

orientation

A GUIDE TO

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN • MONTANA



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Mountains & Minds

2025 ORIENTATION

Guide to the guide

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Dear Incoming Student and Family Members,

Welcome to the Bobcat Family! We are excited and humbled that you have chosen Montana State University to continue your educational journey. We recognize that you have not only have chosen a school to attend but have chosen your new home for the next four years.

As an incoming Freshman student, you are entering a transformative and energetic new chapter of your life. The university experience is mind-opening and life-altering. Here at MSU, we are ready to support you in writing this next chapter. From discovering your passions and exploring new ways of thinking, to building your community of people and finding new hobbies and interests, please know that the MSU community is here to assist and cheer you on along the way.

The first step in this new chapter is our Orientation program which serves as the introduction to your collegiate experience. Orientation marks the beginning of your college career and provides you a glimpse into what your life will be like at MSU. We have a tremendous program in store for you, and we know from experience that our program will have a substantial impact on your success during the fall semester and your future as an MSU student.

It is our goal that by the time you leave Orientation, you have a foundational understanding of the university, degree requirements and expectations, services and resources available to you, and who can help support you throughout your four years. We also understand this transition can sometimes be overwhelming. **Our biggest piece of advice? Ask questions.** Being an MSU Bobcat means asking for help and supporting one another, and it's the only way we can address your uncertainty.

To the family members who have supported our new Bobcats up until this point — thank you for entrusting us with your student’s education. We recognize at MSU that it is not just the student who is becoming a member of the MSU community, but also the parents and family members who have supported their student along the way. You have played a pivotal role in shaping and guiding your student up until this moment, but it doesn’t end here! We encourage you to stay informed and get connected through our Bobcat Parent & Family Program.

Enjoy Orientation! We can’t wait to see what you achieve here at Montana State. **Thank you and welcome home, Bobcats.**

Sincerely,



Mike Ouert
Mike Ouert
Director of Admissions



Cade Gill
Cade Gill
New Student Programs Coordinator



Ellie Dunn
Ellie Dunn
New Student Programs Coordinator



Shannon Bangen
Shannon Bangen
Director of Orientation
Assoc. Dir. of Admissions



Erin Dockins
Erin Dockins
New Student Programs Specialist

The **three pillars of the Orientation program** are as follows

Enrollment
Orientation will serve as an extension of the recruitment process, ultimately reinforcing a student’s decision to attend Montana State. Through introducing MSU history, traditions and campus life, students gain a better understanding of our mission and values.

Registration
Orientation will support students through their first registration experience by providing an opportunity to learn about and engage with registration resources, as well as an opportunity to complete course registration.

Retention
Orientation will aid the collective university effort of student retention and achievement by ensuring that students are fluent in MSU’s “hidden curriculum” including university specific language, student success resources and supportive online tools.



Dear Incoming Student

Welcome to Orientation! This program represents much more than a summer camp—it marks the beginning of your college career and we recommend that you treat it as such. We have an excellent program in store for you, and we know from experience that our program will have a substantial impact on your success during the fall semester and your future as a Montana State University student.

As a participant of our Orientation program, we want to make sure you're aware of our community expectations:

1. It is expected that you will attend all sessions as directed by your Student Orientation Leader (OL). Your Orientation Leader is an experienced student who has a good academic record and has been given extensive training in the academic information you need to know. We encourage you to ask questions and learn as much as possible from your OL.
2. Orientation students are required to remain on campus throughout the duration of the program. We ask that you not leave campus to ensure that you get the most out of your time and the experiences that we provide while you are here. If you MUST leave campus, you are required to check in/out with your Orientation Leader before leaving and determine when you need to return for required meetings. If you leave campus at any time without permission before the program concludes, you are responsible for the consequences of the actions/decisions you choose to make on- or off-campus
3. Getting enough rest during Orientation is essential for your success. The residence hall doors will be locked at 12:00am midnight each evening, and you are expected to check in with your Orientation Leader at that time if you haven't already done so.
4. Consuming alcohol under 21 years old, possession in the residence halls, possessing/using other illegal drugs, leaving after hours, returning late (after 12:00 midnight) or not returning at all are considered serious violations of University policy and your Student Orientation Leader will refer all violations to the Director of Orientation and/or the Dean of Students for appropriate action. Marijuana remains a controlled substance under federal law and as such, marijuana use or possession is prohibited across the entire MSU campus. This includes all open areas and buildings, such as the residence and dining halls.
5. Montana State University is a tobacco-free campus, which means the use of tobacco is prohibited on the MSU campus. For the purposes of this policy, "tobacco" is defined to include any tobacco product, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, and all forms of smokeless tobacco.

6. Inform your Student Orientation Leader if you are injured, ill, or otherwise unable to participate in the program. All medical emergencies will be handled at Bozeman Health at your expense.
7. Campus recreation facilities are open for your use throughout your stay on campus. If you choose to participate in Campus Recreation events or services, you do so at your own risk and agree to abide by posted facility guidelines.
8. In the event of an emergency, students will listen to their Orientation Leader and MSU staff regarding the appropriate response. Students must agree to communicate in a timely manner and respond promptly when instructed on next steps.
9. Your room will be used immediately by others following your departure. Please follow the proper check out procedures described by your Student Orientation Leader. You will be charged for lost (\$125) or damaged (\$75) keys as well as any damages to your room.
10. Students are held responsible for adhering to the regulations outlined in the Montana State University Residence Hall Contract (www.montana.edu/housing/halls/reslifecontract1.html) and University Student Housing Community Standards (www.montana.edu/housing/halls/handbook.html) and the MSU Code of Student Conduct (www.montana.edu/policy/student_conduct/).

Failing to adhere to the above expectations can result in a wide range of disciplinary action, including a meeting with the Dean of Students and an immediate student conduct record, withdrawal from the Orientation program and/or the residence halls for the fall semester, and/or losing the privilege of early registration for classes. Please don't put yourself in the position to start a university discipline record during the Orientation program.

Following these community expectations will help to make the Orientation program an enjoyable experience for you, your future classmates and everyone else across campus who have dedicated their time and effort to your Orientation experience. We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Shannon Bangen
Director of Orientation

Digitally sign here:



Orientation Leaders

Current MSU students here to guide you and answer any questions.

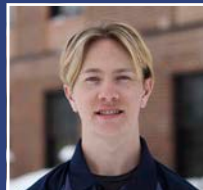
Orientation Coordinators



Trinity Atterson
Human Development & Family
Science - Chaska, MN



Nathan Brunelle
Business Management
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA



Tanner Anderson
Computer Science
Missoula, MT



Sarah Kaldestad
Equine Science
Carnation, WA



Katelyn Nutt
English Lit. + Political Science
Ennis, MT



Tenley Wade
Human Dev. & Family Science
Bozeman, MT



Peyton Barnes
Business Mgt. / Creative Writing
Portland, OR



Lindsey Bigelow
Mechanical Engineering
Warren, VT



Megan Burgess
Human Development & Family
Science - Billings, MT



Genesis Capeheart
Nursing
Bozeman, MT



Grace Clark
Cell Biology & Neuroscience
Salt Lake City, UT



Neva Clark
Biochemistry
Great Falls, MT



Tori Flath
Fish & Wildlife
Las Vegas, NV



Abby Foster
Kinesiology
Kalispell, MT



Hannah Fussell
Animal Science + Pre-Vet
Ronan, MT



Emily Andrews
Nursing
San Diego, CA



Jonathon Abel
Astrophysics
Helena, MT



Carolyn Burrill
Hospitality Management
Anchorage, AK



Chloe Clyburn
Equine Science + Pre-Vet Cert.
Ellensburg, WA



Shaun Hallahan
Film
Denver, CO



Josh Fairbanks
Finance/Accounting
Roscommon, MI



Nessa Afraid of Bear
Environmental Studies/
Pre-Law - Crow Agency, MT



Taylor Buthe
Sociology & Political Science
Madison, SD



Austin Danz
Chemistry (Professional)
East Helena, MT



Jae Harvey
Psychology + HDFs
Billings, MT

College Leads



Micah James
Computer Science
Bozeman, MT



Lars Knudson
Computer Sci. + Music Tech
Spearfish, SD



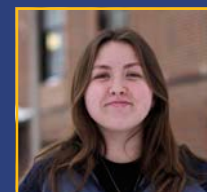
Andrea Manwell
Microbiology/Pre-Med
Billings, MT



Ella Morton
Finance
Albuquerque, NM



Aliyah Poxleitner
Plant Science + Crop Prod.
Grangeville, ID



Leelynn Vandever
Construction Engineering Tech.
Lexington, OR



Sadie Jenkins
Political Sci. + English Writing
Juneau, AK



Toby Kroening
Graphic Design & Business
Searsport, ME



Chloe Marschall
Psychology + Sociology
Billings, MT



Riley Mullins
Sociology + Business Admin.
Las Vegas, NV



Isha Sharma
Microbiology
Panipat, India



Maia Winkel
Psychology
Las Vegas, NV



Jayne Johnson
Elementary Education
Seattle, WA



Chuck Lorman
Kinesiology
Littleton, CO



Ellen McLean
Kinesiology
Helena, MT



Zach Myers
Business Management
Grand Rapids, MI



Ella Shelden
Kinesiology + Exercise Science
Billings, MT



Jaycie Wippert
Kinesiology & Psychology
Billings, MT



Garrett Kane
Dietetics
Sherwood, OR



Emma Mallery
Crop Science
Kelso, WA



Bruno Miller
Business Finance
Denver, CO



Brooklynn Newsom
Psychology
Great Falls, MT



Taylor Stinson
Sociology/Criminology
Helena, MT



Kayla Young
HDFS Child Development
Belgrade, MT



Mikayla Keitzman
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt.
Corbett, OR



Lesley Manor-Garner
Agricultural Education
Roseburg, OR



Veronica Morigeau
Nursing
Elgin, OK



Sierrah Paul
Computer Sci. + Photography
Helena, MT



Carley Trefts
Kinesiology + Pre-Dental
Butte, MT



Alyona Zimmerman
Fish & Wildlife Management
Helena, MT

250+ AREAS OF STUDY

AGRICULTURE

- Agricultural Business** ● ■
 - Agribusiness Management ○
 - Farm & Ranch Management ○
- Agricultural Education** ●
 - Broadfield Teaching T
 - Communications, Leadership & Extension ○
- Animal Science** ● ■
 - Equine Science ○
 - Livestock Management & Industry ○
 - Science ○
- Applied Technology Management** ●
 - Broadfield Teaching T T
- Astrobiology ■
- Biotechnology** ●
 - Animal Systems ○
 - Microbial Systems ○
 - Plant Systems ○
- Cell Biology & Neuroscience** ● ○
- Biomedical Sciences ○
- Economics** ● ■
 - Economics Teaching T
 - Environmental Economics and Policy ○ ■
- Entomology ■
- Environmental Horticulture** ● ■
 - Environmental Horticulture Science ○
 - Landscape Design ○
- Environmental Sciences** ● ○
 - Environmental Biology ○
 - Geospatial & Environmental Analysis ○
 - Land Rehabilitation ○
 - Soil & Water Sciences ○
- Financial Engineering** ● ■
- Genetics ■
- Global Health ■
- Microbiology** ● ○ ■
 - Environmental Health ○
 - Environmental Microbiology ○
 - Medical Laboratory Science ○
 - Pre-Medical Track ○
 - Pre-Veterinary Track ○
- Natural Resources & Rangeland Ecology** ● ■
 - Rangeland Ecology & Management ○
 - Wildlife Habitat Ecology & Management ○
- Plant Science** ●
 - Crop Science ○
 - Plant Biology ○
 - Plant Biotechnology ○
- Precision Agriculture ■
- Pre-Health Professions ▼
- Pre-Veterinary Certificate ▼
- Ranching Systems** ●
 - Soil Science ■
- Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems** ●
 - Agroecology ○
 - Sustainable Crop Production ○
 - Sustainable Food Systems ○
 - Water Resources ■

ARTS & ARCHITECTURE

- Architecture (Environmental Design)** ¹ ●
 - Art** ●
 - Art Ed K–12 Broadfield Teaching T T
 - Art History ○ ■
 - Graphic Design ○
 - Liberal Arts Studio ○
 - Studio Arts ○
 - Film & Photography** ●
 - Film ○
 - Photography ○
 - Integrated Lens-Based Media** ●
 - Music** ● ■
 - Music Education** T
 - Music Technology** ●

¹ Master of Architecture—three additional semesters

BUSINESS

- Business** ² ●
 - Accounting ³ ○ ■
 - Finance ○ ■
 - Management ○
 - Marketing ○
- Business Administration ■
- Business Certificate ▼
- Entrepreneurship & Small Business Mgmt. ■
- Entrepreneurship Certificate ▼
- International Business ■

² M.S. in Innovation and Management
one-year program

³ Master of Professional Accountancy
one-year program

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Major
- Option within a major
- T Teaching major
- T Teaching minor
- Minor
- ▼ Special program
- ◆ 2-year degree
- ◆ 1-year certificate



◀ Browse our 250+
areas of study
montana.edu/academics

ENGINEERING

- Aerospace ■
- Biological Engineering** ●
- Biomedical Engineering** ● ■
- Building Energy Systems ■
- Chemical Engineering** ●
- Civil Engineering** ●
- Computer Engineering** ● ■
- Computer Science (arts, humanities or business interest)** ● ■
- Computer Science (STEM interest)** ⁴ ● ■
 - Interdisciplinary Option ○
 - Professional Option ○
- Computer Science Teaching T
- Construction Engineering Technology** ●
- Data Science** ●
- Electrical Engineering** ● ■
- Engineering Management ■
- Environmental Engineering** ●
- Financial Engineering** ● ■
- Industrial & Mgmt. Systems Engineering** ⁵ ●
 - International Engineering Certificate ▼
 - Land Surveying ■
 - Materials ■
- Mechanical Engineering** ●
- Mechanical Engineering Technology** ●
- Mechatronics ■
- Military Air & Space Studies—AF ROTC** ▼
- Military Science—Army ROTC** ▼
- Military Science** ■
- Optics & Photonics ■

⁴ M.S. in Computer Science
one-year program

⁵ M.S. in Industrial & Management Engineering
one-year program

HONORS COLLEGE

- Directed Interdisciplinary Studies** ●
- Honors Baccalaureate Degree ▼

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

- Health Professions Advising Program ▼
- Leadership Fellows Certificate ▼
- Life Scholars Program ▼
- Undergraduate Scholars Program ▼
- University Studies ▼

EDUCATION, HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- (Education)**
 - Early Childhood Ed (preschool-grade 3)** T
 - Elementary Education K–8** T
 - Early Childhood ○
 - Mathematics ○
 - Reading K–12 T
 - Science Education ○
 - Special Education ○
 - Special Education Certificate ▼
 - Health Enhancement K–12 (Health & PE)** T
 - Secondary Education** T
 - Agricultural Ed Broadfield Teaching T
 - Art Education K–12 Teaching T T
 - General Science Broadfield Teaching T
 - Biology Teaching T T
 - Chemistry Teaching T T
 - Earth Science Teaching T
 - Economics Teaching T
 - English Teaching T
 - Family & Consumer Sciences Education T
 - French K–12 Teaching T T
 - German K–12 Teaching T T
 - Government Teaching T
 - History Teaching T T
 - Mathematics Teaching T T
 - Music Education T
 - Physics Teaching T T
 - Reading K–12 T
 - Social Studies Broadfield Teaching T
 - Spanish K–12 Teaching T T
 - Special Education ○
 - Technology Ed Broadfield Teaching T T
- (Health & Human Development)**
 - Coaching ■
 - Community Health** ●
 - Food & Nutrition** ●
 - Dietetics ○
 - Nutrition Science ○
 - Gerontology Certificate ▼
 - Hospitality Management** ●
 - Lodging & Facilities Management ○
 - Restaurant Management: Farm-to-Table ○
 - Human Development & Family Science** ● ○
 - Child Development ○
 - Family & Consumer Sciences Education ○
 - Human Development ■
 - Kinesiology** ●
 - Exercise Science ○
 - Health & Fitness ○
 - Life Scholars Program ▼
 - Personal & Consumer Finance ■
 - Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems** ●
 - Sustainable Food Systems ○
 - Sustainable Food Systems ○

Please note: MSU's academic programs are subject to change. This listing offers an overview as of June 2025. For the most up-to-date information, contact the Office of Admissions at 1-888-678-2287 or email admissions@montana.edu.

LETTERS & SCIENCE

- (Humanities & Social Sciences)**
 - Africana Studies Certificate ▼
 - American Studies** ⁷ ●
 - Anthropology** ● ■
 - Asian Studies** ● ■
 - China Studies ■
 - Economics** ● ■
 - Economics Teaching T
 - Environmental Economics and Policy ○ ■
 - English** ●
 - English Teaching T
 - Literature ○ ■
 - Writing ○ ■
 - Global Health ■
 - Global Studies ■
 - History** ● ○ ■
 - History Teaching T T
 - Science, Environment, Technology & Society ○
 - Japan Studies ■
 - Liberal Studies** ●
 - Environmental Studies ○
 - Global & Multicultural Studies ○
 - Quaternity ○
 - Modern Languages & Literatures** ●
 - French & Francophone Studies ○ ■
 - French K–12 Teaching T T
 - German Studies ○ ■
 - German K–12 Teaching T T
 - Hispanic Studies ○ ■
 - Latin American & Latino Studies ○ ■
 - Spanish K–12 Teaching T T
 - Museum Studies ■
 - Native American Studies ■
 - Philosophy** ● ■
 - Political Science** ● ■
 - Government Teaching T
 - Pre-Law ▼
 - Psychology** ● ■
 - Sociology** ● ■
 - Criminology ○
 - General Sociology ○
 - Sustainability & Environ. Stewardship ■
 - Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies ■

⁷ M.A. in American Studies
one-year program

NURSING

- Nursing** ●



Interested in pre-med?
MSU offers a pre-med intake advising program to help you choose a major and prepare for medical school, along with pre-med tracks within the microbiology and chemistry majors.

LETTERS & SCIENCE

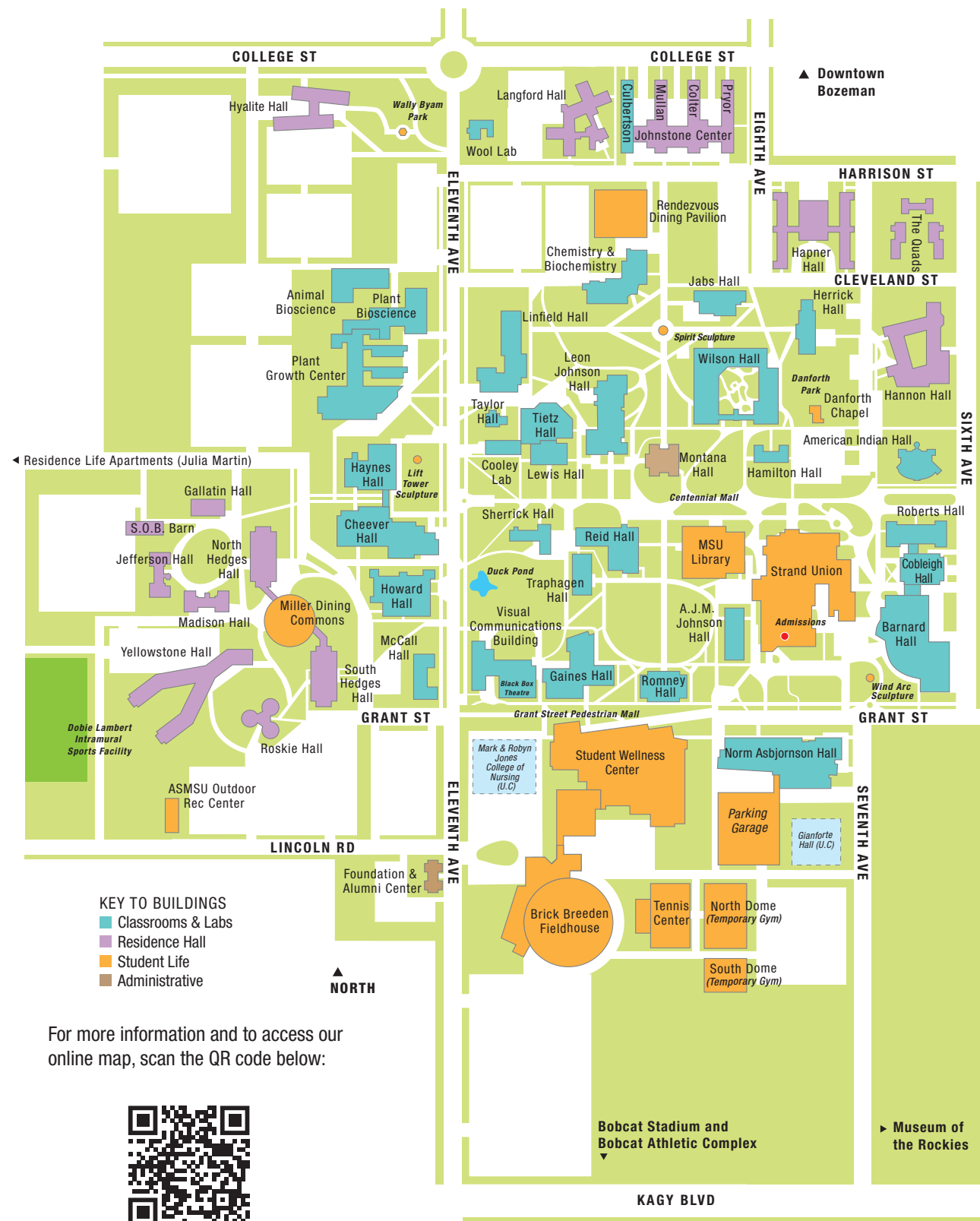
- (Math & Natural Sciences)**
 - Biological Sciences (Ecology)** ●
 - Biology Teaching T T
 - Conservation Biology & Ecology ○
 - Fish & Wildlife Ecology & Management ○
 - Organismal Biology ○
 - Chemistry** ● ■
 - Biochemistry ○ ■
 - Biochemistry Pre-Med Track ○
 - Chemistry Professional ○
 - Chemistry Teaching T T
 - Earth Sciences** ●
 - Earth Science Teaching T
 - Geography ○
 - Geology ○
 - GIS/Planning ○ ■
 - Paleontology ○
 - Snow Science ○
 - Genetics ■
 - Mathematics** ● ○ ■
 - Applied Mathematics ○
 - Mathematics Teaching T T
 - Statistics ○ ■
 - Optics & Photonics ■
 - Physics** ● ■
 - Astronomy & Astrophysics ○
 - Physics Interdisciplinary ○
 - Physics Professional ○
 - Physics Teaching T T
 - Water Resources ■

GALLATIN COLLEGE MSU

offers transfer education, certificates and two-year degrees designed to help students reach their career goals quickly.

- Associate of Arts** ◆
- Associate of Science** ◆
 - Pre-Healthcare Option ○
- Aviation** ◆
 - Behavioral Health ◆
 - Bookkeeping ◆
 - Business Management ◆
 - Carpentry ◆
 - CNC Machining Technology ◆
 - CNC Robotic Tending & Integration ◆
- Culinary Arts** ◆
 - Culinary Skills ▼
- Drafting and CAD Technology** ◆
 - Healthcare Administrative Professional ◆
- HVAC** ◆◆
- Interior Design** ◆
- IT Computer Network Technology** ◆◆
- IT Cyber Security & Information Assurance** ◆◆
 - Law Enforcement ◆
 - Medical Assistant ◆
 - Medical Laboratory Assistant ◆
 - Phlebotomy ▼
- Photonics & Laser Technology** ◆
 - Welding Technology ◆
 - Dual Enrollment for High School Students ▼

MSU CAMPUS MAP



Building Abbreviations

MSU uses the following building abbreviations across our campus.

Code	Building Title
ABB	Animal BioScience Building
AIH	American Indian Hall
AJMJD	Arthur J.M. Johnson Hall
APSHR	Anna Pearl Sherrick Hall
BARNAR	Barnard Hall
BBFH	“Brick” Breeden Fieldhouse
BBX	Black Box Theater
BZNOTB	Old Terminal Building, Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport
BZNSUM	Summit Aviation (490 Wings Way, Belgrade, MT 59714)
CBB	Chemistry/Biochemistry Building
CHEEVE	Cheever Hall
COBLEI	Cobleigh Hall
COOLEY	Cooley Laboratory
CTGS1	Campus Temporary Gym Structure North
CTGS2	Campus Temporary Gym Structure South
CULBER	Culbertson Hall
GAINES	Gaines Hall
GCE	Gallatin College East Campus (705 Osterman Drive, Bozeman)
GCN	Gallatin College North Campus (Bozeman High School)
HAMILT	Hamilton Hall
HARRIS	Harrison Hall
HAYNES	Haynes Hall
HERRIC	Herrick Hall
HOR	Horticulture Farm
HOWARD	Howard Hall
HP5L2	Highland Park 5 Level 2 (WWAMI)
HSB	Health Sciences Building
JABS	Jabs Hall
LEWIS	Lewis Hall
LIN	Linfield Hall
LJH	Leon H. Johnson Hall
MARSH	Marsh Research Laboratory
MBB	Molecular Bioscience Building
MCCALL	McCall Hall

Code	Building Title
MILPAV	Miller Livestock Pavilion
MOR	Museum of the Rockies
MTHALL	Montana Hall
NAH	Norm Asbjornson Hall
OUTREC	ASMSU Outdoor Rec Building
PBB	Plant Bioscience Building
PGC	Plant Growth Center
REID	Reid Hall
RENNE	Renne Library
ROBERT	Roberts Hall
ROMNEY	Romney Hall
SUB	Strand Union Building
SWC	Student Wellness Center
TAYLOR	Taylor Hall
TIETZ	Tietz Hall
TRAPHA	Traphagen Hall
VCB	Visual Communications Building
WILSON	Wilson Hall
WOOL	Wool Laboratory

Residence Hall Abbreviations	
AQUAD	Atkinson Quad Residence Halls
COLTER	Johnstone Center, Colter Wing
GALLAT	Gallatin Hall
HANNON	Hannon Hall
HAPNER	Hapner Hall
JEFFER	Jefferson Hall
LANGFO	Langford Hall
MADISO	Madison Hall
MULLAN	Johnstone Center, Mullan Wing
NHEDGE	North Hedges Hall
PRYOR	Johnstone Center, Pryor Wing
ROSKIE	Roskie Hall
SHEDGE	South Hedges Hall
YELLOW	Yellowstone Residence Hall

ABOUT MSU

Montana State is a Carnegie top-tier research university. Trailblazers come to this inspiring setting to learn, grow and pursue their dreams. They leave with a degree and tools to address some of the planet's most important challenges.



explore

#1

No. 1 choice of Montana's top high school students.
In 2024, 69% of students who received the Montana University System Honors Scholarship chose to attend MSU, more than all other campuses in the state combined. The scholarship goes to Montana's highest achieving high school students.

#1

Montana's research leader
MSU students have access to unique and exciting research opportunities that provide real, hands-on experiences. With over \$230 million devoted to research last year alone, MSU is the largest center for research of any kind in the state of Montana.

#1

Montana's largest university
MSU educates more Montanans than any other college or university in the state. Students come to MSU from throughout Montana, the U.S. and the world to follow their dreams and give life to new ideas, making MSU a center for innovation and creativity.

MSU by the numbers



ENROLLMENT

17,144

UNDERGRAD 15,053
GRADUATE 2,091
Fall 2024

DEMOGRAPHICS

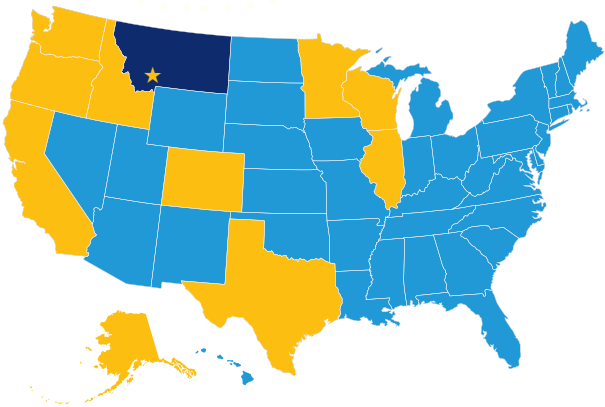
49% RESIDENT
51% NONRESIDENT

MSU STUDENTS COME FROM ALL OF MONTANA'S 56 COUNTIES, ALL 50 STATES AND 61 COUNTRIES.

ACADEMIC SCORES

24.4 AVG ACT
1193 AVG SAT
3.61 AVG GPA

MSU does not require ACT and/or SAT for admission.



Top Home States

Montana	7,141
Washington	1,583
Colorado	1,606
California	1,340
Minnesota	700
Oregon	548
Idaho	460
Alaska	297
Texas	234
Illinois	190

MSU attracts and produces top scholars.



MSU is a STEM powerhouse

MSU ranks among the top 3 universities in the West for the number of its students who have received the Goldwater Scholarship. The scholarship is a prestigious national award for students in math, science and engineering. Boasting 90 Goldwater Scholars since the scholarship's founding, MSU ranks 9th nationally, above universities like Yale and MIT. —2024

Top U.S. institutions for Goldwater Scholars

(Math, Science & Engineering)

- 1 Harvard (115)
- 2 Princeton (106)
- 3 Stanford (109)
- 4 University of Chicago (101)
- 5 Duke (98)
- 6 University of Michigan (95)
- 7 Cal Tech (94)
- 8 Illinois Urbana-Champaign (93)
- 9 **Montana State (90)**
- 10 Johns Hopkins (90)
- 11 Penn State (90)
- 12 Washington Univ. St. Louis (90)
- 13 Yale (89)
- 14 Mass. Institute of Technology (88)

—2024

MSU student recipients of major scholarships

- 15 Boren Scholars
- 41 Fulbright Grantees
- 2 Gates Cambridge Scholars
- 90 Goldwater Scholars
- 2 Marshall Scholars
- 11 Newman Civic Fellows
- 11 Rhodes Scholars
- 15 Rhodes Finalists
- 5 Schwarzman Scholars
- 18 Truman Scholars
- 12 Udall Scholars



MORE THAN
250
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
majors, minors
and more

Bozeman offers the perfect blend of adventure and discovery.



EXPERIENCE YELLOWSTONE

Located just 89 miles from Yellowstone National Park, MSU is known as the University of the Yellowstone.® Whether you want to take a Yellowstone summer photography class or help researchers investigate the park's unique ecosystem, MSU's proximity to Yellowstone offers abundant opportunities to learn and explore.



MONTANA STATE TROUT U

The Bozeman area is an angler's dream with five major rivers, innumerable streams and abundant alpine lakes. These are just a few of the reasons why MSU is known as Trout U.™

Area rivers:

Yellowstone · Madison · Jefferson
Gallatin · Missouri



LIVE, LEARN & PLAY

MSU is located in an adventurer's paradise with access to hiking, camping, skiing, tubing and kayaking. From rock climbing to scenic walks in town, Bozeman offers something for every interest and ability.

Ski areas:

Bridger Bowl · 27 minutes
Big Sky Resort · 60 minutes

Mountain ranges visible from Bozeman (with elevation of highest peak)



Big Belt Mountains · 9,504'
Bridger Range · 9,654'
Gallatin Range · 10,154'

Spanish Peaks · 11,015'
Tobacco Roots · 10,604'

MSU Lingo

Academic Advising A one-on-one advising relationship in which students are guided in decisions they will need to make through their college career. Required once a semester, academic advising can guide students through the goal setting and decision making process. All students are assigned an advisor in their home department.

Academic Advising Center (AAC) MSU's place for general academic advising, the AAC is open to all students Monday–Friday from 8–5. The AAC is the perfect place to go when you have questions about courses, majors and interests. [Located in 130 Gaines.](#)

Add/Drop Rules (5-10-10-15 Rule) A student may add a class online using MyInfo within five class days of the semester's start. A student may add a class with instructor approval within 10 class days of the semester's start. A student may drop a class online using MyInfo within 10 days of the semester's start. A student may drop a class with advisor approval within 15 days of the semester's start.

Advanced Placement (AP) A form of coursework that students may bring in to their college career from high school, allowing them earned credits if the transfer equivalency applies to MSU standards. See page 16 in this booklet for more information and reach out to the Office of Admissions with questions.

Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success (AYCSS) AYCSS is comprised of the Office of Student Success, Career, Internship & Student Employment Services and the Office of Financial Education. The over-arching goal of the Center is to advance student retention and graduation outcomes by providing access, resources, solutions and expertise to promote student success through career maturity, learning support, engagement and financial acumen. [Located in SUB 177.](#)

Associated Students of MSU (ASMSU) ASMSU is your student government, dedicated to advocating for student voices and enhancing your MSU experience through leadership, events, services, and student-focused initiatives. [Located in SUB 221.](#)

Canvas A learning platform in which students can look at online coursework for the classes they are enrolled in during the semester.

CatCourse MSU's tool for creating a personalized course schedule.

CLEP Exam An exam that can shorten your path to a college degree by allowing you to earn college credit for subjects you already know. It can also assist students in taking advanced courses. Provided through MSU Testing Services with a fee of \$100.

Common Hour Exam Common hour exams are given during the semester for multi-section courses, and generally take the place of one class meeting.

CORE 2.0 A great way to explore interests, Core 2.0 represents MSU's interdisciplinary general education requirements.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS) A free confidential service for MSU students who seek out help. The professional staff at CPS provides group and individual counseling, outreach and prevention and consultation to parents, faculty, staff, students and others in our community. [Located in the Wellness Center.](#)

Course Registration Number (CRN) Unique five-digit number that is assigned for each class at MSU.

Dean of Students Office Working with and for students to ensure student success and adherence to community and academic standards. [Located in SUB 174.](#)

DegreeWorks Software resource that allows students to map out their four year degree plan.

Duo Security A form of two-factor authentication that uses an app on a mobile device, phone call, passcode or token to verify login. Once students have received a class schedule, they will be prompted the next time they log in to authenticate their login through Duo Security. More information is available at: www.montana.edu/uit/duo

EdReady An online math readiness tool that is available for free to students who plan on attending MSU. Through EdReady, students can be placed into an initial math or writing placement level. If you want to revisit the possible gaps in your math or writing knowledge, become prepared for college courses, or haven't taken a math or writing class recently, then EdReady may be right for you. For details, go to montana.edu/admissions/orientation/placement.html

Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) The MSU Greek community prides itself on more than 100 years of tradition and excellence in which service and philanthropy plays a large role. [Located in SUB 174 \(Dean of Students Office\).](#)

Gallatin College Gallatin College MSU is Southwest Montana's two-year college, offering two-year associate degrees and one-year professional certificates. Gallatin College complements the four-year programs at Montana State University and ensures access to workforce development that promotes a vibrant local economy. [Located in 101 Hamilton Hall.](#)

Generated Identification Number (GID) Also known as your Student ID or MSU ID number. Randomly generated eight digit number, following the format -01234567, or -02#####, assigned to each student upon their admission to MSU.

Holds Holds (financial, academic, etc.) may be placed on your record preventing you from registering for courses, ordering transcripts or other activities. You may check for holds in the Student Services section of MyInfo.

International Baccalaureate (IB) A form of coursework that students may bring in to their college career from high school, allowing them earned credits if the transfer equivalency applies to MSU standards. See page 16 in this booklet for more information and reach out to the Office of Admissions with questions.

Math and Statistics Center The MSC is a drop-in tutoring center supported by student fees from the courses we tutor. Stop in for brief help in the math courses you are taking. [Located in Romney Hall.](#)

MSU Alert A notification system to deliver critical information to MSU students in the event of an emergency.

MSU Bookstore Browse the store for a variety of items such as MSU Bobcat fan gear, art supplies, school supplies, technology and, most importantly, text books for the upcoming semester. [Located in the basement of the SUB.](#)

MyInfo An online portal in which students can find information about their progress and status at MSU.

navMSU A smartphone app and online platform that helps you navigate your college experience. Stay organized and connected on important tasks like scheduling meetings with your advisor so you can register for classes, or get notifications and to-do lists to avoid missing deadlines.

NetID Unique seven character ID used to access various campus resources. Combination of letters and numbers following the format x99p999.

Office of Financial Aid This office is here to assist and guide students with the funding of their educational experience with services ranging from help with the FAFSA to how student aid is awarded. [Located in 21 Montana Hall.](#)

Office of Student Engagement (OSE) The Office of Student Engagement (OSE) helps students get involved at MSU through events, student organizations, leadership programs, and community engagement opportunities. [Located in SUB 222.](#)

Off-Campus Student Life (OCSL) Off-Campus Student Life helps students navigate housing, build community, and stay engaged with campus life while living off-campus. [Located in SUB 268.](#)

Parts of a Degree At MSU, there are four separate parts to an earned degree: Degree or major requirements specific to each major, CORE 2.0 classes from 10 different categories, supportive or prerequisite classes that further your degree, and elective classes.

RAWR Form A student's Registration Advising Written Report allows them to register during Orientation. It contains vital information such as student identification number (GID) and registration codes.

Registrar's Office This office plans and conducts student registration, maintains and updates academic records, interprets and applies policies and delegates information for graduation. [Located in 111 Montana Hall.](#)

Strand Union Building (SUB) The student hub; home to a variety of student services that are essential to an MSU college career.

Student Health Services Following an integrated, collaborative model, Student Health Services unites the components of the health and well-being for MSU students including prevention, health promotion, public health, medical services, dental services and counseling and psychological services. Offices that fall under this department include Medical Services, Dental Services, Office of Health Advancement and Counseling & Psychological Services. [Located in the Wellness Center.](#)

University Withdrawal Students can complete a university withdrawal with the Registrar's Office if they wish to withdraw from **all** of their current academic semester courses. [Located in 111 Montana Hall.](#)

University Information Technology (UIT) The campus department responsible for maintaining all technology systems, including MyInfo, DegreeWorks and D2L. They also provide password and software support for students. [Located in Commons of Renne Library.](#)

WebCAPE Computer Adaptive Placement Exam for students to be placed into a language class. It costs \$10 to take. Student will not receive college credit for taking the exam. See montana.edu/ml/placement.html for more information. [Located in Modern Languages, 117 Gaines Hall.](#)

Withdrawal from a Course If the last add/drop date has passed, a student may withdraw from a course. A "W" will appear on their academic transcript. [Located in 111 Montana Hall.](#)

Writing Center Writing Center tutors meet individually or in groups with student writers of all abilities and backgrounds at any stage in their writing processes — from invention to revision. [Located in Romney Hall.](#)

Incoming College-Level Credit



Please visit montana.edu/admissions/transferring-credit (QR) for additional details.

At Montana State University, incoming students have many opportunities to earn credit for coursework completed in high school. We accept Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams with qualifying scores, as well as college-level coursework from a regionally-accredited college or university. Explore your options below.

Advanced Placement (AP) Credit

The AP equivalency guide is available at montana.edu/admissions/ap/ap.pdf. Most exams require a score of 3 or better to count toward college credit. Please note that some courses require a score of 4 or better. In addition, more credit may be earned in some cases for higher exam scores.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Credit

The IB equivalency guide is available at montana.edu/admissions/ib/ib.pdf. Most exams require a score of 4 or better to count toward college credit. Please note that some courses may be brought in at the “Standard Level” (SL) while others require the “High Level” (HL) exam. In addition, more credit may be earned in some cases for higher exam scores.

Dual-Enrollment from a Montana University System (MUS) institution

The Transfer Equivalency Guide is available at montana.edu/admissions/transferring-credit/#dual-enrollment. The MUS practices Common Course Numbering which means students can easily transfer courses between institutions. If a course has a particular name at one institution, you can assume it fulfills the course of the same name at another MUS school (if offered). Remember to request an official copy of your transcript be sent to Montana State University Office of Admissions to receive official credit for your coursework. If you have questions, please contact us at admissions@montana.edu.

Dual-Enrollment from a non-MUS/out-of-state institution

The Transfer Equivalency Guide is available at montana.edu/admissions/transferring-credit/#dual-enrollment. MSU can count college-level coursework from any regionally-accredited college or university toward a student’s degree. Please note that courses you have taken may not show up on the transfer equivalency guide; this means that we have not previously seen a student transfer in to Montana State with those courses. Remember to request an official copy of your transcript be sent to Montana State University Office of Admissions to receive official credit for your coursework. If you have questions, please contact us at admissions@montana.edu.

FAQS

Am I a freshman or a transfer student?

Any student who has attempted 12 or more college-level credits from a regionally accredited institution after graduating from high school is classified as a transfer student. Freshman and transfer students should submit all official transcripts/scores to MSU for evaluation.

How should I have my transcripts sent?

Please request official transcripts to be sent directly from all institutions you have attended.

Send by mail to: MSU Admissions, PO Box 172190, Bozeman, MT 59717-2190.

Send by secure electronic delivery using contact email: msuadmissionstranscript@sympa.montana.edu.

How will my credits transfer to MSU?

Eligible credits will transfer as direct equivalents to MSU courses or as elective credit with or without CORE. A course must be at least two semester credits and have a grade of C- or higher (with no pass/fail grading) to count for MSU CORE.

What if I am waiting for final transcripts or test results and they are not yet on file with MSU?

If you have an unofficial copy of transcripts or test scores available to you, we encourage you to reference these materials when you meet with an advisor. Please have official copies sent as soon as possible.

What qualifies for transfer credit?

- All undergraduate college-level credits from regionally accredited institutions.
- Dual-enrollment credits earned and posted on a college (not high school) transcript.
- Credits earned from Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) scores, which must be sent directly from the testing agency.
- Credits that apply to an Associate’s degree (maximum of 30 elective credits).
- Military credits (maximum of 30 elective credits).

Course Placement

All students need to receive a math and a writing placement to enroll in classes. Students wishing to take a language class need to receive a language placement. Language classes are not required at MSU except for students in the Honors college or students who have a language requirement in their major.

You may already have a course placement from:

1. **Evaluated College-Level credit** can be used to place you into **Math, Writing**, or a **Language**
 - a. If you are expecting to use College-Level credit for your placement, but your credit has not been evaluated, bring a copy of your unofficial transcript or IB/AP scores when you meet with your advisor. You may still need to take a placement test.
2. **High School GPA** can be used to place you into **Writing**
3. **ACT/SAT** scores can be used to place you into **Math and Writing**

See your RAWR form to check if your transfer credit has been evaluated or if you have received a Math or Writing Course Placement from the above sources. If you have placements from multiple sources (e.g. SAT score and placement test), we will always take the higher placement.

If your RAWR form does not show a placement from one of the sources listed above, or if you would like to attempt to improve your placement, you must take the applicable placement test during Orientation:

EdReady Initial Math Placement (IMP)

You can only take the IMP once, but you can improve your IMP placement up to one or two math levels, up to level 400, if you successfully complete your EdReady study path before the first day of classes.

See the next page for more information!

Contact:
edreadymath@montana.edu
(406) 994-3601
2-214 Wilson Hall

EdReady Initial Writing Placement (IWP)

You can only take the IWP once, but you can improve your IWP placement by successfully completing an EdReady study path before the first day of classes.

Please note that you cannot place out of WRIT101 via the IWP.

Contact:
english@montana.edu
(406) 994-3768
2-176 Wilson Hall

Language Placement

If you have college-level credit or grew up speaking the language at home, please see the Modern Language Dept (contact info below) regarding your placement.

If you have taken the language within the last five years, you must take the WebCAPE exam and see Modern Languages for an oral proficiency interview.

Instructions at: www.montana.edu/ml/placement.html

Contact:
lisa.roots@montana.edu
(406) 994-4448
Gaines Hall 117

Writing Placement Levels at MSU

Level 100

ACT English Language: 0-15
 ACT Combined English/Writing: 0-15
 ACT Writing Subject: 3-4
 ACT Writing Sub-score: 3-4
 ACT English: 0-15
 SAT Writing/Language: 10-18
 High School GPA: 1.00-1.99
 EdReady Score: 0-55

WRIT 080

Building Basic Writing Skills

Level 200

ACT English Language: 16-17
 ACT Combined English/Writing: 16-17
 ACT Writing Subject: 5-6
 ACT Writing Sub-score: 5-6
 ACT English: 16-21
 SAT Writing/Language: 19-24
 High School GPA: 2.00-2.49
 EdReady Score: 56-70

WRIT 001/WRIT 101W

Co-Req Support for WRIT 101W

Level 300

ACT English Language: 18+
 ACT Combined English/Writing: 18+
 ACT Writing Subject : 7-10
 ACT Writing Sub-score: 7-10
 ACT English: 22-27
 SAT Writing/Language: 25-37
 High School GPA: 2.50-3.89
 EdReady Score: 71 and above

WRIT 101W

College Writing 1

Level 400

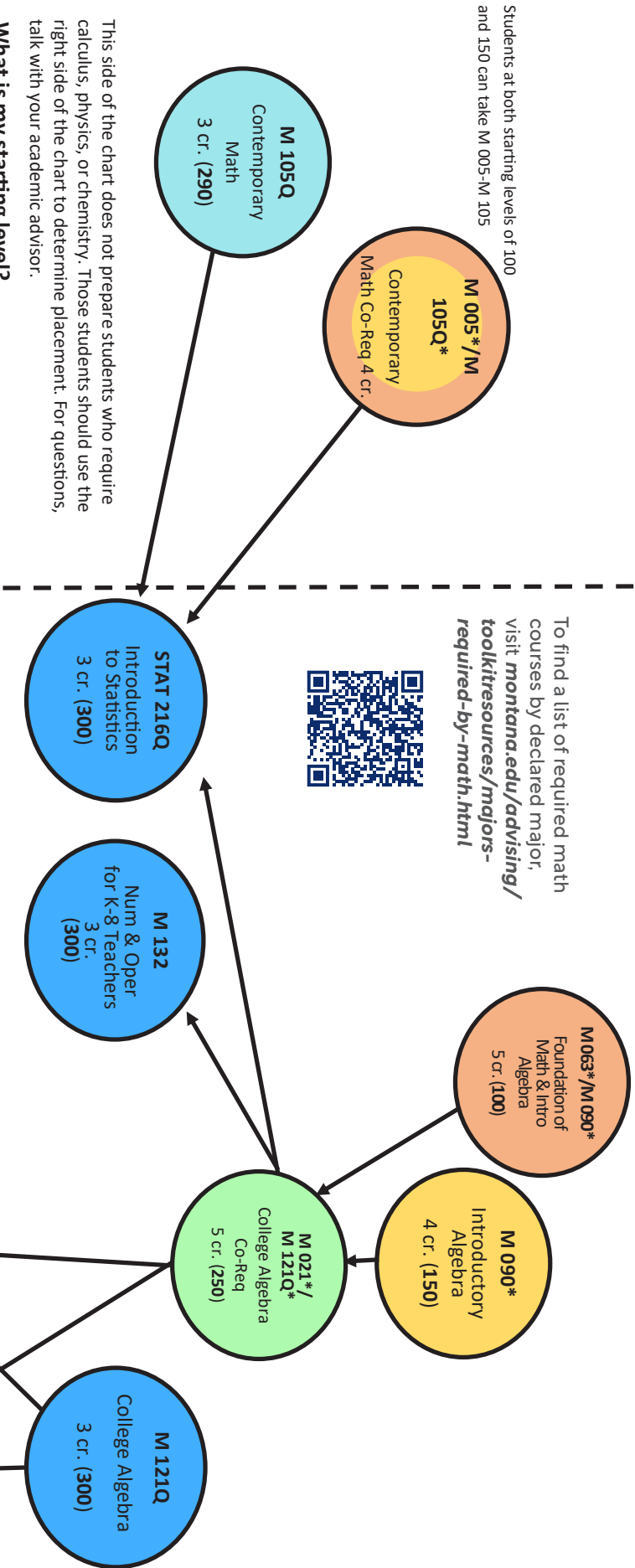
ACT Writing Subject: 11+
 ACT WritingSub-score: 11+
 ACT English: 28+
 SAT Reading/Writing: 750+
 SAT Writing/Language: 38+
 SAT Essay Total: 22+
 SAT Essay Writing: 7+
 AP English Lang/Comp: 4
 IB English A: Lang & Lit HL: 3
 High School GPA 3.9 or higher

Exempt from Writing (W) Core

Art, Humanities, & Some Social Sciences

Mathematics Prerequisite Flowchart

STEM, Business, Health, & Some Social Sciences



This side of the chart does not prepare students who require calculus, physics, or chemistry. Those students should use the right side of the chart to determine placement. For questions, talk with your academic advisor.

What is my starting level?

	100	150	250	290	300	400	500
ACT alone	Below 17	17	21	22	23	25	27+
SAT alone	Below 460	460	530	540	560	590	640+
ACT and HS GPA		15-16 & 3.0+	20 & 3.5+	21 & 3.5+	21-22 & 3.5+	23-24 & 3.7+ & HS Precalc or Calculus	
SAT and HS GPA		380-450 & 3.0+	520 & 3.5+	530 & 3.5+	530-550 & 3.5+	560 –580 & 3.7+ & HS Precalc or Calculus	
EdReady Placement	See Placement tab in DegreeWorks	See Placement tab in DegreeWorks	See Placement tab in DegreeWorks	See Placement tab in DegreeWorks	See Placement tab in DegreeWorks	See Placement tab in DegreeWorks	See Placement tab in DegreeWorks

* Indicates the class is being taught through Gallatin College

Essential Elements of a Montana State University Education

The MSU Core

The MSU Core Curriculum integrates education in communication, thinking and problem solving, and local and global citizenship with knowledge and experiences in the natural, social and mathematical sciences, the arts, and the humanities. The MSU Core Qualities deepen the experience of the MSU undergraduate education, enhance health and well-being, enrich disciplinary pursuits, and establish MSU's graduates as lifelong learners and engaged citizens.

Core Perspectives

- University Seminar (US)
- Written Communication (W)
- Quantitative Reasoning (Q)
- Diversity (D)
- Contemporary Issues in Science (CS)
- Research and Creative Experience (R)
- Inquiry Arts (IA)
- Inquiry Humanities (IH)
- Inquiry Social Science (IS)
- Inquiry Natural Science (IN)



MSU Core Qualities

MSU graduates are effective communicators who use written, spoken and visual communication to create meaning, build relationships, foster understanding and persuade.

MSU graduates are thinkers and problem solvers who reason using relevant evidence gathered through scholarly, disciplinary and interdisciplinary methods.

MSU graduates are local and global citizens who demonstrate effective strategies to listen and respond to others.

The MSU Core Curriculum is a series of ten Perspectives courses that expose students to the diversity of knowledge and methods that provide a foundation for life-long learning and integrate the teaching of all three of the MSU Core Qualities through course content.

Where can I find answers to my questions about the MSU Core Curriculum?

- Visit www.montana.edu/msu-core/index.html
- See your academic advisor
- Contact Advising Commons at www.montana.edu/advising
130 Gaines Hall
406-994-3532
advising@montana.edu

Academic Advising

Academic Advising Mission

Academic Advising at MSU is a collaborative process between students, faculty and professional advisors designed to empower students to discover who they are as learners, where their academic interests lie, and how their University experience will shape their lives.

Academic Advising at MSU

At MSU, we believe that academic advising is a critical component of a student's university experience. Advising teaches students how to navigate their academic journey and take ownership of their college experience. Academic advisors are guides, mentors and educators who encourage personal development and lifelong learning, and who share information about curricula, resources and engagement opportunities. Students who engage in the advising process regularly will benefit from the guidance and support of their advisor.

Student Learning Outcomes

Through your active participation in academic advising, you will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of academic requirements, policies and procedures
2. Identify academic and personal goals
3. Create a plan to meet your goals
4. Gather and evaluate information to make informed decisions

Finding Your Advisor

- Log into your DegreeWorks profile in MyInfo to see your advisor. Clicking on their name will link you to their email.
- If an advisor is not yet specified in DegreeWorks, please contact your academic department or reach out to the Advising Team Lead for assistance. You can find the Team Lead information by going to montana.edu/advising/ and clicking on "Find Your Advisor" at the top, or simply searching "find my advisor" in the search window of the MSU homepage.

Student Advising Responsibilities

You are expected to take ownership of your university experience.

1. Engage in the advising process.
 - a. Meet with your academic advisor at least once a semester.
 - b. Be honest and keep an open mind.
 - c. Ask questions when something isn't clear.
 - d. Discuss goals, interests, strengths, values and challenges.
 - e. Get to know your advisor.

2. Adhere to MSU policies and deadlines.
3. Learn and follow the degree and curricular requirements of your chosen major.
 - a. Proactively monitor your progress toward graduation through DegreeWorks.
 - b. Check your grades and academic standing at the end of each semester.
 - c. Confirm your registration and course schedule each semester.
4. Prepare for your advising meetings.
 - a. Review DegreeWorks prior to advising meetings.
 - b. Create a list of questions and topics to discuss.
 - c. Identify courses for future semesters.
5. Follow up on advisor recommendations.
 - a. Utilize MSU's many resources to assist in meeting goals.

Advisor Responsibilities

You can expect your advisor to

1. Engage in the advising process.
 - a. Get to know you.
 - b. Actively listen to your ideas and concerns.
 - c. Guide you as you develop short- and long-term goals and create your plan to meet these goals.
 - d. Review advising notes from prior conversations before or during advising meetings.
 - e. Share accurate and timely information to assist in your decision-making process.
 - f. Refer you to appropriate campus resources.
 - g. Document advising conversations in DegreeWorks.
 - h. Provide recommendations, but expect and encourage you to make your own decisions.
2. Be knowledgeable about academic policies, procedures and deadlines.
3. Maintain student confidentiality as specified by university policy and mandated reporting requirements.
4. Facilitate your understanding of the nature and purpose of your curriculum and a university education.
5. Use advising and registration tools.
6. Review first-semester registration.
7. Hold regular advising hours and communicate method of scheduling meetings.
8. Follow up with advisees as appropriate.

MSU Technology & Class Registration

Registering for Classes

Planning your schedule?

NavMSU can help you schedule an appointment with your advisor and explore your major! Additional features include:



- A **Handraise** feature to find help and be connected to campus resources when you're not sure where to turn
- A **Study Buddy** platform to help you find and schedule time with other classmates interested in studying together"

Download NavMSU by searching "Navigate Student" in the App Store or visiting montana.edu/navmsu.

DegreeWorks can help you track your degree progress, plan your next semester, and see what classes you still have to take!



You can also view your placement data, prerequisites, and final grades from prior semesters!

Time to Register?

CatCourse can help you register for classes, select your schedule, and add and drop classes (after Orientation).

After you register

See your schedule in **MyInfo** and **NavMSU**.

You can make changes to your schedule after Orientation in **CatCourse** or **MyInfo** up until the 5th day of classes (to add) or the 10th day of classes (to drop).

Managing Your Campus Life

MyInfo

Your information hub!

Houses your Admissions Checklist, personal information, bill payment & financial aid, timesheet for campus jobs, student course schedule by day and time, and more.

Canvas

Track what's happening in your courses throughout the semester!

- See enrolled courses
- Communicate with Professors
- Submit assignments and track due dates
- See your in-progress grades
- Complete your required **Online Education—Thriving Together**

You may not see any course information until your instructors add their courses.

Duo



Used to secure your account!

Complete two-factor authentication using the Duo app, a phone call, a passcode, or a token.

You will have to complete Duo authentication once you are enrolled in classes and have a class schedule.

Download the app and learn more at montana.edu/uit/duo/.

CatsConnect



More than just online Orientation!

Your go-to platform for discovering student organizations, events, and involvement opportunities at MSU—all in one place!

Explore these and other useful MSU apps. ▶



montana.edu/registrar/essentialapps

Course Registration and Logging In

Student ID

Your Student ID (sometimes called MSU ID or GID) is a unique eight-digit number preceded by a dash. It follows the format -02345678. Your Student ID is used to keep track of your records and progress within the university.

NetID

Your NetID is a unique seven character identifier composed of a combination of letters and numbers. It follows the format x99z999. If you lost your NetID or need to change the password, you can reclaim your NetID at www3.montana.edu/netidclaim. You will use your NetID to log in to all MSU lower case technology systems on campus.

Registering with CatCourse

1. Start at montana.edu/myinfo.
2. Log in.
3. Enter your NetID in the username box.
a. If you have not claimed your NetID: _____
4. Enter your MyInfo password in the Password box.
a. If you have logged in before, you created this password previously.
b. If you have forgotten your password, click Reset Your Password on the right-hand side of the page, and follow instructions accordingly.
5. Student Services > Registration > CatCourse > Select the term.
6. Add Course to select your courses. Note: you can search and select courses from Subject or by CORE category.
a. Click Add Course after reviewing the course description and prerequisites.
b. After all courses are added, click Save and Close.
7. Click Add Break to enter times that you do not wish to take classes.
8. In your list of courses, review course specific information by clicking on Options
9. Click Generate Schedules to see your schedule options based on your courses and desired breaks.
10. Click Shuffle to see a variety of schedule possibilities.
11. To view schedules, you can:
a. Hover over the magnifying glass to preview a schedule.
b. Check up to four boxes to Compare schedules side by side.
c. Click View on a specific schedule to see full details.
12. Once you have viewed the schedule you wish to register for, click Send to Registration Cart.
13. Enter your Alternate/Advisor PIN.
14. Register.

Tips to reduce the number of schedules:

1. De-select multiple sections or select a specific section through the Options view.
2. Lock a specific section of a course using the padlock icon when you are looking at a particular schedule. Once a course is locked the schedule results are narrowed to be compatible with the locked selection(s).

To change your course schedule after you register:

1. Click on "Add/Drop Classes" from the MyInfo Registration menu under Student Services.
2. From Current Schedule, find the course you want to drop and select "Drop on the Web" from the pull down menu. Then click "Submit Changes."
3. Enter CatCourse again. To eliminate courses already on your list of courses, uncheck the box next to that course, or delete it altogether by clicking the "X" next to the course. If you still have remaining courses in your Registration Cart, those courses will be listed on the CatCourse homepage under Registration Cart. You must de-select any courses remaining in your Registration Cart if you do not wish to include them in new schedule generations.
4. Proceed with steps 9–14.

Registering with CatCourse Visual Guide



Claim your NetID

- Once you are on the MyInfo log in page, click on **Claim/Reclaim your NetID**. Enter your student ID number. This number may be found on your acceptance letter, and is formatted as follows: **-01234567**. Be sure to include the dash when entering your ID number.
- When prompted, enter your date of birth.
- The site will provide you with your NetID. It is formatted as follows: **x99p999**. Please write your NetID down before proceeding.
- Select the **Self-Service Password Portal** link below your NetID.
- Click on the blue **Go to Password Portal** button.
- Select the **New User Setup** option in the self-service dashboard.
- Configure your profile and set a secure password of your choice.

Log in to MyInfo

- Start by visiting the **MyInfo** log in page. If you have not claimed your NetID at this point, please select the **Claim/Reclaim your NetID** option.
- Choose the **Log in to MyInfo (NetID)** option.
- Enter your NetID in the username box, and your password.
- You should now have access to your MyInfo dashboard. To access your admissions checklist, select the **Undergraduate Admissions Checklist** option.

Registration to Graduation

Degree Requirements

To successfully earn a degree from Montana State University, you must satisfy all departmental (major courses and electives) and university (a minimum of 42 upper division credits, a minimum of 120 credits, a minimum GPA of 2.0 and a minimum of 30 core credits, one class in each competency area) requirements. Please note that some departments have stricter requirements than the university; for example, you might need to earn a C, not a C-. Zero level courses count towards full-time status, housing, and scholarship eligibility but students do not earn college-level credit and it is not considered in one's GPA. You can find a complete list of degree requirements in the catalog at catalog.montana.edu.

Grades

Grades of C- or better are required to satisfy CORE, university and departmental requirements. Grades of D, D- and D+ may count toward the overall 120 credit minimum to earn a degree from MSU. Check with your department for details. Some degrees have a higher minimum grade requirement for degree specific courses. A complete list of definitions of course, credit, credit load, curriculum, semester and grades can be found in the Curriculum, Enrollment and Graduation section of the catalog: http://catalog.montana.edu/curriculum-enrollment-graduation/#Credits_and_Grades

Add/Drop Process

During your time at MSU, you are going to need to add or drop a class. The Registration Handbook and the Registrar's Office website are the tools you'll need to know when you can add or drop with or without a grade. Here are the general deadlines. Be sure to investigate the details each semester.

Last Day to Add Online	Last day to add a class	Last day to drop online	Last day to drop w/o a W Grade	Last day to drop with a W Grade
5th day of class	10th day of class	10th day of class	15th day of class	60th day of class

Add/Drop schedules and deadlines (last day to add/last day to drop without a grade, etc.) are published each semester on the Registrar's Office website: montana.edu/registrar.

Code of Conduct

Students are essential members of the MSU community and are expected to uphold and abide by certain standards of conduct that form the basis of the Code of Student Conduct. The student conduct process at MSU is an educational and developmental process that balances the interests of individual students with the interests of the academic community. Students can learn more at montana.edu/knowyourcode.

Required Online Education — Thriving Together

As part of our comprehensive prevention program for new students, Montana State University requires all incoming students to complete Thriving Together. This online training will empower you to make well-informed decisions about campus safety and well-being. It addresses topics such as sexual assault prevention, substance use prevention, and mental health issues, including strategies to address these issues in healthy ways. This training does not include explicit descriptions and has been designed with an intentionally trauma-informed approach. You can access the training through our learning platform, Canvas. You will also receive an email with instructions. Please ensure your preferred email address is listed in MyInfo. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Wellness Office at thrivingtogether@montana.edu.

Academic Calendar

Fall 2025

Classes Begin	August 20
Labor Day Holiday	September 1
<i>no classes, offices closed</i>	
Veterans Day Holiday	November 11
<i>no classes, offices closed</i>	
Fall Break	November 24–28
Last Day of Finals	December 11
Commencement	December 12

Spring 2026

Classes Begin	January 13
Martin L. King Day	January 19
<i>no classes, offices closed</i>	
Presidents Day	February 16
<i>no classes, offices closed</i>	
Spring Break	March 16–20
<i>no classes, offices open</i>	
University Day	April 3
<i>no classes, offices open</i>	
Last Day of Finals	May 7
Commencement	May 8

Summer 2026

May 4x4 Begins	May 18
Memorial Day	May 25
<i>no classes, offices closed</i>	
June 4x4 Begins	June 15
Independence Day	July 4
<i>no classes, offices closed</i>	
July 4x4 Begins	July 13
Last Day of Classes	August 7

Fall 2026

Classes Begin	August 26
Labor Day Holiday	September 7
<i>no classes, offices closed</i>	
Veterans Day Holiday	November 11
<i>no classes, offices closed</i>	
Fall Break	November 23–27
Last Day of Finals	December 17
Commencement	December 18

course bulletin

A Student's Guide to Coursework and Curriculum

catalog.montana.edu

Montana State University is home to over 250 academic programs, each with a unique emphasis on hands-on, research-based education. MSU maintains a digital course catalog, designed to allow students to explore their academic options in more detail. This catalog is available to any interested prospective student or family member.

Academic Programs

Discover MSU's 250+ academic options, available through eight distinct academic colleges on our campus.

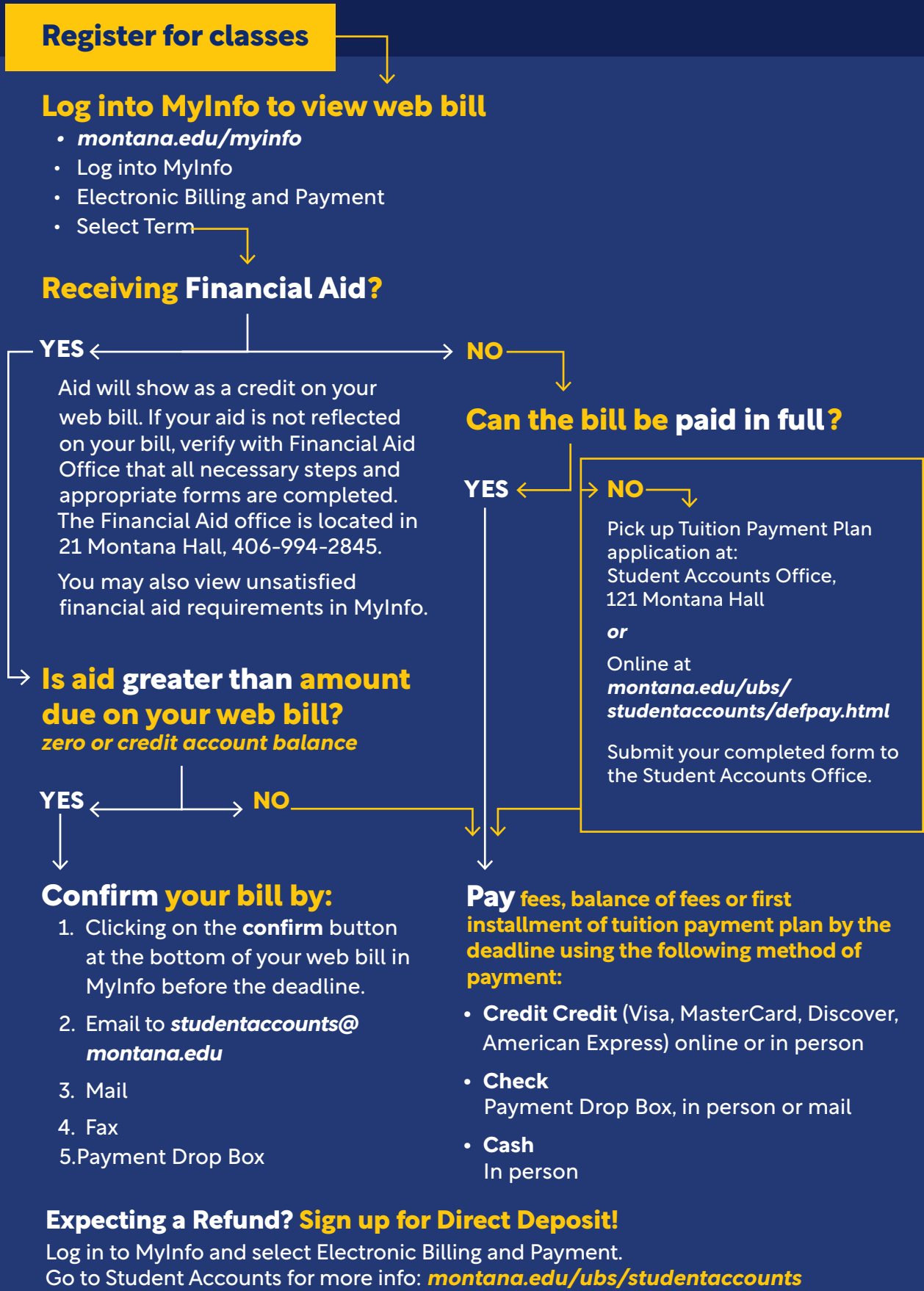
Course Descriptions

Learn more about the different courses offered on our campus, including learning objectives and strategies.

Academic Calendar

Explore MSU's academic calendar, including school holidays, unique programming, campus events and more.

Fee Payment Process



Student Accounts

Where do I find my student bill?

MSU uses a paperless billing system. To view your web bill, log in to your MyInfo account, montana.edu/myinfo, and select Electronic Billing & Payment.

I've been told to "confirm" my bill; what does this mean and how do I do it?

Confirming your bill lets the university know you have reviewed your bill for accuracy and that you are attending the semester billed. After reviewing your bill:

- If you have a balance due, you must pay your entire bill or sign up for a tuition payment plan and make the first payment by the published deadline in order to be confirmed.
- If you have a zero balance or a credit is due to you, you must click on the Confirm button at the bottom of your web bill by the published deadline.

A \$40 Late Fee will be assessed to all students who have not paid/confirmed their bill by the deadline.

When do I need to pay/confirm my bill?

Fall 2025 Bill Confirmation (Tuition & Fee Payment) Deadlines

Registered on or before July 31, 2025	Confirm bill (pay all charges) by August 8, 2025 to avoid a \$40 late payment fee.
Registered on or after August 1, 2025	Confirm bill (pay all charges) by August 27, 2025 to avoid a \$40 late payment fee.

All students must take some kind of action to be confirmed by September 10, 2025 to avoid possible cancellation of classes and an additional \$40 late fee.

Spring 2026 Bill Confirmation (Tuition & Fee Payment) Deadlines

Registered on or before December 31, 2025	Confirm bill (pay all charges) by January 9, 2026 to avoid a \$40 late payment fee.
Registered on or after January 1, 2026	Confirm bill (pay all charges) by January 20, 2026 to avoid a \$40 late payment fee.

All students must take some kind of action to be confirmed by February 3, 2026 to avoid possible cancellation of classes and an additional \$40 late fee.

Do you offer tuition payment plans?

Yes. If you are unable to pay your full account balance by the due date, you can complete a tuition payment plan application online at montana.edu/ubs/studentaccounts/defpay.html and make monthly payments. There is an application fee, but no interest is charged.



I'm expecting a financial aid refund.

Do you offer direct deposit?

Yes. To enroll, log in to MyInfo, select Electronic Billing & Payment and click on QuikPay. In QuikPay select Manage Refunds, and then edit your refund method.

Student Accounts

121 Montana Hall • 406-994-1991 • studentaccounts@montana.edu • montana.edu/ubs/studentaccounts

Finding Community & Belonging

MSU Student Commons

The mission of the MSU Student Commons is to increase understanding, create a more inclusive campus culture, inspire critical thinking, and support students who identify with a wide range of backgrounds. The Student Commons offers a wide range of services, such as educational programs, workshops, seminars, and events that facilitate meaningful conversations and support both personal and community growth. 406-994-4701 • disc@montana.edu • montana.edu/studentcommons

Veteran Services

Montana State University believes that in providing access to quality education for all veterans. Each year, Veteran services works with hundreds of veteran students to help them achieve their academic goals. The Veteran Support Center is available to all veterans of the U.S. military, eligible dependents, and members of the Selected Reserve who receive Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) educational benefits. In addition to certifying eligible recipients for veteran educational benefits, the Veteran Support Center staff will help you select the right program for you, make sure you understand your rights and responsibilities under DVA regulations, and provide information and referral services. 406-994-3661 • vets@montana.edu • montana.edu/veteran

American Indian/Alaska Native Student Success Services (AIANSSS)

AIANSSS serves approximately 700 MSU American Indian/Alaska native students by offering services such as advocacy and support, networking with various American Indian student organizations, Native American studies academic advising, use of the American Indian student support center, tutoring, counseling, and referrals, emergency loans, and connection to other campus and community resources and supporters. MSU's brand new American Indian Hall is a campus home for our native students, a place to share meals and meet other students from similar backgrounds. 406.994.4880 • lisa.perry@montana.edu • montana.edu/native

Office of Disability Services

The Office of Disability Services strives to help students with disabilities reach their personal best. This is accomplished through providing reasonable academic accommodations, connecting students to other campus resources, and promoting self-advocacy skills. The Office of Disability Services' purpose is to provide access to all college programs, services, and activities for students with disabilities. 406-994-2824 • disabilityservices@montana.edu • montana.edu/disabilityservices

Office of Student Engagement

The Office of Student Engagement (OSE) helps students get involved at MSU through events, student organizations, leadership programs, and community engagement opportunities. Whether through joining student organizations, participating in campus events like MSU Debut, or volunteering in the community, OSE empowers students to create connections, develop leadership skills, and make a positive impact during their time at MSU. View a full list of our student organizations at the URL below. 406.994.2933 • engagement@montana.edu • montanastate.campuslabs.com/engage

Access and Success

By providing comprehensive support through the Leadership Institute, Student Commons, Women's Center, educational training programs, and community resources, we aim to break down barriers to access, promote personal and academic success, and cultivate leadership potential. Our commitment is to ensure that every individual from any background has the resources, opportunities, and support needed to thrive and contribute meaningfully to a diverse and dynamic campus community. • montana.edu/access-success

Health & Wellness

Student Wellness

The Student Wellness Center is MSU's one-stop shop for health and wellbeing. The new 165,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility provides a wide range of services and programs designed to support students on their wellness journey throughout their time at MSU. Prioritizing health and wellbeing during college is critical for student success, helping students manage stress, maintain and enhance physical and mental health, and achieve their academic and personal goals. Departments within Student Wellness include Campus Recreation, Counseling and Psychological Services, and Student Health Services. Student Wellness offers programs to reduce risk and harm from the use of substances and other drugs. Other programs include safe sex resources and training, basic needs support including a food pantry, and general wellness education. 406-994-4380 • montana.edu/wellness

Counseling & Psychological Services (CPS)

CPS provides individual, group, and couples confidential counseling to both undergraduate and graduate students as well as offers workshops and trainings. We offer same day walk in appointments to students who need immediate support, as well as Let's Talk drop-in consultations throughout the week where making an appointment is not necessary. Please go to our website for more information about scheduling and for self-help resources. 406-994-4531 • montana.edu/counseling

Student Health Services

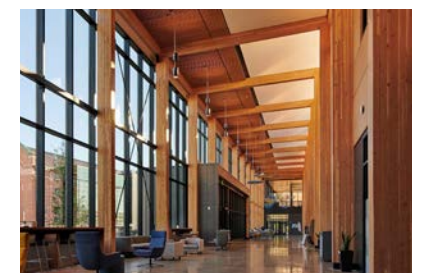
Student Health Services provides comprehensive medical and dental care for MSU students. Services include primary care with lab and x-ray onsite, sexual health, psychiatry, women's health, nutrition counseling, emergency and preventative dental care, and a full-service pharmacy. Our goal is to empower students in navigating their health so they can make the most of their Bobcat experience. 406-994-2311 • studenthealth@montana.edu • montana.edu/wellness/student-health-services/

Campus Recreation

Campus Recreation promotes and enhances student wellbeing through a variety of movement-based options. Our programs welcome all levels of users by creating engaging, welcoming and informative options in all our program areas. We offer participation in 25 club sports, tournament and league intramural play, rentals, clinics, trips and workshops through our outdoor recreation program, drop-in classes for fitness or guided one on one personal training and open rec, lap swim in our aquatics program. Come join us and find your play. campusrec@montana.edu • 406-994-5000 • montana.edu/campusrec



MSU's new Student Wellness Center



Safety & Support

Safe Cats App

Safe Cats is MSU's campus sponsored safety app that is available for free in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. The app features multiple services including an emergency button to dial 911, safety escorts, anonymous police reporting, action directions for emergencies and location sharing services.
406-994-2121 • montana.edu/police/safe_cats.html

Office of Dean of Students

The Dean of Students Office offers support during times of conflict, facilitates healing during times of crisis, and provides educational opportunities during times of development. The Dean of Students staff manages student conduct, the Bobcat Parent & Family Program, Fraternity & Sorority Life, MSU's CARE Program, and supports students during a time in which a leave of absence may occur.

- The purpose of the **Student Code of Conduct** is to establish community standards and procedures necessary to maintain and protect an environment conducive to learning and in keeping with the educational objectives of the University. The expectations identified in MSU's policy represent a reasonable regulation of student conduct to help facilitate these standards.
- The **CARE Program** is an anonymous wellness tip line reviewed on a weekly basis. If you are concerned about the welfare of someone affiliated with MSU and it is a non-emergency, we encourage you to complete a CARE Referral.
- **Annual Security Reports** are available online for reference and includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus.
406-994-2826

deanofstudents@montana.edu • montana.edu/deanofstudents/

Safety in the Dorms: University Student Housing (USH)

Montana State University is committed to providing a safe living environment for all residents. University Student Housing has taken many proactive steps to ensure every student feels safe and secure. These measures include 24/7 locked residence halls only accessible by CatCard, fire sprinklers and smoke/fire detection systems in all halls, trained residence advisors (RAs) assigned to each floor and consistent front desk attendants. For more information about residence hall community standards please refer to the MSU Student Code of Conduct.

406-994-2661 • housing@montana.edu • montana.edu/housing/halls/handbook.html

Montana State University Police Department (UPD)

The mission of the MSU Police Department is to provide students, faculty, staff and visitors a safe and secure environment for living and learning. In addition to crime reduction services, officers also offer services such as weapon storage and safety escorts.

406-994-2121 • police@montana.edu • montana.edu/police

MSU Alert

All students, faculty, and staff are automatically enrolled into MSU Alert. MSU Alert notifies the MSU community of emergency notifications, timely warnings, and public safety advisories. These notifications can be sent in the form of an email, an automated phone call, and a text message. Parents and family members are also eligible to register for MSU Alert.

406-994-2121 • montana.edu/msualert

Campus Civil Rights (CCR)

Montana State University is dedicated to ensuring an environment of non-discrimination and equal opportunity in its education programs and employment opportunities in compliance with state and federal laws. To that end, Campus Civil Rights recommends, writes, interprets, and implements policies and procedures in support of non-discrimination, and serves as the office responsible for coordinating the University's compliance with Title IX. CCR also provides preventative education and training on topics such as affirmative consent, positive team dynamics, bystander intervention, and combating discrimination.

406-994-1568 • civilrights@montana.edu • montana.edu/civilrights

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Campus Resources

Academic Support

Academic Advising Center • 406-994-3532 • montana.edu/universitystudies/advising

Math and Statistic Center • 406-994-3601 • math.montana.edu/undergrad/msc

Writing Center • 406-994-5315 • montana.edu/writingcenter

General

Ask Us Info Center • 406-994-INFO • montana.edu/askus

ASMSU • 406-994-2873 • montana.edu/asmsu

Cat Card Office • 406-994-CARD • montana.edu/catcard

Dean of Students • 406-994-2826 • montana.edu/deanofstudents

Financial Aid • 406-994-2845 • montana.edu/financialaid

MSU Bookstore • 406-994-2811 • msubookstore.org

Office of International Programs • 406-994-4031 • montana.edu/international

Parking Services • 406-994-1723 • montana.edu/international

Registrar's Office • 406-994-6650 • montana.edu/registrar

Testing Services • 406-994-6984 • montana.edu/testing

University Student Housing • 406-994-2661 • montana.edu/housing

University Police • 406-994-2121 • montana.edu/police

Student Support & Involvement

Campus Civil Right • 406-994-1568 • montana.edu/civilrights

Office of Student Engagement • 406-994-2933 • montana.edu/engagement

Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success • 406-994-7627 • montana.edu/aycss

Career, Internship & Student Employment Services • 406-994-4353 • montana.edu/aycss/careers

Office of Student Success • 406-994-7627 • montana.edu/aycss/success

Office of Financial Education • 406-994-7627 • montana.edu/aycss/financialedu

Return to Learn • 406-994-2824 • montana.edu/returntolearn

MSU Library • 406-994-3139 • lib.montana.edu

Off-Campus Student Life • 406-994-7571 • montana.edu/ocsl

Office of Disability Services • 406-994-2824 • montana.edu/disabilityservices

Veteran Services • 406-994-3661 • montana.edu/veteran

Honors College • 406-994-4110 • montana.edu/honors

Student Accounts • 406-994-1991 • montana.edu/ubs/studentaccounts

Student Commons • 406-994-4701 • montana.edu/studentcommons

Native American Student Success Center • 406-994-4880 • montana.edu/aiansss

Women's Center • 406-994-3836 • montana.edu/women

Health & Wellness

Counseling & Psychological Services • 406-994-4531 • montana.edu/counseling

Dental Services • 406-994-2314 • montana.edu/dental

Student Health Services • 406-994-2311 • montana.edu/wellness/student-health-services




Prepping for Fall


Reminders for Arrival

Living on campus in the Fall?
Fall 2025 Move-In Dates:
Sunday,
August 17, 2025
and
Monday,
August 18, 2025


Don't forget to sign up for a move-in time slot in the Housing Portal starting July 7, 2025 at 9 am MDT.
Residence Hall FAQ




Bringing a car?
Purchase your parking permit starting August 1.
Parking Permit Information:



Suggested Items to bring with You
View the list.




Have you uploaded your CatCard Photo?
Uploading a photo in advance to the GET Mobile app will ensure that your CatCard is printed when you arrive on campus.




Have you completed your Required Online Training: Thriving Together?
This online training will empower you to make well-informed decisions about campus safety and well-being. You can access the training through our learning platform, Canvas. You will also receive an email with instructions. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Wellness Office at thrivingtogether@montana.edu.

Log into Canvas here



Have you bought your textbooks?
Once you have your class schedule, follow this link to the MSU bookstore to find options for buying or renting textbooks and other course materials.



MSU Debut
MSU Debut is Montana State University's signature welcome program, designed to help new and returning students transition smoothly to campus life. This program includes Move-In, Orientation, and Convocation, along with a variety of Engagement Events to help students connect and get involved. MSU Debut engagement events include:

- M Photo
- MSU Debut Concert
- Catapalooza
- Rockin' the M
- Food Truck Rodeo
- and more!

www.montana.edu/msudebut/



MONTANA STATE



MSU Fight Song
*Stand up and cheer,
Cheer long and loud for dear Montana STATE!
For today we raise
The Blue and Gold to wave victorious!
Our sturdy band now is fighting
And we are here to win the fray
We've got the VIM!
We're here to WIN!
For this is dear MONTANA STATE!*

My First Semester

Freshman Year

Course 1:

Course 2:

Course 3:

Course 4:

Course 5:

Course 6:

Back up classes:

The CORE I am fulfilling is:

My recommended math class (if needed):

I need to follow up on:

My advisor approved the following:

My Advisor	Email	Phone	Office
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Notes

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Post-orientation survey:



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Course Catalog

A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO
COURSEWORK & CURRICULUM
2025-2026

Montana State University is home to over 250 academic programs, each with a unique emphasis on hands-on, research-based education. MSU maintains a digital course catalog, designed to allow students to explore their academic options in more detail. This catalog is available to any interested prospective student or family member.

To access the catalog, please visit: catalog.montana.edu

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Academic Calendar Explore MSU's academic calendar, including school holidays, unique programming, campus events and more.

Bulletin of Montana State University

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