

MAINE COAST SEMESTER



at CHEWONKI

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ADMINISTRATION

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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

CEEB Code 201-122

ACADEMIC PROFILE 2018-2019

SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

Located on a 400-acre saltwater peninsula, Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki is an academically rigorous, place-based learning opportunity, which is made available to a select number of 11th-grade students for one semester (fall or spring). Recognized as a highly competitive program, Maine Coast Semester provides intellectually curious juniors with an engaging, interdisciplinary curriculum delivered through student-centered instruction and field and residential learning experiences, which fosters creative thinking and independent problem solving. The semester school's curriculum is carefully aligned with established college preparatory course work and serves to compliment 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 sustainability and community building. Whether harvesting vegetables on an organic farm, splitting firewood for their residential woodstoves, or installing solar panels, students are encouraged to make connections between working with their hands and their head. As a result, Maine Coast Semester students return to their sending schools with increased self-confidence, an appreciation for the rewards and responsibilities of community living, a strong sense of ownership for their education, and enhanced critical thinking skills.

GOALS FOR GRADUATES

At its heart, Maine Coast Semester is a rigorous academic program that challenges students' thinking, asking them to go deeper into learning. We also ask students to participate in an intentional community of peers and teachers in a natural setting, so our graduates leave with even more than a remarkable education. They also take with them a better understanding of themselves and what they can do in the world. The characteristics below reflect the faculty's goals for our students.

INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT: Take ownership of education; approach challenging problems with curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity; and integrate learning into a cohesive whole.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Live a life of integrity and intention, taking initiative to improve communities through individual and collective action while understanding that we live in an interconnected world of limited resources.

ARTICULATE EXPRESSION: Form incisive thoughts and questions in writing and speaking, mindful of other perspectives.

SENSE OF PLACE: Strive for a deeper understanding of the natural world and one's place within it through focused observation of details, patterns, and connections.

SENSE OF SELF: Possess a heightened understanding and acceptance of individual talents and limits.

SENDING SCHOOLS

Over 2,000 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. Thirty-four percent of students have come from public schools and sixty-five percent have come from independent schools. Thirteen percent have come from Maine.

FACULTY

The Maine Coast Semester faculty includes 12 core academic teachers, three teaching fellows, three adjunct teachers, and three farm staff/educators.

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND CLASSROOM TIME

Each semester, fall or spring, is 15 1/2 weeks in length. All academic classes meet for the equivalent of four hours per week except science, which meets for approximately eight to ten hours per week, depending on the length of certain field trips. Classes meet in 55-minute blocks. Academic classes are held Monday through Friday.

GRADING

Chewonki uses letter grades with the following equivalencies:

A (94, 95, 96), A- (90, 91, 92, 93), B+ (87, 88, 89), etc. F = 59 (Failing)

CURRICULUM

Students take five courses and complete a Human Ecology Capstone Project, a week of independent research on a topic of their choice.

Required Courses: Science: Natural History of the Maine Coast
English: Literature and the Land
Work Program and Outdoor Activities Program (physical education/practical arts)

Elective Courses: U.S. History
Advanced Placement U.S. History
Mathematics (Algebra II, Trigonometry, Precalculus, and Calculus AB or BC)
French language (levels III-V and AP equivalent)
Spanish language (levels III-V and AP equivalent)
Latin language (levels III-V and AP equivalent)
Mandarin Chinese Language (levels III-V and AP equivalent)
Art and the Natural World
Environmental Issues

Courses are taught at advanced levels of instruction. Most students take honors-level courses at their sending schools; those students are adequately challenged here and prepared to return to those courses. Because of our small size, however, students are not "tracked" except in math and foreign language. All classes are geared to the very capable student. Many students match our courses with AP courses at their sending schools.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

PSATs are administered in the fall to all students. In the spring, students may take the ACT. Generally, the SAT I and SAT II Subject Tests are taken at home in June. Prep courses for standardized tests are not offered at Maine Coast Semester. Advanced Placement examinations are administered in May for students who choose and are prepared to take them in US History, Calculus AB or BC, French Language, Spanish Language or Literature, English Language or Literature, and Environmental Science. 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 exams they plan to take. They will also have the opportunity to meet with their assigned Maine Coast Semester advisor before registering for exams in March.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available and based on need. For the 2017-2018 academic year, approximately 40 percent of the student body received financial aid. Some students also received aid from their sending schools while attending Maine Coast Semester. The average award we granted was over \$16,700.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Below is a partial list of colleges and universities that alumni from Semesters 49-58 (high school classes of 2014-2018) have attended. Bold indicates colleges with five or more Maine Coast Semester students.

Amherst College (1)	Dartmouth College (1)	Mount Holyoke College (2)	University of California Berkeley (2)
Bard College (4)	Davidson College (2)	Northwestern University (5)	University of Denver (2)
Bates College (14)	Denison University (2)	Northeastern University (4)	University of Maine (3)
Bennington College (4)	Dickinson College (3)	NYU (1)	University of Pennsylvania (2)
Bowdoin College (9)	Georgetown University (2)	Oberlin College (9)	University of Vermont (14)
Brown University (3)	Grinnell College (3)	Oregon Institute of Technology (1)	Vanderbilt University (1)
Bucknell University (3)	Hamilton College (2)	Pitzer College (2)	Vassar College (3)
Carleton College (7)	Hampshire College (4)	Pomona College (3)	Wake Forest University (6)
Carnegie Mellon University (3)	Harvard University (3)	Princeton University (2)	Warren Wilson College (1)
Colby College (14)	Johns Hopkins University (2)	Sewanee: The University of the South (1)	Wellesley College (1)
College of the Atlantic (10)	Kenyon College (2)	Skidmore College (3)	Wesleyan University (11)
College of William and Mary (1)	Lewis and Clark College (3)	Smith College (5)	Wheaton College (2)
Colorado College (26)	Macalester College (3)	St. Lawrence University (6)	Whitman College (10)
Columbia University (2)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1)	Stanford University (1)	Williams College (1)
Connecticut College (6)	Maine Maritime Academy (2)	Tufts University (5)	Worcester Polytechnic Institute (1)
Cornell University (4)	Middlebury College (14)	Tulane University (2)	Yale University (2)