

Montana State University, Student Bill of Rights

Preamble

All students of Montana State University are members of an academic community of scholars and learners. As members of this academic community, students are guaranteed certain individual rights by state and federal law and policies of the Montana Board of Regents and Montana State University.

We, the Students of Montana State University, with the support and approval of the University Council of Montana State University, thereby affirm this document in order to preserve and inform students of their rights, in accepting these rights, students accept the responsibility to act in a mature and responsible manner that furthers the mission of Montana State University: to educate students, create knowledge and art, and serve communities, by integrating learning, discovery, and engagement.

- I. Students, as valued members of the Montana State University academic community, have the right to a living and learning environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community, as provided in Montana State University's [Discrimination Policy](#)
- II. Students have the right to peaceful assembly, petition for redress or peaceably protest university or government action in accordance with constitutional, statutory, and policy protections.
- III. Students are free to express their opinions on the Montana State University campus, and in the classroom as it related to the course content, in accordance with Montana State University's [Free Expression Policy](#).
- IV. The Montana University System is obligated to respect a student's constitutional and statutory rights of privacy. Students have the right to privacy of their educational records as required by federal and state law. Under Montana law, Montana State University may not require a student to sign any contract that would waive the student's right to privacy and due process of law. Officials of Montana State University may not enter the room of a student in university housing unless the official has given the student a notice in writing, except in emergencies. A search or entry by any law enforcement official shall be in accordance with city, county, state, and federal law.
- V. Students have the right to a fair, prompt and impartial hearing when charged with violations of the [Student Conduct Code](#), including: the right to be informed about charges and procedures; the right to have an advisor present in conduct hearings; and the right to appeal resulting decisions and any arbitrary or capricious sanctions. Students accused of academic misconduct have the right to an informal meeting with the instructor who will provide the opportunity for the student to respond or explain the alleged academic misconduct and may appeal Instructor Imposed Sanctions to the department head and dean as specified in the [Academic Misconduct Procedures](#).
- VI. Students have the right to representation by a student governmental organization that shall be composed of representatives elected by members of the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) as outlined in the ASMSU Constitution and Board of Regents Policy. Students shall have the right to petition and participate in the ASMSU student government in accordance with the ASMSU Constitution and Montana Board of Regents policy.
- VII. Students have the right to participate in the process of any fee or tuition change through the Associated Students of Montana State University Senate in accordance with Board of Regents Policy.

VIII. The university has established academic responsibilities for instructors and students. In accordance with the Instructor Responsibilities, instructors are expected to:

- State in writing the general content and objectives of the course or academic program, described with reasonable accuracy, at the first or second class meeting.
- Meet their classes regularly and at scheduled times or arrange for the prompt notification of students of cancellation in case of illness or emergency.
- Make time available for student meetings, preferably through regularly scheduled office hours, with the opportunity provided for prearranged appointments.
- Outline their grading policies in the syllabus and be fair and prompt in grading class assignments and tests.
- Students have the right to reasonable protection against retaliation when filing grievances related to grades or instruction complaints.

IX. The Faculty and University Administration are responsible for ensuring that they adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards and behavior in working with undergraduate and graduate students. Students shall be held to the same standard. This includes discrimination from within the classroom community and extending to the entire University community.

X. Students have the right to pursue a course of study that allows them to graduate in a timely manner, including the opportunity for the [Graduation Guarantee Programs](#) offered by the university.

The Montana State University Student Bill of Rights serves to reaffirm the rights already granted to students of Montana State University by Montana State University, and Montana University System policies as well as student rights granted by state and federal laws.

In addition to the rights granted by this Bill of Rights, students have academic and conduct responsibilities as outlined in the [Conduct Guidelines and Grievance Procedures for Students](#).

The Associated Students of Montana State University or Office of the Dean of Students are available to provide information to students who believe that the rights described above have been violated.

Any changes to this bill of rights shall be initiated through the Associated Students of Montana State University. Any proposed changes will be reviewed by the by the ASMSU Senate and the Vice President for Student Success. If determined to be appropriate for adoption as a university policy, the proposed changes will be submitted to the University Council for approval.