

MAINE WORD ABOUT COLLEGE

The Maine Word About College

Questions about college from young Maine students, answered by old Maine students.

Today's writers

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Offered by Maine College Circle and the Mitchell Institute to great young students throughout Maine.

Q. What is the best college for everything?

A. There is no one college that is the best for everything because what is best for one person may not be best for another.

For example, I go to a very small school where I am exploring a wide variety of subjects, while one of my friends goes to a huge university where she is only taking science classes. We go to very different schools, but we are both happy because we chose the schools that are best for us. There are small and big colleges, colleges in cities and colleges in rural areas, colleges with a variety of classes and colleges with only specific kinds of classes. There are also vocational schools, where you can learn a trade, like carpentry or beauty. There are so many colleges, and they all offer great opportunities. The key is to pick the school that offers the kinds of opportunities that *you* want to pursue. This means that you have to ask yourself what you are looking to get out of your college experience. For me, I decided that I was looking for a small school where I could try a bunch of different types of classes. But you might decide that you are looking for something else, and that's ok. We are all different and will make different

choices about where we go to school.

There may not be one "best college for everything," but there is a college that will be the best *for you*. You may just have to think a little about what you want in order to find it.

— Julianna Kiley





Q. How many classes can you take?

A. The number of classes you can take is different at each college, but at Bowdoin, most students take four classes every semester (8 every year). Some students take more than that, though. Sometimes there are so many interesting classes to take that it can be hard to choose!

Q. Are there theater or acting classes in college?

A. Lots of colleges have acting and theater classes. I've never taken a theater class at Bowdoin, but I know a lot of students who've really enjoyed the acting classes they've taken. Plenty of schools also offer dancing and music classes, so if you have a passion for performing arts, that's something you can definitely continue in college!

— Mingo Sanchez

Q. Can you change your major during college and stay at the same school?

A. You absolutely can change your major during college!

I came to college thinking I was going to major in psychology, then ended up doing computer science, something completely different. That's one of the best things about college – you can explore what you're interested in and change your mind as you go!



— Mingo Sanchez

Q. Is college any fun?

A. College is a lot of fun! Wherever you are, if you take advantage of your surroundings, you will definitely have fun. You can join a club, do a sport, or just hang out with friends. If you are in an interesting location, go explore that too! In the city you are sure to find lots of public events at little to no cost, and in more rural areas there are natural activities to take advantage of like hiking, kayaking, skiing, swimming, etc. At Tulane, I've had as much fun laying on the grass in the quad at 1 am as I have exploring the French quarter or going to themed frat parties. You never know which moments are going to make you happiest, but there is so much potential for a lot of fun.



— Rebecca Paul



Q. What if I skip a class?

A. Sometimes we get sick or make a mistake and sleep through our alarms by accident. It's okay- it happens!

Classmates are usually willing to share their notes and let you know what you missed. Professors are really understanding, as well. But classes are really exciting and are part of what makes college such a unique opportunity, so you probably won't want to skip class!

— Annie Rose