

Montana State University
Year Seven Comprehensive Evaluation
October 16-18, 2017

Commendations

Montana State University is commended for the 2011-2012 strategic planning process, the resulting strategic plan, and subsequent communication efforts that have yielded a remarkable level of support across campus at all levels and a consistent focus on strategic plan implementation.

Montana State University is commended for its system of shared governance, integrating conventional elected governance groups with a series of councils, which has fostered communication, broad understanding of decision-making processes, and nearly universal agreement that faculty, staff, students, and administrators have input into decisions that affect them.

Montana State University is commended for its concerted efforts to increase retention and graduation rates.

Montana State University's Renne Library is commended for their leadership in the creation of the Treasure State Academic Information and Library Services (TRAILS) consortium, a comprehensive state-wide academic library consortium.

Montana State University is commended for the productive partnerships between the preparatory education, housed at Gallatin College, and baccalaureate programs, which foster access to the university consistent with its Land Grant mission.

Recommendations

Recommendation, Standard 1.B.2. The evaluation committee recommends that Montana State University identifies assessable and verifiable indicators of achievement that are more meaningful for evaluating accomplishment of the objectives of its core themes.

Recommendation, Standard 3.B.3. The evaluation committee recommends that Montana State University informs core theme planning via the consistent collection of appropriately defined data that are analyzed and used to evaluate the accomplishment of the core theme objectives.

Recommendation, Standard 4.A.3. The evaluation committee recommends that Montana State University documents, through a more effective, regular, and comprehensive system of assessment of student achievement, that students who complete any of its educational courses, programs, and degrees, wherever offered and however delivered, achieve identified course, program, and degree learning outcomes.

Recommendation, Standard 5.A.2. The evaluation committee recommends that Montana State University more consistently uses assessment results to make determinations of quality, effectiveness and mission fulfillment and communicates its conclusions to appropriate constituencies and the public.

Recommendation, Standard 2.G.1. The evaluation committee recommends that Montana State University takes additional steps to reduce the amount of deferred maintenance, to prevent further growth of deferred maintenance, and to relieve capacity issues relative to classrooms and the library.