



# HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING

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# DISCOVER

**facebook**

: Helena High School  
Counseling Department

- ✓ HHS Counseling Department
- ✓ Montana Career Information System



## HHS Counseling Page:

<http://hhs.helenaschools.org/counseling-and-career-guidance/>

- Scholarships
- Career & College Links
- College & Military Visit Dates
- Post-Secondary Planning Handbooks
  - Resources for those joining the work force, apprenticeships & training programs, Job Corps, Armed Forces, those taking a gap year and those going on to college.





HHS Counseling and Career Department provides information and assistance with academic progress, course selection, careers, college searches, scholarships, financial aid, and other post-secondary opportunities. Individual guidance and classroom group instruction are provided to assist students in making educational and vocational/career plans. Additionally, our staff offers personal and social support to individuals and families. Students are assigned to counselors by last name.



Click [here](#) to connect with the Helena High School Counseling Department Facebook page.

## Counseling and Career Guidance

[ACT, Advanced Placement, and PSAT/NMSQT](#)

[Career and College Links](#)

[Carroll College Early Access](#)

[Clubs & Activities](#)

[College Application Week](#)

[College & Military Visits](#)

[Dual Credit Forms & Information](#)

[Financial Aid Information](#)

[Helena High School's Mobile App – HHSApp](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Junior Parent Night](#)

[Make-Up School](#)

[Montana Post-Secondary Opportunities](#)

[NCAA and NAIA Clearinghouse](#)

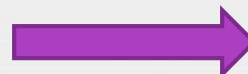
[New Student Information](#)

[Parent-Student Handbook](#)

[Post-Secondary Planning Handbooks](#)

### *What you can expect from your Helena High School Counselors . . .*

- POST-SECONDARY PLANNING/COLLEGE, CAREER & LIFE SKILLS!
- Course selections & preparing for high school.
- INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SUPPORT



# CAREER CENTER RESOURCES

MRS. STRIETZEL  
KSTRIETZEL@HELENASCHOOLS.ORG

- CAREER INTEREST INVENTORIES
- SCHOOL/MILITARY INFORMATION
  - SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION
  - FINANCIAL AID
- JOB SHADOWING
  - INTERNSHIPS



# MONTANA CAREER INFORMATION SYSTEM

<https://www.mtcis.intocareers.org>

Username: helenahigh

Password: plan7ing

Explore the site!

Interest Profiler, Occupation information and a large database of Montana Scholarships.



## Overview:

1. Help your student identify interests, majors, career programs, and colleges by using MCIS
2. Assist your student in connecting with someone who works in the careers of interest. Mrs. Strietzel can connect students to internships and/or job shadowing
3. Visit college campuses and technical centers to learn more about the environment and best fit (allowed 2 school-related absences a year). Research online if a visit is not possible
4. Encourage student to use resources at the counseling center and online
5. Look for the most economically feasible option for your goals. Options include community colleges, trade centers, and apprenticeships.

When it comes to choosing the right college, there are a lot of factors to consider.

The process involves looking at colleges from all angles and determining the right fit based on a combination of facts and “gut” feeling

*Factors to consider might include:*

- Academic Fit
- Cultural Fit (weather, campus setting, size, extracurricular, diversity)
- Financial Fit

# DISCOVER- A COLLEGE FIT



# MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM (MUS)

Learn about the universities and colleges in the Montana University System (there are 16), admission requirements, costs, and how to succeed on campus.

- Prepare and Pay
- Compare Tuition
- College 101
- Scholarships



<https://mus.edu/>

## Collegeview.com

Enables students to search for a college by majors, location, tuition, fees, and more. Uses over 20 search criteria to find the schools that are the best match and why.

## “The College Fair” by Kickwheel- mobile app

Learn about colleges and scholarships, get recruited, and get free college advice. Check out the “BEST OF” COLLEGE LISTS - 100 new "best of" college lists help you explore colleges based on your interests and passions. Colleges with the most Financial Aid? Highest admission rates? Best schools for engineers?

## U.S. News and World Report's College Rankings

U.S. News and World Report provides an annual ranking of colleges nationwide.

# APPLY!

## 2019 Montana College Application Week

September 30 – October 4

An opportunity to apply to college during the school day with many 2-year and 4-year colleges in Montana deferring or waiving their application fee during this week. Takes place in the library with application assistance available.

- More information at <https://mus.edu/gearup/>

**ONE FREE (OR DEFERRED FEE) MT APPLICATION!**



# THE COMMON APPLICATION

<https://www.commonapp.org/>

- A useful way to submit one common application to multiple colleges. Saves time!
- Create an account.
- Search a database for participating colleges (almost 700!)
- Montana:
  - Carroll College and University of Providence-Great Falls





# Types of Financial Aid:



## Grants and scholarships

You don't have to repay these forms of financial aid.

They're known as "gift aid."



## Student loans

You'll have to repay all the money you borrow, plus interest.

Generally, federal student loans are better than private ones.



# Scholarships...there's an app for that!



- **FIND SCHOLARSHIPS**  
MEANT FOR YOU, FAST
- **TRACK STATUS &**  
DEADLINES WITH EASE
- **BENEFIT FROM WINNING**  
ESSAYS & ADVICE

Actively removes scams and updates  
regularly

[myscholly.com](https://myscholly.com) or download the app

# Reach Higher Montana

Get Free Help!

**Reach Higher Montana** has advisors located in communities across Montana to help students and families overcome any barriers and reach their educational goals.

These advisors provide money management counseling, scholarship search and application assistance, completion help, college and career access, resource referrals and more.

Check out resources online at: [www.reachhighermontana.org](http://www.reachhighermontana.org)



# FASTWEB.COM OR FASTWEB APP

A WEBSITE AND AN APP THAT FOCUSES ON SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS, AND CAREER ADVICE. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE BEST SITES FOR FINDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO HELP PAY FOR COLLEGE.

STUDENTS FIND THE APP IS SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD

WHEN YOU LOG IN, YOU'LL SEE A LIST OF SCHOLARSHIPS WHICH YOU QUALIFY FOR BASED ON YOUR FASTWEB PROFILE. SWIPE RIGHT TO MARK YOU'RE INTERESTED IN APPLYING OR LEFT TO INDICATE YOU'RE NOT. THAT EASY!





# COLLEGE GREENLIGHT



We connect first generation and underrepresented students to caring colleges, generous scholarships, and life-changing counselors and mentors.

# Grants and Loans

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the form that the federal government, states, colleges and other organizations use to award financial aid. Submitting it is your key to accessing grants, scholarships, work-study programs and student loans.
- Fill out the application each year you're in college — it only takes 30 minutes on average to complete when you're prepared.
- The FAFSA will be available on October 1 and you will be able to use your prior-prior year's taxes (2018) to complete the application. Most Montana schools set their priority FAFSA date for the 2020-21 academic year as December 1.
- Be sure to confirm that date with your college of choice. It's a good idea to complete the [FAFSA](#) as soon after Oct. 1 as possible to ensure the best financial aid opportunities.

## FAFSA OPENS OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>!

## STEP 1: APPLY FOR A FSA ID

- The FSA ID is your legal signature for submitting the FAFSA. Both a parent and the student will need an ID
- You'll use your FSA ID every year you fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form
- Visit **StudentAid.gov/fsaid** to create a FSA ID. You'll need your Social Security number, full name, and date of birth. You'll also need to create a memorable username and password, and provide answers to some challenge questions so you can retrieve your account information if you forget it.



# Step 2: Submit the FAFSA


Federal Student Aid


An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION


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the AMERICAN MIND®

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

 Home

 About Us

 FSA ID

 StudentAid.gov

 Help


English

ESpañol

SEARCH

Get help paying for college

Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



New to the FAFSA?

Start A New FAFSA

Returning User?

- Make a correction
- Add a school
- View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...

Login

College Scorecard

Information on college costs, graduation, and post-college earnings.

Deadlines

Information about your deadlines.

School Code Search

Find your college's school code. Also find detailed information about your college.

Announcements

- Heads Up! The new 2017-2018 FAFSA is almost here! To upload this better-than-ever version, *FAFSA on the Web* will be unavailable: Friday, September 30, from 10 p.m. through 1:30 a.m. ET, October 1.
- Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) to update your

Thinking About College?



Use *FAFSA4caster* to see how federal student aid can help you pay for college!

## WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV



# FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

5:00PM-7:00PM

HHS LIBRARY



# StudentLoans.gov

The main site for students created by the Department of Education. Mainly focuses on student loan debt, but has a lot of great resources about paying for college.

70%+ of students who will borrow money to pay for school, this should be the first stop in the process.

- Loan types
- What you may qualify for
- Different repayment plans available after graduation.
- Tools to help understand the repayment process