Information about 1098-T Reporting

The 1098-T form is a statement of qualified tuition and fees charged by the University of Maine System that we provide to students and to the IRS. Institutions are required to report either the payments made or the charges incurred during a tax year but cannot report both. The University of Maine System chooses to report charges incurred since payments made are not directly allocated to specific charges. Therefore, it would be impossible to verify if a certain payment was designated for a certain charge.

Qualified tuition and fees include tuition charges as well as mandatory course fees such as lab fees, technology fees, and general fees. Room, board, and health insurance fees are not included in qualified tuition and fees as determined by IRS regulations.

IRS regulations also require that all institutions assessing qualified charges provide a 1098-T form to each student enrolled in a particular tax year. The University of Maine System must also file an information return with the IRS for each of these students. Some exceptions to this requirement are discussed in the FAQs section of this document.

On the 1098-T form, we report the name, SSN and address of the student, and indicate the student classification (graduate or undergraduate) and status (at least half-time or not). We report the total amount of qualified tuition and fees in a given tax year. For example, if tuition and fees for the spring 2015 term are posted on accounts in December 2014, the amounts will be reflected on the 2014 1098-T form.

The University of Maine System may not give tax advice. If you are unsure about your eligibility or have any questions, you should consult with a qualified tax preparer or advisor. You may also consult IRS Publication 970 (http://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html).

For information about accessing your 1098-T forms online, go to http://www.maine.edu/about-the-system/system-office/finances/tax-forms-and-certificates/1098-t-information/.

To view your student account, login to MaineStreet (https://mainestreet.maine.edu), select Student Self-Service > Student Center > scroll down to the Finances section of the Student Center > select the Item Summary link. On the Item Summary page, you can view charges, payments and refunds for a specific campus and term.

Campus contacts are:
UM – 207-581-4232
UMPI – 207-768-9545
UMF – 207-778-7254
UMA – 207-621-3033
UMM – 207-255-1312
UMFK – 207-834-8650
USM – 207-780-4888
1098-T FAQs

What do the amounts located on the form represent?

Box 1 represents payments received for qualified tuition and related expense. *(Note: the University of Maine System does not report payments received.)*

Box 2 represents the total amount billed during the tax year for tuition and qualified fees.

Box 4 represents any adjustments made for a prior year Form 1098-T. This may reduce any allowable education credit that you claimed for the prior year.

Box 5 represents the total of all scholarships or grants administered and processed by the eligible educational institution. The amount of scholarships or grants for the calendar year reduce the amount of any allowable tuition and fees deduction or the education credit you may claim for the year.

Box 6 represents adjustments to scholarships or grants for a prior year. This may affect the amount of any allowable tuition and fees deduction or education credit claimed for the prior year.

Box 7 is checked on the 2014 1098-Ts if any amounts billed relate to an academic period that begins in January through March of 2015.

Box 8 is checked if you have been a student for 6 credit hours (half time) or more for at least one academic period that began during the 2014 calendar year.

Who can claim the American Opportunity Credit, the Lifetime Learning Credit or the Tuition and Fees Deduction?

An eligible taxpayer who incurred the cost of the qualified tuition payments may claim them. An eligible taxpayer may be the student or, if the student is a dependent for federal income tax purposes, the person (e.g., parent) claiming the student as a dependent. A student who is a dependent cannot claim the tax credits or deduction on his or her own tax return.

If an employee of the University of Maine System has tuition or fees paid by the university, the employee cannot claim the tuition or fees paid by the university as a tax credit or deduction even if the tuition or fees paid by the university are included on the 1098-T.

I paid my qualified tuition and expenses with student loans or scholarships. Can I still claim the American Opportunity Credit, the Lifetime Learning Credit or the Tuition and Fees Deduction?

Loan funds should be considered in the same manner as cash payments when calculating the American Opportunity Credit, the Lifetime Learning Credit or the Tuition and Fees deduction. However, any scholarships, grants, or other non-taxable aid must be deducted from the amount of qualified tuition and related expenses paid to calculate the education credits or deductions.

Why didn’t I receive a 1098-T in the mail for this tax year?

There are several possibilities: 1) Your mailing or home address on file is incorrect or missing. 2) Your tuition amounts consisted of only non-credit courses. 3) You opted for electronic delivery of your 1098-T form. 4) You were not an enrolled student at any time during the calendar year.
If I receive Form 1098-T, does it mean I qualify for the American Opportunity Credit, the Lifetime Learning Credit or the Tuition and Fees Deduction?

Not necessarily, the University of Maine System is required to provide Form 1098-T to individuals who were billed for qualified tuition and fees during the year. Please consult with a qualified tax preparer or CPA to make an individual determination.

I took non-credit courses last year that were required by the university before I could enroll. Why are these amounts not shown on the 1098-T?

The University of Maine System does not generate 1098-T information for non-credit courses, even if they were required by the university.

Where will my form be mailed?

The 1098-T form is sent to the student’s home or mailing address entered in MaineStreet. If you opted for electronic delivery, you will not receive it in the mail.