Clothing and Equipment List

At Chewonki, you have an opportunity to simplify your life. One way to achieve this is to limit the “stuff” that you use in your daily life; remember that you will be living in a one-room cabin with five to eight peers. Most of the items you will need are for informal, outdoor living. If you do not own or are unable to borrow any of the items on this list, and purchasing them is not within your budget, please contact the admissions office before you arrive for assistance. Chewonki has items available for loan on wilderness trips including sleeping pads, internal frame backpacks, sleeping bags, and base layers.

As you pack, keep in mind seasonal changes. Students in both semesters will experience temperatures and conditions that range from summer (70° - 80° F ±) to winter (0° - 25° F ±).

Put your name on all your clothes and equipment and bring all of the required items with you at the time of your arrival. We do not bring students off campus to purchase additional clothing or equipment. Although students may receive packages at Maine Coast Semester, we encourage families to plan ahead and avoid ordering additional clothing or equipment after the beginning of the semester. We discourage online shopping during the semester.

Additionally, you will be expected to do your own laundry on campus. Chewonki provides detergent and there is no fee to use the laundry facilities.

Clothing Expectations

Though we do not have a formal dress code, we do ask that clothing be presentable and respectful of others while in classes or while you are off-campus representing Maine Coast Semester. Our 400-acre campus features an organic farm, forest and woodlot, meadows, marsh, rocky coastline and twelve-miles of hiking trails. Students spend a great deal of time outdoors in all weather conditions, including rain and snow. Students should pack appropriately. Jeans are appropriate for most uses, and for work program, please bring clothes and gloves that can get very dirty. A headlamp is essential for moving around campus in the early mornings and evenings. Please also bring one nicer outfit for advisee-night-out and field trips.

Storage

Students live in one-room cabins with five-to eight peers. For storage, each student has two medium-sized bookcases (waist height) with four-six shelves a piece as well as space under your bed. Some students bring a trunk to keep at the foot of their bed or containers to go underneath. Under-bed containers may be on wheels and should be no taller than 11.5 inches. A mesh bag for laundry is also useful.

Required Outerwear

- Warm winter parka (lightweight down- or synthetic-fill “super-layer”)
- Waterproof rain jacket
- Waterproof rain pants
- Work pants (jean or cotton duck)
- Insulated snow pants (required for spring semester, recommended for fall semester)
- Warm wool or fleece pants to layer under rain pants (required for spring semester, recommended for fall semester)
- Warm fleece or wool gloves that are flexible enough to write with
- Warm shell mittens that fit over gloves
- Lined leather or canvas work gloves
- Hat with a brim
- Wool or synthetic ski hat
- Balaclava or warm scarf
- Sunglasses and/or ski goggles
- Bandana
Required Clothing
- Two weeks’ worth of everyday clothing
- Two heavy wool sweaters or fleece jackets
- Two sets of long underwear (non-cotton), top and bottom
- Long-sleeved work shirts (flannel, wool or denim)
- Several pairs of warm, wool socks
- Swim suit
- One outfit for special events (e.g. advisor dinner out or field trip)

Required Footwear
Although there are boardwalks near the center of campus and some gravel pathways, students should expect to encounter wet, muddy, snowy and cold ground conditions on a regular basis. Classes frequently meet on our farm, hiking trails and coastline. During science field lab, students visit rocky and sandy beaches, bogs, brooks and marshes. Students will be outside in all weather conditions, including the snow and rain.
- Sturdy hiking boots that are waterproof or water-resistant
- Tall, rubber boots such as rain boots or insulated bog boots (recommended, however the farm has extra pairs of waterproof boots on hand for farm chores)
- Everyday footwear, such as running shoes, sandals, crocks, etc.
- Insulated winter boots with removable felt lining
- An old pair of sneakers that you don’t mind getting exceptionally wet or dirty
- Slippers for wearing inside your cabin

Required Cabin and Outdoor Items
- Headlamp and batteries
- Warm bedding and linens – twin-sized sheets, blankets, pillow, towels
- Two water bottles (approximately 32 oz. each)
- Battery-powered alarm clock
- Wrist-watch
- Pleasure reading books or games
- Toiletries to last two months (natural/biodegradable preferred) and shower caddy
- Sunscreen
- Bug-spray with permethrin
- Backpacking hammock for solos (strongly recommended)
- Crazy creek-style lightweight folding chair for field lab and phenology (strongly recommended)

Required School Supplies
*Note: we do not have a school store on campus*
- Pens, pencils and highlighters
- Two journals or spiral notebooks
- Five three-ring binders with lined paper
- Graphing calculator
- Durable backpack for on-campus use and science field labs
- School or government issued photo I.D.

Additional Items Required for Spring Students
- Micro spikes (fit over shoes to provide extra traction in icy conditions)
- Notes from the fall semester classes you will be continuing at Maine Coast Semester, e.g. language, history and math (these will be useful to look over as you learn new material and prepare for any Advanced Placement exams you may be taking).
Optional Clothing and Equipment
Chewonki has many of these items on hand for students to borrow, however if you already own or can easily borrow any of this equipment, please bring it.

- 40-50 liter internal-frame backpack.
- Backpacking sleeping bag, rated to 15 or 20° F for fall or 0 or 5°F for spring, that stuffs into a sack. If you are a "cold sleeper," you may want a synthetic fleece sleeping bag liner.
- Sleeping pad
- Musical instruments (encouraged)
- Recreational and sports equipment (e.g. tennis racket, lacrosse stick, cross-country or downhill skis, snowboard, ice skates, hockey stick, etc.)
- Costumes or dress-up clothes for Saturday evening activities (i.e. skits, coffeehouses, theme dances, etc.)
- Binoculars
- Digital camera
- Bicycle and helmet (Chewonki does not have bicycles for student use)
- Water shoes (old sneakers are acceptable, but crocks and backless sandals are not)

Please Do NOT Bring or Acquire While Enrolled in Maine Coast Semester
- Cell phone (If needed for travel, we will safely store on campus)
- Personal Wi-Fi-enabled devices (like laptops, iPad, wearable technology, etc.)
- Television sets, iPod Touch, DVD players, DVDs, or other electronic or digital media
- Hot pots, appliances or electric blankets
- Large stereos (personal, non-internet capable music-listening devices are allowed)
- Tapestries or other cloth wall hangings are not allowed as they are a fire hazard. Posters and photos are ok.
- Firearms
- Pets

Sourcing Items:
Clothing, equipment and footwear that students bring to campus will be well-used, so we recommend bringing durable items that can stand-up to Maine’s rugged landscape and variable weather. Good quality items can be expensive, and several brands now offer gently used and repaired items on their websites. Buying used is both a pragmatic and environmentally friendly approach to outfitting yourself for the semester. Used gear can be found online by searching for Patagonia Worn Wear, REI Co-op Used Gear, The North Face Renewed and Outdoors Geek. You can also try searching websites like ebay or tradesy for popular brands like Blundstone, Carhartt, L.L. Bean, Merrell, Keen, Muck Boots, Bog Boots or Sorel.

Still have Questions?
Packing for a four-month semester in an unfamiliar climate can be challenging, so if you feel unsure of what to pack please don’t hesitate to call the admissions office at (207) 882-7323 ext. 140. Maine Coast Semester also maintains a robust flickr account with photos of daily life, work program, farm chores, science field lab and other activities. Some families find these images helpful when deciding what to pack. Scroll to the bottom of mainecoastsemester.com for a link to our flickr page.

Climate Wiscasset – Maine

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