

MAINE COAST SEMESTER



at CHEWONKI

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ADMINISTRATION

Nancy Kennedy
Acting President

Julie Barnes and Sarah Rebeck
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*Director of Enrollment
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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

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CEEB Code 201-122

ACADEMIC PROFILE 2023-2024

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-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, 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.

OUR VISION

We choose to approach rigorous academics, physical work, and everyday living with responsibility and joy. Whether engaging in a spirited classroom discussion, harvesting tomatoes for our table or planning Saturday night's activities, we live each day deliberately with an eye toward connecting the individual to a larger community. Our students leave Chewonki with strengthened ownership for their education, an awareness of their place in nature, and an understanding that they can make a positive difference in their world.

GOALS FOR GRADUATES

We work to manifest our mission to inspire transformative growth, teach appreciation and stewardship of the natural world, and challenge people to build thriving, sustainable communities throughout their lives. 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: Students learn in a holistic way and address complex issues with humility, critical thinking, and creativity.

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

SENSE OF PLACE: Students learn in a holistic way and address complex issues with humility, critical thinking, and creativity.

SENSE OF SELF: Students learn in a holistic way and address complex issues with humility, critical thinking, and creativity.

SENDING SCHOOLS

Over 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.

FACULTY

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

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 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), PH (Pass with Honors)

CURRICULUM

Courses are taught at honors and AP advanced levels of instruction. Most students take honors-level courses at their sending schools; those students are appropriately 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.

Students take 5.5 academic courses including Science, English, Capstone, and 3 additional classes from the list of Elective Courses below:

Required Courses: Science: Natural History and Ecology of the Maine Coast
English: Literature and the Land
Maine Coast Semester Capstone in Human Ecology (1/2 credit)
Sustainability Seminar (No Credit)
Physical Education: Outdoor Skills, Backcountry Expeditions, Health and Wellness
Community Service and Work Program (No Credit)

Elective Courses: History: United States History, AP® United States History
Mathematics: Algebra II, Precalculus, AP® Calculus AB and AP® Calculus BC
World Languages: Intermediate and Advanced levels in Spanish, French, Mandarin Chinese, and Latin
Science/Social Science: Environmental Issues
English/Social Science: World Religions and the Wilderness
Studio Art: Art and the Natural World

STANDARDIZED TESTING

PSAT® tests are administered in the fall to all students. In the spring, students may take the ACT® or SAT®. Prep courses for standardized tests are not offered at Maine Coast Semester. Advanced Placement examinations are administered in the spring 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

Generous financial aid is available and based on need. For the 2022-2023 academic year, approximately 45 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 \$20,000.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Below is a partial list of colleges and universities that alumni from Semesters 57-65 (high school classes of 2018-2022) have attended.

Allegheny College (1)	Franklin and Marshall College (1)	Princeton University (3)	University of New Hampshire (3)
American University (2)	George Washington University (1)	Reed College (3)	University of North Carolina (1)
Amherst College (5)	Georgetown University (2)	Rice University (1)	University of Notre Dame (1)
Barnard College (4)	Gettysburg College (1)	Saint Anselm College (1)	University of Pennsylvania (1)
Bates College (15)	Green Mountain College (1)	Sarah Lawrence College (1)	University of Rhode Island (1)
Bennington College (1)	Grinnell College (1)	Skidmore College (5)	University of Southern California (1)
Berry College (1)	Hamilton College (2)	Smith College (4)	University of Southern Maine (3)
Boston College (2)	Harvard University (2)	Southern Maine Community College (1)	University of St. Andrews, Scotland (3)
Boston University (1)	Harvey Mudd College (1)	Southern Methodist University (1)	University of Vermont (13)
Bowdoin College (13)	Haverford College (5)	St. Lawrence University (6)	University of Virginia (1)
Brown University (4)	Kalamazoo College (1)	St. Olaf College (2)	University of Washington (1)
Bryn Mawr College (1)	Kenyon College (5)	Stanford University (1)	University of Wisconsin (4)
Bucknell University (2)	Lafayette College (1)	Stevens Institute of Technology (1)	Vassar College (4)
Carleton College (5)	Lake Forest College (1)	SUNY Binghamton (1)	Wake Forest University (1)
Centre College (1)	Lehigh University (1)	SUNY New Paltz (1)	Warren Wilson College (2)
Champlain College (1)	Lewis and Clark College (4)	Swarthmore College (2)	Washington and Lee University (2)
Colby College (7)	Long Island University (1)	Trent University (1)	Washington University in St. Louis (2)
Colgate University (5)	Macalester College (3)	Tufts University (11)	Wesleyan University (13)
College of the Atlantic (2)	Maine Maritime Academy (2)	Tulane University (1)	Westminster College (1)
College of William and Mary (1)	University of Newfoundland (1)	UCLA (1)	Wheaton College (2)
Colorado College (24)	Miami University (1)	Union College (1)	Whitman College (9)
Columbia University (2)	Michigan State University (1)	University of California Santa Cruz (2)	Williams College (4)
Connecticut College (6)	Middlebury College (12)	University of Chicago (1)	Yale University (2)
Cornell College (1)	MIT (1)	University of Colorado Boulder (3)	
Cornell University (9)	Montana State University (3)	University of Denver (1)	
Dartmouth College (3)	New York University (2)	University of Florida (1)	
Davidson College (3)	North Carolina State University (1)	University of Maine Farmington (1)	
DePaul University (1)	Northeastern University (4)	University of Maine Orono (1)	
Dickinson College (2)	Northern Michigan University (1)	University of Massachusetts (1)	
Drexel University (1)	Northwestern University (3)	University of Mass. Amherst (2)	
Duke University (2)	Oberlin College (4)	University of Michigan (6)	
Eckerd College (1)	Olin College of Engineering (1)	University of New England (1)	
Emory University (5)	Pitzer College (4)		