



## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RIVER FUND MAINE SCHOLARSHIP

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) may help you decide if The River Fund Maine Scholarship is right for you. But if you have other questions that are not answered here, please contact The River Fund Maine at [executivedirector@riverfundmaine.org](mailto:executivedirector@riverfundmaine.org).

### **Do I have to live in Bethel or Newry Maine to be eligible for the scholarship?**

The River Fund Scholarship is intended to provide educational opportunities for area youth. If you and your family or legal guardian permanently reside within the MSAD 44 District (which includes the towns of Andover, Bethel, Gilead, Greenwood, Newry, and Woodstock, in Oxford County, Maine), you are eligible for the scholarship. You are also eligible if you have attended one of The River Fund Maine's Dare-To-Dream Innovation Workshops or if one of your parents or your legal guardian is an employee of Sunday River Skiway or the Bethel Inn Resort. However, you are not eligible if one of your parents or legal guardians is a member of the Board of Directors or an employee of The River Fund Maine.

### **Do I have to attend a public school in order to be eligible for the scholarship?**

No. As long as you and your family or legal guardian's primary residence is within the MSAD 44 District, you are eligible for the scholarship.

### **Can I apply for a River Fund Maine scholarship to attend a junior college or for vocational training?**

Unfortunately, no. Applicants must be targeting a four-year accredited college degree program to be eligible for the scholarship.

### **Can I apply for a River Fund Maine scholarship to attend an on-line college or university?**

No. The scholarship is intended to enable you to physically attend an accredited institute of higher learning and to profit from the experience of face-to-face interactions and exchanges with your professors, instructors and fellow students. If your college or university of choice offers or accepts on-line supplementary coursework, you may of course take advantage of that option.

### **Do I have to be accepted into a four-year college before I can apply for the scholarship?**

You do not have to have decided where you will be attending college to apply for the scholarship. You must list, however, all the schools to which you have applied. You and your selected school will receive the financial grant after you have been admitted and enrolled in the college of your choice.

**Do I have to attend an in-state school in order to be considered for the scholarship?**

No. You may attend any accredited four-year college or university of your choice. You do not have to select a Maine-based school.

**Do I have to elect a specific major in order to be considered for the scholarship?**

No. You may elect any major you chose that results in the granting of a four-year accredited college or university degree.

**Do I need to attend school full-time in order to be eligible for the scholarship?**

Yes. The River Fund Maine Scholarship is intended to allow you to achieve your educational goals within four years. However, The River Fund Maine recognizes that unexpected circumstances can occur and exceptions may be made upon application.

**Can I select a professional track program as my major?**

Yes. As long as that program results in the granting of a BA/BS or equivalent four-year college or university degree. For example, you are eligible if you pursue a BS in Nursing; you are not eligible if you select a nursing program that results in RN or LPN accreditation only.

**Do I automatically lose the scholarship if I transfer?**

No. You may attend any accredited four-year college or university you wish. You must, however, notify The River Fund Maine in writing and receive written approval to maintain your scholarship at a different school.

**How long does The River Fund Maine Scholarship last?**

The scholarship is intended to cover a total of four academic years: the first year in which you are selected as a River Fund Scholar and three renewal years.

**Can I take a Gap Year?**

Yes. The scholarship covers up to four academic years, but does not require that those years be consecutive. You may elect to take a Gap Year, but no funding will be available to you for that year. If you plan to take a Gap Year, you should notify The River Fund in writing of your plans and receive written approval to postpone your scholarship for one year. Only one Gap Year will be approved.

**Do I have to reapply every year?**

You do not need to submit a completely new application every year. You do, however, need to complete a renewal request that will ask for your college or university transcript and SAR.

**Is the scholarship renewal guaranteed?**

No. You must maintain a 3.0 GPA average at your school, be a student in good standing, and demonstrate good citizenship in order to qualify for a renewal. However, The River Fund Maine recognizes that unexpected circumstances can occur and exceptions may be made upon application.

**Does the scholarship cover my entire college expenses?**

That will depend on where you chose to go to school. The scholarship is worth up to \$20,000 -- but no more than that-- towards tuition and fees, room and board, books, and educational supplies. If the school you select costs more, you are responsible for the remainder of the costs.

**Can the financial award vary from year to year?**

Yes. The amount of the River Fund Maine Scholarship can change depending on your needs.

**What is included in educational supplies?**

Educational supplies cover any materials that are required to support your academic classroom work. For example, laboratory supplies or a computer would qualify. An optional field trip would not. Please be aware that transportation costs to and from your school or miscellaneous spending money, while you are on campus, are not considered educational supplies.

**What if I become ill and am not able to carry a full course load?**

The River Fund Maine recognizes that unexpected circumstances can occur and exceptions may be made upon application.

**How will The River Fund Scholar be selected?**

All complete, qualified, and on-time applications will be reviewed. The River Fund Scholar will be selected by a panel of qualified professionals who have no personal knowledge of, or connection to, any of the applicants. All applicants will be notified on or before April 15, 2021. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, disability, or national origin.