**Sprint Degrees**

An accelerated high-quality degree pathway that trains skilled graduates for successful, reliable, high-wage, high-demand careers in Montana.

**Purpose**

Nationally, more students are looking for college and career opportunities that provide:

* Clear pathways to careers and intentional workforce development opportunities;
* Direct links of value between the cost of a degree and career outcomes; and
* Accelerated degree timelines through flexible schedules and summer coursework opportunities.

For Montana, Sprint Degrees promote:

* Workforce development by producing skilled graduates faster for Montana’s highest demand sectors;
* Increased access for Montana students who are academically ready, career focused and prefer accelerated degree options, but are concerned the traditional higher education model may not be the best fit;
* Flexible program offerings that can adjust to the ongoing needs of Montana industry; and
* Innovation and efficiency by providing new and streamlined pathways to degrees for students and demonstrating that higher education can quickly respond and adapt to industry needs.

**Structure**

Without sacrificing quality or accreditation standards, the sprint degree pathways would condense the traditional bachelor degree pathway to 2.5 years and an associate degree pathways completed within 12- 18 months. To successfully complete the degree pathways in a shortened time, students will utilize the summer semester, e.g., graduating high school seniors would begin the program shortly after graduation. The bachelor’s degree pathway would include three full-time summer semesters. Associate degrees would utilize two summer semesters – one for pre-requisites and/or general studies courses, and one full-time semester to complete coursework and/or clinical requirements. Due to the highly structured nature of the program, students, campuses, and industry partners must agree to specific partnership terms.

**Who is a Sprint Degree for?**

Sprint Degrees are open and available to all interested students. However, the program is intentionally designed for:

* High school graduates who see value in higher education but don’t want a traditional higher education experience.
* Individuals with some college, but no degree who want an accelerated timeline to a degree that provides a direct link to a career outcome.
* Adult learners who are looking to expand their career options.

**Where are Sprint Degrees offered?**

Sprint degrees for specific health-related professions (Surgical Technology, Paramedic, Human Services) will be offered beginning in Summer 2023 at MSU Billings, City College, and Great Falls College.