

PLAN YOUR PATH



COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING GUIDE 2023

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF

The **MONTANA STANDARD**
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Independent Record

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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With over twenty degrees and certificates offered, Helena College empowers students through impactful, affordable, lifelong education. Our programs are designed by faculty and staff who support you every step of the way.

Degrees & Certificates

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Transfer Opportunities

Our seamless transfer pathways make transferring credits to a 4-year school easy. Get your start in elementary education, pre-pharmacy, criminal justice, art, social work, and more!

Come See For Yourself!

We're located in beautiful Helena Montana, steps away from trails, lakes, skiing and more. Between our two campuses, Helena College offers a fantastic array of educational opportunities – schedule a visit with our admissions team to see for yourself!



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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

helenacollege.edu

406.447.6900

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Contents

Helena College profile	5
Carroll College profile.....	6
Surrounding state colleges.....	8-9
Montana State University profile	10
Montana Western profile	11
Montana Tech profile	12-13
University of Montana profile	14
Gallatin College MSU and University of Providence profiles.....	15
FAFSA 411.....	16
Flathead Valley Community College profile.....	17
High school action plan	18-19
Tips for outfitting your dorm room.....	20-23
Applying for scholarships	24
Financial advice for students	25
Advice for choosing a major.....	26



HELENA COLLEGE



Helena College offers more than 30 diverse degree and certificate programs on two campuses.

Innovative education at affordable rates

Located centrally in Montana's capital city, Helena College University of Montana is an excellent choice for students wanting an innovative education at one of the most affordable tuition rates the state has to offer.

With more than 30 diverse degree and certificate programs on two campuses, students can pursue a variety of career and technical education programs, transfer pathways, and more in one of these areas:

- Arts, Humanities & Communications
- Business
- Education
- Health Sciences
- Industry & Trades

- Law & Public Safety
- Science, Technology Engineering & Math
- Social Science, Behavioral Sciences & Human Sciences

In the fall of 2021 Helena College's total enrollment was 1,468 students, with 23% attending full-time and 87% attending part-time.

Helena College transfer students earn an average GPA of 3.0 after one semester. Students wanting to pursue a four-year degree can take advantage of the institution's partnerships with other Montana universities. Some programs even have options to finish a four-year degree without leaving Helena.

High school students can earn college

credit through dual enrollment opportunities. Juniors and seniors in high school can take Helena College courses on campus, online, or during a six-week summer session. Montana's "One, Two, Free" program makes earning college credit in high school even more affordable by giving students the option to take two classes and earn up to six credits for free.

Through an inclusive campus and community-wide discussion of Helena College's purpose and goals, three core themes have been identified that represent, individually and collectively, fundamental aspects of the college's mission: student access and success, high quality education and community enrichment.

CARROLL COLLEGE

Gary Marshall, BMGphotos.com

Carroll College students celebrate the first day of classes for the fall semester.

‘Not for School but for Life’

Carroll College believes that your journey matters. They walk alongside students encouraging and supporting their intellectual, personal, and spiritual pursuits while helping them lay solid foundations for future careers.

Carroll combines the needs of today’s students with the deeply rooted intellectual values of Catholic tradition to deliver a well-rounded liberal arts education. With a curriculum rich in sciences, arts, and humanities disciplines, students grow in truth, purpose, and virtue and graduate prepared to serve the diverse and ever-changing world around us. Discover your passion, pursue greatness, and embark on your next great adventure at Carroll as they prepare students, “Not for School but for Life.”

For Learning and for Life

A commitment to excellence is

foundational to everything Carroll does – but not just for excellence itself. As students develop a broad understanding, gain knowledge, and learn expertise in their chosen field, they will open the door to a life of purposeful adventure.

With 11:1 student-to-faculty ratios, not only will students not get lost in a sea of students in an auditorium, but they will also explore experiential learning directly with their professors and classmates. Through a liberal arts core that intersects with professional career preparation, students will build the dexterity to navigate complex problems in an ever-changing world and seek solutions to novel problems that don’t only exist in classrooms or labs.

Learn by Doing

Carroll believes an essential aspect of education is hands-on learning beyond the classroom. With curiosity

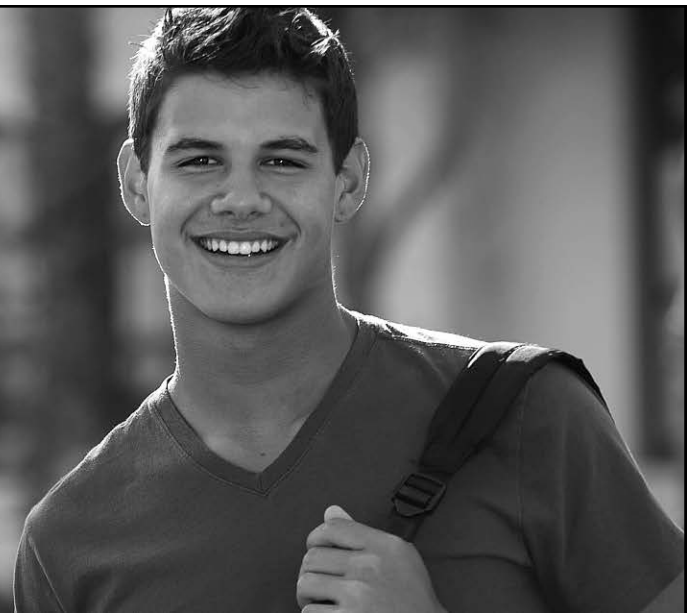
and determination, their students push beyond boundaries to discover and achieve. Their “Sed Vitae” experiences give every student an internship, study abroad, service-learning, undergraduate research, or practicum opportunity. This approach leads to many of Carroll’s students publishing academic papers before graduate school, receiving job offers before they graduate, or being accepted to graduate programs at much higher rates than the national average.

Surprisingly Affordable

With 99 percent of Carroll students receiving some form of financial aid, Carroll College is consistently ranked among the best-valued education in the region. The college has the highest four-year graduation rate in Montana. Students could see a hidden value of up to \$250,000 or more over the course of their lifetime.



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Surrounding state colleges

North Dakota

Bismarck State College:

Admissions & Outreach Services,
701-224-5429,
BSC.Admissions@bismarckstate.edu

Dakota College at Bottineau:

Recruitment and Admission,
701-228-5426,
beth.macdonald@dakotacollege.edu

Dickinson State University:

Admissions, 701-483-2175,
dsu.hawk@dickinsonstate.edu

Lake Region State College:

Office of Admissions, 701-662-1514,
lrsc.enrollment@lrsc.edu

Mayville State University:

Office of Admissions, 701-788-4842,
MaSU.admissions@mayvillestate.edu

Minot State University:

Admissions: 701-858-3350,
askmsu@minotstateu.edu

North Dakota State College of Science:

Admissions, 701-671-2521,
ndscs.admissions@ndscs.edu

North Dakota State University:

Office of Admissions, 701-231-8643,
ndsu.admission@ndsu.edu

University of Jamestown:

Office of Admissions, 800-336-2554,
admission@uj.edu

University of Mary:

Admissions, 701-355-8030,
enroll@umary.edu

University of North Dakota:

Office of University Admissions,
701-777-3000,
admissions@UND.edu

Valley City State University:

Enrollment Services, 701-845-7101,
enrollmentservices@vcsu.edu.

Williston State University:

Enrollment Services, 701-774-4201,
wsc.admission@willistonstate.edu

South Dakota

Augustana College:

Admissions, 605-274-5516,
admission@augie.edu

Black Hills State University:

Office of Admissions, 605-642-6131,
admissions@bhsu.edu

Dakota State University:

Recruitment, 605-256-5139,
admissions@dsu.edu

Dakota Wesleyan University:

Admissions, 605-995-2600,
admissions@dwu.edu

Lake Area Technical Institute:

Admissions Office, 605-882-5284,
service.desk@lakeareatech.edu

Mitchell Technical Institute:

Admissions, 605-995-3025,
admissions@mitchelltech.edu

Mount Marty College:

Admissions, 605-886-6777,
admissions@mountmarty.edu

Northern State University:

NSU Admissions, 605-626-254,
admissions@northern.edu

Presentation College:

Admissions, 605-225-1634,
admit@presentation.edu

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology:

Admissions, 877-877-6044,
admissions@sdsmt.edu

South Dakota State University:

SDSU Admissions, 800-952-3541,
sdsu.admissions@sdstate.edu

Southeast Technical University:

Admissions, 605-367-6040,
admissions@southeasttech.edu

University of Sioux Falls:

Admissions, 800-888-1047,
admissions@usf.edu

University of South Dakota:

Admissions, 605-658-6200,
admissions@usd.edu

Western Dakota Technical Institute:

Admissions, 605-718-2565,
admissions@wdt.edu

Wyoming

Casper College:

Enrollment Services, 307-268-2323,
nrollmentservices@caspercollege.edu

Central Wyoming College:

Admissions Team, 307-855-2115,
Admit@cwcc.edu

Gillette/Sheridan College:

Sheridan College Admissions, 307-675-0500,
admissions@sheridan.edu

Gillette/Sheridan College:

Gillette College Admissions, 307-681-6001,
GCadmissions@sheridan.edu

Laramie County Community College:

Admissions & Enrollment Services,
307-778-1212,
admissions@lccc.wy.edu

Northwest College:

Admissions Office, 307-754-6101,
admissions@nwc.edu

University of Wyoming:

Office of Admissions, 307-766-5160,
admissions@uwyo.edu

Western Wyoming Community College:

Admissions, 307-382-1706,
admissions@westernwyoming.edu

Wyoming Catholic College:

Admissions, 307-335-4460,
admissions@wyomingcatholic.edu

Utah

Bridgerland Technical College:

Enrollment/Registration,
435-753-6780,
studentservices@btech.edu

Dixie State University:

Admissions, 435-652-7777,
admissions@dixie.edu

Mountainland Technical College:

Student Services, 801-753-6282,
studentservices@mtcc.edu

Salt Lake Community College:

Enrollment, 801-957-4073,
admissions@slcc.edu

Snow College:

Student Services, 800-848-3399,
snowcollege@snow.edu

University of Utah:

Office of Admissions, 801-581-8761,
admissions@utah.edu

Utah State University:

Office of Admissions, 800-488-8108,
admit@usu.edu

Utah Valley University:

Admissions, 801-863-8706,
admissions@uvu.edu

Weber State University:

Office of Admissions,
01-626-6050,
admissions@weber.edu

Washington

Bellingham Technical College:

Admissions, 360-752-8345,
admissions@btc.edu

Big Bend Community College:

Admissions, 509-793-2061,
admissions@bigbend.edu

Central Washington University:

Admissions, 509-963-1211,
admissions@cwu.edu

Centralia College:

Admissions, 360-496-5022,
admissions@centralia.edu

Clark College:

Admissions, 360-992-2107,
enroll@clark.edu

Clover Park Technical College:

Admissions, 253-589-5800,
admissions@cptcc.edu

Columbia Basin College:

Student Services, 509-547-0511,
records@columbiabasin.edu

Eastern Washington University:

Admissions, 509-359-2397,
admissions@ewu.edu

Everett Community College:

Enrollment Services, 425-388-9219,
registration@everettcc.edu

Evergreen State College:

Admissions, 360-867-6170,
admissions@evergreen.edu

Grays Harbor College:

Admissions, 360-532-9020,
admissions@ghc.edu

Highline College:

Admissions, 206-592-3242,
registration@highline.edu

Lake Washington Institute of Technology:

Registration & Enrollment Services,
425-739-8104,
admissions@lwtech.edu

Olympic College:

Admissions, 360-475-7279,
welcome@olympic.edu

Peninsula College:

Admissions, 360-452-9277,
admissions@pencol.edu

Renton Technical College:

Admissions & Entry Services, 425-
235-2352 x 5978,
enrollment@rtc.edu

Shoreline Community College:

Enrollment Services, 206-546-4611,
sccadmis@shoreline.edu

South Puget Sound Community College:

Admissions & Outreach,
360-596-5241,
enroll@spscc.edu

Spokane Community College:

Admissions, 509-533-8020,
scc.admissions@scc.spokane.edu

Tacoma Community College:

Enrollment Services, 253-566-5000,
enrollment@tacomacc.edu

University of Washington:

Office of Admissions, 206-543-9686,
askuwadm@uw.edu

Washington State University:

Office of Enrollment and
Recruitment,
888-468-6978,
future.coug@wsu.edu

Oregon**Blue Mountain Community College:**

Admissions, 541-278-5759,
admissions@bluecc.edu

Central Oregon Community College:

Admissions, 541-383-7500,
welcome@coccc.edu

Clackamas Community College:

Registration, 503-594-6074,
registration@clackamas.edu

Columbia Gorge Community College:

Admissions, 541-506-6011,
studentservices@cgcc.edu

Corban University:

Admissions, 503-581-8600,
admissions@corban.edu

Eastern Oregon University:

Admissions, 800-452-8639,
admissions@eou.edu

George Fox University:

Admissions, 503-554-2240,
admissions@georgefox.edu

Klamath Community College:

Admissions, 541-882-3521,
admissions@klamathcc.edu

Lewis & Clark College:

Admissions, 503-768-7040,
admissions@lclark.edu

Multnomah University:

Admissions, 503-251-6485,
admissions@multnomah.edu

Oregon Coast Community College:

Student Services, 541-867-8501,
occc@oregoncoast.edu

Oregon Institute of Technology:

Office of Admissions,
800-422-2017oit@oit.edu

Oregon State University:

Office of Admissions, 541-737-4411,
osuadmit@oregonstate.edu

Pacific University:

Office of Admissions, 503-352-2218,
admissions@pacificu.edu

Portland Community College:

Enrollment, 971-722-6111,
enroll@pcc.edu

Portland State University:

Admissions, 503-725-3000,
admissions@pdx.edu

Reed College:

Admissions, 503-777-7511,
admission@reed.edu

Rogue Community College:

Admissions & Recruitment, 541-956-
7217,
recruitment@rogucecc.edu

Southern Oregon University:

Admissions, 855-470-3377,
admissions@sou.edu

Southwestern Oregon Community College:

Admissions, 541-888-7636,
admissions@socc.edu

Tillamook Bay Community College:

Student Services,
503-842-8222 x1100,
studentservices@tillamookbaycc.edu

Treasure Valley Community College:

Admissions, 541-881-
8822,
admissions@tvcc.cc

University of Oregon:

Admissions, 800-BE-A-DUCK,
admissions@uoregon.edu

University of Portland:

Admissions, 503-943-7147,
admissions@up.edu

University of Western States:

Admissions, 503-251-5734,
admissions@uws.edu

Warner Pacific University:

Admissions, 800-804-1510,
admissions@warnerpacific.edu

Western Oregon University:

Admissions, 503-838-8211,
wolfgram@wou.edu

Idaho**Boise State University:**

Admissions, 208-426-1156,
admissions@boisestate.edu

College of Eastern Idaho:

Admissions, 208-535-5390,
info@cei.edu

College of Idaho:

Admissions, 208-459-5305,
admission@collegeofidaho.edu

College of Southern Idaho:

Admissions, 208-732-6221,
admissions@csi.edu

College of Western Idaho:

One Stop Student Services, 208-562-
3000, onestop@cw.edu

Idaho State University:

Admissions, 208-282-2475,
admiss@isu.edu

Lewis-Clark State College:

Admissions, 208-792-2210,
admissions@lcsc.edu

New Saint Andrews College:

Recruitment, 208-882-1566, ghen-
drix@nsa.edu

North Idaho College:

Admissions, 208-769-3311,
ardinalcentral@nic.edu

University of Idaho:

Admissions, 208-885-6111, info@
uidaho.edu

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Montana's largest university

Montana State University was founded in 1893 on a visionary idea: that every student, regardless of background, has the right to pursue a college education.

Today, MSU is Montana's largest university, boasting over 250 academic programs and 16,250 students, including students from all of Montana's 56 counties.

Undergraduate research

MSU has a large undergraduate population and is a known research hub, boasting \$193 million in research expenditures in 2020-2021 alone. This unique profile means that students can access research opportunities typically reserved for graduate students at other universities. In addition to the lab, you'll find MSU students atop Sacajawea Peak examining rock formations, in Browning recording Native oral histories, or in Ekalaka uncovering triceratops bones, making the most of hands-on education.

Campus life

MSU students have countless opportunities to make new friends. Students connect with peers through nearly 300 student organizations, while residence halls serve as a home away from home.

MSU boasts several modern, cutting-edge buildings, including its newest residence hall Hyalite Hall and the newly constructed \$20-million American Indian Hall, which serves as a bridge between Native American and other cultures on campus.

MSU traditions

MSU is chock-full of traditions that help students feel at home, including "Rockin' the M," an annual hike and ceremonial lighting of the iconic "M" above Bozeman

Students move from class to class on the Montana State University campus in August 2020.

THOM BRIDGE, *Independent Record*



to celebrate homecoming weekend. Bobcat fest and the yearly Gold Rush game are also favorite traditions among students.

But perhaps the most important tradition is giving back. MSU students volunteer through opportunities like Service Saturdays, while Engineers without Borders and MSU BreaksAway invite students to address challenges in communities on the other side of the country — and the world.

Student support

SmartyCats Tutoring and the writing and math learning centers help MSU students succeed in the classroom, while programs like Come Work with Us can help students pay for school. The Freshman 15 guides students to take a full course load, so they can graduate in four years. Advisors are on hand to help identify scholarships and navigate financial aid, and the Allen Yarnell Center For Student Success offers career prepping, financial coaching, study skills coaching, and more.

Think outside

MSU likes to "think outside."

But thinking outside means a lot more than visiting nearby Bridger Bowl. It's an invitation to blaze new trails with discovery, creativity and dynamic

thinking — a call to action to redefine what is possible.

To schedule a visit to MSU or take a virtual campus tour, go to montana.edu/visit

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**Montana Nursing Direct Entry Program**

We are delighted to now welcome Montana high school graduates directly into the nursing major!

Direct entry guarantees eligible students a spot in the MRJCON BSN nursing program. To maintain direct entry eligibility to the nursing BSN program students will need to:

- Continue enrollment at Montana State University
- Achieve a GPA of 3.0 or higher in the required prenursing prerequisite courses
- Earn grades of a C- or better in all prenursing prerequisite courses



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MONTANA WESTERN

FILE PHOTO

The University of Montana Western continues to be a stable economic force in Dillon and Beaverhead County.

Earn your degree one course at a time

We'd like to invite you to visit and explore the University of Montana Western, a remarkably different kind of university located in Dillon, Montana, where you can get a world-class education surrounded by everything that makes Montana extraordinary.

Montana Western is unique because we are the only public, four-year institution in the nation that offers Experience One, where taking one course at a time allows our students to engage in authentic, experiential education that can't be replicated under a traditional semester schedule. This structure allows our students and faculty to spend much of their class time with hands-on instruction in the field, lab, community or classroom.

Offering nine certificates, eight associate degrees, 29 bachelor's degrees, and 44 minors, Montana Western offers students the chance to combine their passions with immersive experiences in and out of the classroom. Our 10 academic

departments are Biology, Business and Technology, Environmental Sciences, Education, English, Equine Studies, Health and Human Performance, Fine Arts, Mathematics, and History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences.

In addition to being the only university with Experience One, Montana Western has one-of-a-kind programs including the nation's only four-year degree in Glass with a specialization in Scientific Glassblowing and the country's only B.S. degree in Natural Horsemanship with options in Management, Psychology, Science and Instruction.

An additional benefit to our unique instructional model is our award-winning faculty, who are able to focus on one small group of students at a time. This allows our students to get the most out of their educational experiences and apply them to solving real-world challenges.

With scholarship support from the

Montana Western Foundation, and being connected to the Bulldog Family through UMW Alumni & Friends and a multitude of events and activities, students are sure to make a connection to the vibrant town of Dillon and establish lasting friendships with classmates and members of the community that will last a lifetime.

As the institution with the lowest tuition and fees of any four-year university in the state of Montana, UMW offers an unparalleled value in education.

According to Michael Reid, Chancellor of Montana Western, "The result of this combination of individualized support, experiential learning, and affordability is that students at Montana Western complete what they start. Our focused approach to learning leads to more impactful educational experiences that make the most out of each student's time and dollars spent on completing their degrees."

MONTANA TECHJOSEPH SCHELLER, *The Montana Standard*

Montana Technological University is seen on Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 in Butte.

Excellence in STEM disciplines

For the past century, Montana Technological University in Butte has been recognized for excellence in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines.

The university provides a transformative student experience by developing leaders and advancing science, engineering and technology to benefit humanity while meeting the changing needs of society. The university's determined students learn in state-of-the-art facilities and perform hands-on work relevant to today's rapidly evolving industries.

Tech's leadership takes pride in the university's emphasis and desire to be on the cutting edge of technology and industry trends.

"We want to make sure that we're incorporating all of the technology that we need to be incorporating — instructional or otherwise — and that we are sending our students out the door with knowledge of what the world is," said Michele Hardy, dean of the College of Letters, Sciences & Professional Studies.

It's this forward-thinking mindset which sets Montana Tech grads up for

success in whatever industry they've chosen.

"So students come here and want to go to medical school, dental school, pharmacy school," Hardy said. "Any of those who want to get into health programs, our placement rate is about 90-92%. If we include students that go onto graduate school in the health sciences, we are easily at 100% placement rate."

Montana Tech's student-to-faculty ratio makes it so students can develop strong relationships with their professors. This type of learning experience

JOSEPH SCHELLER *The Montana Standard*

Montana Tech's Charlie Oredigger stands for the national anthem during the football game between Montana Tech and Carroll College on Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023 at Alumni Coliseum in Butte.

paired with potentially life-long connections will also help Tech grads get to where they want to go.

"I think the small size is huge for students that want that kind of atmosphere and want that kind of personalized attention," Hardy said.

"We have a low student to faculty ratio," said Kenneth Lee, dean of the School of Mines and Engineering. "So the students have better access to the faculty."

Montana Tech offers four-year degrees, graduate degrees, and several doctoral degrees. Many of the school's engineering programs are unique to the region and are among only a few in the country.

The university's south campus, Highlands College, is home to career-ready

and transfer programs that help build the workforce needed to shape Montana's future. From certificates and associate degrees to community education and customized training, Highlands offers relevant hands-on professional programs for the essential jobs of tomorrow.

"It's applied learning," said Karen VanDaveer, dean of Highlands College. "So that is what we're doing – we're preparing our students for the workforce."

Tech and Highlands are constantly evaluating and re-evaluating curriculums, from the way classes are structured to what degrees are offered. For example, the School of Mines and Engineering now offers a bachelor's degree in construction management – the only such program in the state.

"We've also updated our curriculums to make them more transfer-friendly," Lee said.

Another example is Highlands' recently revised "stackable" curriculum. With this format, as a student works toward a bachelor's degree, they'll receive certified training. Once they've received their certificate, they can then either enter the workforce or keep working toward an associate's or bachelor's degree.

"If they have a certificate, that's wonderful, a certificate of applied science," VanDaveer said. "Or they can keep going."

To learn more about Montana Tech, visit mtech.edu or call 800-445-8324. To explore athletics news and events, visit godiggers.com.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



ANTONIO IBARRA, *Missoulian*

University of Montana students participate in an orientation for incoming freshmen.

An inclusive and vibrant campus

Every day, University of Montana students work alongside renowned faculty to tackle the big complexities of our time — racism, economic mobility, access to health care, addiction, counseling, climate change, law, policy and gender and women’s studies. Through all of this, faculty and staff know your name, your story, goals and passions. Being part of the UM family isn’t a marketing a tagline. It’s real and special and is something that a network of more than 100,000 alumni share.

At UM’s inclusive and vibrant campus, the annual Kyiyo Powwow is as a treasured event, as are our home games in Washington Grizzly Stadium. In fact, UM was named a Military Friendly School, a top school for LGBTQ2+ inclusivity and a top university for students with autism in the same year.

UM is nestled alongside the famed

Clark Fork River and at the foot of Mount Sentinel and is routinely ranked as the most beautiful campus in the country. Between classes and labs, UM students often spend their free time hiking, biking, fishing and floating just steps away from their classroom.

In addition to over 200 areas of study, UM students can join any of the 120 student groups and organizations, eat at 19 unique on-campus dining locations or climb 7,000 square feet of climbing surface at the campus recreation center, all while never stepping foot off campus.

With 128 years of rich tradition, UM students celebrate Montana’s expansive outdoor heritage with a weekend-long celebration called the Forester’s Ball, paint the Hello Walk to celebrate the return of alumni during Homecoming and climb to the top of historic Main

Hall to spike a pumpkin on the eve of Halloween.

UM students reflect Montana — in fact, one-third of our undergraduate population are the first in their family to ever attend college.

UM’s ElevateU initiative ensures all students, regardless of major, have access to the career readiness training that employers want. Last year, UM student interns earned more than \$600,000 in wages and contributed more than \$2.6 million in local economic impact.

Home to more than 10,000 students, but with a 13 to 1 student to teacher ratio, the “big, but small” feel provides UM students with the vibrant excitement of a large university with the hands-on benefits of a small college.

It is an exciting time to be a Griz. To learn more please visit umt.edu.

GALLATIN COLLEGE MSU

Technical, hands-on curriculum

The state of Montana encompasses one of the densest per capita clusters of optics and photonics institutions in the U.S. To meet the ever-growing workforce demands of this local cluster – and of the nation overall – Gallatin College offers an associate of applied science (AAS) degree in photonics and laser technology to develop highly trained photonics and electro-optic technicians.

Located in Bozeman, the college complements the four-year programs at Montana State University and ensures access to workforce development that promotes a vibrant local economy. Since its inception in the autumn of 2016, the photonics and laser technology program's three cohorts have graduated a total of

24 technicians, and all are working and excelling in the local photonics industry. Companies that have hired graduates from the program include LUMIBIRD, Aurora Innovations, Quantum Composers, FLIR Systems, and Resonon.

Students completing Gallatin College's AAS program in photonics and laser technology will understand the scientific principles of electronics, photonics, and advanced manufacturing. This includes a focus on AC/DC, solid-state, and digital electronics, as well as the fundamentals of light and lasers, laser systems, associated applications, and advanced-manufacturing techniques.

The training prepares students to become technicians in photonics and

electro-optics who are capable of working on products or devices used in manufacturing, communications, defense, homeland security, the medical industry, information technology, energy, environmental monitoring, lighting, displays, and entertainment.

A large portion of the electronics and photonics curriculum is hands-on. Students spend a majority of their time working in a laboratory environment, applying their theoretical knowledge to master the use of relevant test and measurement equipment to construct and troubleshoot advanced electro-systems.

Graduates of the program will have the ability to excel as technicians in the electronics, optics, laser and photonics support fields.

UNIVERSITY OF PROVIDENCE

Providing mission-driven education

A private, Roman Catholic liberal-arts university in Great Falls, the University of Providence offers many different majors, minors, certificate programs and concentrations to prepare you for a variety of career paths. The college also aims to guide students to a deeper understanding of the world and what it means to be successful in it.

A park-like setting, the University of Providence occupies a 44-acre campus immediately south of 10th Avenue South in Great Falls. The campus is made up of 14 buildings, including mature trees and 1960's architecture. The size of the campus allows students to move easily between classes, administrative offices and services, athletic events and university activities.

The campus includes a variety of attractive and comfortable residence



halls. First-year students reside in Emilie Hall.

The University also has several apartment style residences: Argo Hall, Sikora Hall, Sister Rita Mudd Hall, Vancouver Hall, and Wellness House.

The University of Providence serves 480 undergraduates. The student to faculty ratio is 12:1.

About 95% of undergraduate students received some type of financial aid, including federal grants, work-study opportunities and donor provided scholarships.

Please contact Argo Central at (406) 791-5202 for more information.

FAFSA 411

REACH HIGHER MONTANA

If you need financial aid to help you pay for college, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at studentaid.gov.

The good news is the revised “Better FAFSA” is now simpler and easier to complete than ever before. Here are a few of the changes that may affect you:

New deadlines

More students will be eligible for Pell Grants

Families who receive federal benefits may be exempt from providing asset information

Reduced barriers for at-risk students
Financial aid could decrease for:

- Families with multiple children in college
- Families with small businesses or farms

Pay attention to the deadlines

The “Better FAFSA” will be available in December, so fill it out as soon as possible.

Check with your school for Priority Deadline as the deadlines have changed this year. Missing the priority date could affect the amount of money you get for financial aid.

Create an FSA ID at studentaid.gov

Create it ahead of time. FSA ID will be matched with Social Security information and could take up to 3 days.

Gather information

Have your documents ready. Review this list of documents and check them as you fill out the FAFSA.

- FSA ID (required for both parent and student)
- Driver’s license (if you have one)
- Social security number (parent and student)
- Prior, prior year federal tax returns, W2 forms, and untaxed income records (i.e. the 2024-2025 FAFSA, would use 2022 tax information)
- Information on savings/investments (if applicable)
- List of the school(s) you are interested in attending



photo_gonzo, Shutterstock

The FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, must be completed to apply for federal grants, work-study programs and loans. It was created by Congress as part of the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 and was meant to standardize the process of applying for federal aid. But critics argue that it is too complicated and that, in fact, schools routinely award scholarships to wealthier applicants, forcing poorer students to take on more loans.

The form also is used by many states and colleges to determine eligibility for state and school aid, and by some private financial aid providers. It asks for information about a student’s finances and those of their family, including tax returns.

File the FAFSA at studentaid.gov

The FAFSA won’t take long to complete and requires both parent and student information.

Direct data exchange (DDX)

The Direct Data Exchange inputs your tax information directly to the FAFSA. Everyone is required to consent to DDX, even if they didn’t file taxes.

Make sure your college(s) of choice are listed on your FAFSA. If corrections or updates are needed, complete them as soon as possible.

FAFSA submissions summary (FSS)

After you submit the FAFSA form, you’ll receive an FSS. The FSS provides an estimated Student Aid Index (SAI) and estimated Pell Grant and student loan eligibility using information from your FAFSA.

Financial aid offer

After your school receives your information, it sends you a financial aid award offer that explains how much funding you’re eligible to receive.

Compare financial aid packages to find out which one is best for you.

Borrow only what you need. You don’t have to accept the full amount of loans offered.

Resources

Contact a financial aid office: They love to help and are the true experts on all things financial aid.

US Department of Education – studentaid.gov: This site includes tools to help you estimate your eligibility for federal student aid, and answers to common questions.

For more information on Reach Higher Montana, call 877-265-4463, email info@reachhighermontana.org or head to reachhighermontana.org

FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

An affordable start

Flathead Valley Community College is an ideal place to begin the college exploration process. Faculty and staff understand that college is a big investment of time and money and want to help you navigate your academic choices and reach your career aspirations. That's why the school offers an excellent education at an affordable price.

You can start at FVCC and go anywhere. Whether you want to stay in Montana or go out of state, FVCC will customize your plan of study and guide you through the transfer process. Our academic advisors ensure that transferring students are connected to the best campus resources and advisors at their next institutions.

You can finish all of your general education courses at FVCC, then

transfer to any Montana University System college or university with your general education requirements complete.

Save thousands of dollars in tuition and fees.

FVCC's tuition and fees for Montana residents are significantly less than that of in-state tuition and fees at Montana State University and the University of Montana, saving transfer students nearly \$2,800 over two years. For some students, this means graduating without any debt thanks to FVCC's generous scholarship offerings. Last year, FVCC students were awarded nearly \$1.2 million in need-based and merit-based scholarships.

It's not all about studying

FVCC's Kalispell campus is located

just 30 miles from the entrance of Glacier National Park and 12 miles from Flathead Lake. Two local ski resorts, Whitefish Mountain Resort and Blacktail Mountain Ski Area, are short drives from campus. In addition to outdoor recreation opportunities, students will soon have access to a new multipurpose activity complex with an indoor fitness area and gymnasium when the Paul D. Wachholz College Center opens in 2022.

Want to learn more?

Take our interactive 360-degree tour to get an up-close look at FVCC's Kalispell campus. Explore buildings, labs, learning spaces, student housing apartments and more at your own pace at fvcc.edu/digital-experience.



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High school action plan



SYLVAN LEARNING

Planning for college should begin on the first day of high school. Use the following list as guideposts to navigate the road to college and be sure to track your goals along the way.

Freshman year

Fall/Winter

- Meet with guidance counselors to ensure you are enrolled in college prep courses.

- Focus on doing well in courses and seek extra help from peers, teachers, and tutors when needed.

- Join a sports team or club to become involved in the school.

- Volunteer for local activities to become a part of your community.

- Attend college fairs or college open houses in your area.

Winter/Spring

- Keep focused on doing well in classes and seek extra help when needed.

- Meet with guidance counselors to select courses for Sophomore year.

- Study and take AP exams for AP courses you have completed.

- Take SAT Subject Test for any AP course that you have completed.

- Investigate the potential to attend a summer

enrichment program at a local college.

Sophomore year

Fall/Winter

- Meet with guidance counselors to ensure you are enrolled in college prep courses.

- Focus on doing well in courses and seek extra help from peers, teachers, and tutors when needed.

- Continue to participate in sports teams and clubs or volunteer in your community.

- Consider taking the PSAT in October for practice.

- Attend college fairs or college open houses in your area.

- Talk to friends, relatives, etc. who are in college and ask them about their experiences. Be sure to ask about both positive and negative aspects of their school.

Winter/Spring

- Keep focused on doing well in classes and seek extra help when needed.

- Meet with guidance counselors to select courses

for Junior year.

- Study and take AP exams for AP courses you have completed.

- Take SAT Subject Test for any AP course that you have completed.

- Investigate the potential to attend a summer enrichment program at a local college.

- Plan spring break or summer visits to local colleges to experience the different types of college settings. Note your preferences for campus size and location.

Junior year

Fall/Winter

- Meet with guidance counselors to ensure you are enrolled in college prep courses.

- Focus on doing well in courses and seek extra help from peers, teachers, and tutors when needed.

- Take a leadership role within your sports teams, clubs, or volunteer organization.

- Register to take the PSAT/PLAN offered in October.

Attend college fairs or college open houses in your area.

Analyze what you want in a college by answering the following:

- Do I prefer a small, medium, or large school?

- Do I prefer an urban, suburban, or rural campus?

- How far from home? How often do I want to be able to visit home?

- Do I want a school with a widely recognized name?

- Are there rigorous admission requirements (test scores, GPA, class rank, etc.)?

- What academic program do I want to pursue?

- Does the school offer it?

- What special programs are important (language, religion, music, etc.)?

- Is the sports program at the school important?

- Social aspects of the college (Greek, community service, organizations, etc.)?

- Create a first list of schools that meet the criteria established by your requirements.

Winter/Spring

- Remain focused on doing well in courses and seek extra

help when needed.

- Prepare to take the SAT or ACT by reviewing the test components and taking a practice test. Or choose to study via SAT/ACT prep books, online courses, or to enroll in a SAT/ACT prep course.

- In Jan/Feb register for the SAT or ACT March-May test dates.

- Meet with guidance counselors to select courses for senior year.

- Study and take AP exams for AP courses you have completed.

- Take SAT Subject Test for any AP course that you have completed.

- Plan visits to colleges that are high on your interest list. Schedule tours of the campus and meetings with college staff who can answer your questions concerning campus life and program offerings.

- Use the Sylvan College Planning Guide to help evaluate potential schools and create a list of schools to investigate in more detail.

- Investigate the potential to attend a summer enrichment program at a local college.

Senior year

Fall/Winter

- Meet with guidance counselors to ensure you are enrolled in college prep courses.

- Focus on doing well in courses and seek extra help from peers, teachers, and tutors when needed.

- Take a leadership role within your sports teams, clubs, or volunteer organization.

- Prepare to take another attempt at the SAT or ACT by reviewing the test components and taking a practice test. You may also choose to study using SAT/ACT prep books, online courses, or by enrolling in a SAT/ACT prep



course.

- Register to take the SAT or ACT in the fall.

- Attend any college fairs or college open houses in your area.

- Use the Sylvan College Planning Guide to help evaluate potential schools and select the schools where you will apply.

Winter/Spring

- Have all applications submitted by Dec. 15.

- Have parents fill out FAFSA (or CSS Profile) by March.

- Compare financial aid offers from colleges.

- Keep focused on doing well in courses and seek extra help when needed.

- Meet with guidance counselor to discuss college course options.

- Study and take AP exams for AP courses you have completed.

- Take SAT Subject Test for any AP course that you have completed.

- Schedule an extended visit to schools where you have been accepted. Meet with students and faculty members in your program of choice.

- Use the Sylvan College Planning Guide to help you

determine which school you will attend.

- Before leaving for college, create a list of everything you will need and be sure you have it all.

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W

THE UNIVERSITY of MONTANA WESTERN is the only U.S. public university offering a unique scheduling program called Experience One (X1). With X1, you take one course at a time for 18 days, take a short break, then move on to your next course.

Call 877-683-7331 or visit umwestern.edu to schedule a campus tour and learn more about the Montana Western difference.

WHAT TO BRING, LEAVE AT HOME

Tips for outfitting your dorm room

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

For the uninitiated, outfitting a college dorm room can be a dizzying experience. Doing it at a time of high inflation can make it even more daunting.

The first step: Meticulously go over what the school allows and provides. If you want a microwave and mini-fridge, are the energy-saving combo models required? Do you need foam pool noodles to avoid hitting your head under an upper bunk, and if so, might the school provide them? Exactly how thick can a mattress topper be?

“You can see the look of terror on parents’ faces,” said Marianne Szymanski, an independent product researcher who has sent two kids to college. “You know, did I get the right mattress pad? It’s crazy.”

Etsy’s trend expert, Dayna Isom Johnson, said self-expression is top of mind for dorm-bound kids in such things as faux headboards and unique dresser knobs.

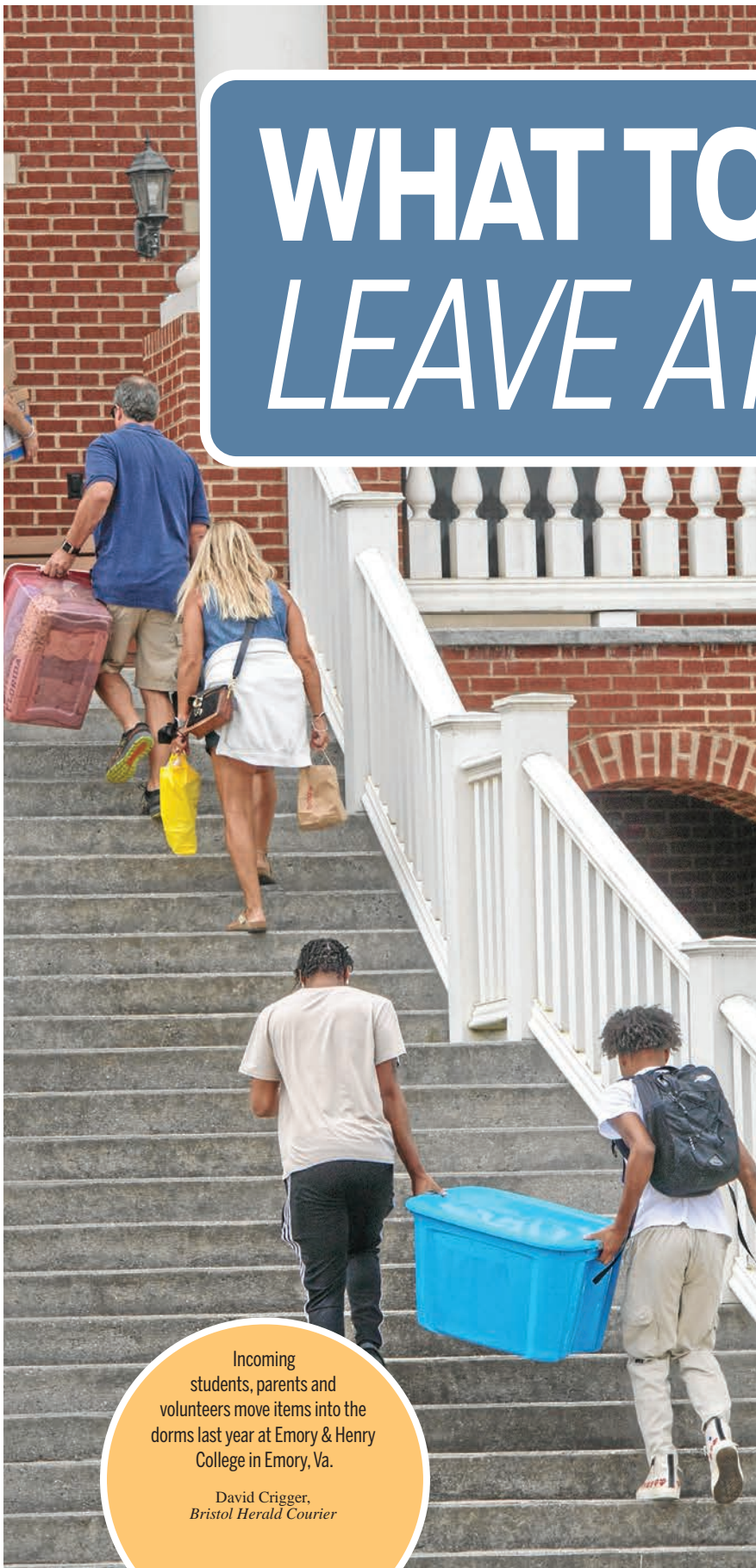
“Two of my favorite dorm trends right now are mood-boosting hues that incorporate bright and energetic colors like neon tones, and heritage styles, a nostalgic trend that embodies the traditional collegiate look with items like plaid linens, wood-toned furniture and monograms,” she said.

There’s no end to help out there, from parents swapping tips in social media groups to seasoned college students offering hacks on TikTok.

Some suggestions:

Incoming students, parents and volunteers move items into the dorms last year at Emory & Henry College in Emory, Va.

David Crigger,
Bristol Herald Courier

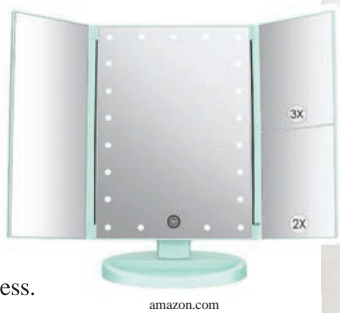


Lighting and charging

Dorm rooms have notoriously bad light and notoriously few electrical outlets in convenient spots. Many schools don't allow extension cords. For power strips, which are almost always permitted, consider going vertical with a tower that offers surge protection, USB ports and outlets that can accommodate a range of differently shaped plugs.

It may be time to get a three-way charger. Storage carts, headboards and stands with charging capability are plentiful.

Use double-sided tape or hook-and-loop strips to fasten a power strip to the frame of an elevated bed for easy access.



amazon.com

For students so inclined, putting on makeup can be a problem that a lighted makeup mirror can solve. A desk or clip-on lamp is a must for studying. Consider a shared floor lamp. Neon signs are also popular as decorative lighting.



amazon.com

Bedding and laundry

Think extra-long twin sheets, mattress protector and thick, cozy mattress pad, but do know some schools don't allow certain types of gel toppers, Szymanski said. As for all those throw pillows, where do they go when it's time to sleep? Usually on the perhaps-not-so-clean floor, so maybe buy fewer. Better yet, take along a body pillow.

Buying two or three sets of sheets does mean using up some already limited storage, but students not terribly laundry-responsible won't go into crisis when the dirties pile up. And if beds are elevated for storage, get curtains to cover the clutter.

What type of laundry hamper to get is a hot topic, and it depends on how far from the room the washers and dryers live. There are rolling hampers, compact mesh hampers and all manner of bags. For trekking up and



An over-the-door bathroom organizer from Dormify.com
Dormify.com



amazon.com



A storage ottoman from Dormify.com

down stairs, huge laundry backpacks (some with padded shoulder straps) are perfect.

A hack: Invest in a clothing steamer or wrinkle-release fabric spray rather than an iron.

Shelving and hooks

Extending storage with shelving is a dorm-size jigsaw puzzle. Is there room for over-the-bed shelving? Does the school permit hutches on top of desks or provide them?

Pro tip: Not a great idea to swap sturdy shelving for an over-the-toilet bathroom version that might not be able to handle

something heavy, like a microwave. Also, if a bed will be elevated but not all the way up, a tall bedside stand with extra shelves or drawers might be useful.

Ask the school: Can shelving or stands of any kind be placed in front of windows?

And remember those locker shelves from high school? Use them to extend space in a nightstand or desk.

Those Command stick-on hooks? Bring oh so many, along with the removable poster strips made not to damage walls. Also pick up a couple of over-the-door

hangers for bags, coats, robes and hoodies.

Closets and other storage

For the closet, consider sturdy vertical hanger extenders and hanging shoe and clothing storage. Yes, such storage takes up space and adds weight. Can an extra rod be installed?

Storage cubes can triple as seating and step stool, as opposed to a decorative pouf that is simply pretty and comfy.

Under-bed or in-closet storage drawers are essential, along with extra baskets, or at least a bowl for random, easily lost smaller items. Medium plastic baskets for scarves, socks and the like can be used on the top closet shelf.

Rakot75
bamboo
reusable towels

Rakot75



Cleaning and cooling

Vacuum cleaners are often available, but they're usually heavy and must be lugged back and forth. Szymanski has a hack for that. Not your run-of-the-mill portable vacuum but an ultra-mini handheld and battery-operated version called the Ayla. It's tube-like and just 11 inches tall.

Some students recommend a duster with cling power, along with a dehumidifier or air purifier.

Portable fans are tiny but mighty. Woozoo, a cult favorite, makes oscillating and remote-controlled versions.

Another Szymanski hack: a roll of Rakot75 towels for cleaning. They're 100% bamboo and come in a 75-count roll, and each sheet can be reused up to six months. Just rinse and reuse.

Don't forget small trash cans for the bathroom and sleeping area, after coordinating with roommates, of course, on this and other shared items.

Decor and style

Style is everything for some dorm dwellers.

"People really take pride and they really



strive for a sophisticated, grown-up space,” said Adar Kirkham, a DIY designer and star of the new digital series “Freestyled” on HGTV.com. “It’s now considered cool to decorate your room.”

The pros are mixed on whether removable, peel-and-stick wallpaper is a good idea. Some schools may not allow it, and it might not adhere to textured walls. Kirkham suggests using it to decorate desk drawers or other storage units.

Some kids bring along decorative mirrors to hang, rather than the usual all-body vertical kind, or they hang strings of twinkle lights.

The site Dormify.com is full of design inspiration and products. This year’s freshmen are more confident than last year’s about personalizing their dorm room, said Amanda Zuckerman, Dormify’s co-founder and CEO.

“More saturation and color is really popular, so bringing in bright pink, bright orange, bright green and turquoise,” she said.

According to Pinterest, searches are up for hippy and preppy dorm styles.

“People are increasingly searching for things like funky mirror ideas, which have tripled since last year. Indoor plant styling is also on the rise. Searching for preppy dorm room has increased 80%. Pink and blue are some really strong colors for that preppy aesthetic,” said Pinterest’s data insights lead Swasti Sarna.



Shower caddies from Dormify.com
Dormify.com

she said.

A small, portable, battery-operated blender could be useful. It doesn’t take up a lot of space, and it helps students eat healthy options stored in room fridges.

Szymanski likes the Blendi.

A tool kit comes in handy, as does a first-aid kit. To help elevate a bed, Szymanski said, bring along a rubber mallet.

And rather than a bedside canvas caddy, try an attachable bunk bed tray table. It can hold a drink, a phone and more.

Last but not least: a permanent marker good for labeling fabric as well as plastic.

A dorm display from Dormify.com
Dormify.com



Bathroom and miscellaneous

Consider getting some scented Steripod toothbrush protectors. Dorms are dusty. Bathrooms get gross. Toothbrushes might have to be toted around. It should be changed every three months.

Bathrooms are often shared, and stuff gets mixed up. An organizer is essential. Pro tip from the trenches: Use an over-the-door organizer for bathroom stuff. Dormify sells one with a small face mirror built in.

Kirkham suggests a rolling bathroom caddy with just the essentials or quick trips in and out.

Minifridge tip: If allowed leeway on what kind to use, pick one with a separate freezer compartment. It might just guard against freezing food below. Some kids forgo the freezer completely to get more fridge space.

Kirkham, whose show premieres July 24, suggests a minifridge stand that elevates the unit and includes additional storage.

“Everything in a dorm room has to have multiple functions,”



amazon.com

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Applying for scholarships

GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Somewhere in the big pile of paperwork that you filled out when you started school was a FAFSA, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form.

It's the piece of paper that qualifies you for loans, grants and even a few scholarships. But there's a lot more out there that the FAFSA might miss. And it's important because scholarships are a gift that doesn't need to be repaid later, unlike loans. Schools, employers, churches, companies, nonprofits and more all offer different kinds of scholarships for all kinds of reasons.

Types of scholarships

Some scholarships are merit-based, meaning that you earn them by meeting or exceeding standards set by the group or person giving the scholarship. They can be based on academic or personal achievement or a combination thereof. You might get one for a talent, a sport or anything else you do well.

Scholarships based on financial need address the gap left between what you and your family can pay and what schools cost. No matter your grades, if you and your guardians' income meets a certain threshold, you can qualify for these scholarships.

A third group of scholarships targets groups of people, such as military families, people from a certain religion,

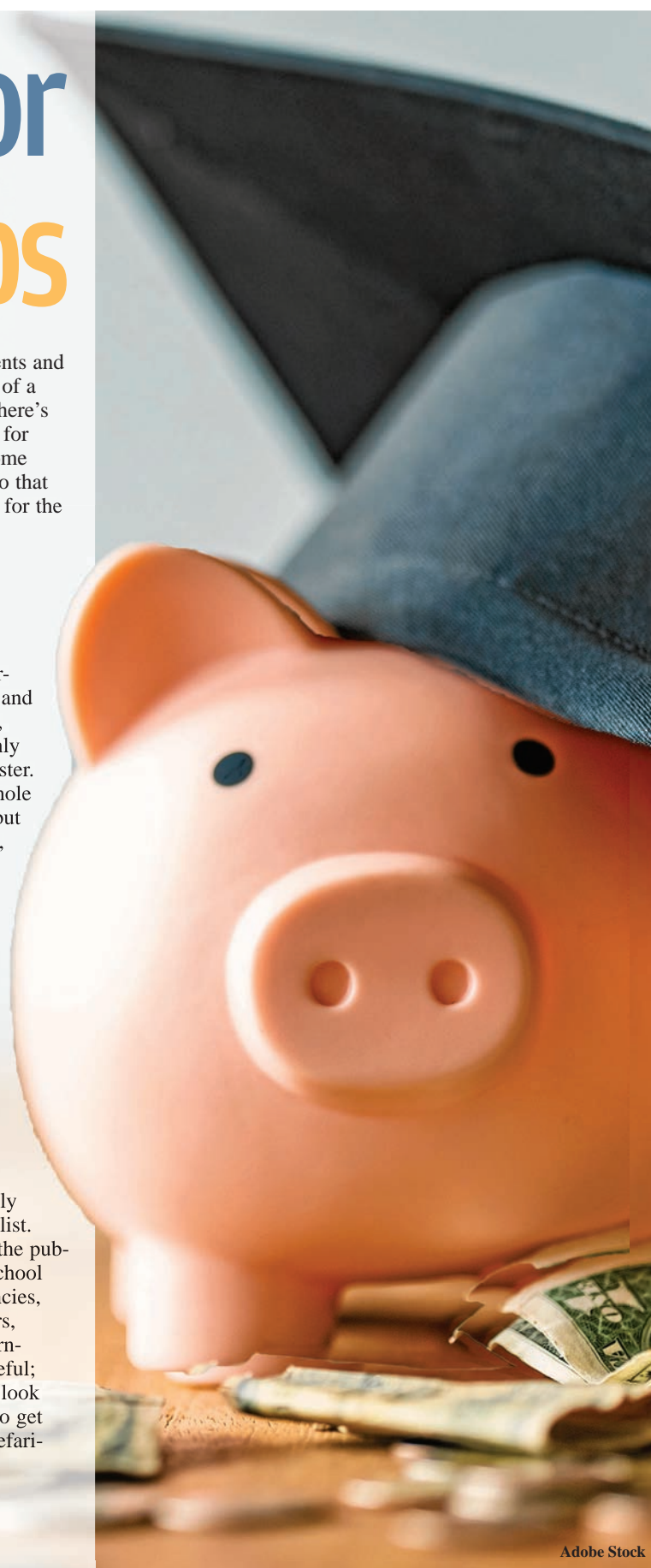
women, graduate students and more. If you can think of a way to group people, there's probably a scholarship for it. No matter your income or grades, if you fit into that group, you are eligible for the scholarship.

What scholarships might cover

That depends on the award and the people giving it. Some scholarships only cover room and board in certain dorms, for instance, or may only apply during one semester. Other gifts span the whole time you're in school but may only cover tuition, not fees or room and board. All of them are worth your time and energy, because that's money you won't have to pay back later.

Finding scholarships

Contact your school's financial-aid office, and ask about scholarships you can apply for. They probably have a comprehensive list. You can also check at the public library, your high school counselor, federal agencies, your parents' employers, with your town's government or online. Be careful; some scholarship sites look real but are just ways to get your information for nefarious purposes.



GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Leaving home for the first time to go to college is a huge milestone that comes with new responsibilities, such as managing your own money.

College is a good time to learn how to budget, especially if you're living in the dorms and using the meal plan, which takes care of two of your biggest expenses.

Start building credit

Your credit score may be even more important than your GPA once you graduate. It's a number that tells lenders how likely you are to pay back a loan. The higher the number, the better. Everyone from banks to landlords to potential employers will pull your credit, so it's important you start building up a good credit score now. Get a card, or have your parents add you as an authorized user. Avoid carrying debt, and pay the card off in full every month.

Have a budget

Create a spending (and saving!) plan that meets

your needs, and track how you're doing every month. There are tons of apps and websites out there that help you do this, and once you get the hang of it, it becomes a great habit that will serve you well in the real world. If you learn this while your life is still relatively simple, it's easier to manage when things get complicated by homes, investments,

marriage and children.

Set aside a rainy-day fund

In that budget, make sure you plan for emergencies. If you have a car, plan to set aside money for repairs and maintenance. Have a pet? Plan for illnesses, prescriptions and veterinary visits.

There's no set number you need to save, but you should have some set aside in case the worst happens. Just knowing it's there will relieve some stress.

Learn how to invest

If you save up enough, you can learn how to invest it and let it earn money for you. Look at tax-free accounts, such as IRAs. Avoid using alternative investments and financial-adviser apps, and stick with the tried-and-true. You don't have much of a nest egg, and it's important to keep it safe. Notice how the markets and fees affect your investments, and remember that this is a good time to try new things, cautiously.

FINANCIAL ADVICE FOR STUDENTS



What path will you take?

ADVICE FOR CHOOSING A MAJOR

GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

About a third of college students will change their major sometime during their college careers, the U.S. Department of Education says, and about 1 in 10 will change majors more than once.

Students who frequently change majors risk losing valuable class credits and time as they move from program to program, so it's important to make as few changes as possible once you get started.

More than a career

Your major determines much more than what career you may tackle after you graduate. Many students join clubs related to their major and take the same classes with the same people throughout their academic career, leading to lifelong friendships. Make sure that your major aligns with your passion and values, because it's going to be a big part of your life for the next four or even more years.

Consider the college

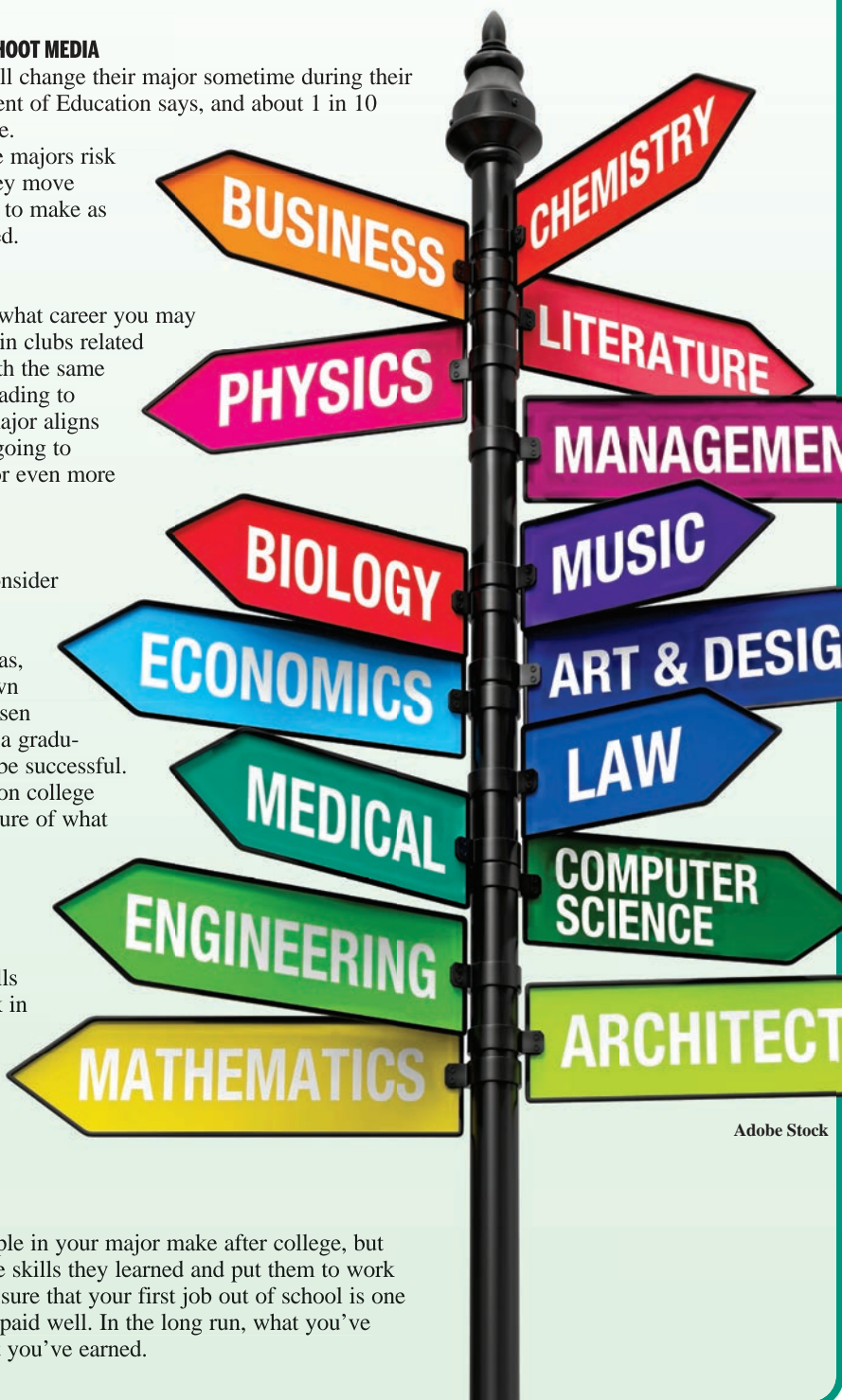
When you're looking at colleges, also consider how the majors you're thinking about are taught there. Some colleges have a better reputation than others in certain subject areas, and that can lead to more opportunities down the road. You should also know if your chosen major will require more education, such as a graduate or even postgraduate degree for you to be successful. It may also help if you declare your major on college applications so that recruiters get a full picture of what you bring to an incoming class.

Think about a minor

In addition to choosing a major, you'll need to pick a minor, too, and you should be careful to choose one that reinforces skills across disciplines and prepares you to work in more than one industry. Micah Sadigh, a psychology professor, told U.S. News & World Report that he considers a minor "an interdisciplinary link" that expands how you think not only academically but also about life and creativity.

Don't overthink earnings

You should definitely consider what people in your major make after college, but don't fixate on that. Graduates may take the skills they learned and put them to work in different, better-paying industries. Make sure that your first job out of school is one where you can learn and grow, not just get paid well. In the long run, what you've learned may count for a lot more than what you've earned.



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- **ReachHigherMontana.org** has the **information, tools, and resources** to help students plan their futures and **prepare for life after high school**.
- **Follow us on Social Media** for advice, events, news, and **scholarship opportunities**.
- We have an experienced, knowledgeable, and friendly team of **outreach advisors** working throughout Montana to support students, parents, and educators.



Services are provided at **no cost** to Montana families and schools.



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