

## Contact

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## Admission Requirements

(In years as established by the college)

A high school diploma with the following specific courses:

- 4 English
- 2 Algebra I & II
- 1 Geometry
- 2 Lab Science (*biology & chemistry or physics*)
- 2 History/Social Studies
- 2 Foreign Language (*same language or two years of American Sign Language-ASL*)
- Academic electives (*to equal at least 17 total credits*)

*To ensure current mathematical skills, students are encouraged to take a mathematics course during their senior year of high school.*

## University-Wide Programs

### Program Description

It is common for students entering college to be undecided about a major or to have several areas of academic interest. At the University of Maine, students apply to and are admitted into a specific college and a specific major. But what happens for students who have not yet decided upon a major? There are two options: if the student has narrowed their interests to similar programs that are offered by the same college, the student can apply to that specific college as an undecided student (e.g., a student interested in both biology and microbiology would apply to the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry & Agriculture as an undecided major); if the student is not ready to identify specific interests or their interests relate to programs that are offered in more than one college, the student should request admission into the Explorations Program (e.g., a student interested in both biological engineering and animal science would apply to the Explorations Program). Explorations is designed to help students explore different areas of interest to help them select a college and an academic degree program at the University of Maine.

Through a special first-year program and close contact with advisors, Explorations students engage in structured activities that enable them to make informed choices for a major or potential career. By the end of the first year, students generally feel more confident in identifying an academic major(s) which suits their abilities and intellectual or career interests and they are able to request an official major. Students must meet the eligibility requirements (e.g., GPA) of the particular major or college of interest.

**Undecided:** During the first semester or year, students who are not yet ready to select a college and a major at UMaine will benefit from time to more thoroughly explore the academic opportunities at UMaine. Students assess their abilities, interests, and goals while investigating the University's various degree programs and numerous resources. Under the guidance of their advisors, Explorations students select courses to investigate areas of interest while also fulfilling the University's General Education requirements.

**Honors:** Students who are not yet ready to select a college and a major at UMaine and who are invited to join the Honors College are welcome to apply to the Explorations for admission rather than to one of the baccalaureate degree colleges at the University of Maine.

Explorations Honors students will work closely with an Honors College advisor. Under the guidance of their advisor, students will select courses in areas of interest while also fulfilling General Education and Honors requirements.

### Specialized Information

#### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

*How do I know if I should apply to Explorations?*

If you are not sure about your academic interests, or if your academic interests fall within more than one specific college at the University of Maine, or if you have not decided which college major would best serve your needs, then Explorations can help you. It is the perfect program if you would like to gain more information about academic programs in the various colleges before making your final decision. If you are unsure about your future career or you want help assessing the relationship between personal goals and academic choices, Explorations can help you.

## Specialized Information (continued)

### *Is it okay to enter college being undecided about a major?*

You should not worry about being undecided. Research indicates that a substantial number of students enter college without a specific major in mind. Explorations has been designed specifically to meet the needs of such undecided students.

### *How do I apply to Explorations?*

On page 1 of the University of Maine Application, students apply to Explorations by writing that the intended academic major is Explorations. Students may also indicate “Explorations” as a second choice on the application.

### *Who serves as advisors to Explorations students?*

Explorations advisors are selected because they have demonstrated a strong commitment to first-year students and are knowledgeable about all of UMaine's academic programs.

### *When do I select a major? Can I select a major in any of the colleges?*

All programs have eligibility standards (e.g., minimum GPA, specific coursework) you must meet before you declare your major. Provided you meet the eligibility standards of the program and there is space available, you may choose to major in any of the undergraduate programs at UMaine.

### *What courses will I take as an Explorations student?*

Explorations students select from the same college courses taken by other degree students at the university. These courses will be used to complete general education requirements that are required of all UMaine students and are intended to provide a strong foundation when students select their major. Courses are selected to help students explore their interests and help them select their major.

### *Will the courses I take in Explorations count when I declare my major and transfer to a college?*

Provided you pass them with an acceptable grade, the courses you take while in Explorations will transfer to any college or program in fulfillment of general education requirements, as electives or in fulfillment of major requirements.

## COMMENTS OF FORMER EXPLORATIONS STUDENTS

### *Explorations helped me:*

- “...get to know the university and assess myself so that I can choose a career plan and major that was right for me.”
- “...become more comfortable with an undecided major and the transition to UMaine.”
- “...adjust to college life easier, If I had any questions about anything, I knew just who to ask.”
- “...see what my values and skills are. I learned a lot about myself, thus making it easier and more interesting to look at different majors.”
- “...make an informed decision about a prospective major and career.”
- “...feel comfortable about my indecision.”

### *What I liked most about Explorations was:*

- “...there was a lot of individual contact with my advisor.”
- “...listening to other people who had the same problems as me—trying to decide on a major.”
- “...that I was given a chance to be a person first and a number last. I also liked being with the same people once a week in a close atmosphere.”
- “...I enjoyed being able to talk with others about being undecided and about how to go about making some choices about college and career life. I also enjoyed being able to talk about life in general and about what was going on around campus.”
- “...[my] supportive and caring advisor who helped to identify programs of interest at UMaine.”

### *I would recommend Explorations to:*

- “...any undecided student or anyone who needs help deciding about a major or career.”
- “...all first-year students.”
- “...anyone who is unsure about choosing a specific major.”

## Academic Programs 2008-2009

Please refer to the web site (<http://factsheets.umaine.edu/>) for the most updated version of the fact sheets.

This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.