

MUS Resident Student Success: MT10 & Institutional Innovation



Crystine Miller, PhD, Director of Student Affairs & Student Engagement, OCHE
cmiller@montana.edu

Montana 10 Legislative Investment

- \$7m one-time-only over biennium FY26-FY27
- Increase graduation rates
- Intended to support two major activities:

Cohort-Based MT10 Programs

Build enrollment (fall '25 and fall'26) in evidence-based comprehensive programs that provide academic, financial, and advising, and career development supports

Institutional Innovation Projects

Projects aimed at scaling student support practices by enhancing institutional infrastructure, maximizing technology and IT, and developing personnel capacity.



Completion Matters for ROI



Data source: Wage outcomes 1-, 3- and 5-years after departure from MUS enrollment for completers and non-completers. Wage data sourced from MT DLI unemployment insurance programs. Figures report outcomes for Montana residents who are employed in-state for at least one quarter during the reported year. All wages expressed in constant 2019 dollars.



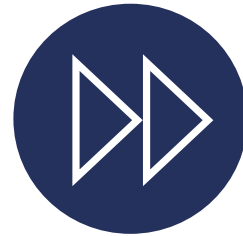
Strategy Framework

Cohort programs deliver these supports directly. **Institutional Innovation** projects focus on strengthening process, infrastructure, and capacity to scale and institutionalize these practices.



Data-Driven Advising

Develop institutional data infrastructure and leverage technology to put actionable data in the hands of advisors.



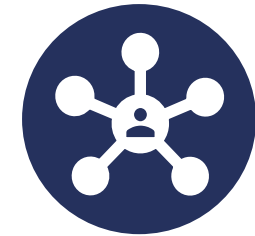
Academic Momentum

Build a choice architecture that supports students in reaching academic benchmarks and reducing time to graduation.



Affordability

Reduce the cost-to-degree for students through targeted supports and reducing time to degree.



Purpose & Belonging

Strengthen engagement in student life, academic-adjacent, and career development activities.



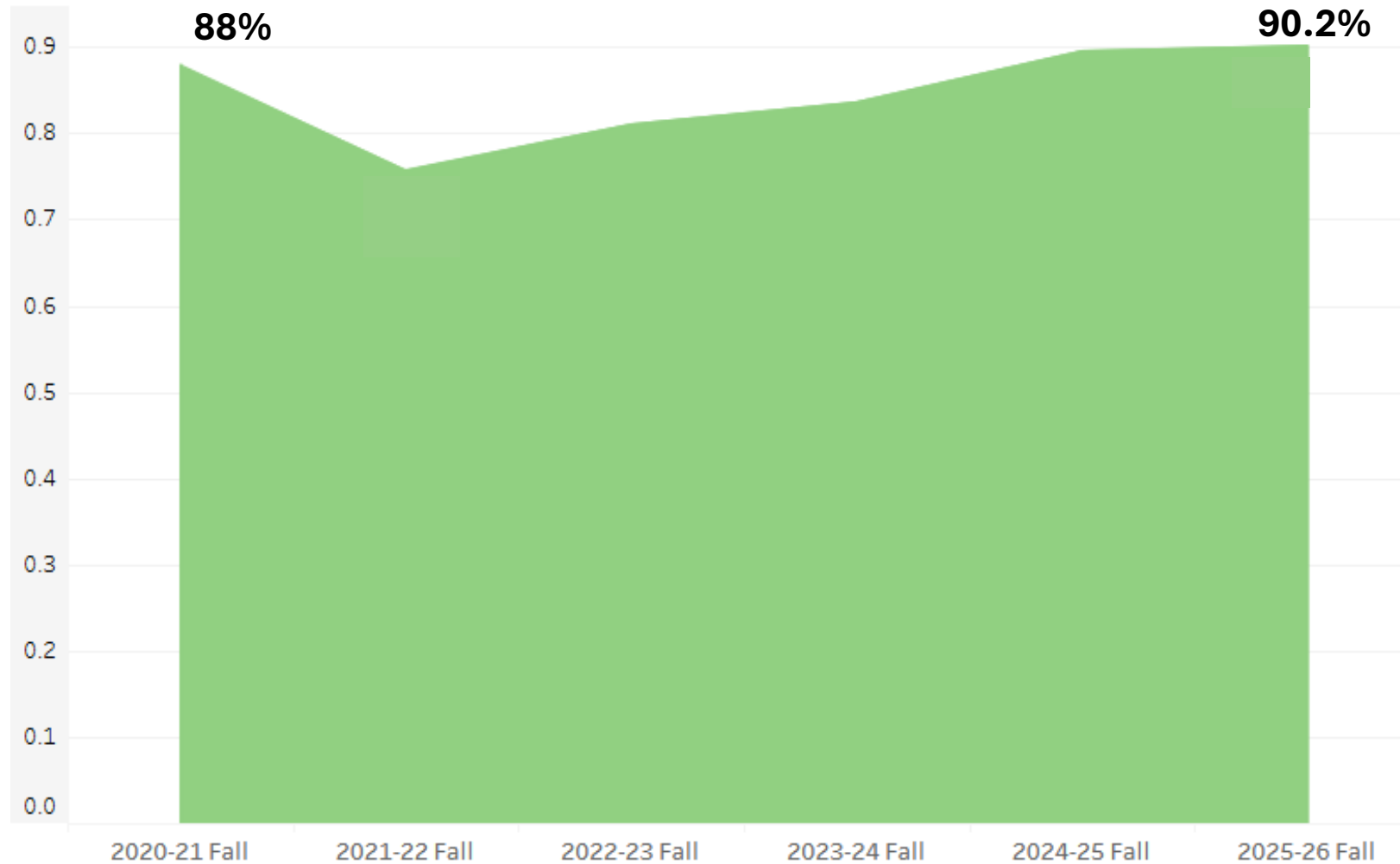
Total Montana 10 Enrollment

	Continuing Students	Fall '25 New Students	Fall '26 New Students
UM	272	70	70
Missoula College	57	30	30
MSU B	139	50	50
City College	72	20	20
Helena College	59	20	20
UM Western	80	40	40
MT Tech	69	25	25
Highlands	31	15	15
MSU	*	125	125
TOTAL	779	395	395



Montana 10 Progress Metric

Highest Persistence Since Inception



Source: MUS Data Warehouse; all MT10 students; Fall to Spring persistence; 2020-2025 cohorts



Montana 10 Progress Metric

UM Western Students Projected to Reduce Time to Degree by 20 More Credits Than Pell Peers by End of 4th Year

Credits	MT 10	PELL	General Pop.	Grand Total
Total Credits Attempted 1st Term	16.15	15.57	16.19	16.00
Total Credits Withdrawn 1st Term	4.82	5.76	4.97	5.24
Total Credits Earned 1st Term	13.28	11.08	13.41	12.70
Total Credits Attempted Through First Year	29.88	28.31	31.69	30.44
Total Credits Withdrawn Through First Year	4.69	5.70	5.16	5.32
Total Credits Earned Through First Year	25.63	21.29	27.12	25.18
Total Credits Attempted Through Second Year	56.03	48.49	57.55	54.63
Total Credits Withdrawn Through Second Year	5.77	6.75	5.74	6.06
Total Credits Earned Through Second Year	49.08	39.09	50.62	46.96

Source: MUS Data Warehouse; all MT10 students; credit accumulation UM Western; cohort 2023

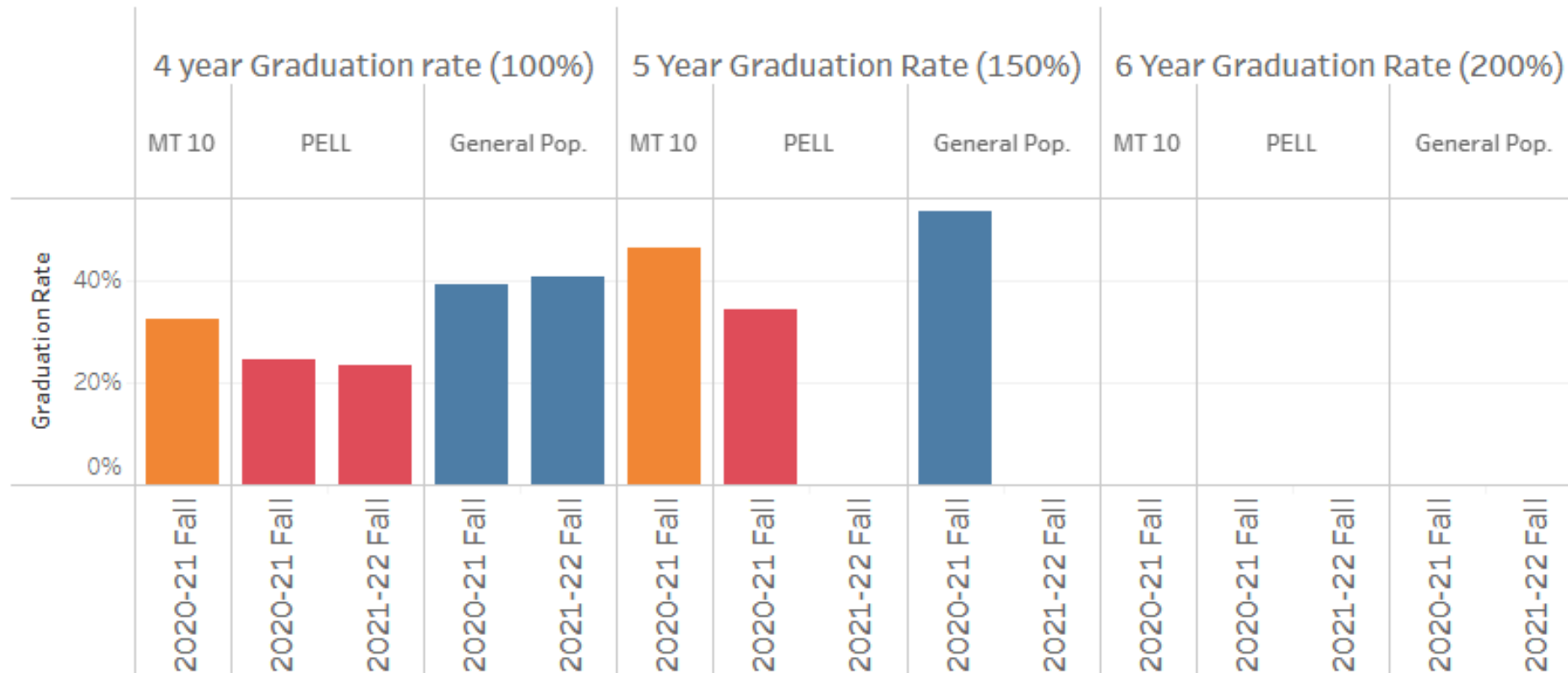


Montana10 Outcome Metric

BA Grad Rates Narrow Attainment Gap

BA Graduation Rates

Only includes graduates through the 2023-24 school year. Years shown in the graph are the cohort the student is part of.



Source: MUS Data Warehouse; all MT10 students; 100% and 150% of time graduation; Fall 2020 cohort @ UM only

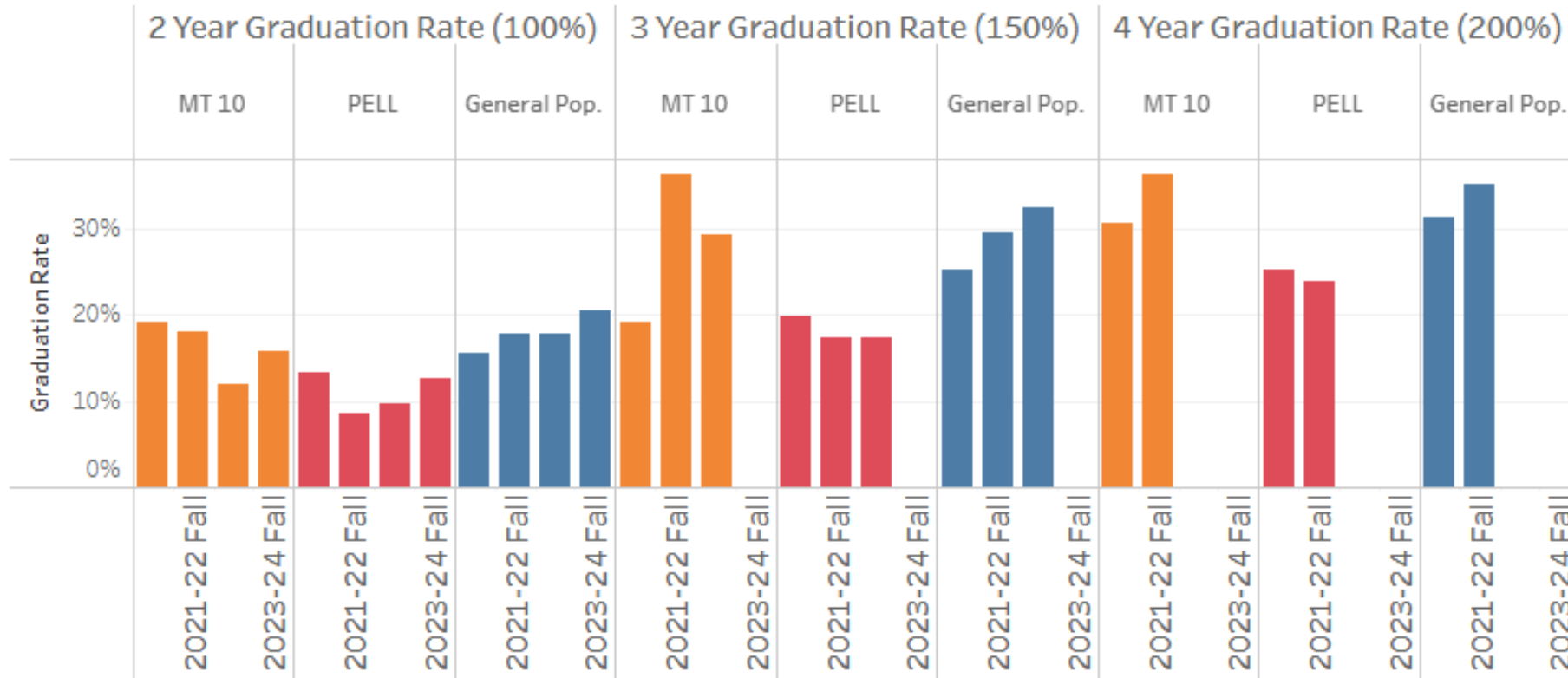


MT10 Outcome Metric

AA Grad Rates Close Attainment Gap 3 Years Out

AA Graduation Rates

Only includes graduates through the 2023-24 school year. Years shown in the graph are the cohort the student is part of.



Source: MUS Data Warehouse; all MT10 students; 100%, 150%, & 200% of time graduation; Fall 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 cohorts; Missoula College, Helena College, City College



MUS **Institutional Innovation** Goals

1

Enhance institutional capacity to deliver student success strategies **at scale**.

2

Increase on-time graduation rates through large-scale, structural changes.

3

Strengthen institutional capacity for **data-driven innovation**.



MUS Institutional Innovation: Campus Projects

MSU & Gallatin College—Enhancing EAB Navigate functionality, streamlining student communication, and testing technology solutions to proactively identify and respond to students not meeting key progress benchmarks

UM & Missoula College—Developing and delivering evidence-based pedagogy training for faculty teaching high drop/fail/withdraw (DFW) courses

MT Tech & Highlands—Suite of linked strategies aimed at reducing time/credits to degree by enhancing advising technology and professional development and increasing academic preparedness with intensive support curriculum development.

MSUB & City College—Process assessment aimed at streamlining student experience and gaining efficiencies in student pathway; focus on student onboarding, advising, financial aid, student planning, and student success.

UM Western—Advising reform to enhance academic momentum, increase persistence, and increase on-time graduation.

MSU Northern—Strengthen advising model, fix technology barriers, and providing training and process support to faculty advisors.

Great Falls College—Targeted focus on online students by developing online student onboarding to address common barriers; enhance holistic, data-informed advising by strengthening EAB Navigate use and building complementary student advising processes.

Helena College—Enhancing faculty pedagogical training to address academic momentum barriers; aligning advising practices, processes, and technology; enhancing DegreeWorks technology by integrating degree mapping function.



MUS Institutional Innovation Projects

Campus	Holistic, Data-Informed Advising	Enhance Student Success Technology	Professional Development Paired with Process Alignment	Academic Momentum Infrastructure
MSU & Gallatin	X	X	X	X
UM & Missoula College				X
Montana Tech & Highlands	X	X	X	X
UM Western	X			
MSU Billings & City College			X	
MSU Northern	X	X	X	
Great Falls College	X		X	
Helena College	X	X	X	





MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHERN

Student Success Challenges

- High stop-out after 60 and 90 credits earned
- DegreeWorks and other technology/process inefficiencies that increase time on administrative tasks and reduce advising time on holistic academic advising support
- Lack of common advising procedures, producing challenges w/ onboarding, credit articulation for transfer students, and consistent connection over student advising experience

Institutional Innovation Solutions

- **Strengthen advising model** including development of handbook and training plan
- **Faculty-led advising champions** create training materials and support adoption across the institution
- Investment in **technology and data infrastructure**, such as updates to transfer equivalency tables and related advising tools (Academic Catalog, DegreeWorks)
- Student onboarding and advising **process review** to identify and remediate problem areas



Key Takeaways

- With the legislative investment, Montana 10 is increasing likelihood of graduation and reducing time-to-degree for ~800 more Montana resident students
- MSU launched a MT10 cohort program in Fall 2025 and will serve a total of around 300 students by Fall 2026
- MT10 students continue to outperform their Pell-eligible peers on persistence, retention, and graduation
- MT10 cohort programs must continue to double down on full time (30 credits) credit accumulation
- Institutional Innovation projects have launched and teams are monitoring early indicators as early as Spring 2027

