

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

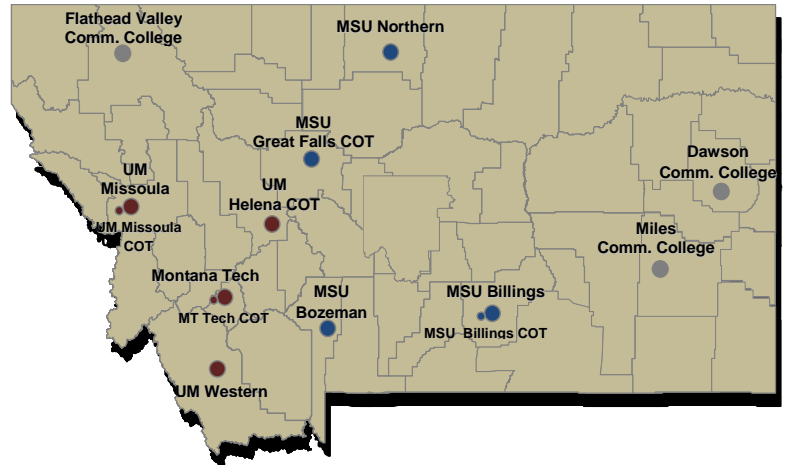
The Montana University System (MUS) is comprised of fourteen institutions: two flagship universities, four regional universities, five colleges of technology, and three community colleges.

Serving over 45,000 students!

Employing over 7,000 full and part-time faculty and staff

Enrollment

- Fall 2009 — highest enrollment level in MUS history
- Over 45,000 students enrolled (unduplicated headcount)
- FTE increased by more than 15% since Fall 1999 (over 6% since Fall 2008)
- 4,300 more resident student FTE served than ten years ago



Students

Over 80% of the students in the Montana University System (MUS) are residents of Montana. Over the past ten years, resident undergraduate students represented the largest and fastest growing segment of the MUS.

Fact: over 70% of resident students receiving degrees in the MUS find employment in Montana within 6 months of graduation. Average Salary = \$32,000

Students receive degrees and certificates in fields ranging from energy technology to architecture, process plant technology to pharmacy, early childhood education to electrical engineering, and many more.

Fact: in the 2008-09 academic year, over 8,000 degrees and certificates were awarded, nearly 5,000 bachelor's degrees alone, and more than 1,600 two-year degrees and certificates.

In 2010, freshmen enrolling at MUS four-year campuses pay an average of \$5,300 in tuition and fees (resident students enrolling in twelve or more credits). The same students enrolling in at MUS two-year institutions pay approximately \$3,200.

Fact: the average amount for tuition and fees at MUS four-year colleges is below the regional average in the western states. The average rate at two-year colleges in Montana is above the regional average.

Budget

In FY10, the University System's current unrestricted budget (for education and general operating) is \$385 million for MUS education units. Of that \$385 million, \$164 million or 43% is provided by the state. The remaining portion comes from student tuition. The MUS total budget includes federal funds for research and student aid, auxiliary funds from student housing and room and board, activity funds, and proprietary funds to support workers compensation and insurance programs.

Governance

The governance and administration of the Montana University System is vested with the Board of Regents, which has full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana University System. The Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate, to seven year overlapping terms. The Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Commissioner of Higher Education are ex-officio members of the Board.

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Strategic Initiatives

College!Now

COLLEGE! NOW focuses on Montana's two-year colleges as the way to increase the number of Montanans who complete a college certificate or degree and reflects a shared commitment by the University System, K-12 leaders, business and community leaders, legislators, and the governor's office to make two-year education more accessible, better coordinated, better understood and, as a result, better utilized statewide.

Strategies:

- Offer complete community college programs and services statewide for Montana's students and employers.
- Expand dual high school/college enrollment and improve two-year/four-year transfer.
- Use technology to expand access for students and create savings for two-year colleges.
- Fund colleges based on students' progress and success, not just enrollment.



Transferability

The 2007 Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million to help the MUS improve the transferability of courses and further develop its centralized data system. As a result, the MUS initiated a "**common course numbering**" process for all undergraduate courses. This process requires that all courses deemed to be equivalent must possess the same course prefix, number, and title; all courses with the same name and number will directly transfer on a one-to-one basis with equivalent courses at the receiving institution.

Progress:

- As of January 2010, more than 6,500 courses in 40 disciplines have gone through the Common Course Numbering process. This represents over 65% of the undergraduate courses in the MUS.
- The timeline for completing common course numbering for all undergraduate disciplines within the MUS is July 2011.

Distance Learning

In the 2005 and 2007 legislative sessions, the Montana Legislature appropriated funds specifically aimed at increasing the availability of distance learning in the Montana University System. With these funds the University System invested in distance learning resources, faculty, and infrastructure. As a result, Montana universities and colleges now offer more than 50 online degrees and 500 internet classes and enroll over 7,000 students in at least one distance learning course.

Road Ahead: Work continues on improving student access to distance learning opportunities. Major efforts are in progress to **integrate information systems** so students can easily and seamlessly enroll in multiple institutions throughout the MUS.

Research & Graduate Education

Our campuses are awarded over \$165 million in competitive research grants each year in recognition of their involvement in cutting edge research that is globally competitive and applicable. Faculty, staff, and students in the Montana University System (MUS) are engaged in science and technology research and graduate education that help build Montana's economic future. The MUS research enterprise also builds partnerships with communities, businesses, and other educational entities to help align science education and research with pressing social and economic challenges. *The ability to grow the MUS research enterprise would be enhanced by:*

- Improved stipends and resident tuition status to attract competitive graduate students;
- Sufficient start-up funding packages and salaries to retain and recruit competitive faculty; and
- Innovative partnerships and financing to build modern facilities and a competitive research infrastructure.