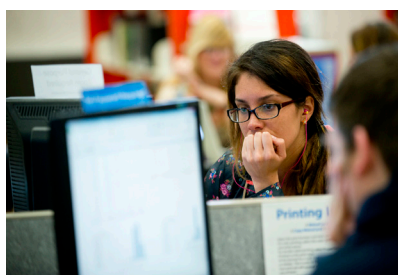




IN COLLABORATION WITH



## Summer 2020 Step Up Program at the University of Maine

The Summer 2020 Step Up Program is a collaborative project of the Maine Department of Labor - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); and the University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies, the College of Education and Human Development, and Student Accessibility Services.

The Step Up Program was developed to provide a multi-week residential living and learning experience for DVR clients, who are high school juniors or seniors with an autism spectrum diagnosis, and who may have an interest in attending a postsecondary education program.

The Step Up Program will run from July 12, 2020 - August 14, 2020. Students will live in University of Maine residence hall dormitory rooms and have meals in the dining commons while they are in the program.

As part of the college experience, students will take a college freshman level, three-credit University of Maine course (English 129).

They will also participate in a variety of educational seminars, such as obtaining accommodations in postsecondary education, self-determination and self-advocacy, financial literacy, and

time management. Students will be provided with training and practice designed to enhance their communication and interpersonal skills.

Participating students will also gain paid work experience (six hours per week) through employment at a University of Maine campus-based job.

Tours of campus facilities and programs will also be provided, including the Student Recreation Center, Fogler Library, Student Accessibility Services, and more.

During this five-week residential living and learning experience, students will have opportunities to build their academic and advocacy skills, develop more self-confidence, explore a university campus, and have free time to just relax and enjoy campus life! The Step Up Program will run concurrently with the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired's *College Prep* program. Step Up participants will join *College Prep* participants for selected educational, social and recreational activities. Students will leave the program with an individualized college success plan to use should they choose to attend a postsecondary education program after high school.



**For more information, please contact:**

Libby Stone-Sterling  
Libby.Stone-Sterling@maine.gov  
207-623-7943