

Resources on campus



Resources to support you throughout college

- **COA²: COA College Opportunity and Access program**

The COA College Opportunity and Access (COA²) program aims to build a supportive, educational, and communal advocacy space designed for students who self-identify with the experiences of first-generation and/or low-income college students. The early move-in and orientation program also offers support throughout the year in the form of academic and career advising, skill-building, and peer connections (fellow students at the college who serve as bridges between participants' home communities and the COA and Bar Harbor communities and who can help introduce you to networks and experiences that match your interests). If you participate in COA², you will be assigned both a faculty advisor and a peer connection, so you will have a strong team to support you!

[Read more](#)

- **Advisor system**

Every incoming student is assigned a faculty advisor (separate from a COA² advisor): a faculty member who aligns with your academic interests. Advisors can help you with class selection and internships, connect you with resources, advocate on your behalf, and offer support for personal challenges.

You will meet with your advisor regularly to discuss course choices, map curricular trajectories, plan your internship, and so on. As your interests evolve you can switch advisors or add additional ones; many students end up with an advising team. Advising at COA also involves much more than discussions with your official advisor; students, faculty, and staff talk often about class choices, course sequences, research opportunities, graduate schools, and careers.

[Read more](#)

- **Peer connections**

Every incoming student is given a peer connection (even if you don't participate in COA²). This program connects you with a current student who has been trained to be a trusted resource in helping you navigate your first year at COA and can provide guidance and advice. With a peer connection, you will have a friend and confidant at COA even before you arrive. They can be the first step in building your community.

- **Financial support**

COA is ranked #4 for Great Financial Aid by the Princeton Review!

Unbilled costs (items not covered by tuition), such as books and travel to and from campus, are built into the total cost of attendance and considered as part of your financial aid package. Low-income students may receive support for these costs through their financial aid offer. If you have questions, [our financial aid staff](#) is always happy to chat!

Work-study: The vast majority of COA students have a work-study award (an allotment for part-time employment) included as part of their financial aid package and will work on campus to earn those funds. There are positions in the dining hall, buildings and grounds, the library, IT, admission, the farms, Allied Whale, and more! Most departments on campus have work-study students. It is a great opportunity to earn money, get work experience, learn practical skills, and get to know various departments and staff on campus. Many students find valuable mentors in their staff supervisors and find another home on campus through their work-study jobs. Several students also work in Bar Harbor, where there are many employment opportunities within walking distance.

- **Research and travel support**

The Fund for Expeditionary Learning provides every student with \$1800 to support global and civic engagement and experiential, travel-related learning. Supported projects include COA courses with a travel component as well as independent studies, residencies, and conferences. The fund can help cover fees and travel expenses, as well as materials and equipment. There are additional awards available as well, including one from the [Maine Space Grant Consortium](#), that provide annual funding for students conducting research projects with COA faculty.

[Read more](#)

- **Academic support services**

There are several academic supports available for students with documented learning differences or disabilities that may impact their academic engagement. Students can request a notetaker, extended time on assignments and tests, and access a subscription to Learning Ally (an organization that provides audio materials for those needing accommodations). Additionally, our director of student support and wellness can help students schedule an assessment to contribute to their self-knowledge if they think they may have a learning difference keeping them from learning effectively in classes.

Faculty and TAs can also offer advice on how best to learn the subjects they teach, and help sessions for particular classes are an excellent resource for learning and study skills support. One-on-one trainings in study skills and time management are available from a local educational specialist. Further, the [College Opportunity and Access](#) program offers workshops each term around different topics such as procrastination, time management, and academic opportunities.

[Read more](#)

- **Office hours**

Faculty offer office hours outside of regularly scheduled class time. This can be an opportunity to get help on assignments, discuss interests related to their academic work, share ideas, or ask questions.

- **Writing center**

The writing center is open to all students. You can meet with a tutor who can help with any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming, drafting, and paper structure, to revising, editing, and citations.

[Read more](#)

- **Library**

Thorndike Library offers a variety of resources, including research and citation guides, archives, audio-visual equipment, and librarian support, including individualized research support and access to resources beyond COA. Through the library, students also have access to Interlibrary Loan, which is a system that allows patrons to request materials from over 50,000 participating libraries in the United States and beyond.

Read more about [the library](#), [Interlibrary Loan](#), and [research assistance](#).

