



**Your Employer is a member of a statewide initiative that qualifies **YOU** for benefits; read on for details!**

## **Tuition Discounts**

As the employee of a member of the Maine Employers' Initiative, you qualify for discounts at several Maine institutions if you want to take classes or return to school to get a degree.

- **Saint Joseph's College Online offers a 15% discount to member employees.** For details go to: [www.online.sjcme.edu/](http://www.online.sjcme.edu/) To take advantage of this benefit, contact Suzanne Murphy at Saint Joseph's College at 207-893-7824 or [smurphy@sjcme.edu](mailto:smurphy@sjcme.edu).
- **The New England College of Business & Finance offers a 25% discount to member employees.** For details of the programs offered online go to: [www.necb.edu/](http://www.necb.edu/) For assistance, contact Joanne Lakin at 603-867-4391 or [joanne.lakin@necb.edu](mailto:joanne.lakin@necb.edu)
- **The University of New England will waive application fees for member employees.** To have your application fee waived, contact Cynthia Forrest at 207-602-2372 or [CForrest@une.edu](mailto:CForrest@une.edu)

## **Other Benefits & Resources**

- Southern New Hampshire University offers lower tuition to Maine students – generally 30% lower. To find out about programs offered at SNHU, go to: [www.snhu.edu](http://www.snhu.edu) or contact Bo Yerxa at the Brunswick Center at 207-725-6486 or [boyerxa@snhu.edu](mailto:boyerxa@snhu.edu)
- The Opportunity Maine Program offers a tax credit for student loan payments to all students who earn a degree at a Maine school and continue to live and work here. For details go to: [www.opportunitymaine.org/opportunity-maine-program/](http://www.opportunitymaine.org/opportunity-maine-program/)
- Every child born in Maine is eligible for the \$500 Alford Scholarship, which is deposited into a college savings account. No contributions are required and no income restrictions apply. For details go to: [www.500forbaby.org](http://www.500forbaby.org)
- Jump start a degree by receiving college credit for work done outside the classroom in a work setting or other venue. You can save time and money by doing a prior learning assessment to verify college credit you may have already earned. Go to: [www.usm.maine.edu/pla](http://www.usm.maine.edu/pla) [www.uma.edu/portfolioassessment.html](http://www.uma.edu/portfolioassessment.html) or [www.cael.org](http://www.cael.org)
- Maine also has a program that provides a one-time \$200 grant to eligible Maine residents when they open a NextGen college savings account. To qualify the account beneficiary needs to be a Maine resident with an adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less for the previous year. For information, go to: [www.famemaine.com/Files/Pages/NextGen/maine\\_resident\\_benefits/Initial\\_Matching\\_Grant.aspx](http://www.famemaine.com/Files/Pages/NextGen/maine_resident_benefits/Initial_Matching_Grant.aspx)

## Other Benefits & Resources Cont'd...

- There is a tax deduction available in Maine of up to \$250 per beneficiary to Maine taxpayers with incomes of \$100,000 or less (\$200,000 for joint filers) for making contributions to Section 529 College Savings Plans. (Note: NextGen is a Section 529 plan administered by FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE.) For information go to: [www.famemaine.com/Education\\_Home.aspx](http://www.famemaine.com/Education_Home.aspx)
- Need help financing college classes or degree? You and your employer can match funds with a LifeLong Learning Account. For information, go to: [www.mainecareercenter.com/services-programs/training/lila/index.shtml](http://www.mainecareercenter.com/services-programs/training/lila/index.shtml)
- Transitioning from high school degree to college level classes or degree path? Want to talk with someone just to find out what your options are? Contact Maine College Transitions at: [www.maine.gov/education/aded/dev/transitions.htm](http://www.maine.gov/education/aded/dev/transitions.htm)
- Maine Apprenticeship Program  
Gain experience and education at the same time, working directly in an industry of your choice. For more information go to: <http://www.mainecareercenter.com/services-programs/training/apprenticeship/workers/index.shtml>

## Scholarships

- **The Competitive Skills Scholarship Program (CSSP)** offered through the Career Centers: Post-secondary degree or certificate programs for high wage jobs in industries that need skilled workers; Income eligibility - 200% of the federal poverty level. For more details go to: <http://www.mainecareercenter.com/services-programs/training/cssp/index.shtml>
- **Eaton Foundation Young Adult Scholarship Program**  
Sunrise County Economic Council's (SCEC) Eaton Foundation Young Adult Scholarship Program targets young adults aged 18-29. Financial assistance of up to \$500 for Washington County residents attending training and/or certification courses, not covered by traditional forms of financial aid, which will increase their employability and/or career advancement potential. For details go to: <http://www.sunrisecounty.org/crmacna.html>
- **Osher Scholarships**  
These scholarships are available to Maine residents of all ages. Osher Scholarship covers costs to take one course, including books and required materials for individuals who have never completed a college course. For details go to: <http://www.mccs.me.edu/student/osher.html>
- **The Maine Sea Coast Mission Scholarships**  
Scholarships for non-traditional students of all ages & HS students who are residents of the islands and coastal communities of Downeast Maine enrolling in degree programs or taking specialized courses to prepare for advancement in a variety of fields. For more information about the scholarship deadlines and requirements, call Terri Rodick, 207-288-5097. For details go to: <http://www.seacoastmission.org/scholarships.html>