



2013 CREDIT FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY WORKSHEET FOR MAINE RESIDENT & PART-YEAR RESIDENT INDIVIDUALS

36 M.R.S.A. § 5217-D

IMPORTANT: You cannot use this worksheet if your employer paid part or all of your education loan payments directly to the lender. See instructions.

Your name: _____ Social security number: _____

A. Check the type of degree you received: ___ Bachelor's ___ Associate Date you graduated: ___/___/___

B. College or university from which you obtained the degree: _____

Name of degree as it appears on your diploma: _____

C. Check here if this is a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics ("STEM") (see instructions): _____

1. Enter the **monthly benchmark loan payment** (see instructions) 1. \$ _____

2. Enter the **monthly eligible education loan payment due** during your 2013 tax year 2. \$ _____

3. Enter the **monthly eligible education loan payment amount you paid** during your 2013 tax year 3. \$ _____

4. Enter the smallest of lines 1, 2 and 3 4. \$ _____

5. a. Enter the number of months * during the tax year you were a Maine resident 5a. _____

b. With respect to the months on line a, enter the number of months * you worked for an employer located in Maine or were deployed for military service in the U.S. Armed Forces 5b. _____

c. With respect to the months on line b, enter the number of months * you made eligible education loan payments 5c. _____

*** Count any part of a month as a whole month.**

6. **Gross Credit.** Multiply line 4 by line 5c 6. \$ _____

Note: If all credit hours for your degree were earned after 2007, skip lines 7, 8 and 9 and enter the amount from line 6 on line 10.

7. Enter the number of credit hours you earned toward your degree after December 31, 2007 7. _____

8. Enter total number of credit hours you earned toward your degree 8. _____

9. Divide line 7 by line 8 9. ____ . ____

10. If you completed lines 7, 8 and 9, multiply line 6 by 9. Otherwise, enter the amount from line 6 10. _____

11. Adjustment for transferring students (see instructions) 11. ____ . ____

Note: If all credit hours for your degree were earned from a Maine college or university, enter 1.00.

12. a. If line C above **is** checked, multiply line 10 by line 11 and enter the result here and on Form 1040ME, Schedule A, line 3. Then go to line 13 12a. \$ _____

b. If line C above is **not** checked, multiply line 10 by line 11 and go to line 13 12b. \$ _____

13. Enter the carryforward of unused credit amount from 2012 13. \$ _____

If line C above **is** checked, enter this amount on Form 1040ME, Schedule A, line 10.

If line C above is **not** checked, go to line 14 below.

14. If line C above is not checked, add lines 12b and 13 and enter the total here and on Form 1040ME, Schedule A, line 10 14. \$ _____

UNUSED CREDITS ON LINE 12b MAY BE CARRIED FORWARD TO FUTURE TAX YEARS FOR UP TO 10 YEARS - SEE INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT - Maine Revenue Services may request supporting documentation, including, but not limited to, the following: copy of college transcript, proof of the educational loans that qualify for the credit, proof of the educational loan payments made by you or your employer during the tax year.

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This worksheet and the related instructions are for individual taxpayers who have made eligible education loan payments. Employers eligible to claim the related credit must complete the **Credit for Educational Opportunity Worksheet for Employers**.

IMPORTANT: You do not qualify for this credit if your employer directly paid to the lender all of your education loan payments. If your employer directly paid all of your education loan payments, do not complete or file this worksheet. If your employer directly paid part of your loan payments, you may qualify for a credit, but you cannot use this worksheet to calculate the credit. If your employer directly paid part of your loan payments, call Maine Revenue Services at 626-8475 to obtain the special credit worksheet to calculate your credit.

The credit for educational opportunity is a component of the Job Creation through Educational Opportunity program, which began in 2008. The purpose of the program is to provide an income tax credit for Maine resident taxpayers who have received an undergraduate degree (associate or bachelor's) from an accredited Maine college or university and who, after graduation, live, work and pay taxes in Maine.

The credit is based on eligible education loan payments (defined below) made during the tax year for months during which the individual was a resident of Maine and worked for an employer located in Maine. A Maine resident deployed for military service in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces, also qualifies if the individual meets all other eligibility criteria. See 26 M.R.S.A., § 814(1)(A) for qualifications to be considered deployed for military service.

The monthly payment amount eligible for the credit is limited to an upper cap called the benchmark loan payment. For example, if you graduated in 2012, earned all credit hours for the degree after 2007 and made monthly payments in 2013 of \$350 for qualified loans, the amount you can use to calculate the credit is \$342, the applicable monthly benchmark loan payment for individuals graduating in 2012 (see instructions for line 1 below). Using this example, if you made regularly scheduled monthly payments of \$350 through the entire year and worked for an employer located in Maine all year, your credit would be $\$342 \times 12 = \$4,104$.

A graduate eligible for the program is one who:

- Obtained an associate or bachelor's degree after 2007 from an accredited Maine community college, college or university:
 - all course work completed after 2007 for the degree must have been performed at an accredited Maine community college, college or university, except that:
 - beginning in 2013, up to 30 credit hours may have been earned toward the degree at an accredited non-Maine community college, college or university prior to transferring to an accredited Maine community college, college or university;
 - was a Maine resident (as defined by education law in 20-A M.R.S.A. § 12541(5)) while attending a Maine college or university in pursuit of an associate or bachelor's degree (applies only after 12/31/2007);
- After graduation, is a Maine resident (as defined by Maine tax law in 36 M.R.S.A. § 5217-D(1)(H)) working for an employer located in Maine. (Note: A self-employed person is not eligible for the credit for educational opportunity for individuals, but may be eligible for the credit for employers if the self-employed person has employees. For more information, see the Credit for Educational Opportunity Worksheet for Employers.)

If both spouses are eligible, both may claim the credit on a married-joint return. The credit may not reduce your Maine income tax due to less than zero, except that, for tax years beginning after 2012, the credit is refundable if your degree is an approved degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. Unused non-refundable credit amounts may be carried forward for up to ten years.

Eligible education loan payments are payments made by a qualifying graduate for loans that are part of a financial aid package certified by an accredited Maine college or university and for loans associated with earning up to 30 credit hours for the degree at an accredited non-Maine college or university. Only eligible education loan payments made during the part

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of the tax year during which the individual was a resident of Maine working for an employer located in Maine qualify for the credit. Payments in excess of the required loan payment are not eligible for the credit. Payments on a refinanced eligible education loan qualify for the credit as long as the refinanced loan remains separate from any other debt incurred.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Line C. If your degree is an approved degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (“STEM”), check the STEM degree box. A list of approved STEM degrees is available on the MRS web site at www.maine.gov/revenue/forms.

Line 1. Enter the appropriate monthly benchmark loan payment from the table below:

<u>If you graduated in:</u>	The benchmark loan payment is	
	<u>Associate degree</u>	<u>Bachelor’s degree</u>
2008	*	*
2009	*	*
2010	\$72.00	\$343.00
2011	\$68.00	\$344.00
2012	\$65.00	\$342.00
2013	\$65.00	\$356.00

* If you graduated in 2008 or 2009, the benchmark loan payment is the amount stated in the Opportunity Maine Contract you signed with your college or university. Include a copy of that contract with this worksheet. If you do not have a copy of the contract, include a copy of a statement from your school’s financial aid office stating the benchmark loan payment for the year in which you graduated.

Line 2. Enter the monthly eligible education loan payment **due** during the 2013 tax year. This is most likely the amount on your monthly payment voucher or electronic bill. Enter the total monthly amount due, even if part of it was paid by someone else. Enter only the required amount due, excluding any accelerated payment.

Line 3. Enter the monthly amount you **paid** toward your eligible education loan during the year.

Note – Lines 2 and 3: Upon review of the credit claimed, Maine Revenue Services may ask you to provide documentation from each lender showing the monthly payments due and the monthly payments made during your 2013 tax year.

Line 4. Enter the smallest of lines 1, 2 and 3. This is the monthly amount allowed toward the credit.

Line 5. Eligible education loan payments include only those payments made by you during your 2013 tax year while you were a resident of Maine working for an employer located in Maine or were a Maine resident deployed for military service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Individuals unemployed during the entire Maine residency period do not qualify for the credit. A self-employed person is also not eligible for the credit for educational opportunity for individuals, but may be eligible for the credit for employers if the self-employed person had employees during the tax year. For more information on the employer credit, see the Credit for Educational Opportunity Worksheet for Employers.

Enter on **line 5a** the number of months during the 2013 tax year you were a Maine resident. With respect to the months on line 5a, enter on **line 5b** the number of months you worked for an employer located in Maine or were deployed for military service. With respect to the months on line 5b, enter on **line 5c** the number of months you made eligible education loan payments. For example, if your tax year is the 2013 calendar year, you were a Maine resident for the entire year 2013, you started working for an employer located in Maine on August 1, 2013 and made six eligible education loan payments beginning July 2013, you would enter 12 on line 5a, 5 on line 5b and 5 on line 5c. In this example, there were only five months during the year (August – December) that you met all of the requirements.

Line 7. Enter the number of credit hours you earned toward your degree after 2007. **If you started school after 2007, skip lines 7, 8 and 9 and enter on line 10 the amount from line 6.**

Line 8. Enter the total number of credit hours earned toward your degree. This number should be included on your transcript.

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SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS, CONT.

Line 9. Divide line 7 by line 8. This is the portion of your degree earned after 2007 and is the basis for your credit.

Line 10. Multiply line 6 by the ratio on line 9. **If you started school after 2007, enter on line 10 the amount from line 6.** This is the gross amount of the credit for eligible payments you made during your 2013 tax year.

Line 11. Adjustment for transferring students. If you began your college studies out-of-state and transferred to a Maine college after earning no more than 30 credits toward your degree, you may still be eligible for a limited income tax credit. If you earned up to 30 credits at an accredited non-Maine community college, college or university before transferring to an accredited Maine community college, college or university, enter 0.75 on this line if you earned a bachelor's degree or 0.50 if you earned an associate degree. If you earned all credits in Maine, enter 1.00.

Line 12. Current year credit. Complete line 12a **if line C is checked** (your degree is an approved STEM degree) and enter the result on Form 1040ME, Schedule A, line 3. This amount is fully refundable. Complete line 12b **if line C is not checked** (your degree is **not** an approved STEM degree).

Line 13. Carryforward of unused credit from 2012. Enter the amount of any unused credit from tax year 2012. This should be the amount entered on your 2012 credit worksheet, line 12. If this is the first year you are claiming the credit, enter zero. **If line C is checked**, also enter this amount on Form 1040ME, Schedule A, line 10. This amount of the credit is not refundable. **If line C is not checked**, go to line 14.

Line 14. If line C is not checked, add lines 12b and 13 and enter the total on line 14 and on Form 1040ME, Schedule A, line 10. This credit amount is not refundable.

Carryforward of unused credits. The credit amount on line 12b that you cannot use this year may be carried forward to future tax years for up to 10 years. You may also carry forward the amount on line 13 that you cannot use this year, as long as the carryforward year is within 10 years following the year the credit was calculated. Keep a record of the unused credit amount available for future tax years.