

# The Bridge Year Program Overview

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## ~About the Program~

The Bridge Year Program presents an opportunity to assist high school students in:

- Obtaining additional career assessment, exploration, and advisement while in high school.
- Obtaining an integrated technical skill-based education that ties academics to real world careers through integrated CTE based labs.
- Participating in college courses in high school.
- Obtaining approximately significant college credits by high school graduation from universities and colleges of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System through a dual or concurrent enrollment agreements. Dual/concurrent enrollment allows a student to earn college credit prior to high school graduation by taking college level courses that are taught at the high school by high school instructors approved by the college.
- Creating the potential to complete an Associate's Degree in Applied Science within 12 months and/or a Bachelor's Degree within 36 months following high school graduation, saving time and money.
- Transferring credits to many other post-secondary schools as well as into programs of their choosing.

## ~Who we are~

Bridge Year Educational Services, Inc. began as a collaborative of Maine educational institutions: Public High Schools, Maine Community Colleges, The University of Maine System and your CTE School. 2018-19 will be the seventh year for the Bridge Year. We are continuing to expand around the State.

## ~ Our students are ~

Individuals who are committed to fully utilizing their educational opportunities, who learn best through relevant, real life experiences, and who are willing to put forth extra effort for their future. The Bridge Year Program is an extraordinary opportunity to be taken only after thoughtful consideration and with an understanding of the magnitude of the commitment and work required to achieve success.

~This document will hopefully address many questions about the program, and help you decide if this program is right for you.

~A few more details~

- The Bridge Year Program offers a cohort based high school/college experience. All of the student's high school courses will be taken with The Bridge Year Program cohort group.
- The Bridge Year Program offers increased levels of career assessment, career exploration, and job shadowing opportunities to help the student learn more about well-matched career opportunities as well as the education needed to achieve each student's individual career goals.
- Most of The Bridge Year Program's courses will offer dual credit (college and high school) from UMaine, UMA, UMFK USM and the Community College system while you attend your participating high school and a CTE school.
- Bridge Year Program students will have the opportunity to receive up to approximately 24+ college credits by the end of the summer following the student's senior year in high school. This means it is possible for a student, depending on motivation and course availability, while in high school, to earn approximately half or more of 60 credits required for an Associate's Degree
- The cost of concurrent enrollment will range from \$0 to \$40 per credit, offering a significant savings for each student.
- The Bridge Year Program includes attendance at two Bridge Year Summer Career Academies, to be held at EMCC, United Technologies Center, and supportive Maine businesses.
- The Bridge Year Program's credits are useful for many possible future Bachelor's Degree enrollment options at University of Maine system universities and Maine Community College System colleges as well as at many other public and private schools. **All college courses attended post high school graduation will be at the full tuition rate of the chosen institution.**

~Upon completion of an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree some of the opportunities awaiting the student include:

- Better chances of solid employment due to acquiring fresh, marketable skills.
- Specialized training opportunities for ongoing life-long learning.
- An increase in confidence and competence due to rigorous, unusual high school experiences.

~Some well-grounded assumptions we offer~

- Students who participate in The Bridge Year Program will have greater success in their course work and a higher graduation rate from their college.
- Students who participate in The Bridge Year Program will have a better developed sense of what career pathways to pursue.
- Students who participate in The Bridge Year Program will derive greater enjoyment from their educational experience.

# The Bridge Year Program Admissions Process and Entry Requirements

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The admission process for The Bridge Year Program is designed to be user friendly. We are quite simply seeking to understand if this program and a student's goals, talents and desires are a great match. The admissions process is as follows:

- Presentations concerning the program will be delivered at your school to students in multiple ways by guidance and others.
- Information materials for students and parents are available in hard copy and will be in an on-line format at our web site.
- Application packets will be provided to interested students by their high school Bridge Year Advisor in the guidance office by the date set by your school. (Please check)

The Bridge Year Program Entry Requirements are:

- A completed Admissions Packet submitted by the deadline.
- A thoughtful response to the application essay question.
- Three recommendations, two from teachers and one from either guidance or a school administrator.
- Admissions Committee members' confidence that the applicant will be well-matched to the demands of the course work.
- Admissions Committee members' confidence that the applicant will be well-matched to the program's workload requirements, including: great attendance, dedication, scheduling availability and access to transportation.

The Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee may be comprised of:

- High School Guidance, Faculty and Administration
- The Bridge Year Educational Services personnel
- Other individuals selected by the CTE/High School

\*\*\*Students accepted into The Bridge Year Program will receive many privileges of an UMS students which include: identification card(s), e-mail address, use of library resources, and the use of some recreational resources. Additionally, students who successfully complete The Bridge Year Program will likely be stronger candidates when applying to The University of Maine System schools, Maine Community College System schools and/or other schools.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Terminology

*The following are some terms referred to in this program:*

- **Associate's Degree –**
  - *A college degree that usually requires approximately 60 credit hours to complete or two years of full time study*
- **AAS –**
  - *An Associate's Degree in Applied Science*
- **Bachelor's Degree-**
  - *A college degree that usually requires approximately 120 credit hours to complete or four years of full time study*
- **Cohort –**
  - *A group of people, in this case going through an educational experience together*
- **CTE –**
  - *A Career and Technical high school such as UTC in Bangor*
- **EMCC/ MCCS, UMaine and UMA–**
  - *Eastern Maine Community College/ Maine Community College System, The University of Maine and The University of Maine Augusta*
- **Dual or Concurrent Enrollment –**
  - *Dual/concurrent enrollment allows a student to earn college credit prior to high school graduation by taking college level courses that are taught at the high school by high school instructors approved by the college. The student, if he/she meets all the requirements (attendance, grades, and codes of conduct), earns both secondary and higher education credit, which saves time and money.*

### How much does this program cost?

*The cost for a Bridge Year student for the 2017/18 school year will range from \$0 to \$ 40/credit which is a significant discount off the usual UMS and MCCS rates. For the 2018-19 school year, the cost ranges from \$0 to \$40 per credit hour depending on the courses chosen and the higher education institution's providing the opportunity.*

**How many college credits can I earn?**

*The students will have the opportunity to complete up to 24+ college credits (depending on your motivation and high school's capability). The student must receive a grade of a C or better in some courses to obtain UMS and MCCS credit.*

**Where are these credits useful?**

*The concurrent credits are awarded by UMS or MCCS campuses. University of Maine System schools and Maine Community College schools are both fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and as such, these University courses are accepted by most post-secondary colleges and universities. Each situation will be different for specific schools and, of course, specific programs. Check with schools you are thinking about and ask. **You are expected to research different colleges and programs and determine how many Bridge Year courses would transfer.***

**What degree will I earn?**

*This is up to you and where you choose to continue your education. You may for instance, choose to pursue an Associate's Degree at UMA or at a Community College, a Bachelor's Degree at UMaine, UMA, USM, UMFK or elsewhere with your earned college credits. Please request a transcript analysis from colleges to learn which Bridge Year courses will be accepted into various programs.*

**How long does the program take?**

*Concurrent college enrollments will occur only for the high school students during their Junior and Senior years and may occur, on occasion, during The Bridge Year Summer Career Academies.*

**Where will I go to school?**

*Most academic courses will be offered at your high school, technical classes at your CTE and some classes and summer activities will be held on the UMaine (or other) campus. For additional courses, you may attend another campus or take a college course online.*

**What academic and other qualifications will I need to apply successfully?**

*A student wishing to join The Bridge Year Program will need to complete the admissions packet and be in good standing with their high school. The Bridge Year Admission Committee will carefully review each applicant in regard to his/her chances of success and if they are a great match for the program.*

