

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 2020-2021

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 foster 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 or splitting firewood for their residential woodstoves 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

Utilizing the principles of immersive learning, the following target goals serve as the curricular framework for both academic and experiential coursework.

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. Ten 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 labs. 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, an independent research project on a topic of their choice.

Required Courses: Science: Natural History of the Maine Coast
English: Literature and the Land
Physical Education: Wilderness and Outdoor Skills
Community Service and Work Program (No Credit)

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
The Ethics of Place
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 at Maine Coast Semester and prepared to return to those courses. All classes are geared to the very capable student. Students often 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. 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.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available and based on need. For the 2019-2020 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 (4)	Dartmouth College (2)	Mount Holyoke College (1)	Tulane University (2)
Bard College (2)	Davidson College (2)	Northwestern University (3)	University of California Berkeley (1)
Bates College (13)	Denison University (1)	Northeastern University (1)	University of Denver (3)
Bennington College (2)	Duke University (2)	NYU (1)	University of Maine (3)
Bowdoin College (14)	Emory University (3)	Oberlin College (6)	University of Michigan (3)
Brown University (3)	Georgetown University (2)	Oregon Institute of Technology (1)	University of Pennsylvania (2)
Bucknell University (2)	Hamilton College (3)	Pitzer College (4)	University of Vermont (14)
Carleton College (4)	Hampshire College (2)	Pomona College (3)	Vassar College (5)
Carnegie Mellon University (3)	Harvard University (2)	Princeton University (2)	Wake Forest University (3)
Colby College (12)	Johns Hopkins University (1)	Sewanee: The University of the South (1)	Warren Wilson College (2)
College of the Atlantic (7)	Kenyon College (2)	Skidmore College (5)	Wellesley College (1)
College of William and Mary (1)	Lewis and Clark College (4)	Smith College (5)	Wesleyan University (12)
Colorado College (31)	Macalester College (3)	St. Lawrence University (6)	Wheaton College (2)
Columbia University (2)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1)	Stanford University (1)	Whitman College (8)
Connecticut College (7)	Maine Maritime Academy (4)	Swarthmore College (3)	Williams College (1)
Cornell University (8)	Middlebury College (13)	Tufts University (8)	Yale University (1)