

Your promise means the world.





First-year Promise Scholars challenge themselves during 2024 Immersion Week

Why Promise Matters

USM's Promise Scholarship Program is committed to ensuring equitable and affordable access to higher education for deserving, first-generation Maine students. And the results speak for themselves.

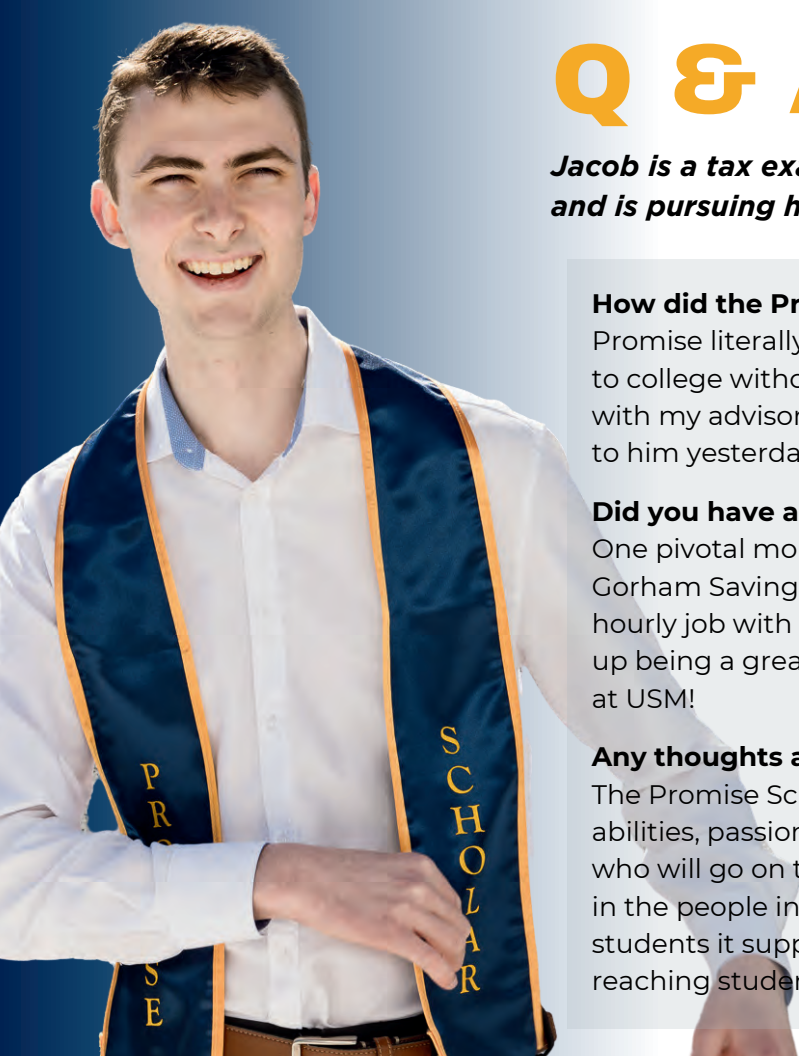
- **Promise Scholars represent all 16 Maine counties and over 25 youth-serving organizations.**
- **They have a 96% first-year retention rate—the highest of any USM student group.**
- **Promise Scholars are outperforming the graduation rate of all USM students—and most are staying and working in Maine.**
- **Recent grads are pursuing advanced degrees in Law, Data Science, Social Work, Public Health, and Public Policy & Management.**
- **Several Promise Scholar alumni are registered nurses, part of Maine's healthcare workforce.**



It doesn't matter where you are from, how you started, or the experiences you bring. What matters is who you become when you leave. My three years as a Promise Scholar at USM have been transformative and some of the best of my life.



Joseph Inabanza '24. B.A. in Criminology; currently enrolled at the University of Maine School of Law



Q & A with Jacob Curtis '24

Jacob is a tax examiner for the Maine Department of Revenue Services and is pursuing his Masters in Data Science at the Roux Institute.

How did the Promise Scholarship impact your USM experience?

Promise literally opened up my world. I'm not sure I would have ever gone to college without it. It not only provided funding, but also connected me with my advisor, Daniel, who is still a valuable mentor – in fact, I just talked to him yesterday.

Did you have any "eureka moments" as a Promise Scholar?

One pivotal moment was when Daniel connected me with an internship at Gorham Savings Bank. I initially declined because I was about to take an hourly job with steady pay. But I took a chance, and that internship ended up being a great experience that led to 7 or 8 other internships in my time at USM!

Any thoughts about the future of Promise?

The Promise Scholarship is investing in students who have incredible abilities, passions, and drive. There are so many future Promise Scholars who will go on to transform their lives and communities. The real value lies in the people involved, both the staff running the program and the students it supports. Promise truly has the power to change the world by reaching students who might not otherwise have these opportunities.



*Event planner, owner of
Phak Planning, LLC*

*Studying to
become a
Psychiatric
Nurse
Practitioner*

*Junior Project
Engineer, Hydro
International
Ltd.*

Where are they now?

Pictured in 2020, Promise Scholars Colbey Goozey '24 (left), Ayden Roberts '22 (center), and Emmanuel Mutshaila '22 (right) persisted through the pandemic and graduated with great futures ahead of them.

Promise Scholarship Endowed Fund

\$6 Million Matching Gift Challenge

Inspired by the impact of the Promise Scholarship, this summer, two generous anonymous donors made their largest gift ever: a \$6 million matching challenge that will help sustain this critical program.

Here's how it works: Because of this gift, every \$2 you give to the Promise Scholarship Endowment Fund today will be increased by \$1. If we raise \$4 million by **December 31, 2024**, our donors will contribute an additional \$2 million!

We already have momentum! The best part: we are already \$3 million toward our goal. Your gift will bring us closer to the \$20 million endowment we need to support 100 Promise Scholars each year at USM.

Thank you for helping to sustain the Promise!



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Keeping
the
Promise...

Today.
Tomorrow.
Always.

