

Southern Maine Community College
Assumption of Risk, Release and Liability Waiver
Form for Enrollment of Minor Students

_____ (“the child”) and _____ (“the parent” or “the legal guardian”) want the child to take classes at Southern Maine Community College (“College”). The parent represents that the child is not yet 18 years of age; that the parent is the parent or legal guardian of the child; and that the parent is legally competent to sign this form on behalf of the child. The parent and child (collectively “we”) agree to the following representations, understandings and agreements.

We understand that the law and culture of higher education generally presume that college students are mature adults capable of independently evaluating their environment and independently attending to their own needs. We understand that the child will voluntarily enter into an adult environment; that the College will treat the child as an adult within that environment; and that the child accepts fully the rights and responsibilities of an adult within that environment. We understand that expectations that we may have for support and service(s) that may arise from the child’s experience in secondary education will often not be appropriate or available in the collegiate setting. In particular, we understand that the child will be taking college level courses and that the academic environment will encourage free discussion and open inquiry of sometimes controversial subjects.

We represent that the child has the emotional and intellectual maturity necessary to participate beneficially in the collegiate environment. We have access to, and agree to follow, all College policies and procedures and, if the child indicates that he or she cannot adapt to that environment, we agree to withdraw, and/or permit the College to remove, the child from the College.

We understand that the College will have specific rules that will apply to the child’s ability to enroll and attend. These rules may include, but are not limited to, certain enrollment prerequisites, registration requirements, placement tests, matriculation status, and access to “remedial” or “developmental” courses. These rules are as follows:

1. Minor students under age 12 are not, consistent with national standards, permitted to attend.
2. Minor students age 14 and under require the approval of the Associate Dean of Students, or designee, who will determine level of emotional and intellectual maturity, educational preparation, and motivation to succeed. Such minor students must submit two references from certified teachers attesting to emotional and intellectual maturity and ability of the minor student to work independently and successfully in a collegiate environment.
3. Minor students age 16 and under require the approval of the Associate Dean of Students, or designee, who will determine level of emotional and intellectual maturity, educational preparation, and motivation to succeed. Such minor students must submit one reference from certified teachers attesting to emotional

and intellectual maturity and ability of the minor student to work independently and successfully in a collegiate environment.

4. All minor students must take the College's placement test (Accuplacer: Reading and Sentence Skills) and must place at the college level in English to be eligible to take classes.
5. All minor students seeking or required to take a math course must take the Accuplacer mathematics placement test and must place at the required college level.
6. No minor student is permitted to take developmental courses at the College.
7. No minor student will be a "matriculated" student and instead will be considered a "dual enrollment" or a "home schooled" student, whichever is applicable. Should a minor student wish to matriculate, the student must complete the application process and petition the Associate Dean of Students. Such petitions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and approved only in extraordinary circumstances.
8. Federal education law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), governs access to the records of minor students enrolled at the College. Under FERPA, parents DO NOT have the right to access students' educational records without written consent from the student.

For a complete understanding of all applicable rules we agree to consult with the College, and we agree to accept their application to the child.

On behalf of ourselves, our family, heirs and personal representative(s), we understand and agree: that the College will treat the child as an adult; that we have had a reasonable opportunity to consider the risks of a minor child participating in the adult and independent learning environment of the College; and that we assume all such risks regarding the child's participation at the College. On behalf of the same, we release, hold harmless, indemnify and covenant not to sue the Maine Community College System, the College and their governing boards, trustees, employees and any agents from and against any and all liability for harm, injury, damage, claims, demands, actions, causes of action and expenses of any kind that we may have or that may hereafter accrue to us, directly or indirectly, related to any loss, damage or injury that we may sustain from the child's participation at the College.

We have both read this form; we both understand its terms and conditions; and we both intend to be bound by it.

Parent's Signature

Student's Signature

Parent's Printed Name

Student's Printed Name

Date

Date