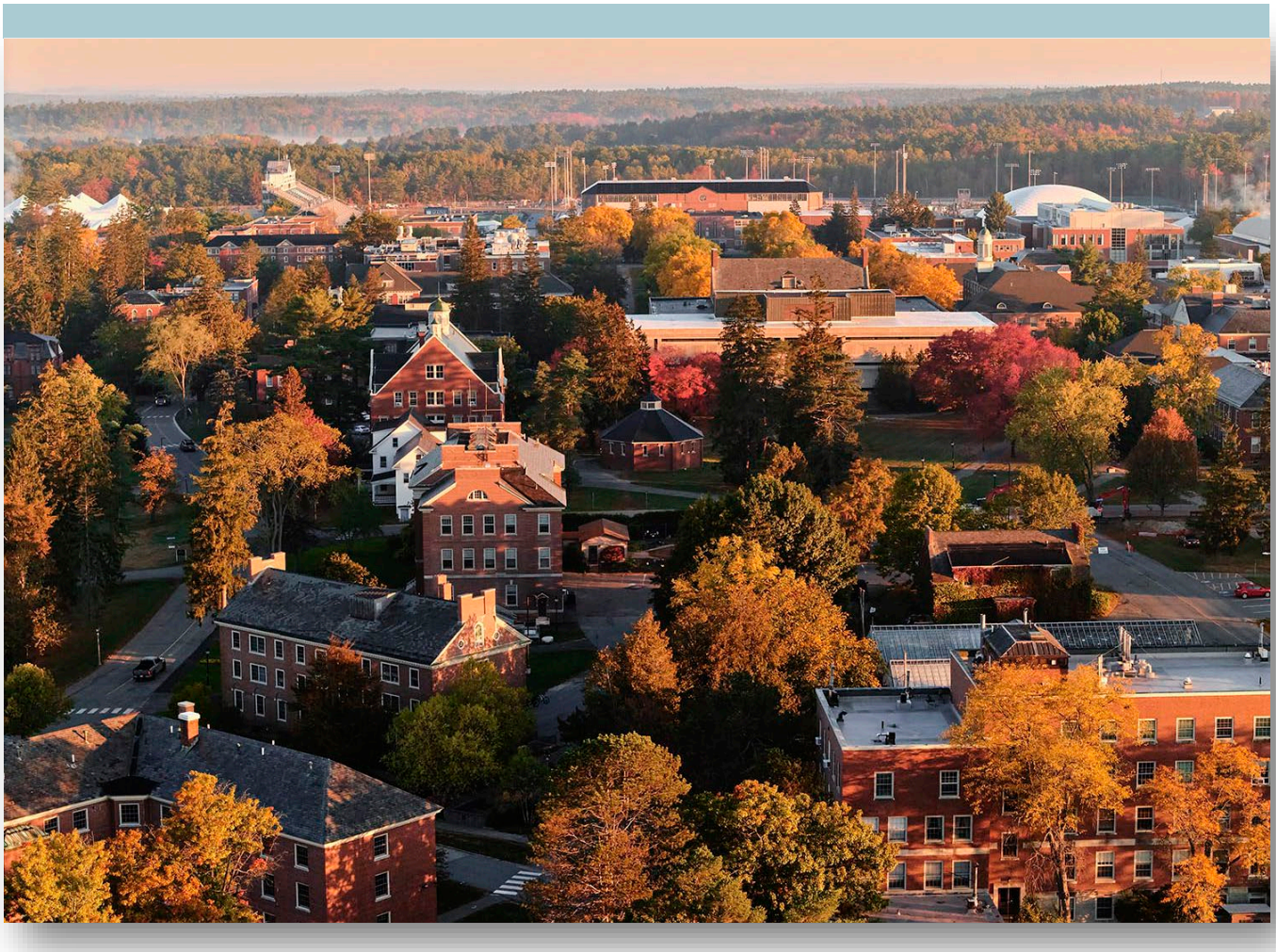
THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

Dean of the College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences

Leadership Profile

Fall 2026



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Executive Summary

The Dean of the College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences (ELH) will join the University of Maine at a pivotal moment in the institution's history. As Maine's flagship public university and the state's only land, sea, and space grant institution, UMaine combines the strengths of a Carnegie R1 research university with an unwavering commitment to public service, innovation, and economic development. Located in Orono and serving approximately 10,600 students, UMaine is recognized internationally for leadership in climate science, forestry, marine sciences, advanced materials, and sustainable ecosystems. From its forests, farms, laboratories, research centers, and coastal facilities to partnerships across the state, the university serves as a living laboratory where discovery directly enhances the environmental, economic, and social well-being of Maine and beyond.

The College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences stands at the center of that mission. Serving more than 2,700 students, including over 2,000 undergraduates and nearly 650 graduate students, ELH is one of the university's largest and most interdisciplinary academic units. The college comprises the Schools of Biology and Ecology, Earth and Climate Sciences, Economics, Food and Agriculture, Forest Resources, Marine Sciences, Nursing, and Social Work; the Departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Molecular and Biomedical Sciences, and Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology; and the interdisciplinary Ecology and Environmental Sciences program. Together, these units offer 24 undergraduate, 24 master's, and 16 doctoral programs supported by more than 160 faculty members and over $25 million in annual research activity.

ELH's impact extends throughout Maine and beyond. The college's statewide footprint includes the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, the Darling Marine Center, the Lobster Institute, the Conley Speech, Language and Hearing Center, university farms and forests, and numerous laboratories, clinics, and field sites that advance research, education, workforce development, and public engagement. The college is a place defined by dedicated people, meaningful impact, and a deep commitment to the land-grant mission. New college leadership represents an opportunity to further strengthen cross-disciplinary collaboration, enhance the visibility of the college's accomplishments, invest strategically in its future, and unite the community around a shared vision.

The next Dean will build upon a strong foundation of research excellence, public engagement, and student success while helping position ELH to address some of the defining challenges of our time, including environmental sustainability, climate resilience, public health, food systems, and natural resource stewardship.

The successful candidate will be a visible, collaborative, and transparent leader who can bring together diverse disciplines and constituencies around a shared direction. They will champion excellence in research, teaching, and service while serving as a compelling advocate for the college across the university, throughout the state of Maine, and among federal, industry, nonprofit, and philanthropic partners. As ELH looks ahead, the college's future success depends on attracting, developing, and retaining talented faculty and staff. The Dean will be expected to strengthen organizational capacity, support employee well-being, and succession-planning challenges, and ensure that faculty and staff have the resources needed to advance the college's mission and strategic priorities. The next Dean will have the opportunity to build trust, strengthen the college's long-term sustainability, and unite the community around a shared vision of one of the nation's most distinctive interdisciplinary colleges while advancing UMaine's Strategic Re-Envisioning goals and reinforce the university's role as Maine's premier public research institution.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy at the end of this document.

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Role of the Dean of the College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences

The University of Maine seeks a collaborative, innovative, and strategic leader to serve as Dean of the College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences. Reporting to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, the Dean serves as the college's chief executive officer and provides leadership for its academic, research, financial, operational, and outreach activities. Depending on qualifications, the successful candidate may also be appointed Director of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station (MAFES).

The Dean will oversee a highly interdisciplinary enterprise comprised of schools, departments, research centers, clinical and outreach programs, farms and forests, and partnerships spanning Maine and beyond. The college includes more than 170 faculty members and supports more than 2,700 students across undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs. ELH generates more than $25 million annually in grants and contracts and plays a central role in advancing UMaine's research mission.

The Dean is responsible for oversight for the heads of the schools, departments, and programs of the college. The Office of the Dean includes associate deans for academics, faculty development, and research; the director of the Maine Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES); as well as a director for personnel and finance, and staff in the Academic Support Center, Computing and Technology, Development, Finance, and Human Resources. The overall annual budget for the college is currently $34 million.

The next Dean must lead through a period of change and opportunity by balancing strategic vision with practical execution, fostering collaboration across disciplines, and ensuring the long-term sustainability and relevance of the college's academic and research programs. Faculty, staff, and students consistently expressed a desire for a leader who listens carefully, communicates openly, follows through on commitments, and builds trust through transparency and engagement.

The Dean will provide leadership for a complex portfolio of academic units, research centers, clinics, field stations, farms, forests, laboratories, and outreach programs that collectively advance the college's teaching, research, and service missions. Working closely with school directors, department chairs, faculty leaders, and staff, the Dean will ensure continued excellence across the college while fostering greater collaboration among disciplines. The Dean will be responsible for supporting a culture of innovation, accountability, and continuous improvement while helping the college capitalize on new opportunities emerging from the rapidly evolving environmental, health, life, and agricultural sciences landscape.

The Dean will serve as the chief steward of the college's human, financial, and physical resources. This includes overseeing budget planning and resource allocation, supporting faculty and staff recruitment and retention, and ensuring that the college's investments align with institutional priorities and strategic opportunities. The successful candidate will be expected to strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of the college while preserving and enhancing the quality of its academic and research enterprises. The Dean must be adept at managing complexity, balancing competing needs, and making thoughtful decisions that support both immediate operational requirements and long-term strategic goals.

An important responsibility for the role will be advancing the college's research enterprise and supporting programs that enhance student success at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The Dean will champion research, scholarship, and creative activity across the college while fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and helping faculty secure public and private support for their work. At the same time, the Dean will ensure that academic programs remain innovative, relevant, and responsive to workforce and societal needs, preparing graduates to address challenges related to environmental sustainability, public health, food systems, climate resilience, natural resources, and community well-being. There are several campus-wide task forces, including one on the "Organization of Allied Health and Clinical Professional Programs" whose work will provide a framework for several important academic program areas within the college.

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The Dean will also serve as the college's principal representative and advocate, strengthening relationships with alumni, donors, industry leaders, governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, healthcare systems, and communities throughout Maine and beyond. The college's mission and statewide footprint create significant opportunities for partnership, philanthropy, and public engagement. Working collaboratively with university leadership, Cooperative Extension, Maine Sea Grant, and a broad range of external stakeholders, the Dean will help elevate the visibility and impact of the college while advancing the University's Strategic Re-Envisioning goals and land-, sea-, and space-grant mission. Depending upon the qualifications of the successful candidate, the Dean may additionally be appointed Director of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, further expanding the role's influence on research, innovation, and public service throughout the state.



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Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Reporting directly to the Provost, the dean is the College's chief executive academic officer and stewards its education, research, and mission. The dean is responsible for all instruction, research, practice, and service activities, and administrative and financial operations.

In addition, the next dean will be expected to:

- **Establish a Shared Vision for the Future**
  The College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences brings together a remarkable range of disciplines spanning the environmental, life, health, agricultural, natural resource, and social sciences. As one of the University's largest and most complex academic units, ELH benefits from a breadth of expertise that creates opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and impact. The next Dean will be charged with articulating a compelling vision that both honors the distinct strengths of the college's academic units and advances a shared sense of purpose across the organization. Success will require a leader who can guide strategic decision-making, support University priorities and strategic initiatives, and foster a culture in which collaboration, creativity, and shared responsibility flourish. The successful Dean will embrace shared governance and ensure faculty, staff, and students are engaged as partners in shaping the future of the college. The ability to bring people together around common goals while navigating a decentralized environment will be essential.

- **Advance Research Excellence and the Land-Grant Mission**
  As a cornerstone of the University's land-grant mission, ELH plays a critical role in generating knowledge, educating future leaders, and addressing challenges that affect Maine and communities around the world. Through its academic programs, research centers, clinics, farms, forests, and statewide partnerships, the college contributes directly to environmental sustainability, public health, food and agricultural systems, natural resource management, workforce development, and economic growth.

  The next Dean will have the opportunity to strengthen an already robust research enterprise by supporting faculty scholarship, expanding interdisciplinary collaboration, and enhancing the college's ability to secure external funding. An appreciation for the role of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, federal research agencies, and strategic external partnerships will be critical. The Dean will collaborate closely with leaders across the University, including Cooperative Extension and Maine Sea Grant, to strengthen the University's statewide impact and service mission.

- **Position the College for Sustainable Growth and Long-Term Success**
  Higher education continues to evolve amid demographic changes, enrollment pressures, fiscal realities, and increasing competition for research funding and talent. The next Dean will be expected to provide strategic leadership in aligning the college's resources, programs, and investments with emerging opportunities and institutional priorities.

  Working in partnership with faculty, staff, and university leadership, the Dean will identify pathways for growth, strengthen enrollment and student success initiatives, and advance a sustainable financial model that supports the college's teaching, research, and outreach missions. Success will require identifying opportunities to strengthen enrollment, enhance the visibility of academic programs, and attract students to disciplines that are essential to Maine's future. The ability to make thoughtful decisions, establish clear priorities, and communicate effectively during periods of change will be important to maintaining momentum and confidence across the college.

  Elevate the Visibility and Impact of ELH
  The College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences has a powerful story to tell. Its faculty, students, and staff conduct research that improves lives, supports communities, informs policy, strengthens industries, and advances scientific understanding. The breadth of the college's contributions positions it as one of the University's most visible opportunities for demonstrating the public value of higher education. The Dean will serve as the college's chief advocate and ambassador, working to raise the visibility of ELH's accomplishments and deepen engagement with audiences across Maine and beyond. This role requires a

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visible and effective advocate for the college who can communicate effectively with diverse constituencies, build awareness of the college's impact, and serve as a compelling champion for its mission, people, and aspirations.

- **Expand Partnerships and Philanthropic Support**
  The future success of ELH will depend in part upon its ability to strengthen relationships with alumni, donors, industry partners, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and communities across the state. The college's mission-driven work, statewide reach, and real-world impact create significant opportunities for partnership, investment, and collaboration. The Dean will play a central role in fostering these relationships and developing new avenues of support for strategic priorities, including student success, faculty excellence, research growth, facilities improvements, and program development. Success will require a leader who is comfortable engaging with external constituencies, cultivating partnerships, and articulating a compelling vision for the college's future.

  The Dean will be expected to make thoughtful and transparent decisions regarding resource allocation, identify opportunities for new revenue generation and philanthropic support, and position the college for long-term financial sustainability while maintaining excellence in teaching, research, and outreach.

- **Invest in Faculty, Staff, Students, and Infrastructure**
  The people of ELH are among its greatest strengths. The next Dean will inherit a community defined by dedicated faculty, committed staff, talented students, and a strong culture of service and engagement. Sustaining that excellence will require continued attention to recruitment, retention, mentoring, professional development, and student support. The successful candidate will work collaboratively to create systems and processes that support faculty and staff success, including attention to workload, recognition, communication, shared governance, and opportunities for professional growth and advancement. The college seeks a leader who will elevate the college's voice, secure resources, and champion the needs of its faculty, staff, and students.

  The Dean will also champion student success by supporting innovative academic programs, experiential learning opportunities, graduate education, and career pathways that prepare students to lead and serve throughout Maine and beyond. The Dean will be called upon to advocate for investments in facilities, laboratories, clinical spaces, technology, and research infrastructure that support the college's long-term aspirations. By creating an environment in which people have the resources and support they need to succeed, the next Dean can help ensure that ELH remains a destination for outstanding faculty, staff, and students.

- **Foster a Culture of Trust, Transparency, and Collaboration**
  The next Dean will have the opportunity to cultivate a culture characterized by open communication, mutual respect, shared governance, and collaborative problem-solving. The dean will foster an inclusive and welcoming environment where individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives can thrive.

  The college seeks a dean who will be visible, approachable, and responsive, creating an environment in which people feel informed, valued, and connected to the college's future. The Dean will be expected to strengthen organizational capacity, support faculty and staff success, address workload and workforce challenges, and cultivate an environment in which individuals feel valued, respected, and inspired to take collective action to advance the college's mission and goals.

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Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The University of Maine seeks in its next dean a leader with a distinguished record of academic accomplishment and leadership. The successful candidate will possess an earned doctorate in a discipline represented within the College and credentials that support appointment as a tenured professor at the University of Maine. In addition, the university seeks a leader with the following attributes:

- **An Accomplished Scholar and Academic Leader:** The next Dean will bring a distinguished record of scholarly achievement and increasing levels of academic leadership experience, including administrative responsibility within a complex higher education environment. Experience leading interdisciplinary academic programs, centers, departments, colleges, or research enterprises will be particularly valuable

- **A Champion of Research and the Land-Grant Mission:** The ideal candidate will understand and embrace the mission of a public research university and appreciate the unique responsibilities of a land-grant institution. The next Dean will bring experience supporting faculty research, advancing scholarship, securing external funding, and cultivating partnerships across government, industry, nonprofit, and community organizations. Familiarity with agricultural experiment stations, federal research agencies, and the evolving research landscape will be viewed favorably. Experience working with federal agencies such as NSF, NIH, USDA, NOAA, EPA, USGS, or NASA is highly desirable.

- **A Strategic and Collaborative Leader:** The successful Dean will possess the ability to lead through complexity, build consensus, and advance institutional priorities within a highly interdisciplinary environment. The college seeks a leader who can balance vision with practicality, make sound decisions, and navigate competing priorities while maintaining the confidence and engagement of multiple constituencies. Experience managing budgets, personnel, and organizational change will be important.

- **An Effective Communicator and Relationship Builder:** The next Dean will be an engaging communicator who can connect with a wide range of audiences, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, policymakers, industry leaders, and community partners. The ability to articulate a compelling vision, advocate for the college, tell the story of its impact, and inspire support for its mission will be essential. Demonstrated success in fundraising, external relations, and partnership development is desired. Experience securing public and private resources and building productive relationships with state and federal policymakers will be highly valued.

- **A Leader Committed to Transparency and Engagement:** The college seeks a Dean who leads with integrity, openness, and accountability. The successful candidate will value shared governance, communicate candidly and frequently, and foster an environment in which people feel heard, respected, and informed. An approachable leadership style, responsiveness to concerns, and a demonstrated commitment to building trust through meaningful engagement will be critical to success.

- **Curious, Adaptable, and Community-Oriented:** Beyond professional accomplishments, the next Dean will possess the personal qualities that support effective leadership within the culture of the University of Maine. The ideal candidate will be intellectually curious, eager to learn from others, appreciative of disciplinary diversity, and adaptable in a rapidly changing environment. They will bring energy, optimism, humility, and a genuine interest in the people, mission, and communities that define the College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences and the State of Maine.

- **Effective Change Management:** A record of leading through complexity and change, with the judgment, courage, and decisiveness to address challenging issues, establish priorities, allocate resources effectively, and communicate decisions clearly and respectfully.

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About The University of Maine

Overview

Founded in 1865, the University of Maine (UMaine) is the state's flagship university, Maine's only public research university, and the flagship institution of the University of Maine System. Located in Orono along the banks of the Stillwater River, UMaine serves more than 10,600 students and offers over 100 undergraduate majors and more than 75 master's and doctoral programs across a comprehensive range of disciplines. As Maine's land-grant, sea-grant, and space-grant university, UMaine plays a unique role in advancing education, research, economic development, and public service throughout the state and beyond.

Recognized as a Carnegie R1 university, UMaine ranks among the nation's leading research institutions and serves as a driving force for innovation across Maine's economy. The university attracted more than $225 million in research and development funding in fiscal year 2024 and partners with hundreds of private-sector, nonprofit, and governmental organizations. Research strengths span a wide range of disciplines, including climate science, marine and coastal systems, forestry, advanced materials and manufacturing, agriculture, engineering, health and life sciences, education, renewable energy, and artificial intelligence. Through centers, institutes, and statewide partnerships, the university helps address some of the most pressing challenges facing Maine, the nation, and the world.

The university's impact is felt in every corner of Maine. UMaine is a leading producer of the state's teachers, engineers, nurses, health professionals, and scientists, while its research and extension activities support key industries including forestry, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, manufacturing, and healthcare. Through University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Maine Sea Grant, and numerous community partnerships, the university extends its expertise to communities across the state, reinforcing its longstanding public service mission and its deep commitment to improving the lives of Maine people.

Under the leadership of President Joan Ferrini-Mundy, the university has embarked upon a far-reaching Strategic Re-Envisioning initiative that seeks to further strengthen UMaine's position as a learner-centered R1 institution. The initiative is intended to align academic programs, research priorities, student success efforts, and community engagement with future opportunities and challenges facing higher education and the State of Maine. Grounded in collaboration and shared governance, this work reflects the university's commitment to innovation, excellence, and long-term institutional vitality.

Driven by a mission of learning, discovery, and service, the University of Maine combines the resources and opportunities of a nationally recognized research university with a strong sense of community and purpose. Its distinctive role as Maine's flagship public university, coupled with its commitment to access, student success, interdisciplinary collaboration, and public impact, positions UMaine to continue shaping the future of the state while contributing to advances in scholarship and society on a global scale.

Mission

Inspiring and dedicated **teaching** propels students into new fields of learning and promotes interdisciplinary understanding. Our educational goals are to help students develop their creative abilities, communication, and critical thinking skills, and understanding of traditions in ethics and rationality within the arts, sciences, and professions.

Internationally recognized **research, scholarship, and creative activity** distinguish the University of Maine as the state’s flagship university, where faculty and students contribute knowledge to issues of local, national, and international significance. As the state’s doctoral-granting institution, research and education are inextricably linked.

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Comprehensive **outreach**, including public service, Cooperative Extension, continuing education, and distance learning, engages learners of all ages in improving their lives and communities. Using research-based knowledge, outreach efforts promote sustainable use of Maine's abundant natural resources and build intellectual, cultural, and economic capacity throughout Maine and beyond.

Academics

The University of Maine offers more than 100 undergraduate majors and over 75 master's, doctoral, and professional degree programs. Students pursue degrees across the arts and sciences, engineering, business, education, health professions, natural resources, agriculture, marine sciences, and emerging interdisciplinary fields. The university awards bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees and serves as Maine's primary public research university and doctoral-granting institution.

Academic programs are organized through six colleges and schools, each dedicated to advancing excellence in teaching, research, and public engagement. Together, these units provide students with opportunities for interdisciplinary learning, experiential education, undergraduate research, and collaboration with faculty who are nationally and internationally recognized in their fields.

College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences

The College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences (ELH) is UMaine's largest by student enrollment and a university leader in research productivity and breadth of service to the state. The college brings together disciplines focused on the environment, natural resources, agriculture, biological systems, and human health, creating a uniquely interdisciplinary academic enterprise that addresses some of the planet's most consequential challenges. The college's distinctive structure creates opportunities for collaboration across traditional disciplinary boundaries and positions it to address interconnected issues related to climate, sustainability, food systems, ecosystem resilience, public health, and community well-being.

Today, the college enrolls more than 2,700 students and serves as a major contributor to the university's teaching, research, and public engagement missions. Through its academic programs, research centers, laboratories, agricultural and forest lands, marine facilities, clinical programs, and statewide outreach activities, ELH touches virtually every region of Maine and connects the university to communities, industries, healthcare systems, governmental agencies, and nonprofit organizations throughout the state and beyond.

The college is organized around a diverse collection of schools, departments, and programs that span the natural and health sciences (see below). At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, students benefit from interdisciplinary curricula, extensive field and laboratory experiences, clinical training opportunities, and close engagement with faculty who are advancing knowledge in areas of local, national, and global importance.

Schools, Departments, and Programs of the College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences

- Biology and Ecology
- Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Earth and Climate Sciences
- Ecology and Environmental Sciences
- Economics
- Food and Agriculture
- Forest Resources
- Marine Sciences
- Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
- Nursing
- Social Work
- Wildlife, Fisheries and Conservation Biology

The college plays a critical role in preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals and community leaders. Through programs in nursing, social work, communication sciences and disorders, public health-related disciplines, and other health-focused fields, ELH helps address workforce needs throughout Maine and New England. These efforts complement the college's broader commitment to improving health outcomes, advancing

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evidence-based practice, expanding access to care, and addressing the unique needs of rural and underserved populations.

Research is a defining strength of the college. ELH faculty lead investigations addressing environmental change, climate resilience, sustainable forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, agricultural innovation, food security, biological discovery, biomedical science, public health, and rural healthcare delivery. The college maintains extensive partnerships with federal agencies, state government, industry, healthcare providers, community organizations, and research institutions throughout the United States and internationally. In fiscal year 2026, the college secured more than $52 million in competitive research funding and worked with more than 900 public, private, and industrial partners.

The college is distinguished by an extensive portfolio of research facilities, centers, institutes, forests, farms, field stations, and clinical facilities that support discovery, education, and public engagement across Maine and beyond. These assets provide students and faculty with hands-on opportunities that extend far beyond the traditional classroom and laboratory.

Among the college's signature resources are the Darling Marine Center, a nationally recognized hub for marine and coastal research, and the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station (MAFES), which supports research and outreach through a statewide network of farms, forests, and laboratories. Approximately 80 ELH faculty are also part of MAFES. The college also manages the Dwight B. Demeritt Forest, the Penobscot Experimental Forest, and the Holt Research Forest, which serve as living laboratories for environmental and forestry research. Additional facilities, including the Madelyn E. and Albert D. Conley Speech, Language, and Hearing Center, the Dr. Matthew Highlands Food Pilot Plant, and the Analytical Laboratory and Maine Soil Testing Service, further strengthen the college's impact on human health, food systems, and economic development.

ELH faculty and students also collaborate through a wide range of interdisciplinary centers and institutes, including the Climate Change Institute, the Center for Sustainability Solutions, the Aquaculture Research Institute, the Lobster Institute, the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests, Maine Center for Research in STEM Education (RiSE Center), the Maine Food and Agriculture Center, the Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit and Maine Sea Grant.

Other Colleges and Schools

College of Education and Human Development prepares educators, counselors, leaders, and health and human service professionals through bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and certificate programs. The college is recognized for its contributions to educator preparation, workforce development, and research on learning, human development, and community engagement.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences provides broad-based education across the humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, and interdisciplinary fields. Offering degrees from the bachelor's through doctoral levels, the college advances scholarship, creativity, scientific discovery, and civic engagement while preparing students for careers across a wide range of professions and graduate disciplines.

Maine Business School offers AACSB-accredited undergraduate and graduate programs in areas including accounting, finance, management, marketing, entrepreneurship, international business, and business analytics. Through close partnerships with industry and experiential learning opportunities, the school prepares students for leadership roles in a rapidly evolving global economy.

Maine College of Engineering and Computing offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs across engineering, computer science, information technology, and related disciplines. The college is nationally recognized for innovation and research in areas including advanced manufacturing, composites, transportation, computing, artificial intelligence, and sustainable infrastructure.

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Honors College provides highly motivated students from every academic discipline with an enriched educational experience centered on interdisciplinary inquiry, research, civic engagement, leadership development, and close faculty mentorship.

Leadership

Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President



Joan Ferrini-Mundy serves as the 21st president of the University of Maine and the University of Maine at Machias, as well as vice chancellor for research and innovation for the University of Maine System. Since assuming the presidency in 2018, she has led a period of significant institutional advancement, helping position UMaine as a learner-centered Carnegie R1 research university and a driver of innovation, workforce development, and economic growth for the State of Maine. Under her leadership, the university has strengthened its research profile, advanced strategic partnerships, expanded opportunities for students, and reinforced its distinctive role as Maine's flagship public research university.

Dr. Ferrini-Mundy has championed the university's Strategic Re-Envisioning initiative, an institution-wide effort designed to align academic programs, research, and community engagement with the evolving needs of students and the state. Nationally recognized for her contributions to higher education and STEM education, she previously served in senior leadership positions at the National Science Foundation, including Chief Operating Officer and Assistant Director for Education and Human Resources. Her career has also included faculty and leadership appointments at Michigan State University and service on numerous national boards and commissions focused on higher education, scientific advancement, and public policy.

Gabriel Paquette, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost



Gabriel Paquette serves as Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of the University of Maine and the University of Maine at Machias. Appointed provost in 2026 after serving as interim provost, he is the university's chief academic officer and provides leadership for academic programs, faculty affairs, student success initiatives, and institutional planning. He has played a central role in advancing the university's Strategic Re-Envisioning initiative and in strengthening academic excellence across UMaine's colleges and schools.

A distinguished scholar and historian, Dr. Paquette joined UMaine in 2023 as Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Faculty Development and subsequently served as Senior Associate Provost. Prior to UMaine, he held senior academic leadership positions at the University of Oregon, including Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Clark Honors College. Earlier in his career, he directed the Latin American Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University. An internationally recognized historian, Dr. Paquette is the author of multiple books and has held research and teaching appointments at institutions including Harvard University, University of Cambridge, University of Notre Dame, Wesleyan University, and King's College London.

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Orono, Bangor and the Maine Highlands

Located in the heart of central Maine, Orono offers an exceptional quality of life that combines the intellectual energy of a flagship research university campus with the natural beauty, affordability, and sense of community for which Maine is widely known. Orono is situated along the Stillwater and Penobscot Rivers and is just minutes from Bangor, the region's commercial, healthcare, and cultural center. Residents enjoy a welcoming college-town atmosphere, vibrant local businesses, and abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation, all within a region that balances professional opportunity with an outstanding quality of life.

The region serves as the gateway to the Maine Highlands, one of New England's premier destinations for outdoor enthusiasts. Nearby attractions include Acadia National Park, Baxter State Park, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, Moosehead Lake, and thousands of acres of forests, lakes, rivers, and trails. The area offers year-round recreation, including hiking, mountain biking, paddling, skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, and sailing. Cultural amenities are equally strong, with the University of Maine's Collins Center for the Arts, Division I athletics, community theaters, museums, music venues, and a growing culinary scene contributing to a rich and active lifestyle.

Bangor provides the amenities of a regional hub, including major healthcare facilities, shopping, professional services, arts organizations, and entertainment venues, while maintaining the accessibility and manageable scale that many professionals seek. Bangor is home to some of the region's other postsecondary institutions, including Husson University and Eastern Maine Community College.

Despite its setting amid Maine's celebrated natural landscape, Orono is remarkably well connected. Bangor International Airport, about 12 miles from campus, is served by American, Allegiant, Breeze, Delta, and United, flying to over 15 major hub airports and leisure destinations. Portland, Maine's largest city, is approximately two hours south of Orono, while Boston can be reached in roughly four hours by car. The region's central location also makes day and weekend travel throughout New England and Atlantic Canada both practical and convenient.

Local transit is provided in the region by Community Connector to the towns of Bangor, Brewer, Veazie, Orono, Old Town, and Hampden.

Learn more about Orono through the town's website, the region through the websites of the Maine Highlands and the Chamber of Commerce, and the state's Office of Tourism.

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Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting the University of Maine in this search. For full consideration, candidate materials should be received by January 4, 2027.

Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer's **candidate portal**.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Rob Springall and Sarah Seavey

UMaineELHDean@wittkieffer.com

The salary range for the position is anticipated to be $250,000 to $275,000. The final compensation package will be commensurate with experience, qualifications, and leadership accomplishments.

The University of Maine System (the System) is an equal opportunity institution committed to fostering a nondiscriminatory environment and complying with all applicable nondiscrimination laws. Consistent with State and Federal law, the System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship status, familial status, ancestry, age, disability (physical or mental), genetic information, pregnancy, or veteran or military status in any aspect of its education, programs and activities, and employment. The System provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. If you believe you have experienced discrimination or harassment, you are encouraged to contact the System Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX Services at 5713 Chadbourne Hall, Room 412, Orono, ME 04469-5713, by calling 207.581.1226, or via TTY at 711 (Maine Relay System). For more information about Title IX or to file a complaint, please contact the UMS Title IX Coordinator at www.maine.edu/title-ix/.

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