2013-2014 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FALL SEMESTER 2013
Wednesday, September 4, 2013   Classes begin
Monday, October 14, 2013   Fall Break
Wednesday, November 27, 2013   Thanksgiving Break Begins
Friday, December 13, 2013   Last Day of Classes
Monday, December 16, 2013   Finals Week Begins

SPRING SEMESTER 2014
Tuesday, January 21, 2014   First Day of Spring Classes
Monday, February 17, 2014   First Spring Break Begins
Monday, March 31, 2014   Second Spring Break Begins
Friday, May 9, 2014   Last Day of Classes
Monday, May 12, 2014   Finals Week Begins
Saturday, May 17, 2014   Commencement

OUR HISTORY
The University of Maine Farmington’s history is firmly rooted in the early 19th century. Though generations of changes have come and gone, many of the ideals behind our founding are as fresh and important today as they were then, most notably that a solid foundation of Liberal Arts is essential to becoming a valuable and adaptable member of society. In 1857, a convention of teachers from Franklin County resolved, “That the interests of our common schools, and the teachers having them in charge, not only require the fostering care of the State, but most imperatively demand the immediate establishment of that long neglected source of improvement, a State Normal School ... and as teachers of Franklin County, we would respectfully, yet earnestly, request the early attention of our present Legislature to the endowment and establishment of such an institution.”

In March 1863, amidst much heated argument, a Normal School Act finally passed into law, and that fall, Farmington was chosen from a list of possible locations for the first normal school, making the University of Maine Farmington (aka, UMF) the first public institution of higher education in the entire State of Maine.

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS
On August 24, 1864, 31 students gathered in an attic above a downtown commercial building, called Beal’s Hall, where they met until they were able to move into their new building that winter. The new home of what was to be called the Farmington Normal School was described as “rough, crude, and plenty humble” by UMF historian Richard P. Mallett. Today, Merrill Hall, UMF’s original Main Street home and now the oldest public building on a Maine campus, is anything but rough, crude and humble.
OUR HISTORY, continued

When the first class graduated from the Western State Normal School on May 25, 1866, State Superintendent Rev. Dr. Ballard said, ‘The whole drew forth warm commendation from the literary gentlemen present, and all felt satisfied that the diploma given to each member of the graduating class was indeed a testimonial to good character, diligence in study, ample attainments, and a compliance with the rules of the school. The persons most interested in its work and care, saw on that day a rich compensation for the solicitude of the enterprise, which had thus far, at least, been regarded as an experiment...’ Ballard’s remarks show that success was not a foregone conclusion, and there was much room for satisfaction among those who had fought for Maine’s first teachers’ college.

A NOVEL APPROACH
A teachers’ college that emphasized liberal arts, The Western State Normal School stood out among teachers’ colleges for its commitment to integrating a strong liberal arts program into teacher training, for it was thought that only those with a strong background in the liberal arts could effectively teach the arts and sciences. Obvious as this may seem, it was not the rule among teachers of the time.

The classic emphasis on memorizing lessons may have grown from the danger of exposing unlettered teachers to inquisitive pupils. Many early graduates attended the school for its liberal arts offerings alone. Among these were the Stanley brothers, famous for building the Stanley Steamer automobile; and John Stevens, engineer of the Panama Canal. Interest in the liberal arts continued unabated until the college offered its first degree programs in the liberal arts in 1971. By the 1974-75 school year, nearly 300 students were enrolled in liberal arts majors.

WHERE WE ARE TODAY
The University of Maine Farmington has maintained its fine tradition in teacher preparation while adding and enhancing other majors in the arts and sciences, health, and rehabilitation. More than a century of changes have left several features constant, however: UMF continues to live by the ideals which inspired the Normal School movement in the mid-nineteenth century: a democracy can survive only if its citizens have a sense of history, a working understanding of issues affecting the present, and a vision for the future.

We address these requirements in at least two ways, by ensuring that all our students graduate with a firm grounding in the liberal arts and by sending new graduates into the world with the tools essential to passing liberal arts traditions on to new generations.
UNIVERSITY MISSION
The University of Maine Farmington is a public baccalaureate institution committed to quality programs in arts and sciences, teacher education and human services. Its primary mission is to offer its students opportunities for intellectual and personal growth in a challenging academic environment. In order to accomplish this mission, the University of Maine Farmington remains an undergraduate institution, limits enrollment by means of selective admissions, and provides a supportive atmosphere which fosters close student faculty interaction.

Founded as a normal school in 1864, the University of Maine Farmington is Maine’s first public institution for higher education and continues its long tradition of integrating liberal arts and professional studies. The University of Maine Farmington prepares its graduates to excel in their chosen fields and to become responsible citizens in the global community. Its aim is to educate people for life by encouraging intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, aesthetic appreciation, respect for cultural differences, and a concern for the environment.

The University of Maine Farmington gives first priority to excellence in teaching but also encourages and supports research, other creative and scholarly activity, and public service by its faculty. Finally, the University takes pride in being an intellectual and cultural center for the members of the campus community, the region, and the state, which it serves in cooperation with the other campuses of the University of Maine System.