



'Jacket Leadership Team Meeting Minutes January 13, 2026, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

The 'Jacket Leadership Team promotes shared governance by including a wide representation of departmental leaders in decision-making processes and the enacting of institutional priorities. It aims to enhance the university's mission, improve operational efficiency, and foster a collaborative environment that promotes academic excellence and student success.

Please share all information from today's meeting with the stakeholder group you represent.

DID YOU KNOW?

During the course of the Fall 2025 registration period, 535 different students were on the waitlist for 159 different courses totaling 823 waitlisted registrations.

INTRODUCTIONS

Amanda Stonerock, Director of Montana Center for Inclusive Education

Elijah Sneigoski, ASMSUB President

INFORMATION

NWCCU Board Presentation

Kathleen Thatcher provided an update and the next steps in the university's seven-year accreditation cycle. She thanked everyone who helped and participated in the visit from the peer review team in October. Chancellor Hicswa, Provost Vartanian, and Kathleen will appear before the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) Board at the end of January. The final determination from the Commission Board is expected in late February.

Strategic Planning Update

Kathleen Thatcher thanked participants for their engagement so far and emphasized that their input is important to the process. She noted that Karen Miller of Kaleidoscope Group brings an innovative approach that will result in a focused and succinct strategic plan.

Karen Miller will use the February 10 and March 10 'Jacket Leadership Team meetings to facilitate in person strategic planning sessions. In addition, up to four additional sessions will be scheduled, including one at the university campus and one at City College, and two community sessions. Employees are welcome to attend any of the sessions, with additional details forthcoming. Student participation is strongly encouraged.

Kathleen encouraged participants to collaborate with colleagues and work together on responses. She will share the roster of the "Delta Jackets" team, which was formed to represent a wide range of campus areas. Participants are welcome to engage with team members as well. Kathleen also noted that she is available for direct contact as needed.

Prison Education Program Approval

Dr. Lee Vartanian, Provost, announced that MSU Billings has received official notification from the Department of Education that the Prison Education Program is approved. The Department of Corrections conducted training for the program through the Center for Teaching and Learning. The PEP continues to add new students.

POLICY

Commemorative Tributes (*first reading*)

'Jacket Leadership Team members reviewed the Commemorative Tributes Policy. Discussion followed. Chancellor Hicswa asked for suggested verbiage updates to be sent to her office. A procedural document to complement the policy document still needs to be drafted.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

“One Big Beautiful Bill” Update

Justin Beach, Director of Financial Aid, provided an overview of the Higher Education Act changes, describing them as the most significant overhaul of federal student aid in decades (see presentation slides, included as an addendum). He highlighted several key updates affecting students and families.

Workforce Development and Workforce Pell

Pete Buchanan, Director of Workforce Development, provided an overview of the mission and organizational structure of workforce development and community education, as well as plans for future advancement of these initiatives.

Justin Beach explained the federal regulations for eligibility for Workforce Pell, the limitations and challenges this federal funding presents to institutions, and the requirements placed on programs.

Updates/Announcements (*reprinted as submitted*)

Joann Stryker, Director of Institutional Research

Reminder: the online administration of student engagement surveys at University Campus and City College will begin March 25th

MSUB's spring census data snapshot will be run Wednesday, February 4th after the end of the workday.

MSUB is required to do the Admissions and Consumer Transparency Supplement (ACTS) reporting. This reporting requires submission of seven years of admission and completion data to the federal IPEDS portal by March 18th.

Faculty or program coordinators, if you are having any difficulty accessing student course evaluation reports, please contact irdata@msubillings.edu

Sunny Day Real Bird, Director of American Indian Outreach

This spring, the NAAC is honored to welcome five Elders-in-Residence, each spending one week on campus to support students, staff, and faculty through culturally grounded guidance, connection, and mentorship. The Elder-in-Residence program creates a welcoming home away from home for Native students while strengthening cultural understanding across campus. Please visit the NAAC webpage for scheduled elder times and details.

*Save the date for the MSUB Powwow on April 10–11, and consider volunteering to help support this important cultural event, more details coming soon.

Julie Pettitt, Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions

- [Spring 26' New student orientation](#) – THIS FRIDAY, Jan 9, 2026 – City College & University Campus will run concurrent sessions
 - Expect foot traffic from Noon – 5pm.
- [Preview Day](#) - March 27, 2026
 - Seeking faculty who would like to participate or offer sessions that might entice prospective students and their families to attend.
- [City College Health & Safety Expo](#) - Feb 19, 2026
- [City College Welding & Industry Expo](#) - March 12, 2026
- Dates held for BPS (Billings Public Schools) 9th grade campus visit events (3rd Annual)
 - March 31 & April 10
- Fall 26' New Student Orientation - July 13 & 14, 2026
- Fall 26' registration sessions will begin in April - RSVP's typically open in mid-February

Kim Hayworth, Vice Chancellor for Student Access and Success

The Center for Engagement is once again sponsoring a fun way to welcome our new and returning students on January 14, 2026, the first day of spring semester classes. If you are interested in taking part, sign-up using the link below.

[Spring Donuts and Directions](#)

The MSUB Scholarship Application opened on Dec. 1, 2025, and the priority deadline is February 1, 2026. The application remains open until September 2026, but initial awards will be made starting in March. Please encourage students to apply!

United Way of Yellowstone County invites the community to volunteer for the following upcoming opportunities. Please promote these opportunities to MSUB students too.

Point in Time Count – the annual count of unhoused members in our community – please connect with Parker Scott at pscott@uwyellowstone.org.

Solutions-driven conversation on how mentorship can strengthen our community, support youth, and create lasting impact from 11 am – 1 pm on January 29, 2026. If a student or colleague are interested in joining this facilitated discussion, please sign-up using this link:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/z82e7r7>. Lunch is provided.

A farewell reception will be held for Shane Grantham, Director of Military and Veterans Success on Thursday, January 15 from 10-11 am in the university campus MVS Center/COE 106. Shane has accepted a similar role with Rhode Island College and his last day is January 16, 2026.

Cara Virostko, Chair of Staff Senate

Staff Senate will be hosting a Super Bowl Party on Friday, February 6 from 12-2pm in the Big Sky Room. Also, stay tuned for the launch of our [Ping Pong Ladder](#) which is like a never ending tournament.

Jerry Girard, Director of Student Health Services

We will be welcoming two clinical counseling interns into our training program during Spring '26. Quinn Curry and Amanda Roberts will be joining us from the MSUB Master's of Mental Health Counseling program.

Our Wellness Coordinator, Sydney Norwood, is currently prepping to launch the 2026 National College Health Assessment (NCHA). The NCHA is a student survey from the American College Health Assessment that collects health and wellness data from students.

During the break, Student Health Services has instituted a new electronic health records (EHR) system for our medical providers. All of our medical and mental health providers will now be using the same EHR, Titanium Schedule, which is more affordable and user friendly than previous EHRs. This is a significant upgrade for our clinic.

Although it was previously announced by me verbally, SHS was once again accredited by the Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Healthcare.

Amber West Martin, Director of Academic Support Center

The ASC is preparing for a full and busy spring 2026.

The syllabus statement is updated and out for distribution. New this semester!! The ASC is happy to offer Math AND Writing labs at both CC & UC locations. This is an opportunity for students to drop in with their questions and get help right away. This time is intended for quick questions that wouldn't necessarily require a 30, 45, or 60 minute tutoring session. Just a fast consultation with a tutor to get speedy help with a specific issue. The hours of the labs are:

University Campus

Writing lab – Mondays 12pm – 2pm

UC Math Lab – Mondays & Wednesdays 5pm – 8pm

City College Campus

Writing lab – Tuesdays 11am – 1pm

Math lab – Mondays & Wednesdays 9am – 12pm

Special events coming up are:

Soup Day - February 4th! Who has the tastiest soup? Your vote counts!

Pi Day - March 13th! Savory or sweet? The debate continues!

Do you know successful students who would be great employees at the ASC? We're looking for math tutors at UC and CC and front desk workers at City College. Feel free to send referrals to Kristin Kilpela at Kristin.kilpela@msubillings.edu.

Spring 2026 Navigate360 Campaign Dates:

- Week of Feb. 17: Enrollment Census Campaign (specific international students in Hyflex courses)
- Week of Feb. 23: Progress Report Campaign (student-athletes, TRIO SSS, Dual Enrollment (University Connections), 1st Year American Indian, Montana 10, Honors, Suspended Reinstatable & Suspension Fulfilled students)
- Week of April 6: Enrollment Census Campaign (specific international students in Hyflex courses)
- Week of April 6: Progress Report Campaign (student-athletes, TRIO SSS, Dual Enrollment (University Connections), 1st Year American Indian, Montana 10, Honors, Suspended Reinstatable & Suspension Fulfilled students)

Faculty are encouraged to submit Early Alerts in Navigate360 for students who are not attending/participating, experiencing academic and personal difficulties, in need of tutoring or other academic support, etc. Faculty are also encouraged to submit Kudos in Navigate360 for students who are doing well or showing improvement! Any questions or concerns can be directed to Katie Moffat at katharine.moffat@msubillings.edu or 657-1695.

Tracy McLuskie, Director of Disability Support Services

Process Update:

- DSS will implement a new exam room booking schedule starting Jan. 14th. It will be similar in structure to finals week, with scheduling blocks between 8:30 AM – Noon, and 1 – 4:30 PM. This change of approach will streamline operations, help manage staff resources effectively, and continue to meet

accommodation requirements. *NOTE: special cases will be handled individually in collaboration with the student, faculty member, and our office.*

2025 Fall Semester Data:

- Student registered for DSS Services: 301
 - 109 newly registered in the Fall
 - No requests for an ASL interpreter
 - Video phones were not utilized; University campus unit has been removed from the office lobby
 - One student utilized the live-captioning service (Verbit)
- Top three approved accommodations:
 - Extended test time (Time and a Half)
 - Record Lecture
 - Audio textbooks

Codie Wahrman, Associate Dean of Students

Updates for Housing and Residence Life:

- Residence Halls opened today -January 11th at 9am for the spring semester
 - We are welcoming 30 new students today 😊
- We welcomed 4 new RAs to our staff for the Spring Semester – We are excited for what they will bring to our team!
 - Cody Romero – Rimrock 3rd
 - Suhkmanpreet Kaur – Petro 4th
 - Kyle Erlenbusch – Petro 6th
 - Carey Berendsen – Rimrock 6th
- 2025–2026 Housing Application Opens: January 16
- Resident Assistant Applications for Fall 2026: Open January 26
 - If you know anyone who should be considering being an RA please send them our way and encourage them to apply for this great opportunity!

Updates for CFE:

- Welcome week activities start on 1/12 and run through 1/23
 - I have attached a full schedule of events for your reference
 - Join us for the MLK day celebration on January 19th at 9:30am
 - Join us for the Hypnotist on January 22nd at 7pm (Petro Theatre)
- We are launching our Leadership Workshop Series for students starting on January 20th
Please invite students that you feel would be interested or could take advantage of this great opportunity

Policy Number: 602.1

Policy: Commemorative Tributes Policy

Effective Date: July 1, 2010

Revision Date: June 1, 2013

Revision Date: January X, 2026

Responsible Party: MSUB Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance

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100.00 Introduction and Purpose

This policy guides commemorative naming, including recognition for outstanding service or External Funding to the university as directed by Board of Regents Policy 1004.1 - *Physical Plant- The Naming of Buildings* and Board of Regents Policy 218 - *Institutional Organization*.

Specifically, this policy governs:

1. The commemorative naming of buildings, portions of buildings, significant exterior spaces, streets, or other physical facilities owned by the State of Montana and under the control of the Montana University System or MSUB.
2. The display of items of recognition, including the erection of walls, plaques, portraits, benches, sculptures, gardens or other memorials honoring individuals, organizations or other entities on university property.
3. Changes in the names for the purpose of commemoration of any unit covered in Board of Regents Policy 218 - *Institutional Organization*, including college, division, ~~sehool~~, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit.

The MSUB Foundation & Alumni policies and procedures shall guide commemorative naming recognition for philanthropic support where allowed. Names applied to faculty as well as non-academic positions and programs are documented in a donor (gift)

agreement and agreed to by the donor, MSUB Foundation & Alumni and the MSUB Chancellor.

200.00 Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

201.00 Academic Programs: include any degree granting (undergraduate, graduate or certificate) program that has been assigned a unique Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code.

202.00 Buildings: physical structures, including all buildings, athletic facilities and their interior spaces, such as theaters and auditoriums owned by the State of Montana and under the control of the Montana University System.

203.00 Entity/Entities: may include but are not limited to public or private corporations, foundations, organizations, individuals or groups.

204.00 External Funding: includes gifts, grants, sponsored projects, or other external funds as defined in the MSUB Foundation & Alumni policies and procedures.

205.00 Items of Recognition: include any form of personalized recognition including recognition walls, plaques, portraits, benches, sculptures, gardens or other memorials placed on any portion of university property or physical structures that commemorate or honor an Entity.

206.00 Positions: professorships, chairs, coaches, or other university positions.

207.00 Programs: include non-degree conferring programs including but not limited to lectures, travel awards, research awards, operation and delivery of programs and Dean's discretionary funds.

208.00 Significant Exterior Spaces: spaces that are not part of a building but are part of the campus infrastructure including parking lots, assembly areas, lawns or open spaces, walkways, malls, and streets owned by the State of Montana and under the control of the Montana University System.

209.00 Significant Interior Spaces: include auditoriums and theatres with seating of 500 or more. Other interior spaces include libraries, rooms, hallways, floor and features as well as other enclosed spaces within building.

210.00 Units: include departments, ~~schools~~, colleges, and centers or institutes involved in teaching and research as well as programs subordinate to units and non-academic units.

300.00 Approvals Required

Any commemorative naming must be reviewed and approved by the applicable Board of Regents, MSUB or MSUB Foundation & Alumni policy.

Commemorative naming of Buildings, Significant Exterior Spaces, Significant Interior Spaces, Units and Items of Recognition must be reviewed and recommended for approval to the university Chancellor by the Commemorative Tributes Committee.

Commemorative naming of Buildings, Significant Exterior Spaces, Significant Interior Spaces and Units must be approved by the Board of Regents as directed by Board of Regents Policy 1004.1 – *Naming of Buildings* and 218 – *Institutional Organization*.

Naming of Scholarships, Academic Positions and non-Academic Programs and Positions are guided by MSUB Foundation & Alumni policies and procedures and approved by the donor, MSUB Foundation & Alumni, and the MSUB Provost or appropriate Vice Chancellor as necessary. Approval by the MSUB Chancellor may be required based on the donor, gift size, gift restriction or other information.

310.00 Approval Process

Any proposal for commemorative naming must be submitted to the Provost and the Dean of the College responsible for the proposed naming. If the property is a facility or program operated by Auxiliary Services or Student Access & Success (e.g., residence halls, the student union building, the Native American Achieve Center), the proposal must be submitted to the appropriate Vice Chancellor. Proposals related to athletics must be submitted to the MSUB Chancellor. Refer to the Commemorative Tributes Decision Matrix (Section 700.00 of this policy) for the appropriate approval pathway.

The Commemorative Tributes Committee shall review proposals under this policy and make recommendations to the MSUB Chancellor for approval. If applicable and required under Regents policy, the Chancellor will submit the proposal to the President of Montana State University and the Board of Regents for review and action.

To provide for student input, the Commemorative Tributes Committee shall strive to set meetings during the academic year.

After careful review for compliance with Board of Regents Policy 1004.1 – *Naming of Buildings*, the Dean or Provost of the campus unit benefitting from the commemorative naming shall present a proposal for consideration to the Commemorative Tributes Committee which includes the following:

1. Location of commemoration
2. Type of commemoration (i.e., donor wall, archway, other signage)
3. Name of entity to be commemorated
4. Detailed biography of entity
5. Rationale for commemoration
6. Proposed duration of commemoration

400.00 Commemorative Tributes Committee

The Commemorative Tributes Committee will consist of the following:

- CEO of the MSUB Foundation & Alumni, Co-Chair

- Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Co-Chair
- Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Co-Chair
- Vice Chancellor for Student Access & Success
- University Communications & Marketing Director
- Facilities Services Director
- President, Associated Students of Montana State University Billings

500.00 Criteria for Commemorative Naming

Commemorative naming shall honor entities that have made significant contributions to the social, academic, scholarly, research, or student life of the university and/or in recognition of substantial External Funding to the university. The contribution for which property is named shall be commensurate with the honor and compatible with the mission of the university. Properties and programs requiring Board of Regents approval of the Montana University System may not be named or dedicated in honor of a person currently employed by the Montana University System or the State of Montana per the Board of Regents Policy 1004.1 – *Naming of Buildings*.

510.00 Building and Significant Exterior Space Names

The following guidelines should be observed in naming Buildings, Significant Interior Spaces or Significant Exterior Spaces:

1. Entire Buildings, Building additions, or portions of Buildings may be named. Naming exterior entrances should be avoided.
2. The naming of a Building, part of a Building, or other facility or property of the university is a high honor and should not be proposed casually. The honor is reserved for those who have made extraordinary contributions to the university through their achievements in service and/or in External Funding to the university.
3. To merit recognition in the naming of a Building or portion of a building, an individual's relationship to the university should be exceptional in both quality and impact.
4. When External Funding is a factor, the level of contribution needed to name a Building, an addition to a Building, or a portion of a Building (as may be the case in a major renovation project) will vary depending on the financing considerations, purpose, size, prominence on campus, and the level of support needed for construction. Guidelines for gift amounts and pledge terms required for naming Buildings are set forth in the MSUB

Foundation & Alumni policies and procedures.

5. Names assigned to Buildings are intended to be enduring unless otherwise defined. Changes should be made only when significant modifications occur to the property (such as major renovation or demolition), upon agreement of the honoree, or as a result of other extenuating circumstances. In these cases, Building name changes must be approved by the Commemorative Tributes Committee, MSUB Chancellor, and the Board of Regents.

520.00 Items of Recognition

Items of Recognition may be approved to commemorate outstanding contributions, either in service or financial support, of Entities. Such tributes should be located inside or outside Buildings or facilities that have strong identification with the Entity being honored. The cost of such plaques, portraits, and miscellaneous recognition items should be borne by donors interested in the tributes or by the benefiting campus Unit. All designs must be reviewed and approved by the Director of Facilities to assure compliance with the university's master plan.

530.00 Units

A Unit may be named in honor of an individual in recognition of service to the university and/or in recognition of financial contributions sufficient to provide physical facilities and equipment for its academic and/or research programs, or which would provide sufficient income to cover an appropriate portion of the annual operating costs of the Unit, or both.

The name applied to a Unit should be appropriate to its purpose and should reflect honor on the university as well as upon the person for which it is named.

Because named recognition may continue indefinitely, gift funding for a Unit is best accomplished by permanent endowment; however current use gifts are acceptable. If accomplished by a current use gift, the name shall be limited to the term during which the expendable gift provides funding. The policies and procedures for naming a center or institute shall be the same as for naming other Units of the university. Guidelines for gift amounts required for naming departments, colleges, institutes, centers or other academic components are set forth in MSUB Foundation & Alumni policies and procedures.

540.00 Removal of a Commemorative Tribute

Situations occur that warrant the removal of a commemorative naming including but not limited to: violation or expiration of the terms of the gift agreement; the honoree or donor has acted in a manner which has an adverse impact on the reputation of the university (as defined in BOR Policy 1004.1); or significant changes to the property or program such as major renovation, replacement, demolition or elimination of all or part of an institution.

600.00 Internal Control/Enforcement

The MSUB Chancellor is responsible for the final approval of commemorative tributes on the MSU Billings campus, and the implementation of the policies related thereto.

700.00 Commemorative Tributes Decision Matrix

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Authority Guidance Reference Policy | Board of Regents Approval Required | MSUB Chancellor Approval Required | MSUBF Donor, Foundation and Beneficiary MSUB Unit Leader Approval Required |
| | Policy 1004.1 Naming of Buildings | Policy 218 Instituti onal Organiza tion | Commemorative Tributes |
| Academic Program | | | Discouraged |
| Academic Units subordinate to colleges, departments and centers | | | X |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------|--|
| Assembly Areas | | | X | |
| Athletic Fields | X | | X | |
| Athletic Stadiums | X | | X | |
| Atrium Exterior Doorway | | | Discouraged | |
| Auditoriums w/ seating capacity of 500+ | X | | X | |
| Benches | | | X | |
| Buildings | X | | X | |
| Centers | X | | X | |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Chair – Faculty | | | | X |
| Classroom | | | X | |
| Colleges | X | | X | |
| Conference Rooms | | | X | |
| Departments | | | X | |
| Director | | | | X |
| Faculty Award | | | | X |
| Fellowship | | | | X |
| Fellowship – Graduate | | | | X |
| Floors | | | X | |
| Gardens | | | X | |
| Hallways | | | X | |
| Internal libraries | | | X | |
| Laboratory | | X | X | |
| Lawns | | | X | |
| Malls | | | X | |
| Memorials | | | X | |
| Misc Items of Recognition | | | X | |
| Non-Academic Staff Position | | | | X |
| Parking Lots | | | X | |
| Plaques | | | X | |
| Professorship | | | | X |
| Recognition Walls | | | X | |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Scholarship – Undergraduate or Graduate | | | | X |
| Sculptures | | | X | |

REMOVED FROM 2013 MSUB Policy.....

This section is defined in the Billings original. However, is not included in Bozeman's policy.

600.00 Plaques and Portraits, and Miscellaneous Items of Recognition

~~Donor walls, plaques, portraits, and miscellaneous items (bricks, benches, etc.) may be approved to commemorate truly outstanding contributions, either in service or financial support, of persons or organizations.~~

~~Such tributes should be located inside or outside buildings or facilities that have strong identification with the persons or organizations being honored.~~

~~The cost of such plaques, portraits, and miscellaneous recognition items generally should be borne by donors interested in the tributes.~~

~~All designs need to be reviewed and approved by the Director of Facilities Services to assure compliance with the university's master plan with final approval by the Chancellor.~~

This section was covered in section 530.0 Units of Bozeman's policy.

700.00 Departments, Colleges, Institutes, Centers, or Other Academic Commemorations

~~A major academic unit may be named in honor of an individual in recognition of service to the university and/or in recognition of financial contributions sufficient to provide physical facilities and equipment for its academic and/or research programs, or which would provide sufficient income to cover an appropriate portion of the annual operating costs of the unit, or both.~~

~~The name applied to an academic unit should be appropriate to its purpose, and should reflect honor on the university as well as upon the person for which it is named.~~

~~Because the life of a university center or institute is not expected to continue indefinitely, gift funding for an institute or a center may be accomplished by endowment or current gifts. If accomplished by a current gift, the name of the institute or center shall generally be limited to the term during which the expendable gift provides funding.~~

~~The policies and procedures for naming the center or institute shall be the same as for naming other major academic units of the university.~~

One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBB) (Effective July 1, 2026)

The OBBB Act represents the most significant overhaul to federal student aid in decades. The July 1, 2026 effective date affects:

- Pell programs
- Pell calculation
- Direct loan programs
- Repayment options
- Introduces a new earnings-based accountability measures.



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Pell Grant Changes

1. Update SAI calculation rules: Exclude family-owned businesses (≤ 100 employees), farms, fisheries; Include foreign earned income exclusion in AGI.
 - Impact – Hope this helps to increase Pell eligible students
2. Implement eligibility cap: Students with $SAI \geq 2 \times \text{max Pell Grant}$ are ineligible.
 - Example: Max Pell = \$7,395 - Students with 14,790 SAI not Pell Eligible.
 - Impact – fewer students will be eligible for the minimum Pell award

One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Pell Grant Changes

1. Full COA Scholarships/Grants

- Students who receive grants or scholarships from non-federal sources covering their entire cost of attendance (COA) are ineligible to receive a Pell Grant, even if otherwise eligible for the program.
- Impact –Students receiving large waivers and outside scholarships and grants.
- MSUB will need to formalize an institutional awarding policy to help student retain Pell eligibility.



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Pell Grant Changes

Cost of Attendance (COA): \$23,700

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| T&F = \$6,710 | Athletic Scholarship: \$11,598.88 |
| Books = \$1,700 | R&B = \$8,198 |
| F&H = \$9,800 | Fees = \$1,600.88 |
| M&P = \$2,970 | Books = \$800 |
| Transport = \$2,440 | Cash = \$1000 |
| Loan Fee = \$80 | |

Academic Scholarship: \$12,504.8

| |
|-------------------------------|
| AI Waiver - \$4,804.80 |
| Outside Scholarship - \$7,700 |

Total Aid: \$24,103.68 (Over COA)

Result: Pell Grant = \$0



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBB) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Workforce Pell Grant

Section 2011 of H.R.1 expands Pell Grant eligibility to include certain short-term career training programs—an option that did not previously exist.

Students can now use Pell Grants to pay for training programs—like IT certificates, skilled trades, or healthcare credentials—as long as those programs meet specific criteria.



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Workforce Pell Grant

To qualify, a program must:

- Be **at least 150 clock hours** in length and span a **minimum of 8 weeks but less than 15**
- Be offered by an **eligible institution of higher education**
- Provide training aligned with **in-demand, high-wage, high-skill occupations**
- Lead to a **recognized postsecondary credential** that is stackable, meaning it can lead to an associate or bachelor's degree, and/or provide usable credits across more than one institution.
- Be reviewed by a **state workforce board, recognized accreditor**, or appropriate **federal agency**
- Report **student outcomes**, including completion rates, job placement, and median earnings
 - A 70 percent completion rate, 70 percent job placement rate, and the price of the program does not exceed the value-added earnings of graduates one year after completion, and for at least two of the three most recent award years, the median earnings of Workforce Pell Grant recipients must not be less than the median earnings of a high school graduate in the state in which the program is located



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBB) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Loan Limits Changes

Table 1: Federal Student Loan Limits Under Previous Law and O BBB

| Category of Borrower | Loan Limits Under Previous Law | Loan Limits Under O BBB |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Undergraduate Students | \$5,500 to \$12,500 annually; \$31,000 to \$57,500 in aggregate | \$5,500 to \$12,500 annually; \$31,000 to \$57,500 in aggregate |
| Nonprofessional Graduate Students | Cost of attendance (as defined by the institution) | \$20,500 annually; \$100,000 in aggregate |
| Professional Graduate Students | Cost of attendance (as defined by the institution) | \$50,000 annually; \$200,000 in aggregate |
| Parents of Undergraduates | Cost of attendance (as defined by the institution) | \$20,000 annually; \$65,000 in aggregate (per child) |

Source: US Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/how-much-money-can-i-borrow-federal-student-loans>; and One Big Beautiful Bill Act, H.R. 1, 119th Cong. (2025).

- Total Aggregate Limit:** \$257,500 across all federal loan programs (undergraduate and graduate)

One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Graduate Direct Loan Limits Changes

Current Limits (before July 1st, 2026)

- Annual Limit: \$20,500
- Aggregate Limit: \$138,500 (includes undergraduate borrowing)

Under the new rules, the following programs are considered professional, according to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities:

- Pharmacy (Pharm.D);
- Dentistry (DOS, D.MD);
- Veterinary Medicine (DVM);
- Chiropractic Medicine (DC, DCM);
- Law (LLM, JD);
- Medicine (MD);
- Optometry (OD);
- Osteopathic Medicine (DO);
- Podiatry (DPM, DP, Pod.D); and
- Theology (M.Div, MHL).

Changes Effective July 1st, 2026

- **Graduate Students:**
 - Loans must be prorated based on enrollment status
 - Annual limit remains \$20,500
 - Aggregate limit = \$100,000 (excludes undergrad borrowing)
- **Professional Students:**
 - Clarification is needed from the Department of Education regarding which academic programs qualify as “professional” programs, as the current regulations are unclear and do not fully define this.
 - Loans must be prorated based on enrollment status
 - Annual limit = \$50,000
 - Aggregate limit = \$200,000
- **Total Aggregate Limit:** \$257,500 across all federal loan programs (undergraduate and graduate)

One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBB) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Elimination of Grad PLUS

Current Limits (before July 1st, 2026)

- **Annual Limit:** Determined by the formula of "Cost of Attendance – Other Aid (i.e. grants, scholarships, other loans)"
- **Aggregate Limit:** No limit
- Eligibility is based on student enrollment and a minimal credit check of the applicant

Changes Effective July 1st, 2026

This program is to be eliminated for new borrowers.

- **Legacy Provision:** Students with any existing Direct Loan may continue borrowing for up to 3 years or until program completion, whichever is less. Students must also remain in the same major (i.e., academic program) to be eligible for loans under this provision.

Prior eligibility requirements will apply to legacy borrowers.

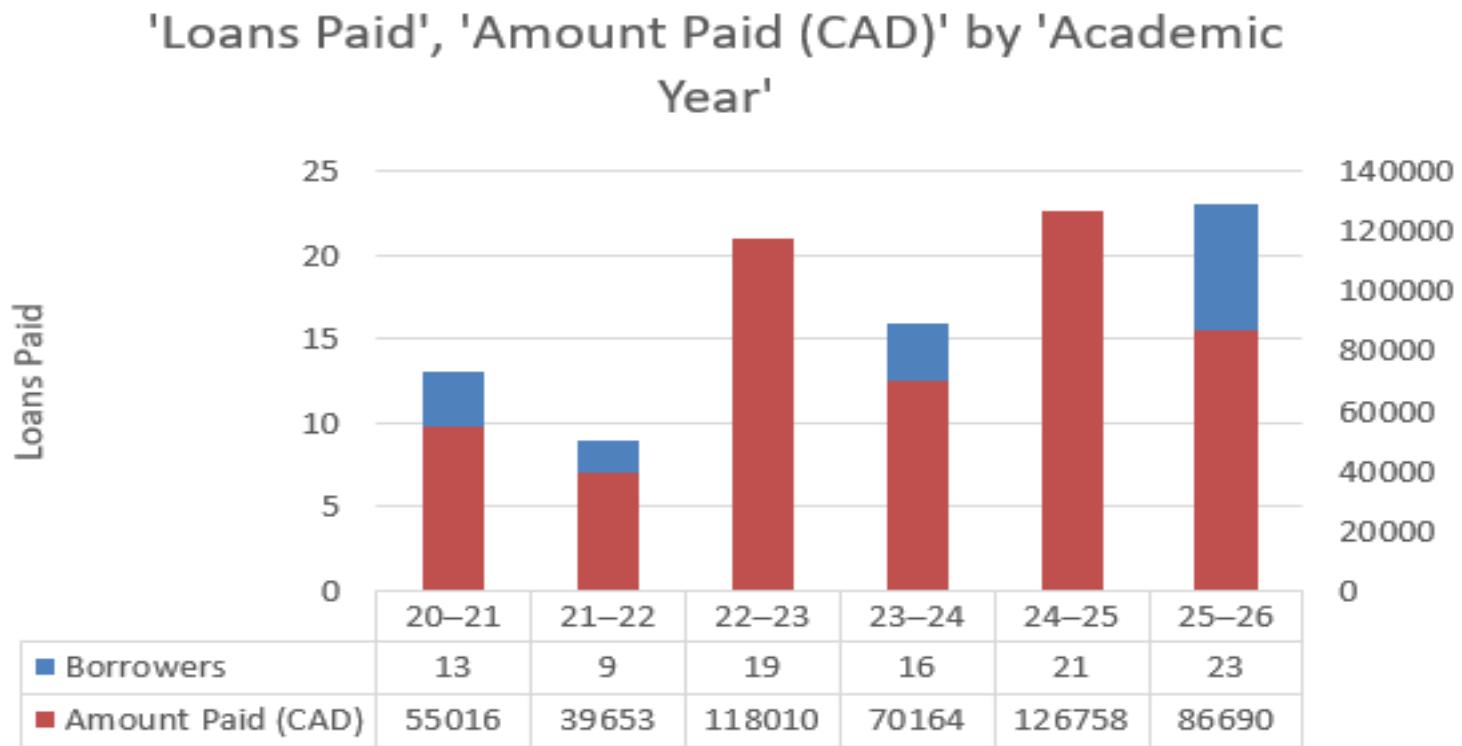
Current Grad PLUS borrowers: If a loan is disbursed before July 1, 2026 (for academic year 2025-2026), they may keep borrowing under the old terms for up to three more academic years or until your program ends, whichever comes first.

Prospective graduate students: Grad PLUS Loans won't be available starting with the 2026-2027 academic year. They will need to rely on unsubsidized Direct Loans (within the new caps), scholarships, savings, or private loans

One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Elimination of Grad PLUS

Develop Private/Institutional Financing Alternatives. Partner with lenders or explore institutional loan pools to cover costs exceeding the new \$100k cap.



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Loan Limits for Part-time Students

The OBBA reduces the amount of a loan that a student may borrow for an academic year if the student is enrolled in a program of study on less than a full-time basis during that academic year.

This reduction in the annual loan limit will be made in direct proportion to the degree to which the student is not enrolled full-time, rounded to the nearest percentage point.

- Impact –Students that enroll less than full time, Withdrawals to save GPA, Full W's could not be eligible for a spring disbursement.
 - Spring retention
- MSUB will need to communicate during the WD process about a reduction of Spring loan



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Loan Proration For Less than Full Time

Annual Loan Limit Adjustments for > Full-Time Study

Loan limit formula for less than full-time enrollment: Annual

$$\left(\frac{\text{Number of credit hours enrolled for academic year}}{\text{Number of credit hours considered full time for that academic year for the program of study}} \right) \times 100$$

= reduced annual loan limit percentage

Loan limit formula for less than full-time enrollment: Period of enrollment

$$\left(\frac{\text{Number of credit hours enrolled for the term}}{\text{Number of credit hours considered full time for that term for the program of study}} \right) \times 100$$

= reduced annual loan limit percentage



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Loan Proration For Less than Full Time

Less-Than-Full-Time Loan Limits

- Example - dependent freshman
 - Expected enrollment: 12 credits fall/12 credits spring
 - eligible for \$2,750 for fall ($\$5,500/2$)
 - drops to 9 credits after fall disbursement had been made
 - ✓ no adjustment necessary for fall
- Student enrolled in 12 credits for the spring
 - apply annual schedule of reductions formula
 - $9 \text{ fall}/12 \text{ spring} = 21 \text{ annual credits}$
 - $21/24 \text{ credits, or } 87.5\% \text{ of } \$5,500 = \$4,812.50$
 - ✓ subtract the \$2,750 they already received
- Since the student had already received \$2,750 in the fall, their spring disbursement would be **\$2,062.50**



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Loan Proration For Less than Full Time

Example - Student in 6 credits UC and 0 SAI

T&F = \$1,978.74

Half-time Pell = \$ 1,848.75

Half-time Loan = \$ 1,250.00

Total = \$3098.75

Refund = \$1,120.01

Example - Student enrolled in 6 credits CC and 0 SAI

T&F = \$1,346.44

Half-time Pell = \$1,848.75

Half-time Loan = \$1,250.00

Total = \$3,223.75

Refund = \$1,752.31

Example - Student enrolled in 6 credits UC and 5005 SAI*

T&F = \$1,978.74

Half-time Pell = \$597.50

Half-time Loan = \$1,250.00

Total = \$1847.50

Refund = \$-131.24

*Single \$39,000 income

One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBB) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Institutional Accountability “do no harm”

The OBBBA “do no harm” standard establishes an earnings test that would apply to all programs except for undergraduate certificate programs.

For students to be eligible for federal loans, undergraduate associate and bachelor’s degree programs must have median earnings for students, measured four years after graduation, that are higher than the median earnings of 25 to 34-year olds with just a high school diploma who are working and not enrolled in an educational program.

Consequence: Failure in **two out of any three consecutive years** results in the mandatory loss of eligibility for **all Title IV, HEA loan and grant programs** (Pell, Direct Loans) for that specific program. According to a recent report, 23% of Title IV institutions have been flagged.



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Institutional Accountability “do no harm”

| | E | F | G | H | I | J | K |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------|---|---|---|--------------------------------|---|
| | Institution Name | State | College Scorecard Reported Undergraduate Earnings Four Years After Graduation | 2025 Inflation Adjusted College Scorecard Reported Undergraduate Earnings Four Years After Graduation | 2025 Inflation Adjusted Median High School Earnings | High School Earnings Threshold | School Flagged as "Low Earnings" on the FAFS Submission Summary |
| 6 | Chief Dull Knife College | MT | 20741 | 24624 | 33496 | State | Yes |
| 7 | Montana State University Billings | MT | 47845 | 56802 | 33496 | State | No |
| 8 | Flathead Valley Community College | MT | 38661 | 45899 | 33496 | State | No |

<https://studentaid.gov/data-center/school/earnings>



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Institutional Accountability “do no harm”

First Loan Borrowed on or after July 1st, 2026

- **New Standard Repayment Plan:**
 - Four Fixed-Terms:
 - 10 years: balances <\$25,000
 - 15 years: balances between \$25,000–\$49,999
 - 20 years: balances between \$50,000–\$99,999
 - 25 years: balances \$100,000+
 - Only 10-year plans qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). *Note: PSLF requires at least 10 years of repayment.*

Student borrowers who do not select a plan will be placed into the Standard Plan.



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) (Effective July 1, 2026)

Institutional Accountability “do no harm”

- **New Income-Based Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP):**
 - Monthly payment: 1%–10% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
 - \$10 minimum payment
 - \$50 deduction per dependent
 - 30-year repayment term; forgiveness after 30 years
 - No negative amortization (balances won't grow when payments don't cover interest)
 - Payments count toward PSLF

RAP INCOME GRID

| Borrowers' AGI | Monthly Payment |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Less than \$10,000 | \$10/month |
| \$10,000 - \$19,999 | 1% of monthly AGI |
| \$20,000 - \$29,999 | 2% of monthly AGI |
| \$30,000 - \$39,999 | 3% of monthly AGI |
| \$40,000 - \$49,999 | 4% of monthly AGI |
| \$50,000 - \$59,999 | 5% of monthly AGI |
| \$60,000 - \$69,999 | 6% of monthly AGI |
| \$70,000 - \$79,999 | 7% of monthly AGI |
| \$80,000 - \$89,999 | 8% of monthly AGI |
| \$90,000 - \$99,999 | 9% of monthly AGI |
| \$100,000+ | 10% of monthly AGI |



Workforce Development & Community Education

Overview + Workforce Pell

Overview - What is it?

Workforce Development & Community Education (WFCE)

- Connects learning and opportunity
- Partnerships with faculty, staff, and industry
- Design **short, middle-skill, non-credit, and flexible** programs
- Building Montana's future-ready workforce

Mission

Montana's workforce is our most valuable resource. Empowering excellence in teaching, training, and collaboration helps learners and communities to thrive.



Overview - How we're organized

1. Workforce Training & Credentials

Non-credit workforce programs and industry-recognized credentials

- Sectors: Health Careers, Construction trades, Automotive, Legal Services, OSHA, etc.

2. Community & Youth Education

Personal enrichment and youth programs

- Summer camps
- Continuing personal development



Overview - How we're organized

3. Industry Partnerships & Innovation

- Employer/industry engagement
 - Custom contract training
- WIOA/ETPL eligibility
- WF Pell alignment*...

4. Administrative & Support Systems

- Fiscal management (e.g., tuition)
- Registration and onboarding
 - Aceware and Canvas integration
- OCHE & DLI reporting coordination



Overview – Current programs (Summer/Fall 2025)

Health & Human Services

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Custom contracts: Ultrasound Seminar for PA (RMC)

Skilled Trades & Automotive

- Welding (Introductory & Applied)
- Women Supporting Women Workshop Series
- Custom contracts: MT Women's Prison (DoC)

Legal, Safety, & Compliance

- Legal Services (e.g., paralegal, etc.)

Community, Youth & Enrichment

- Youth & Summer Programs (DRONE; Cybersecurity)



Overview - What's new?

- Streamlined faculty/staff non-credit course proposal process (online)
- Clearer pathways for non-credit, hybrid, and credit-adjacent programs
- Centralized coordination with the MCIE, CTL, CFE, Library, Business Services, and Registrar's Office
- Expanded opportunities for industry/employer and community engagement
- Website design and onboarding experience



Overview - What's new? (Spring/Summer 2026)*

New programs

- Commercial Driving License – Driving Academy*
- Basic Floor Installation – Flooring Covering Education Foundation*
- OSHA-embedded training – Training Institute Education Center*
- Paramedic International Assessment Track

Onboarding and Systems

- Student experience service plan
- Canvas integration (non-credit programs)
- Stackable and digital credentialling options



Overview - What's next?

Registration & Data

- Integrated enrollment and tracking system (Expand Aceware)
- Map pathways into employment (1 year post)

Recruitment and Program Expansion

- Comprehensive marketing and communication strategy
- Certified Nursing Assistant – additional cohorts + delivery methods
- Medical, IT, and Hospitality & Recreation opportunities

Revenue streams

- Custom industry/employer contracts
- Cross-unit collaborative grants – e.g., Rural Nursing Expansion Program
- Workforce Pell (July 2026) ...



Overview - Program Requirements

- **Industry Alignment:** State governors and workforce boards must certify that the program prepares students for **high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand** occupations.
- Programs must be run by accredited institutions of higher education (IHEs) and have been offered for at least one year prior to being approved as a short-term Pell program.
- **Duration:** Must be between **8 and 15 weeks** in length (at least 150 but fewer than 600 clock hours).

Overview - Program Requirements

- **Pathway Compatibility:** Programs must lead to a recognized postsecondary credential that is stackable, meaning it can lead to an associate or bachelor's degree, and portable across more than one employer.
- **Quality & Outcomes:** Programs must maintain at least a **70% completion rate** and a **70% job placement rate** within 180 days of completion.
- **Economic Value:** The program's tuition and fees cannot exceed its "median value-added earnings" (calculated as the median graduate's earnings minus 150% of the federal poverty line). Put simply, the program must yield earnings that **exceed 150%** of the federal poverty limit plus the program cost.



Workforce Pell Student Eligibility Requirements

Student eligibility for Workforce Pell largely mirrors the traditional Pell Grant.

- Students must enroll in an eligible program at a qualifying accredited institution to receive Workforce Pell.
- Financial Need: Students must still complete the FAFSA and demonstrate financial need based on their Student Aid Index (SAI).
- Lifetime Limits: Workforce Pell awards count toward a student's 600% (12 fulltime-semesters) lifetime eligibility limit.



Workforce Pell Student Eligibility Requirements

Notable differences:

- **Prior Degrees:** Unlike traditional Pell, students who already hold a **bachelor's degree** may be eligible for Workforce Pell, provided they have not yet earned a graduate or professional degree
- Workforce Pell awards are **prorated** based on the program's length and intensity. For the 2025-26 award year, the maximum full-year Pell award is **\$7,395**. Because Workforce programs are shorter than a full academic year, students will receive a partial award for example:
 - **Example 2: 8-Week, 150 Clock-Hour Program**
Hours fraction: $150 \div 900 = 0.167$ (16.7%)
Weeks fraction: $8 \div 32 = 0.250$ (25.0%)
 - **Lesser fraction: 0.167 (hours)**
For maximum Pell student (\$7,395): $\$7,395 \times 0.167 = \$1,235$
For minimum Pell student (\$750): $\$750 \times 0.167 = \125



Workforce Pell Student Eligibility Requirements

Pell Changes:

- Students will be ineligible for Pell Grants if their SAI is equal to or greater than twice the maximum Pell Grant amount for the award year. For the 2026-27 award year, this threshold is set at \$14,790
- If a student receives non–Title IV grant aid (e.g., from state, institution, private sources) and that alone equals or exceeds the COA, the student becomes ineligible for Pell

Thank you for your time – Questions?

How to get involved

- Do you have an idea for a short course? Start with Workforce Development & Community Education. Visit the website for more information and proposal forms.
- workforcedevelopment@msubillings.edu | (406) 896-5965 | Tech Building A035
- msubillings.edu/citycollege/wtc/



Be Brave. Be Bold. *Become.*

