



LIFE Scholars

Learning Is For Everyone

Student Application Packet

The deadline for submitting applications is March 1.

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the MSU LIFE Scholars program! Our goal is to provide you with a fully inclusive college experience where you will have the opportunity to earn a non-degree certificate, become a lifelong learner, develop self-determination to achieve your personal and professional goals, make friends to expand your social networks, explore careers, and obtain a meaningful, competitive job after graduation.

Please make sure you meet the eligibility requirements before completing your application.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must:

- be at least 18 years of age.
- have completed all of their high school requirements.
- identify as an individual with an intellectual /developmental disability*
- be able to follow the MSU Student Code of Conduct.
- be willing to accept redirection.
- have basic independence skills**
- be able to independently care for their personal hygiene.
- have a strong desire to go to college!

* The selection committee prioritizes access to the program to students with an identified intellectual disability who traditionally have been unable to participate in higher education.

** Our expectation is that students will be able to safely navigate campus independently or with minimal support after initial orientation. We do not have the capacity to provide 1:1 support at all times for students to be safe and successful.

Our application process is as follows:

1. Applicants complete and submit an application packet by the deadline of March 1.
2. Packets will be reviewed during the first week of March and eligible applicants will be invited to MSU for an interview with the selection committee.
3. Students will be notified of their acceptance status by the end of the first week in April.

If you have any questions, or are unsure whether or not you meet the eligibility requirements, please contact Christy Sofianek, MSU LIFE Scholars Program Director, at christy.sofianek@montana.edu or 406.994.3688.

We look forward to receiving your application!

Sincerely,

The MSU LIFE Scholars Team

STUDENT ADMISSION PROCESS

1. Complete and sign the application (either online or in a hard copy version)
2. Attach Documentation of Disability (one or more of the following):
 - a. Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
 - b. Personal Support Plan (PSP)
 - c. Other official evaluation
3. Attach 2 Letters of Recommendation (no family please)
4. Attach or send in a current student photograph
5. If you are applying from a state other than Montana, submit a \$30 non-refundable check made out to MSU, and your completed application packet to:

**MSU LIFE Scholars
College of Education, Health & Human Development C/O Christy Sofianek
455 Reid Hall
P.O. Box 172940
Bozeman, MT 59717-2940**

EDUCATION HISTORY (include high school(s) and colleges or universities)

Name of School	City, State	Dates Attended	Graduation Date or Reason for Leaving

Name of diploma or certificate received: _____

Date received: _____

MSU SAFETY AND SECURITY INFORMATION

1. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? (Please include instance of deferred sentencing)? Yes No

A felony in Montana State law is defined as a crime for which more than one year in prison may be imposed.

If yes, please explain: _____

2. Have you ever been subjected to court-ordered confinement for threatening or causing physical or emotional injury to persons or property? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

3. Have you ever been disciplined by, suspended from, or placed on probation at any educational institution for nonacademic reasons? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

4. Have you ever been required to register as a sexual or violent offender? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be asked by MSU to provide additional information, which will be reviewed to ensure campus safety.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Student receives support or services from: (Check all that apply & indicate if you are on a waiting list.)

- MT Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)
- MT Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Other _____

Did you participate in general education classes during high school? Yes No

If yes, please list inclusive classes:

Please describe your academic strengths and challenges.

Strengths:

Challenges:

How do you think you learn best?

Please describe any accommodations used in school.

Are there any assistive tools that you use regularly? Yes No

If yes, please explain:

WORK HISTORY

Volunteer (V) Paid (P)	Name of Employer or Organization	Job Title	Job Duties	Start-End Dates

Have you received job coaching during your work experiences? Yes No

Have you ever been fired from a job? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Have you ever quit a job? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Have you ever had difficulty getting along with a supervisor, co-worker or customer on a job?

Yes No

If yes, how did you handle that? _____

Please list how you are currently occupied (school, work, volunteer, support services activities, etc.):

ACTIVITY	TIME (Day of week, Hrs.)	Provider (if applicable)

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Why do you want to be a MSU LIFE Scholar?

What classes are you interested in taking?

What social activities, clubs or events are of interest to you?

What are your future career goals after college? *(What type of job would you like?)*

How do you want to be employed in the community upon completion of your college experience?

Full-time Part-time (16+ hrs./week)

What are your future living goals? *(Do you want to live on your own, with a roommate or your family?)*

Please use this space to share anything else about yourself that you'd like us to know.

Student Skills Assessment

Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____

Please use the following scale to document your skill level in each area. The document may be completed with input from parents or guardians.

1 = I need total support. 2 = I need some support. 3 = I am independent.

				Comments from student and/or parents/guardians
Academics				
Reading	1	2	3	
Writing	1	2	3	
Basic Math	1	2	3	
Money	1	2	3	
Note taking	1	2	3	
Study and homework skills	1	2	3	
Communication / Social Skills				
Introduces self	1	2	3	
Follows directions	1	2	3	
Follows a schedule	1	2	3	
Shows up on time	1	2	3	
Communicates needs	1	2	3	
Engages in a conversation	1	2	3	
Accepts feedback	1	2	3	
Disagrees politely	1	2	3	

				Comments
Technology				
Phone - Makes calls, answers the phone, takes messages	1	2	3	
Sends and receives texts	1	2	3	
Uses social media (FB, snapchat)	1	2	3	
Computer – searches the web, emails, creates documents	1	2	3	
Uses a keyboard	1	2	3	
Transportation / Navigation				
Uses Public Transportation	1	2	3	
Navigates places (school, neighborhood, campus)	1	2	3	
Asks for directions or help	1	2	3	
Sets up rides, reads a bus schedule	1	2	3	
Makes plans and goes places with friends or family	1	2	3	
Careful around strangers	1	2	3	
Hygiene and Personal Care				
Takes a bath or shower every day and uses deodorant	1	2	3	
Brushes teeth daily	1	2	3	
Keeps hair clean and neat	1	2	3	
Dresses appropriately for the weather	1	2	3	

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VOLUNTARY INFORMATION

Gender: Female Male Self Identify _____

Have either of your parents or guardian(s) completed a bachelor’s degree? Yes No

If so, was this a degree from Montana State University in Bozeman? Yes No

Please indicate if you are:

Hispanic or Latino

Black or African American

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

White

Race/Ethnicity unknown

Other (please specify) _____

SIGNATURE (required)

This application for admission is not legally binding.

I certify that the information submitted in this application is true and complete. If I enroll at Montana State University, I agree to pay to the University all tuition, fees, fines, and debts that I may incur by the assigned due dates. If I fail to make acceptable payment arrangements to bring my account current, Montana State University will take action against me to collect any unpaid debts including withholding of registration and transcript(s) and assignment of the debt for collection. I understand that I will then be responsible for paying the principal plus collection agency fees of a maximum of 33% of my delinquent account balance, including costs, expenses and reasonable attorney’s fees necessary for the collection of my delinquent account. Collection accounts are reported to one or more of the national credit bureaus.

Applicant’s Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Legal Guardian or Conservator (if applicable): _____

Name of person assisting student with the application: _____

Relationship to student: _____ **Date:** _____

MSU LIFE Scholars 2023-2024 Residential Questionnaire

Montana State University offers a limited number of on-campus housing opportunities for students in the LIFE Scholars program. On-campus housing is not guaranteed and is dependent on space and support availability. If you are interested in living on campus, please read and acknowledge the information below before proceeding to the questionnaire.

What is the eligibility criteria for living on campus?

Students need to:

- Live independently with minimal support offered by the Resident Assistant.
- Be independent with medications.
- Be independent with hygiene needs .
- Be able to independently navigate campus (with or w/o tools like google maps).
- Be able to communicate their wants/needs with roommate, RA, and LS staff
- Be responsive to communication from LS staff (answer calls and texts)
- Manage downtime (comfort with filling time during the weekends).

What support will students receive in the residence hall?

The LIFE Scholars program will recruit an MSU student to provide support for LIFE Scholars living in the residence hall. This support person is referred to as a Residential Peer Partner (RPP) and will either be a roommate or neighbor of the LIFE Scholar. RPPs assist scholars in maintaining a safe living environment, getting involved on campus and having a successful living experience.

Residential Peer Partners are not responsible for self-care or administration of medication. If you require this level of support, it is important that you communicate these needs with the LIFE Scholars staff before confirming your acceptance. Residential Peer Partners are not full-time support and do not provide full-time supervision. **An RPP is mandatory for your first year in the residence hall and is conditional in the following years.** **Students may request not to have an RPP upon program approval.*

What are the costs to live in the MSU residence halls?

In order to live in residence halls, students are responsible for Housing and Meal Plan costs.

- [Room and mandatory meal rates](#) vary depending on the dorm and meal plan selected.
- LIFE Scholars program housing fee: *To Be Determined*
- Residential Peer Partner Roommate (RPPR) fee - *To Be Determined*

Scholarships to cover the cost of housing fees are available through the LIFE Scholars program. If you are interested in financial assistance, please indicate this on the questionnaire.



Please fill out the next 3 pages only if you are interested in applying for housing.

HOUSING Application

What year will you be in the program for Fall 2023? _____

Will you need a scholarship to live in the dorms? Yes No

Part 1: Personal and Contact Information

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Legal Guardian: ___Self ___ Other (If other, their name): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name : _____

Emergency Contact Phone Number: _____

Part 2: Living in the Residence Halls

Why do you want to live on campus and what are your goals?

What kinds of support will you need to be successful living on campus? Please be as specific as possible (laundry, cleaning room, navigating campus, dining hall support, social, etc.)

What would you like your future roommate to know about you?

Please rank your preferred living situation (put a 1 next to your top choice, a 2 next to your second choice, etc.):

- Double room with LIFE Scholar – *List student's name if known* _____
- Double room with Residential Peer Partner
- Double room with other MSU student – *List student's name if known* _____
- Single room (*limited availability*)

We cannot guarantee but will do our best to match you with your preference.

Part 3: Housing Policy

I understand that I am solely responsible for paying all associated costs, maintaining good academic standing, and behaviors consistent with [MSU housing policies](#). I understand if I do not follow the policies, I will be asked to leave the residence halls.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date