Dear Student:

In previous years, your 1098-T included a figure in Box 2 that represented the qualified tuition and related expenses (QTRE) we billed to your student account for the calendar (tax) year. Due to a change to institutional reporting requirements under federal law, beginning with tax year 2018, we will report in Box 1 the amount of QTRE paid from all sources during the year.

The Form 1098-T may assist you in completing IRS Form 8863, the form used for calculating the education tax credits that a taxpayer may claim as part of your tax return. Please be aware that during this first year of transition in reporting methods there may be some dollar amounts on your 1098-T that do not appear to be correct. However, they are in accordance with the IRS regulations.

PLEASE USE YOUR PAYMENT RECORDS TO CALCULATE THE AMOUNTS PAID DURING TAX YEAR 2018 FOR QTRE.

The most frequent difference between your records and the 1098-T is that payments received for QTRE from ALL sources will be included in Box 1. So, in addition to payments received from you and loan proceeds received on your behalf, Box 1 may include payments from other sources, that may also be included in Box 5 (scholarships, grants and waivers).

Differences between your records and the 1098-T may also occur when adjustments to your account are made for prior years causing payments and/or financial aid to be reversed and reapplied. In the past, these adjustments would normally net out to zero between all of the boxes on the form and not be included on your 1098-T. However, for 2018, IRS regulations state that we can only report prior year adjustments to “tuition billed”. Because of this rule, there may be amounts in Box 1 that do not have the offsetting amounts in Box 4 (prior year adjustments to Box 1 or Box 2).

Additionally, students that used payment plans for the 2018 tax year will most likely see differences between their records and amounts reported in Box 1. Depending on the type of payment plan used, the total amount of the payment plan may be included in Box 1 when the payment plan was initiated or payments made during 2018 may not be included. For instance, if you signed up for a payment plan during 2017 to pay for your Spring 2018 semester, it is likely that the actual payments you made during 2018 will not be included on your 1098-T. (They would have been included in 2017 if we had been reporting in Box 1.)

The University of Maine System is unable to provide you with individual tax advice. If you have questions, you should seek the counsel of an informed tax preparer or adviser. For more information about Form 1098-T, visit https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1098t.pdf or IRS Publication 970.

If you have questions, please visit our website at University of Maine System 1098-T Information for more information. You may also contact your campus contact below if you need help finding the information necessary to determine your eligibility:

University of Maine at Augusta
Student Financial Services, umafa@maine.edu, Phone: 207-621-3412

University of Maine at Farmington
Stephanie LeBlanc, stephanie.m.leblanc@maine.edu, Phone: 207-778-7254

University of Maine at Fort Kent
Amanda Pelletier, amanda.pelletier@maine.edu, Phone: 207-834-7553
University of Maine at Machias
Barbie Holmes, holmes@maine.edu, Phone: 207-255-1312

University of Maine
Office of the Bursar, umbursar@maine.edu, Phone: 207-581-1521

University of Southern Maine
Student Financial Services, npiaget@maine.edu, Phone: 207-780-4888

University of Maine at Presque Isle
Student Financial Services, umpi-bus@umpi.maine.edu, Phone: 207-768-9545

Thank you.

Janis Elsemore, CPA
Asst. Director of Accounting
janis.elsemore@maine.edu
Phone: 207-581-5489