

WELCOME TO THE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION!



SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW:

The Promise Scholarship program is designed to help students overcome financial and academic barriers, remain in school, and graduate in four years with less debt, prepared to make their own contributions to Maine's social and economic well-being.

The Promise Scholarship program is a partnership with Maine's youth development organizations, which often serve Maine's underserved and low-income youth, and looks to them to recommend and refer strong candidates for admission to USM and for The Promise Scholarship.

Awards will ensure any gaps are met to cover the full cost of tuition and fees. Awards are multi-year and vary based upon a student's eligibility for other federal, state, and institutional aid. Additional limited funding for room, board, books and other educational expenses may be considered on a case-by-case through the Promise Emergency Fund.

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA:

- Demonstrate financial need, and
- Be an incoming first year or transfer undergraduate Maine resident,
- Enroll full-time with a minimum 15 credit hours per semester or 30 credits per year; some exceptions may be made with professional judgment,
- Maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA until graduation in order to be eligible for annual renewable for up to three (3) years; some exceptions may be made with professional judgment
- Referral from a Promise Partner Youth Development Organization (preferred)
- First-generation college student (preferred)

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION:

All applications and supplemental materials should be submitted electronically to: promisescholar@maine.edu
Any questions related to the application process should be directed to the Promise Scholarship Program Coordinator at (207) 780-4199. Applicants should submit the following:

- *Completed and signed application form*
- *Filed FAFSA form or provide documents that show demonstrated financial need (ex. TANF, SSI, SNAP)*
- *Recommendation from a Youth Development Organization (optional)*
- *Resume (optional)*

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 15th <i>Application Opens</i>	March 15th <i>Application Deadline</i>	April 1st <i>Promise Scholars Recipients Notified</i>	May 1st <i>\$50 enrollment deposit due to confirm attendance</i>
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PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name:		Last Name:	
Preferred Name:		USM Student ID (if known)	
Home Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Home Phone:		Mobile Phone:	
Email Address:			
Date of Birth: (MM/DD/YYYY)		Gender Identity:	
High School:			
Primary Languages Spoken at Home:		Country of Origin:	
Educational level: Are you a...			
<input type="radio"/> First-year college student, never attended			
<input type="radio"/> Transfer student (if transferring, which school did you last attend?) _____			
Are you the first in your immediate family to earn a bachelor's degree?			
<input type="radio"/> Yes, neither of my parents/guardians completed a 4-year college or university degree.			
<input type="radio"/> No, one or both of my parents/guardians earned a 4-year college degree.			

COLLEGE PLANS

What is your intended area of study at USM?	
What inspired you to choose the major you are planning to enroll in? What are your career goals after college graduation?	

PROMISE PARTNER REFERRAL

Please select all of the youth development organizations (YDOs) you have been connected to in previous years:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Apex Youth Connection<input type="radio"/> Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Maine<input type="radio"/> Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine<input type="radio"/> Boys & Girls Clubs & YMCA of Greater Waterville at the Alford Youth Center<input type="radio"/> Central Lincoln County YMCA<input type="radio"/> Cultivating Community<input type="radio"/> Good Will-Hinckley<input type="radio"/> JMG (Job's for Maine Graduates)<input type="radio"/> Island Institute<input type="radio"/> Kennebec Valley Boys & Girls Clubs<input type="radio"/> Learning Works<input type="radio"/> Long Creek Youth Development Center<input type="radio"/> Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers<input type="radio"/> Monson Arts<input type="radio"/> My Place Teen Center (MYTC)<input type="radio"/> Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Piscataquis Regional YMCA<input type="radio"/> Portland Adult Education<input type="radio"/> Portland Community Squash<input type="radio"/> Portland Public Schools, Make It Happen!<input type="radio"/> Project Launch<input type="radio"/> SMART Child and Family Services<input type="radio"/> Susan L. Curtis Foundation<input type="radio"/> The Summer Camp<input type="radio"/> Tree Street Youth Center<input type="radio"/> The Telling Room<input type="radio"/> TRIO Upward Bound<input type="radio"/> Wayfinder Schools<input type="radio"/> YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston<input type="radio"/> YMCA of Southern Maine<input type="radio"/> YWCA of Central Maine<input type="radio"/> School Counselor<input type="radio"/> Other _____ |
|--|---|

What is/was your connection to the youth development organization (YDO)? In what ways has your connection to your YDO or school played a transformative role in your life?

Please share the name of the person who will be writing a recommendation letter on your behalf. (optional)

Name: _____ **How are you connected to the person writing your letter of recommendation?** _____

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Describe how home responsibilities, work responsibilities or volunteer/community service has shaped who you are today and what responsibilities/ service has taught you. How have your responsibilities impacted your personal character and/or leadership skills?

Discuss any challenges or obstacles you have dealt with and overcome in life and how this will help you succeed in college and beyond.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Have you submitted the most recent Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

- Yes, I have submitted my FAFSA.
- No, but I am planning to file my FAFSA by USM's Priority Deadline (Jan 15th).
- No, I do not qualify for federal student aid.

***Have you applied or have you been awarded any outside scholarships?
(i.e. Mitchell Scholarship, Dell Scholars Program, Worthington Scholarship, ProsperityME etc.)***

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Yes (if yes, which scholarships) | Amount Awarded (\$) |
| <input type="radio"/> No | |

How will the Promise Scholarship benefit/support your educational aspirations? Please describe any financial barriers that you anticipate and how those may impact your ability to achieve your goals at USM.

***How do you plan to manage any ongoing financial responsibilities you will have while in college?
(Family contributions, ineligible for federal aid, etc.)***

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Information Release: I authorize the USM Student Financial Services Office to release my financial aid information to the Promise Scholarship Selection Committee for the sole purpose of determining need when awarding the Promise Scholarship.

Printed Name: _____

Signed Name: _____ Date: _____

Participation Agreement:

If I am accepted as a Promise Scholar, I agree to/that:

- Participate in all program events, services and workshops including:
 - *Promise Scholars Immersion Week (week prior to start of the fall semester)*
 - *Connecting with your assigned Promise Peer Mentor throughout your first year of college*
- Meet with the Promise Scholarship Program Coordinator monthly to establish & assess goals
- Maintain a grade point average of **2.5 GPA** until graduation to be eligible for annual renewal for up to three years. First-year, first-time Promise Scholars may earn a **2.0 GPA** during their first year and still maintain eligibility for the Promise Scholarship. Promise Scholars would be required to raise their cumulative GPA to a 2.5 (B-/C+) in subsequent years.
- Remain on track for graduation by enrolling full-time at USM with 15 credits per semester or a total of 30 credits per year (four years for first year scholars and two years for transfer students).

Application Signature:

I attest that this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. And I consent to the evaluator and participation agreements, accepting all responsibilities depicted therein.

Printed Name: _____

Signed Name: _____ Date: _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS - FERPA

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the University of Southern Maine (USM) and the University of Southern Maine Foundation (USMF) seek the written consent of the student to release personally identifiable information related to the student's selection and enrollment as a USM Promise Scholar. I understand that signing this form is completely voluntary and I do not have to sign this form to be selected or enrolled as a USM Promise Scholar.

I, _____, consent to and authorize USM and the USM Foundation to disclose to the public my personally identifiable information, including, but not limited to, information that I am the recipient of a Promise Scholarship by:

- Disclosing my personally identifiable information to the Youth Development Organization that referred me to the Promise Scholars Program.
- Disclosing my personally identifiable information to local media who may publish/air stories about Promise Scholars generally and/or me specifically
- Allowing my personally identifiable information and/or likeness (photos, video, voice, testimonial) to be used in marketing efforts
- Allowing my personally identifiable information and/or likeness (photos, video, voice, testimonial) to be used in fundraising efforts
- Recognizing me at events by:
 - Asking me to stand and be acknowledged
 - Asking me to speak
 - Indicating that I am a Promise Scholar on name tags

As such, USM has the right to use, display, copy, license, or assign photographs and video footage of my image, voice, and words as recorded, photographed, taped, and/or filmed during or in connection with activities or events created, hosted, or otherwise developed by USM or the USM Foundation. (These are collectively deemed "Materials"). They may do so with or without mention of my name.

I understand and consent that my personally identifiable information and/or the Materials may be used in photographic, print, video, electronic, digital or any other medium, and may be distributed via mail, news print, advertisements, social media or the internet. My consent includes without limitation the right to edit, mix, or duplicate and to use or reuse my personally identifiable information and/or the Materials in whole or part.

I understand I have the right to revoke this consent form at any time, and that this consent form will remain in effect until it is revoked in writing. Written revocation must be presented at the USM Office of Advising to the Promise Scholar Coordinator. Further, I understand the revocation will not apply to any personally identifiable information and/or Material that has already been printed, published, or distributed and will only apply to future use or disclosure of personally identifiable information and/or Materials.

Printed Name: _____
Signed Name: _____ Date: _____