

# MAINE COAST SEMESTER at CHEWONKI



**Life-Changing Learning in Nature**

485 Chewonki Neck Road  
Wiscasset, Maine 04578  
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mainecoastsemester.org

## ADMINISTRATION

Nancy Kennedy  
*President*

Sarah Rebick  
*Director*

Justin Fahey  
*Director of Admissions*

Carter Ramquist  
*Associate Director of Admissions*

Kathryn Zumstein  
*Registrar*

## 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.



**CEEB Code 201-122**

# ACADEMIC PROFILE 2025-2026

## SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

Located on a 400-acre saltwater peninsula, Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki, an academically rigorous, place-based school community, welcomes a select number of 11th- and 12th-grade students for one semester (fall or spring). Maine Coast Semester provides intellectually curious students 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 curriculum at Maine Coast Semester is carefully aligned with established honors-level 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 campus work projects and seminars that introduce the principles of environmental stewardship and community building. Maine Coast Semester embraces a phone-free, tech-light approach so students stay present, forge deeper connections, and nurture a strong, sustaining community.

## 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 Maine Coast Semester 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

**ENGAGED LEARNING:** Students learn in a holistic way and address complex issues with humility, critical thinking, and creativity.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** As responsible community members, students intentionally engage with a breadth of perspectives to promote social and environmental justice within and across communities.

**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION:** Students listen with openness and discernment and communicate ideas with clarity, creativity, and an awareness of impact.

**SENSE OF PLACE:** Students build an understanding of their reciprocal relationship with the natural world through focused observation and reflection.

**SENSE OF SELF:** Students explore and affirm their identities, strengths, and areas for growth, and understand how these impact the various communities of which they are a part.

## SENDING SCHOOLS

More than 2,600 students from over 400 sending schools have attended Maine Coast Semester. In a typical semester, students come from 30+ high schools and 12+ states. Forty percent of students come from public schools and 60% come from private schools. Ten percent come from Maine. Some of our most common sending schools include:

Berkeley High School (CA)  
Boulder High School (CO)  
Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (MA)  
Charlotte Country Day School (NC)  
Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences (CA)  
Crystal Springs Uplands School (CA)  
The Dalton School (NY)  
Ethical Culture Fieldston School (NY)  
Francis W. Parker School (IL)  
Greenhill School (TX)  
Greensboro Day School (NC)  
Harvard-Westlake School (CA)  
Lakeside School (WA)  
The Lovett School (GA)  
Menlo School (CA)

Milton Academy (MA)  
The Nightingale-Bamford School (NY)  
Noble and Greenough School (MA)  
Princeton Day School (NJ)  
Santa Fe Preparatory School (NM)  
Shady Side Academy (PA)  
Sidwell Friends School (DC)  
St. John's School (TX)  
St. Margaret's Episcopal School (CA)  
St. Paul Academy & Summit School (MN)  
The Thacher School (CA)  
Waynflete School (ME)  
Webb School of Knoxville (TN)  
The Westminster Schools (GA)  
YES Prep Public Schools (TX)

## FACULTY

The Maine Coast Semester faculty includes seven full-time teachers, three adjunct teachers, four teaching fellows, and three 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 weekly 4-hour field lab. 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 at Maine Coast Semester are taught at the honors and AP® levels. Most students take honors and AP-level courses at their sending schools, and all students are academically challenged while attending. The Maine Coast Semester registrar works closely with sending schools to ensure seamless credit transfer, with many Maine Coast Semester courses accepted as AP credits.

Students take 6 academic courses including Science, English, Seminar, and 3 additional classes from the list of courses below:

<b>SCIENCE</b>	Natural History and Ecology of the Maine Coast*
<b>ENGLISH</b>	Literature and the Land*
<b>HISTORY</b>	U.S. History AP® U.S. History
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	Algebra II Precalculus Intro to Calculus (Spring Semester Only) AP® Calculus AB AP® Calculus BC
<b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b>	French: Intermediate, Advanced Spanish: Intermediate, Advanced
<b>STUDIO ARTS</b>	Art and the Natural World
<b>CO-CURRICULAR</b>	Human Ecology Seminar* Environmental Issues World Religions and the Wilderness
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	Backcountry Expeditions and Outdoor Education*

\* Required course

## COMMUNITY SERVICE & WORK PROGRAM

All students take part in daily chores and seasonal tasks to help maintain our farm, kitchen, and campus. Students earn a course credit and approximately 40 hours of community service upon graduation.

## STANDARDIZED TESTING

PSAT® tests are administered in the fall semester to all students who wish to take it. In the spring, we coordinate registration and transportation for students who need to take the ACT® or SAT®. AP examinations are administered during the spring semester for AP courses in which students are currently enrolled at Maine Coast Semester. We encourage students to discuss testing plans with a counselor at their sending school before arriving.

## FINANCIAL AID

Need-based financial aid provides students with demonstrated need an opportunity for a high-quality academic experience that might otherwise be unavailable to them. We are eager to share in the cost of this education to the best of our ability.

We ask that all families contribute toward their student's tuition, as we believe shared investment enhances the experience. Financial aid awards range from \$500 to \$30,000+, with over 40% of our students receiving some form of aid. We work with families to find the best possible solution to meet their needs.

## COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Since our founding in 1988, Maine Coast Semester graduates have gone on to attend many of the nation's most competitive colleges and universities. To date, the total number of Maine Coast Semester graduates who have enrolled at the following:

### 60+

Bates College  
Bowdoin College  
Brown University  
Colby College  
Colorado College  
Cornell University  
Middlebury College  
University of Vermont  
Wesleyan University

### 30-59

Carleton College  
College of the Atlantic  
Dartmouth College  
Hampshire College  
Harvard University  
Kenyon College

Oberlin College  
St. Lawrence University  
Stanford University  
Tufts University  
Whitman College  
Williams College  
Yale University

### 20-29

Bard College  
Columbia University  
Connecticut College  
Haverford College  
Lewis and Clark College  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
Princeton University  
Skidmore College

Smith College  
University of Maine, Orono  
University of Michigan  
University of Pennsylvania  
Vassar College

### 10-19

Amherst College  
Barnard College  
Bennington College  
Boston University  
Bucknell University  
Colgate University  
Davidson College  
Duke University  
Emory University  
Georgetown University  
Hamilton College

Johns Hopkins University  
Macalester College  
McGill University - Canada  
Pitzer College  
Pomona College  
Reed College  
Swarthmore College  
Tulane University  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of Chicago  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of New Hampshire  
University of Virginia  
Vanderbilt University  
Warren Wilson College  
Wellesley College