

Summary of Entrepreneurship Education and Training in Maine

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Principles:

- In today's world, entrepreneurial skills development and training are necessary to sustain growth.
- The cultivation of problem solving, risk-taking, innovation, and related skills leads to a population that is better equipped to handle all types of endeavors and situations.
- There is general agreement among scholars that this training should take place not only through support systems for entrepreneurs, but also throughout the educational systems, including K-12, higher education, and adult education.
- Giving workers who may have been laid off from traditional industries the chance to develop entrepreneurial skills could pay off many times over through their successful application.
- There is still a great deal of debate around the issue of whether entrepreneurship can be taught. One school of thought is that entrepreneurship has two elements: science (the business and management skills related to successfully running an entrepreneurial endeavor) and art (the creative and innovative aspects of entrepreneurial behavior).

Current State of Programs in Maine:

- See inventory on reverse.
- 16 programs identified at 7-12 grade level.
- 3 programs identified at adult education level.
- 4 programs identified in community college system.
- 6 programs identified in university system.
- 8 programs identified from support services and other development resources.
- More programming is available from community colleges and the university system, primarily through business schools and programs.
- Geographically there is great diversity in programming – training and education are offered in locations all around the state, something that is particularly valuable for the more rural areas of the state where entrepreneurship may provide a living for a larger part of the population.
- There is no single source listing all of the entrepreneurial education and training programs around the state. Information about the different programs is sparse, and difficult to track down.

Opportunities and Challenges:

- The current state of entrepreneurial education presents tremendous opportunity for growth.
- Until a belief in the importance of entrepreneurship at all levels is widespread, interest in and resources for entrepreneurial education will likely remain limited.
- As additional programs are developed, it is critical to maintain the geographic diversity of education and training opportunities.
- Coordination of programs across the state would likely make it easier for those interested in taking advantage of entrepreneurial training to do so and would also provide opportunities for tracking the outcomes of these programs.

Location	Curriculum
<u>Grades 7-12</u>	
Bath Regional Technical Center	Management, business, and marketing
Biddeford Regional Center of Technology	Entrepreneurship and small business management
Brooksville Elementary School	Electronic publishing and entrepreneurship
Foster Regional Applied Technology Center (Farmington)	Entrepreneurship and small business management
Hebron Academy	Entrepreneurship
Jay High School	Entrepreneurship
Lewiston Regional Technical Center	Entrepreneurship
Machias Memorial High School	Entrepreneurship
Oak Hill High School (Wales)	Introduction to business; economics and marketing
Oxford Hills Technical School	Marketing
Presque Isle Technology Center	Small business ownership
Region 10 (Brunswick)	Marketing and entrepreneurship
Region 2 (Houlton)	Business technology and entrepreneurship
USM Center for Entrepreneurship	"The Buzz on Biz"
Westbrook Regional Vocational Center	Marketing
Windham High School	Entrepreneurship
<u>Adult Education</u>	
Rockland Adult Ed	Job readiness and entrepreneurship
Upper Androscoggin Collaborative	Entrepreneurship class cancelled due to insufficient enrollment
Windham Adult Ed	Training for entrepreneurs

Location	Curriculum
<u>Maine Community College System</u>	
Eastern Maine	Certificate program in entrepreneurship
Kennebec Valley	Certificate program in new business
Southern Maine	Entrepreneurship and business ownership
Southern Maine - Entrepreneurial Center	Business incubator; business start-up and business ownership certificates.
<u>University of Maine System</u>	
Augusta	Business administration
Farmington	Small business management; entrepreneurship
Fort Kent	E-commerce; small business management
Orono	Entrepreneurship
Presque Isle	Entrepreneurship
University of Southern Maine	Concentration in entrepreneurship
<u>Other</u>	
USM Center for Entrepreneurship	Student Business Plan Competition and workshop on "How to Prepare a Business Plan"
USM Center for Entrepreneurship	FastTrac (non-credit business development program)
USM Center for Entrepreneurship	"Listening to Your Business" workshop
Maine Center for Enterprise Development (Portland)	Business incubator
Maine Small Business Development Centers (Statewide)	Training and counseling for entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs
Maine Small Business Development Centers (Statewide)	Sponsor of annual Entrepreneurs' Summit
Maine Small Business Development Centers (Statewide)	Maine Business Works online development resource
Maine Centers for Women, Work, and Community (Statewide)	Business start-up training, workshops, and individual assistance