

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Your employer is a member of a statewide initiative that qualifies you for educational benefits

You work for a Next Step Maine Employer enrolled in the Next Step Maine Employers' Initiative, a program of the Maine Development Foundation. As the employee of a Next Step Maine Employer, you qualify for discounts at several Maine institutions making it easier for you to take a course, receive new training, or make progress on a degree.

CURRENT EDUCATIONAL DISCOUNTS:

Husson University is now offering a tuition discount for all programs except pharmacy, nursing, occupational and physical therapy. The discount ranges from 5% to 15%, and includes discounts toward an MBA, as well as 10% off certificate program offerings. Please contact Amber Timms at 207-941-7148 or TimmsA@husson.edu to take advantage of this great offer. Learn more at husson.edu/extendedlearning.

Kaplan University offers a 15% discount on select degree programs offered at the three Maine campuses in South Portland, Lewiston and Augusta. To utilize the benefit, just call 855-KUMAINE to be connected with an admissions advisor and tell him/her that you are employed by a Next Step Employer. Kaplan University also offers customized trainings to meet the needs of employers. To schedule a customized training, contact Tom Deschenes at 207-210-3122.

Saint Joseph's College Online offers a 15% discount to member employees plus member employees can apply for free. For details, go to: www.sjcms.edu/online. To take advantage of this benefit, just call 1-800-752-4723 to be connected with an admissions counselor. Through the Continuing Education and Training program, Saint Joseph's Collage offers customized trainings to see the needs of employers throughout Maine. To discuss customized training, contact Stephanie Briggs at 207-893-7769 or sbriggs@sjcme.edu.

The New England College of Business & Finance offers a 25% discount to member employees and their families. For details of the programs offered online go to necb.edu For assistance, contact Shelley King at 617-699-4718 / shelley.king@necb.edu.

The University of New England will waive application fees for member employees. To have your application fee waived, contact Cynthia Forrest at 207-602-2372 or CForrest@une.edu.

Thomas College Graduate & Continuing Education Division will waive application fees, offer a 10% course discount, and provide the first course free of charge. The discount applies to part-time bachelor's and master's degree programs, not accelerated or full-time programs, and the "first course free" applies to eligible new students. To take advantage of the discount, students should contact Thomas by visiting thomas.edu, calling 207-859-1102, or emailing grad@thomas.edu.

University of Maine at Presque Isle has enhanced their offering to a 15% discount to member employees for the first 30 credits and a free course after successful completion of 6 or more credits. For details or assistance, contact Erin Benson at 207-768-9453 or erin.benson@umpi.edu.

University of Maine at Fort Kent (UMFK) is offering a 50% tuition discount for the second course (3 or 4 credits) taken by an employee of a Next Step Employer. Requests for this discount must be made before enrolling in the second course. This discount is not available retroactively once you have completed the course. If you don't happen to be in Northern Maine, don't worry. UMFK has 9 online

degree programs, 4 online certificate programs, and a whole host of distance learning and online course offerings. To take advantage of this great discount, contact Scott Voisine at 207- 834-8644 or voisine@maine.edu.

VTEC Training: offer's the employees of Next Step Maine Employers a **10% tuition discount** on any of their **Office Application and Technical Classes**. This discount applies to the course cost and excludes any Citrix or VMware classes. Please go to vtec.org/schedule to select your class and enter code **NSME10** in the comments section of your registration. For assistance please contact Sabrina Shelzi at 207-699-3410 or sshelzi@vtec.org.

APPLY FOR A NEXT STEP MAINE SCHOLARSHIP

The goal of the Next Step Maine Scholarship Fund is to support and recognize working adults who are going to school while managing jobs, families, and other responsibilities. Scholarships are only available for employees of Next Step Maine Employers. The 2015 Next Step Maine Scholarship Application Period opens on Monday, March 2, 2015. There is a two part application process - you must be nominated by your employer through our Employer Nominator form and you must complete an Employee Nominee Form. Consider applying for a Next Step Maine Scholarship. Learn more at <http://www.nextstepmaine.org/next-step-maine-scholarship/>

EXPLORE ADULT LEARNER PROGRAMMING & SUPPORT SERVICES

Next Step Maine provides online resources designed to support Maine's population of non-traditional students and working adults to help them increase their value in the workforce through increased skills and knowledge. We provide information on existing adult-friendly educational programs and related support resources for returning to school (financial information, tips for making decisions, partners and other support providers), representing 16 higher education partners statewide and a large listing of adult-friendly programs. Through nextstepmaine.org, we also provide information on high school equivalency test support services, resources for earning academic credit for learning gained outside of the classroom, links to local services, and online resources to help you achieve your educational goals. Explore resources for **Starting College**, **Finishing College**, and continuing your education through **Professional Development & Career Advancement**.

EARN CREDIT FOR LEARNING GAINED OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Jump-start your degree by receiving college credit for the learning you've gained on the job and in your community. You can save time and money by doing a prior learning assessment to verify college credit you may have already earned. Learn more at nextstepmaine.org/prior-learning-assessment.

TRANSITION TO COLLEGE LEVEL LEARNING

Maine's College Transitions Program provides local one-on-one support to help prepare you for college level learning and help make the transition back to school a success. Reach out to your local College Transitions staff at mct.maineadulted.org.

FINANCE YOUR EDUCATION

Visit nextstepmaine.org/financial-aid to learn more about resources and support services in your area to help you navigate, plan, and pay for your continued education. Resources include financial management training opportunities, Finance Authority of Maine's NextGen program, and more.