license fees.
- Costs to travel to the nearest location of any exam or test needed to establish the applicant’s skills or credentials or English language proficiency, such as the TOEFL, if there is no location within 60 miles of the Maine town in which the immigrant resides.
- Costs of a filing fee required by the United States Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, or any successor federal agency, to apply for the immigrant’s initial work permit.



Local Organizational Resources for New Mainers

- Gateway Community Services
- Hope Acts
- Learning Works
- Maine Youth Action Network
- My Place Teen Center
- New Mainers Resource Center
- Portland Adult Education (PAE)
- Portland Public Schools: Multilingual and Multicultural Center
- Prosperity Maine
- The Root Cellar
- Tree Street Youth
- Youth & Community Engagement



Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers)

- Am I eligible to receive federal student aid?
- As an eligible noncitizen, is there any additional information I need to provide when completing the FAFSA?
- As an undocumented student or DACA student, can I file the FAFSA?
- As an eligible noncitizen, what will I need to complete the FAFSA?
- One or both of my parents live outside of the United States. Do I need to include their financial information?
- How do you represent income from a foreign tax return?



How Floreka Can Help!

- One-on-one appointments
- Classroom presentations
- College application assistance
- Scholarship application assistance
- Credential evaluation grant application help
- Navigating resources and more



Floreka Malual
(she/her)
New Mainer Specialist
(207) 620-3530
[Email Floreka](#)



Other FAME Resources

 **PLAN**
TOOLS TO HELP YOU PURSUE EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

 **PAY**
TIPS TO AFFORD HIGHER EDUCATION

 **BUILD**
STEPS TO FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Your guide to financial success



FAME

THE WAY TO GET MONEY FOR SCHOOL.*
(THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY BACK!)

File the FAFSA.
(The Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Filing early is the best way to maximize your eligibility for scholarships. Most people can complete their FAFSA in 30 minutes. Ready to file your FAFSA? [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

Need more information? FAME can help! Visit FAMEmaine.com/FAFSA.

* Includes accredited vocational, trade, and career schools, online schools, as well as colleges and universities.

Thinking about going to college, university, or technical school?


YOU CAN DO IT.

FAME can help. The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) helps recent immigrants and refugees navigate higher education in the United States.


LET US HELP YOU REACH YOUR GOAL!

FAME
FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE
FAMEmaine.com/NewMainers



FAFSA 1 2 3 for New Mainers 


Financial aid can make paying for higher education much easier! All students should submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). All schools use the FAFSA to determine eligibility for federal and state financial aid, and many schools use the FAFSA to determine eligibility for their institutional financial aid.

 **1. Gather information**

Both the student and the parent(s) will need the following information to create a Federal Student Aid account (FSA ID) and file the FAFSA. Gathering it ahead of time will make the process easier.

- Social Security number*
- Alien Registration Number, if applicable
- Email address
- 2022 federal tax return

*Parents who don't have a Social Security number can still create an FSA ID. See our [FSA ID Tracking Sheet for those without a Social Security number](#) for instructions. When creating a Federal Student Aid account (FSA ID) and filing the FAFSA, click the box indicating you don't have a Social Security number and provide the required information.

 **2. Create a Federal Student Aid account (FSA ID) at StudentAid.gov**

When you create a Federal Student Aid account, you'll set up an FSA ID (username and password). You'll need an FSA ID to file the FAFSA and to enter any Federal Student Aid websites. It also serves as your legal signature.

All students need an FSA ID, and at least one parent will need an FSA ID. If parents live together but aren't married or don't file a joint tax return, both of them will need an FSA ID. You'll need your FSA ID for years to come, so we recommend using the appropriate FAME FSA ID Tracking Sheet to keep track of your information:

[Download Student FSA ID Tracking Sheet](#)

[Download Parent FSA ID Tracking Sheet](#)

[Download FSA ID Tracking Sheet for those without a Social Security number](#)

FA/22/01/2024



Questions?



Thank you for joining us today! Find more FREE resources and information at [FAMEmaine.com/education](https://www.famemaine.com/education)

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