

ASPIRATIONS PROGRAM OVERVIEW – 2010 - 2011

A program funded by the Maine Legislature and administered by the Maine Department of Education – [Please see important program change below]

Purpose:

This program makes it possible for Maine public high school juniors and seniors to enroll in college-level courses, on public college or university campuses in Maine, and, upon successful completion of these courses, to earn academic credit toward a high school diploma **as well as** accrue academic credits applicable toward the requirements of an associate or baccalaureate degree (referred to as *dual enrollment*).

Eligible Institutions:

The campuses of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, or the Maine Maritime Academy.

Eligible Students:

Secondary, public school students may participate in this program if they are:

- a junior* or senior* with a minimum high school grade point average of at least a 3.0 (on a scale of 4.0), or the equivalent of a “B” average;
- **or, in lieu of a 3.0, they are recommended for participation by a school unit’s administration (see exception statement below);**
- the eligible institution has determined that the student has satisfactorily completed any course prerequisites;
- the school unit approves;
- and a student’s parent approves.

Program Change – Commencing With Summer and Fall 2010

The Department has been advised by the Office of the Attorney General that this program can no longer serve students who are enrolled in a sectarian or non-public school (i.e. religious, private or home schooled). This program change will commence with the summer and fall of 2010 and will continue to be in effect thereafter. The only exception to this rule can be made when a home-schooled junior or senior is also enrolled in a class offered by his/her local public high school.

Students may participate in this program if there is space available in courses offered by an eligible institution. [*A Maine Community College System campus may elect to limit participation to eligible seniors.]

Adult education students may participate in this program if it has been determined that they are at the equivalent of junior or senior status. **[This program can not support course costs leading to attainment of the GED].**

Exception – Student Eligibility:

A secondary, public school student who does not meet the grade point eligibility requirements, as specified above, is eligible to participate if:

- the student is a junior or senior in the student’s public school unit;
- the student has received a recommendation to participate from the student’s school administration following an assessment of the student by the school administration; and
- the student has been approved for participation by an eligible institution.

Academic Credits:

A public school administrative unit may grant academic credit toward a high school diploma to a student who successfully completes a course or courses through participation in this program. The eligible institution will grant full academic credit to any student who successfully completes a course or courses through participation in this program. Course credit must apply toward graduation requirements at the eligible institution or be transferable to another eligible institution on an equal basis with a course taken by any other student at the eligible institution. **[An eligible secondary, public school student may take up to six (6) credit hours per academic year – these may be taken in one semester or with three (3) credit hours taken in the fall or spring semesters].**

Payment for Participation:

The Maine Department of Education will pay 50% of the in-state tuition for the credit hours taken each semester by an eligible, public high school student at one of Maine’s eligible institutions. Each eligible institution will bill the Department for 50% of the tuition for the credit hours taken each semester by participating students at the institution. Each eligible institution will waive the other 50% of tuition for the credit hours taken each semester by participating students at the institution. **A participating student’s school administrative unit is not to be billed for tuition costs.** The eligible institution may not make any additional tuition charges for a course but may impose fees and charges, other than tuition, that are normally imposed on students not covered by this program (these fees and charges are payable by a student’s parents or may be paid by the school administrative unit, as determined by the school administrative unit).

Questions regarding this program should be directed to:

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