

The Bridge Year Program™

2018/2019

Student Application Packet
Hancock County Technical Center and
Ellsworth High School

“Where Rigor and Relevance Meet”



A program where students have the opportunity to earn 25 college credits or more while attending both high school and a career and technical center.

A program where academic rigor and real world application meet!

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The Bridge Year Program Overview

~About the Program ~

The Bridge Year Program presents an opportunity to high school students that involves:

- Dual enrollment with an opportunity to earn 25+ (substitute “significant”?) college credits by high school graduation from universities and colleges of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System. Bridge Year dual enrollment allows a student to earn high school and college credit at the same time through college courses that are taught at the high school by high school instructors approved by a college.
- Obtaining an integrated technical skill-based education that ties academics to real world careers through integrated CTE based labs.
- Additional career assessment, exploration, and advising while in high school.
- 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.
- Transfer of these earned credits to many other post-secondary schools.

~Who we are~

Bridge Year Educational Services is a not-for-profit corporation whose purpose is to promote and administer dual enrollment and CTE experiences for Maine high schools and students. Bridge Year is a statewide program that will be in its seventh year in 2018-9.

~ 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 pursued only after thoughtful consideration and with an understanding of the magnitude of the commitment and work required to achieve success.

>How is Bridge year different from other dual enrollment courses<

Bridge Year provides more than a menu of college courses. We focus on *preparing* students for success in college. We begin with a summer academy before beginning college courses in the student’s junior year to explore the ties between career and higher education, and stress the concept of “investment” in the future. Then we stretch college courses over a full year (36 weeks) rather than just a college (15 week) semester so that students are able to catch up on high school content while they are taking their first college courses. High school teachers then transition their teaching style during the year to the rigor and format of typical college instruction. We select courses for Bridge Year on the likelihood that most colleges and

universities will accept them as useful credits towards most degrees. Finally, we provide a second summer academy between the junior and senior years for students to visit colleges and universities in Maine and to learn about the inner workings of those institutions

~A few more details~

- The Bridge Year Program provides increased levels of career preparation through the pursuit of a CTE (Career and Technical Education through a CTE school) program which builds career-related skills, career assessment, career exploration, and job shadowing opportunities
- Bridge Year Program students will have the opportunity to earn 25 or more 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, while in high school, to earn approximately half or more of 60 credits required for an Associate's Degree, and a quarter of the 120 credits typically required for a Bachelor's Degree
- The cost of dual enrollment while enrolled in Bridge Year will be \$40 per credit, offering a significant savings over standard college rates. All college courses attended post high school graduation will be at the full tuition rate of the chosen institution.
- The Bridge Year Program includes attendance at two Bridge Year Summer Career Academies, to be held at EMCC, and supportive Maine businesses.
- Bridge Year Program's college credits are posted on institutions of the University of Maine System (UMS) or Maine Community College System (MCCS). These credits are recognized by UMS and MCCS institutions as well as at many other public and private schools.
- Students accepted into The Bridge Year Program will receive many privileges of an UMS and/or MCCS students which include: identification card(s), e-mail address, use of library resources, and the use of some recreational resources.

Students who connect career and college

Are more focused

Invest in education more wisely

Are more successful

Have fewer false starts

Finish earlier

Pursue their careers sooner

~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 be better prepared for college success.
- 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.

Bridge Year Program Admissions Process

We want all of our contacts with students and their families to be a learning experience. Admissions (college and otherwise) should be a two-way street where both the student and the institution explore a relationship. At Bridge Year, we seek a common understanding of whether our program and a student's goals, talents and desires are a great match. The admissions process is as follows:

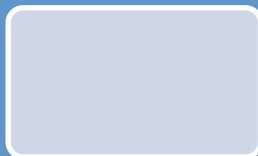
- Presentations about Bridge Year will be provided at your high school and/or CTE school to sophomores in the winter/spring by school guidance counselors and representatives from Bridge Year.
- Information materials for students and parents are available in both hard copy and on-line formats at bridgeyearmaine.com.
- Application packets will be provided to interested students by their high school Bridge Year Advisor in the guidance office, to be completed and submitted by the deadline to be set by your high school.



Completed Bridge Year Application Form

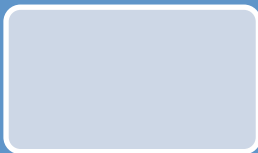


Completed The Bridge Year Parental/Guardian Agreement Form, (cut and return signiture box)



Completed 1 PageEssay

- How do you think the Bridge Program will help you define and then attain your career goals?



3 Completed Reference Forms

- One from your principal or your guidance department
- Two from teachers at your school

REMEMBER - IMPORTANT!!

***Completed packets should be submitted to your school's Bridge Year Advisor in the Guidance office by the date set by your high school. Only complete packets will be considered. ***

Bridge Year Admission and Academic Affairs Committee will inform students of Admission decision within two weeks after the closing date for applications set by your school.

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*
- **CTE** –
 - *A Career and Technical Education high school in Maine*
- **MCCS** –
 - *Maine Community College System*
- **UMS** –
 - *University of Maine System*
- **Dual or Concurrent Enrollment** –
 - *Dual/concurrent enrollment allows a student to take college course and earn college credit while in high school. Bridge Year dual enrollment provides the additional benefit of taking college courses at the high school with high school instructors approved by the college. The student meeting all the requirements (attendance, grades, and codes of conduct), earns both secondary and college credit, which can save time and money.*

How much does this program cost?

The cost for Bridge Year courses is at a significant discount from the usual UMS and MCCS rates. For the 2018-19 school year, the cost is \$40 per credit hour.

Who decides on admissions to Bridge Year and what are the considerations?

Each school sets up its own Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee may be comprised of: High School Guidance, Faculty and Administration; Bridge Year Educational Services personnel; and other individuals selected by the CTE/High School. The Admissions Committee considers, among other things, whether the applicant will be well-matched to the demands of the Program and course work including workload requirements, attendance, dedication, scheduling availability and access to transportation.

How many college credits can I earn?

Each student has the opportunity to earn up to 25+ college credits. The student must receive a grade of a C or better, in accordance with admissions and credit transfer policies to have course work recognized by UMS and MCCS.

Where are these credits useful?

*Credits earned are awarded on official college transcripts issued by UMS or MCCS campuses. As the campuses of both UMS and MCCS are fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, these college credits may be accepted by other post-secondary colleges and universities depending on the policies of 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.***

When can I enter the Bridge Year Program and how long does it run?

The Bridge Year Program begins in the Junior and runs through the Senior years of high school. It also includes two 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 campuses of UMS and MCCS. For additional courses, you may attend another campus or take a college course online.

What is the cost of the summer academies?

There is no cost for students to attend the summer academies. Meals, room, transportation during the academies and programming are paid through grants from the Maine Department of Education.

Who is responsible for purchasing text books, e books and other materials?

Each high school handles this question differently. We continue to work with the University and College faculty to minimize, as much as possible, the costs for Bridge Year high schools and students. However, some courses may require a latest edition new text or on line access code costing upwards of \$125.00 for each text/code and those costs may be the responsibility of each student.

Sophomore Summer Academy Overview

This is a three-day, two-night intensive career academy in the summer between a student's sophomore and junior years. As the introduction to Bridge Year, students receive an orientation and cohort-building experience that may include:

- Intensive career exploration experiences
 - Assessment and discussion of your professional goals
 - Targeted business visitations and participatory activities.
 - Business leaders and student round table.

- Cohort building
 - Team building exercises and assessments.
 - UM low ropes course.
 - Evening group activities
 - Introduction to academic rigor of college courses

- Introduction to campuses of UMS and MCCS.
 - Students will reside for two nights on a college campus.
 - Students will spend one day at UMaine in learning about the Innovation Engineering Center, The Advance Composites Center and The Advanced Manufacturing Center.
 - Students will have a tour of Eastern Maine Community College.

The total cost for the Summer Academy is paid for by the participating organizations as part of the Bridge Year Program. There is no charge to students.

What is provided to participants?

- Transportation to, from and during the Summer Academy
- An orientation to The Bridge Year Program.
- Positive attitudes.
- A double occupancy room.
- Three meals on day one, three on day two and two on day three.
- Full day and evening activities.

Bridge Year Application Packet

What will participants need to bring?

- A great positive attitude.
- Towels, pillow, sheets, blanket, toiletries, small backpack.
- Two pairs of comfortable sneakers.
- Appropriate clothes:
 - At least two sets of active outdoor clothes, sneakers, shorts, tee shirts, light rain jacket (at times we will be doing a number of outdoor activities).
 - One set of “business casual”, such as khakis and polo type shirts for men and skirts/slacks and blouses for women.
 - Extra shorts and/or pants and tee shirts for evening activities.
- Completed and signed (by the student’s parents or guardians) permission forms for various activities. (See Advisor)

What may participants want to bring?

- Minor purchase spending money
- Music player
- Laptop or tablet
- Cell phone

The Bridge Year Student/Parental/Guardian Agreement

The Bridge Year Program presents exciting options and opportunities for students, but with these opportunities also comes increased responsibility and obligations on the part of the student and Parents/Guardians. One of the ways we make these obligations and responsibilities a formal requirement is to obtain the agreement of both the student and his parents/guardians to the terms and conditions of the program which include (but are not limited to) the following:

Codes of Conduct

Strict adherence to school Codes of Conduct Policies must be followed at all times while enrolled in Bridge Year course work. If, for example, a student is concurrently enrolled at EMMC and UMA, a participating high school and CTE, all four Codes of Conduct will apply. Academic policies concerning plagiarism and academic integrity are taken very seriously at the college level, so understanding the rules is important. ***Please understand that student actions requiring disciplinary action at any one school may lead to dismissal from the Bridge Year program.***

Workload Obligation

Since Bridge Year courses are college courses, students are expected to rise to the level of rigor required. This means that students need to devote the time and deliver a college level of effort, dedication and achievement.

Student Fees and other Costs

If a student were to take one of our courses as a college student at the University of Maine (as of this printing), the cost would be \$1,067.00 for tuition and fees for a 3-credit course. ***The anticipated cost for a student taking a Bridge Year college course will be no more than \$40/credit (\$120 per 3 credit course), providing a significant savings per course.*** This fee schedule will apply only to courses taken while the student is still in high school. Continued course work after high school graduation in order to complete a student's Associate's Degree or Bachelor's Degree will be at the respective institution's regular tuition rate. Students may apply for Financial Assistance such as the CSSP Scholarship Program.

Transportation

When transportation is not provided by the student's participating high school or CTE school, the student will be responsible for their own transportation to and from classes.

Attendance

Due to the increased academic rigor and commitment involved with this program, students need to dedicate themselves to exemplary attendance, which we define as missing no more than 5% of the available class hours from a Bridge Year course.

Academic Policies

The opportunity of earning credit simultaneously from two institutions brings some additional complexity. During the Bridge Year Program, all traditional high school rules as well as partnering college rules will be in effect since the student is seeking to earn both secondary level credit and college credit. For example: colleges have strict rules concerning plagiarism (the taking of any other person's work or words as your own). A breach of the college plagiarism policy by a Bridge Year student under certain circumstances may lead to dismissal from the college course but may have different consequences for the student concerning the secondary level credit.

- **Grading**
 - Grades may be reported two ways, the first in the traditional manner of the participating high school and the second in the traditional manner of the post-secondary institution. To receive college credit students must earn a minimum grade of a C-.
- **Dismissal from a Course**
 - Dismissal from a course can occur upon the recommendation of the high school or CTE instructor and the review and approval of the Bridge Year Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee in consideration of the rules of the concurrent enrolled college and high school. If dismissal occurs after the add/drop period no refunds will be issued.
- **Failure of a Bridge Course**
 - Receiving a failing grade in a Bridge Year Course will result in no post-secondary credit being granted to the student, secondary credit will be decided by the participating high school. Upon failing one Bridge course, the Bridge student's enrollment in the Bridge Year Program will be reviewed by The Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee and the student will be automatically placed on academic probation for the purposes of the Bridge Program. Students may (if logistically possible) take the Bridge course again if he or she wishes to replace the failing grade. The student will be required to pay the course fee again.
***Failure or dropping of a Bridge course after the add/drop period will remain on the student's college transcript and affect future college admissions and ultimate GPA.**

- **Academic Probation**
 - A student on academic probation while in the Bridge Program will receive additional advising and will remain on probation until the failed course has been retaken and successfully completed.
- **Dismissal from the Program**
 - Dismissal for academic or disciplinary reasons from the Bridge Year Program may occur upon the review and approval of the Bridge Year Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee in consideration of the rules of the concurrent enrolled college and high school. Failure of a second Bridge Year course after being placed on Academic Probation may also lead to dismissal from the program.
- **Dropping a Bridge Course**
 - Students may choose to drop a Bridge Year Course at any time. If the drop occurs after the drop deadline the resulting grade will appear on the student's official respective University transcript. Refunds of the course fee may occur within the rules of University or College. Textbook and any other fees will not be refunded.
- **Dropping from the Bridge Program**
 - To remain a Bridge Year Student (a student in good standing) a student must be on track to complete no fewer than 18 post-secondary credits by the end of the senior year in high school.
 - Students may drop from the Bridge Program at any time and continue with a traditional secondary curriculum with no secondary penalty but should fully understand the financial and higher education ramifications.
- **Academic Appeal Process**
 - Appeals of the decisions by the Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee would be made through the college's academic system.

Our signatures below attest that we have read, understand and agreed to the Bridge Year Student/Parent/Guardian Agreement. We understand the commitment required for success in this Program and agree to fulfill the student responsibilities and adhere to the applicable rules of all partnering schools.

Student Name (Printed) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian name(s) (Printed) _____

Parent/Guardian(s) Signature(s) _____ Date _____

The Bridge Year Program Student Application Form

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Grade Level _____ Expected year of Bridge Year completion _____

Current Age _____

Gender: Male ___ Female ___ Birth Date ___/___/___

- Student Contact Information:

- Email address _____
- Home Phone _____
- Cell Phone _____
- Home Address _____ Zip _____

- Parent or Guardian Names:

- Email address _____
- Work Phone _____
- Cell Phone _____

- Emergency Contact

Names: _____

- Email address _____
- Best Phone _____
- Cell Phone _____

Are you available to attend a three-day Career Academy during summer 2018? Y__ N__

Are you willing to attend classes after traditional school hours? Y__ N__

Do you have access to transportation? Y__ N__

Desired Program at Hancock County Technical Center

- Automotive Technology**
- Biomedical Science**
- Carpentry**
- Certified Nursing Assistant**
- Culinary Arts**
- Diesel Technology**
- Early Childhood Education**
- Law Enforcement**
- Marine Service Technology**
- Multimedia Design**
- Medical Terminology**
- Medical Terminology/Certified Residential Medication Aide**
- Welding Technology**

Area(s) of Potential Career Interest: _____

We certify that all information in this packet is accurate and complete.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Please Print Name: _____

The Bridge Year Program Student Essay

~One page double spaced and in your own words~

Question: How will you use the Bridge Year Program to help better define and attain your career goals?

Student Signature

Date

Bridge Year Recommendation Form (Guidance/Faculty/Administrator)

Please have completed (1 recommendation from your guidance or administration office, 2 recommendations from your teachers)

Please complete and return to the Bridge Year School Advisor

Applicant's Name: _____

Date: _____

Recommender's Name: _____

With the overview in mind, please briefly answer the following questions to help us in the selection process:

1. What attributes does the applicant have that will assist him/her in The Bridge Year? Program? _____

2. In your opinion, does the student have significant interest in this program (please explain your thoughts)?

3. Please give your opinion and rationale on the applicant's compatibility with this program and academic ability to succeed at University level work?

4. What attributes does the applicant have that will assist him/her in The Bridge Year Program? _____

5. In your opinion, does the student have significant interest in this program (please explain your thoughts)?

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