

MAINE COAST SEMESTER at CHEWONKI



Life-Changing Learning in Nature

485 Chewonki Neck Road
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mainecoastsemester.org

ADMINISTRATION

Nancy Kennedy, President

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Carter Ramquist, Associate
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Kathryn Zumstein, Registrar

OUR MISSION

Chewonki inspires transformative growth, teaches appreciation and stewardship of the natural world, and challenges people to build thriving, sustainable communities throughout their lives.

ACCREDITATION

Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and is approved by the State of Maine Department of Education and is an associate member of The Association of Boarding Schools.



National Association
of Independent Schools

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CEEB Code 201-122

ACADEMIC PROFILE 2024-2025

SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

Located on a 400-acre saltwater peninsula, Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki is an academically rigorous, place-based school community, which is made available to a select number of 11th- and 12th-grade students for one semester (fall or spring). Recognized as a highly competitive program, Maine Coast Semester provides intellectually curious juniors and seniors with an engaging, interdisciplinary curriculum delivered through student-centered instruction, as well as field studies and residential learning experiences, which foster creative thinking and independent problem-solving.

The Semester school's curriculum is carefully aligned with established college preparatory coursework and serves to complement the program of study at a wide variety of sending schools. In addition to their academic studies, students participate weekly in a variety of work programs that introduce the principles of environmental stewardship and community building.

GOALS FOR GRADUATES

Our Goals for Graduates were crafted using the lens of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, giving students the opportunity to develop empathy and awareness as they grow in the following areas.

ENGAGED LEARNING: Students learn in a holistic way and address complex issues with humility, critical thinking, and creativity.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: As responsible community members, students intentionally engage with a breadth of perspectives to promote social and environmental justice within and across communities.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION: Students listen with openness and discernment and communicate ideas with clarity, creativity, and an awareness of impact.

SENSE OF PLACE: Students build an understanding of their reciprocal relationship with the natural world through focused observation and reflection.

SENSE OF SELF: Students explore and affirm their identities, strengths, and areas for growth, and understand how these impact the various communities of which they are a part.

SENDING SCHOOLS

More than 2,600 students from over 400 sending schools have attended Maine Coast Semester. In a typical semester, students come from 38 high schools and 14 states. It is common for international students to attend as well. Forty percent of students have come from public schools and sixty percent have come from independent schools. Ten percent have come from Maine. Some of our most common sending schools include:

Arlington High School (MA)

Berkeley High School (CA)

Boulder High School (CO)

Buckingham Browne & Nichols School (MA)

Central High School (MN)

Charlotte Country Day School (NC)

Concord Academy (MA)

Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences (CA)

Croton-Harmon High School (NY)

Ethical Culture Fieldston School (NY)

Lakeside School (WA)

Milton Academy (MA)

Newark Academy (NJ)

The Beacon School (NY)

The Brearley School (NY)

The Chapin School (NY)

The Nightengale-Bamford School (NY)

The Thacher School (CA)

The Westminster Schools (GA)

Traverse City Central (MI)

Waynflete School (ME)

FACULTY

The Maine Coast Semester faculty includes eleven core academic teachers, four teaching fellows, and three adjunct teachers.

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND CLASSROOM TIME

The fall semester is 14 weeks and the spring semester is 15 weeks in length. All academic classes meet for the equivalent of 3.5 hours per week except science, which meets for approximately 6-7 hours per week, and includes a weekly 4-hour field lab. Classes meet in 45- and 70-minute blocks. Academic classes are held Monday through Friday.

GRADING

Maine Coast Semester uses letter grades with the following equivalencies:

A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), etc. F < 60 (Failing); P (Pass), NP (No Pass).

CURRICULUM

Courses at Maine Coast Semester are taught at honors and AP levels of instruction. The Maine Coast Semester registrar works closely with sending schools to ensure a seamless transfer of credit, with many Maine Coast Semester courses transferring back to sending schools as AP courses.

Students take 6 academic courses including Science, English, Capstone, and 3 additional classes from the list of Elective Courses below.

SCIENCE	Natural History and Ecology of the Maine Coast*
ENGLISH	Literature and the Land*
HISTORY	U.S. History AP® U.S. History
MATHEMATICS	Algebra II Precalculus Intro to Calculus AP® Calculus AB AP® Calculus BC
WORLD LANGUAGES	French: Intermediate, Advanced Spanish: Intermediate, Advanced
STUDIO ARTS	Art and the Natural World
CO-CURRICULAR	Maine Coast Semester Capstone in Human Ecology* Environmental Issues World Religions and the Wilderness Community Service and Work Program
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Backcountry Expeditions and Outdoor Education*

* Required courses

STANDARDIZED TESTING

PSAT® tests are administered in the fall semester to all students. In the spring, we provide transportation so that students may take the ACT® or SAT® at regional testing centers. Prep courses for standardized tests are not offered at Maine Coast Semester. Advanced Placement examinations are administered during the spring semester for students who choose and are prepared to take them. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with a college counselor at their sending school before they arrive at Maine Coast Semester to discuss the AP® examinations they plan to take.

FINANCIAL AID

Need-based financial aid provides students with demonstrated need an opportunity for a high-quality academic experience that might otherwise be unavailable to them. We are eager to share in the cost of this education to the best of our ability.

As a general rule, we do not provide full scholarships and we expect every family to pay some portion of the tuition. In any given year, individual financial aid award amounts offered to students range from \$500 to \$30,000 and approximately 40% of Maine Coast Semester students receive financial aid awards.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Since our founding in 1988, Maine Coast Semester graduates have gone on to attend many of the nation's most competitive colleges and universities. To date, the total number of Maine Coast Semester graduates who have enrolled at the following:

50+ Bates College Bowdoin College Brown University Carleton College Colby College Colorado College Cornell University Middlebury College Oberlin College University of Vermont Wesleyan University	Kenyon College Lewis and Clark College Smith College St. Lawrence University Stanford University Tufts University Whitman College Williams College Yale University	Princeton University Reed College Skidmore College Swarthmore College University of California University of Colorado Boulder University of Maine Orono University of Michigan University of Pennsylvania University of Virginia Vassar College Warren Wilson College Wellesley College	Bucknell University Colgate University Davidson College Emory University Georgetown University Havergal College Johns Hopkins University McGill University Mount Holyoke College Pitzer College Pomona College Tulane University University of Chicago University of New Hampshire University of North Carolina Vanderbilt University Wheaton College
25-49 College of the Atlantic Columbia University Dartmouth College Hampshire College Harvard University	15-24 Bard College Connecticut College Duke University Hamilton College Haverford College Macalester College New York University Northwestern University	10-14 Amherst College Barnard College Bennington College Boston University	