What Summer Session Can Do For You

by Karin Pires, Director of Registration & Scheduling Services & Annie Chuprevich, Summer Program Coordinator

There is something special about the summer season in Maine. Just ask any of our visitors from away who come for the fresh air, the longer days, the coastal views, and of course, the lobster. Many recent high school graduates will prepare to make one of life’s biggest transitions, while some native Mainers will be home on break from their out of state universities and colleges. Working adults might find themselves with a little more flexibility in their schedules.

Another highlight of the summer in Maine? The abundance of educational opportunities at USM available for you. This summer, we will offer over 500 courses, including more than 150 online. While the full session runs May 16th to August 19th, you don’t have to commit your entire summer to coursework. Within the 14 weeks, we offer condensed 4- and 7-week courses that, while fast-paced, are also convenient. The second session starts July 5th, which means that students can enjoy fireworks on the Eastern Promenade in Portland, camp in Baxter State Park, hike in Acadia, whitewater raft in the Forks, and still find plenty of time for coursework.

In addition to robust course offerings to help students meet their degree requirements, the summer session is known for its unique elective programs, open to students in all disciplines. The Childhood Psychopathology Institute (PSY 390) features national academic experts and is offered in both an online and in person format, July 20th to 22nd. The following week, July 25th to 30th, is the Stonecoast Writers’ Conference where students will workshop with award-winning faculty in creative writing (ENG 201), fiction (ENG 302), poetry (ENG 303), advanced memoir (ENG 304) and writing the novel (ENG 306). Starting August 1st through the 7th, the Book Arts (ART 342) program will offer workshops with professional artists on topics like printmaking, paste paper, intaglio printing, coptic bookbinding, letterforms, and more.

Other exciting summer courses include Therapeutic Touch (CON 490), a blended online and 3-day on campus exploration of the practice of using the hands to facilitate the movement of energy and restoring balance to the energy system of the human body. The Northern Forest Canoe Trail (EYE 199/ESP 131) is an experiential self-paced learning experience, where students participate online and spend 10 or more days of their choosing on or along the waters of northern New England. Hot Topics in Philosophy, Social Media, and Security (PHI 235) blends online coursework with a 2-day on campus symposium on the future of privacy, identity, community, and the social costs of security in digital culture.

Registration for summer begins on March 1st for all USM and University of Maine matriculated students and March 3rd for everyone. Students can self-register on MaineStreet, but should connect with their Faculty or Academic Advisors, listed in the Student Center, for help finding the right courses to meet their academic goals. We guarantee that the ice cream will taste that much sweeter and the breeze on the beach that much cooler, knowing that you are getting ahead or staying on track with your education this summer.