INNOVATING EDUCATION. ADVANCING MAINE.
Our Mission
We prepare leaders to solve the state’s most pressing challenges through interdisciplinary, experiential, and market-driven graduate and professional programming across business, law, and public policy. We are Maine-focused, nationally competitive and globally relevant.

The Maine Center is an innovative model that brings together the University of Maine Graduate School of Business, the University of Maine School of Law, and the University of Southern Maine Muskie School of Public Service to work collaboratively with one another and with the public and private sectors to serve students, businesses, and organizations statewide.

“The Maine Center is a bold initiative that capitalizes on the strengths of our universities and recognizes the central role the University of Maine System plays in driving statewide economic prosperity.”

—James Erwin, former Chair University of Maine System Board of Trustees

MAINE’S CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Today, Mainers are competing in a fast-paced economy, marketing goods and services in a new interconnected world. Those who create, lead, and manage Maine’s public and private enterprises therefore need to be more broadly educated with a diversity of skills. We have the ability to build on Maine’s exceptional quality of life with innovation, entrepreneurship, and new opportunities to lead the nation in areas critical to our future, such as environmental sustainability, rural health solutions, and privacy law, to name a few.

The University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center will help reverse discouraging demographic trends, increase the number of highly skilled workers in undersupplied sectors (such as business and financial operations), and create transformative change for the people of Maine.

THE MAINE CENTER IS:

• Solving complex problems through convergence and serve as an academic nexus for blending deep disciplinary backgrounds;

• Offering innovative, interdisciplinary academic programs to support social, economic, environmental, and civic change;

• Expanding geographic reach and influence to attract talent to Maine and connect faculty, staff, and students regionally, nationally, and internationally;

• Leading through discovery, research, and application to drive economic development and foster new opportunities and partnerships.

It is urgent for Maine to address the skills gap that arises during the transition from traditional manufacturing-based industries to a knowledge-based economy.
CREATION OF AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTER FOR BUSINESS, LAW, AND POLICY

Interdisciplinary centers cross traditional departmental boundaries in order to offer students a broader perspective and a multifaceted skill set that is more closely aligned with real-world skill requirements and employer needs. We aim to create a nationally recognized program that will prepare lawyers who can read financial spreadsheets; corporate executives who understand compliance regulations and privacy law; and town managers who have the range of policy, business, and legal skills to serve Maine communities from Portland to rural Hancock County.

The Maine Center provides its students with the ability to think across disciplines and the skill to apply business, legal, and policy perspectives to complex problems in the workplace.

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

We are tremendously grateful to the Harold Alfond Foundation for being an early champion of the Maine Center. In 2017, following an initial planning grant of $2.25 million, the foundation announced a further $7.5 million challenge grant to create a truly innovative model for graduate and professional education that will help drive statewide economic growth.

“We were inspired by the transformative vision of the Maine Center...a model that is truly unique, of the very highest quality, and that best serves the people of Maine.”

—Greg Powell, Chief Executive Officer and President Harold Alfond Foundation

INVESTMENT OF $15 MILLION IS HAVING A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- $5.5 M to support world-class faculty and scholars;
- $5.5 M to create and operationalize new strategic initiatives;
- $1.3 M to attract and support high-caliber students;
- $1.2 M to expand academic accessibility through technology;
- $1.5 M to drive growth through marketing and business accelerators.

This investment will grow enrollment and rankings of a unified University of Maine System and attract an increased number of out-of-state students.
THE SOLUTION STARTS WITH TALENT

We believe outstanding public education is a catalyst for economic growth; graduates of the Maine Center will have an outsized economic impact.

Investment in faculty, scholarships, and innovative and interdisciplinary programming will drive increases in enrollment at Maine Center Programs.

By 2026, Maine Center graduates will be adding an additional $88.5 million per year to Maine’s GDP.

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