Curriculum, Enrollment, and Graduation

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Catalog and Curriculum

Catalog in Effect
MSU-Bozeman undergraduates may elect to follow the catalog in effect when they first enroll at MSU, or any subsequent catalog, if there has not been a break of more than one academic year in their attendance and if they fall within the six-year catalog limitation policy. Undergraduate students transferring from any regionally accredited United States college or university may follow the MSU catalog which was in effect when they first entered the institution from which they transferred, or any subsequent catalog in effect prior to graduation, provided there has been no break in attendance. The six-year catalog limitation policy applies to transfer students, also.

MSU undergraduates who change majors may follow the catalog in effect when they began their freshman year at MSU or any subsequent catalog in effect prior to their graduation, provided there has been no break in attendance of more than one academic year. In these instances, too, the six-year catalog limitation policy applies. In either case (transferring or changing majors), it may be necessary to make course substitutions within the department curricular requirements, due to changes in tabulations from year to year; students should consult with their academic advisors about this. The curriculum advisor and department certifying officer make the official check on degree-specific requirements for graduation. The Registrar provides the final check on university requirements: CORE, total credits earned, grade point, cumulative grade point average earned at MSU, as well as university-wide requirements.

Six-Year Catalog Limitation Policy
Each MSU-Bozeman catalog covers a specific time period beginning fall semester of the first year and ending the following summer session. From the time a student enters Montana State University, he or she has six years to fulfill the curricular requirements stated in the catalog in effect when he or she entered. If a student does not complete the requirements in six years, he or she must select a subsequent catalog. This policy applies to all students, including undergraduates who change curriculum and transfer students.

Change of Major/Curriculum
A Curriculum & Catalog Changes form may be obtained from the Registrar’s Office, the college dean’s office, or online. A change of curriculum becomes official when the form is filed with the Registrar’s Office.

Second Major
A student may declare a second major by completing a Curriculum & Catalog Changes form. A student may earn a second major by fulfilling the curricular requirements of that major in addition to the requirements of the primary major. The student is not required to complete additional core requirements for the second major since these requirements will be fulfilled with the primary major.

The department of the second major will assign an advisor to assist the student in meeting all the second major’s requirements. The second major will be posted on the student’s transcript at the time of graduation and upon verification by the Registrar that all curricular and procedural requirements have been met.

Second Bachelor’s Degree
There are two distinct methods for obtaining more than one bachelor’s degree:

A student who has already completed requirements for one bachelor’s degree must complete a minimum of thirty additional credits (nine of which must be upper division), all curriculum requirements of the second degree, and two semesters in residence at Montana State University after receiving the first degree. All courses listed on the student’s transcript at the time the first degree is granted are considered as required for and/or applied toward the first degree. None of the credits on the student’s transcript at the time the first degree was awarded may count toward the 30 additionally required credits. A second degree student will not be required to complete additional University Core requirements, with the exception of students who have international degrees.

A student may work concurrently toward receipt of two bachelor’s degrees. These degrees may be awarded at the same time. In this case, the student must complete the courses required in both curricula and at least 30 credits beyond the larger number of credits required for the two degrees he or she is seeking. Fifty-one credits (forty-two credits for the first degree; nine for the second) of the total minimum number of credits required for both degrees must be upper division. A student working under this option must declare his or her intentions by submitting a completed Curriculum & Catalog Changes form.

Minors
A student must declare his or her intentions of seeking a minor(s), by submitting a completed Curriculum & Catalog Changes form prior to submitting a graduation application. A student must be currently enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program in order to declare a minor(s). The minimum number of credits required for a minor is twenty-one, with nine of those being upper-division credits. There are two categories of minors: Teaching Minors and Non-Teaching Minors.

Teaching Minors
Teaching minors must be approved by the certifying officer in the Education Department.

Non-Teaching Minors
Non-teaching minors must be approved by the certifying officer in the related department.

Registration

Dates for Registration
The dates for registration are published in the Registration Handbook, which is printed prior to registration and is available online, via MyInfo, or from the Registrar’s Office. See the Registration Handbook for detailed registration instructions and for fee payment dates.
A currently enrolled student in good standing will receive registration information, including alternate PIN, from his or her advisor. Before meeting with an advisor, all students should review their degree progress using DegreeWorks (through MyInfo), plan a schedule of classes by consulting the MyInfo Schedule of Classes, and make an appointment to meet with an advisor. Additionally, all outstanding fees and holds must be resolved before registration, and students must pay all new fees at the scheduled time.

**Academic Advisors**

Academic advisors are available to help students plan their programs of study and make informed choices about courses. Although students are fully responsible for their academic decisions, they should recognize the advantages of close cooperation and understanding between themselves and their advisors. Because academic advisors are usually associated with a students’ major department or field, students should contact their major departmental offices or the offices of their college deans to determine the names and locations of their advisors. Some programs—University Studies, Native American Studies, University Honors, pre-health professions, WWAMI—offer additional advising assistance.

**Classification of Students**

- **Freshman:** an undergraduate student who has earned less than thirty credits.
- **Sophomore:** an undergraduate student who has earned thirty to fifty-nine credits.
- **Junior:** an undergraduate student who has earned sixty to eighty-nine credits.
- **Senior:** an undergraduate student who has earned ninety or more credits.
- **Post-Baccalaureate:** an undergraduate student who has already earned one or more baccalaureate degrees and is seeking another.
- **Non-Degree Undergraduate:** a student taking courses for special interest, but not planning on using the credit toward a degree.
- **Non-Degree Graduate:** a student who has at least a baccalaureate degree but not seeking another degree.
- **Graduate:** a student who has at least a baccalaureate degree and has been accepted into The Graduate School.

**Drop/Add Regulations and Procedures**

**Add Procedure**

Students may add classes online using MyInfo through the 5th day of the semester. After the 5th semester day, all adds require the instructor’s and the advisor’s signatures on an Add/Drop form. After the 10th semester day, all adds require the additional signature of the Assistant Dean of the student’s major curriculum on an Add/Drop form.

**Drop Procedure**

Students may drop classes online using MyInfo through the 10th day of the semester. After the 10th semester day, all drops require the instructor’s and the advisor’s signatures on an Add/Drop form. After the 15th semester day, students may continue to drop classes, with the approval of the instructor and of the advisor, though the student will receive a “W” (withdrawn) grade.

Add/Drop forms are available online or through the Office of the Registrar. If the student has confirmed attendance or paid fees and wishes to drop all courses, a University Withdrawal must be obtained through the Office of Student Success. Graduate students seeking a complete withdrawal must contact The Graduate School. Each student is responsible for fees upon registration. Contact the Student Accounts Office for partial-refund dates.

**Taking Courses for Zero Credit**

**Auditing Course**

Registered students may, with the permission of the instructor, audit a course and earn zero credit. A student must submit a signed Add/Drop form, by the 10th semester day, indicating the course is for audit. Auditors pay the same fees as students enrolled for credit.

**Non-Matriculated (“Listener”)**

Any adult not regularly enrolled may, with the permission of the instructor, register for a non-laboratory class. Application forms for non-matriculated enrollment are obtained from the Registrar’s Office, and the Registrar reviews the completed application for compliance. Payment is required upon approval at the rate charged a regularly enrolled in-state student. A listener may not participate in class discussions or take examinations.

**Absence from Classes**

When students enroll in a course, they enter a contractual agreement with the instructor for the duration of the course, and both the student and the instructor are expected to honor the specified terms of that agreement. It is important, therefore, for the student to understand the attendance requirements in each course. The instructor should communicate these requirements during the first or second class meeting in writing via the course syllabus.

Absences from classes are handled exclusively within the purview of the individual instructor. If a student has an accident, falls ill, or suffers some other emergency over which he or she has no control, the student should gather available documentation (e.g., copies of repair or tow bills, prescriptions, accident reports, or statements from physicians) to show to the instructor. In some instances, the student may wish to petition the instructor for I grades.

The provisions for making up missed class work may vary from one instructor to another. Most but not necessarily all instructors provide for some opportunity to make up missed work: for example, if a student is absent from campus to participate in a university-sponsored event. Students involved in such activities should advise their instructors of these events in advance and determine what arrangements are available to make up missed class work.

**Class Rolls**

During the third day of University instruction and thereafter, those students who have registered but have not attended class may be required by the instructor to drop the course when space and/or equipment is limited and other students have requested to add that class. Students are not automatically dropped; this action requires a student-initiated drop/add form.

**University Withdrawal**

If a student must withdraw from all classes after he or she has confirmed attendance or paid fees, he or she must initiate the withdrawal through the Office of Student Success. Graduate students must initiate the withdrawal through the Graduate School.

Students who withdraw before the end of the fifteenth day of instruction will not receive grades for any registered courses. Thereafter through the last day of instruction a grade of W shall be assigned in all courses for which the student is registered unless the Dean of Students authorizes otherwise. The Dean of Students Office also indicates the official date of the university withdrawal.
Students who leave the campus without withdrawing through regular channels or who withdraw late without extraordinary reasons will receive F grades in all course work for that semester.

**Retroactive University Withdrawal Policy**

A retroactive university withdrawal may be an option for students who were unable to complete a standard university withdrawal during the semester of their departure from the university. A retroactive university withdrawal is an extraordinary remedy that is available only for the reasons set forth below. Students who are granted a retroactive university withdrawal receive W grades in all courses for the semester in which they apply for the retroactive withdrawal. Requests for retroactive withdrawals must be submitted no later than three years from the last day of the semester for which the withdrawal is sought.

Students who leave the campus without applying at the Dean of Students Office for a university withdrawal during the semester of departure or who fail to withdraw through regular channels or who fail to withdraw for extraordinary reasons may apply for a retroactive university withdrawal only if they can provide evidence of the following:

1. The student had a debilitating illness or injury that significantly limited his/her capacity to withdraw in a timely manner; or
2. The student was forced to leave the University abruptly due to health or safety emergency within his/her immediate family; or
3. The student has been recommended to apply for a retroactive university withdrawal by the University Scholastic Appeals Board and meets the other criteria for a retroactive university withdrawal.

To apply for a retroactive university withdrawal, students must submit a formal letter of request to the Dean of Students, no later than three years after the last day of the semester for which the withdrawal is sought. The student must include his/her name, and student identification number, dates for the requested retroactive withdrawal, and supporting documentation to verify claims of illness, injury or emergency which precluded the student from applying for a university withdrawal during the semester of departure. The Dean of Students Office will assign the official date of the retroactive university withdrawal.

An Appellate Board will convene to review the request for a retroactive withdrawal upon receipt of appropriate verification of potential eligibility. Requests for a retroactive withdrawal will be considered by the Appellate Board only if sufficient documentation is provided to support claims of extraordinary illness, injury, or emergency. The review process will be limited to a review of documents and student records. The Dean of Students, in his/her capacity as Chair of the Appellate Board, shall inform the student of the Board’s decision with ten working days of the Hearing. The decision of the Appellate Board is final.

**Undergraduate Student Petitions for Registration and Reservation of Certain Courses**

Generally, courses are applied to the student record associated with the academic level (undergraduate or graduate) of the student at the time the course was taken. Students may petition to reserve certain classes in certain situations to be applied to an academic level other than their current status. For example: register for and reserve undergraduate or graduate credits for possible application to a graduate degree, register for a graduate course for use toward an undergraduate degree, register while a graduate student for use toward an undergraduate degree, register for a graduate class as a foreign exchange student with no intent to use the credit toward an MSU degree.

To reserve a course a student must complete the Petition to Reserve/ Register for Credits form available through the graduate school. A successful petition must meet all of the following criteria:

1. The student is of senior or post baccalaureate standing.
2. The student has a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.25.
3. All prerequisites for the course(s) have been completed.
4. Credits reserved for graduate degree may not exceed nine (9) in total.
5. For reserved credits to be applied to the graduate transcript the student must earn a minimum grade of a B.
6. The petition may not include any internship or independent study courses for either registration or reservation.
7. The petition is filed prior to registering for the course.

A graduate-level course approved by petition may be used either for fulfilling undergraduate or graduate program requirements, but not for both. The student must indicate on the petition form the intended use of the registered/reserved course credits.

Undergraduate senior students with financial aid should be aware that credits reserved for future application to a graduate program may affect their current financial aid eligibility.

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**Examinations**

**Common Hour Exams**

Common hour exams are given during the semester for multi-section courses. Dates and times are posted online at www.montana.edu/registrar/Schedules. These exams take the place of one class meeting and are included in the student’s commitment to the course upon enrolling in it. For the complete Common Hour Exam Policy, please go to the Code of Conduct, Policies, Regulations, & Reports (http://catalog.montana.edu/code-conduct-policies-regulations-reports/common-hour-policy) section of the catalog.

**Final Exams**

Final examinations in one-credit courses are given during regular class periods. Final examinations for all other courses are scheduled by the Registrar and published online, and may not be rescheduled or given prior to the start of the final examination period. According to University policy, the examination period is instructional time, and it is expected that some instructional use is made of this period if a final examination is not given.

When a final examination is given it must be given at the time shown in the examination schedule. Exception: no formal laboratory classes are held during final examination days.

A student who has three or more final examinations on any one day should first contact the instructors of the courses to see if one exam can be rescheduled. If this rescheduling cannot be resolved, then the student should contact the assistant dean of his or her college at least one week before the beginning of final examination week to assist in resolving the conflict.

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**Credits and Grades**

**Definitions**

- **Course.** A course is a unit of instruction in a subject-matter area offered in a single university semester. Resident courses (courses for which resident credit is granted) are those listed in the Schedule of Classes. Continuing education courses are arranged through Extended University.

- **Credit.** A credit is the unit used in computing the amount of work required for graduation. One credit is equivalent to three hours of work each week for one semester. One lecture hour assumes two hours of work outside of class. In the case of laboratories, library work, or studio classes, the entire time may be spent under the supervision of the instructor.
• **Credit Load.** Undergraduate students who are enrolled for twelve or more credits and graduate students for nine or more credits, will be certified and reported as full-time students. Completion of a 120-credit undergraduate curriculum in four years requires students to complete an average of fifteen credits each semester.

• **Curriculum.** A curriculum is a combination of courses that constitutes a program of study leading to the completion of an academic program.

• **Semester.** Montana State University operates on a semester system consisting of two semesters and a summer session. The Term Calendar gives the dates of each semester.

• **Grades.** The quality of the student’s work in each course is denoted by a letter grade according to the following tabulation. In computing scholastic averages, each letter grade is assigned a specific number of grade points for each credit. Final grades are due within forty-eight hours after the final examination in each course and are generally posted to the student record by the end of the week following finals. No grade or credit will be given to students in courses for which they are not properly registered.

### Minimum Competency Requirements

The Montana Board of Regents has established a common policy on minimum course grades across all campuses in the system. According to the policy, a grade of C- or better is required to satisfy requirements for pre-requisite and required courses in majors, minors, and certificate programs and for all core requirements. Further, a grade of C- or better is required in all courses that will be counted toward the overall 120 credit requirement. This policy creates a minimum requirement, which may be superseded by more stringent requirements within specific majors. Any such requirements are explained within the descriptions of those curricula.

### Passing Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Quality of Work</th>
<th>Grade Points for Each Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Passing</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Continuing (self-paced Math, 590, 690 courses only)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Satisfactory (CEU only)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Withdraw</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Au</td>
<td>Audit</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Missing Grade</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Non-passing Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Quality of Work</th>
<th>Grade Points for Each Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Grade-Point Average

The general quality of a student’s work is expressed in terms of a grade point average (GPA). Only credits taken at MSU are used to compute the cumulative grade point average. GPA is used to determine academic standing including: University probation, suspend warning, or suspended. The grade-point average is computed by dividing the sum of grade points earned by the sum of credits carried, except that neither the credits nor the grade points shall be counted for courses passed on a pass/fail basis.

For repeated courses, only the credits and grades received the last time the course was taken will be used in the calculation of the cumulative grade-point average, and only the credits received the last time the course was taken will be included in the credits counted for graduation. However, all grades received will be listed on the transcript. Repeated courses will be noted on the transcript with an "E" (when the course grade is excluded from GPA calculation). The most recent attempt at the course will be noted with an "I" and included in GPA calculation. Excluding a grade from a previous semester does NOT affect the calculation of academic standing for that semester. Academic standing remains as it was originally earned.

### W Grade Eligibility

After the 15th day of the semester, students may drop courses and receive a grade of W (withdrawal) only if approved by the academic advisor and course instructor. Approval is not guaranteed, and no refund is given. Until one week past the last day of the official registration period for the following semester, students use a Drop/Add form to drop courses with a W. The W grade is non-punitive; it counts in credits attempted but not in earned credits or in quality points toward the GPA. If a student repeats the course in a subsequent semester, the new grade will count in the GPA but the original W grade will remain on the transcript.

### I Grade (Incomplete)

Instructors may assign a grade of "I" (Incomplete) when students have been unable to complete their academic obligations because of circumstances beyond their control. The University takes the position that when students register, they commit themselves to completing their academic obligations as their primary responsibility. Therefore, the instructor may assign an I grade only in cases when students have suffered extreme personal hardship or unusual academic situations.

An instructor may assign an I grade in cases of personal hardship when students have been unable to fulfill their commitments because of illness, death or illness in the immediate family, family emergencies, or military orders. The Dean of Students will verify personal hardship cases at the instructor’s request. The instructor may assign an I grade to a student for personal hardship, provided the student has completed three-fourths of the work of the course with a passing grade. If the student has not satisfactorily completed three-fourths of the course work the instructor must provide written justification for assigning an I grade.

An instructor may also assign an I grade, subject to the department head’s approval, in cases when a student has been unable to complete course requirements for reasons such as apparatus or equipment failure, death or disease in experimental animals, delays in material shipments from suppliers, or in other unusual academic circumstances which are clearly beyond the student’s control. In these situations, the student must have completed three-fourths of the work of the course with a passing grade. If the student has not satisfactorily completed three-fourths of the course work the instructor must provide written justification for assigning an I grade.
In each instance qualifying for an I grade, the instructor must prepare an I-
Grade Authorization form. On this form, the instructor will list the makeup
requirements and the date beyond which the I will revert to a F grade.

To change the I grade after the make-up work has been completed,
the instructor will complete and submit the Grade Change available
through the Registrar’s Office. Unless an alternate time is specified by
the instructor, an I grade shall be made up no later than the end of the
following semester (excluding summer session). An instructor may extend
the specified completion time by submitting the required documentation to
the Registrar’s Office before the reversion grade takes effect. An I grade may
not be extended beyond one calendar year. An I grade not made up in the
prescribed length of time or within one calendar year lapses to a failure (F).

Make-Up of I Grades
An I Grade make-up is reported to the Registrar on a Grade Change Form.
No fee is charged. These grades are not included on the next semester
grades.
During the time allowed for the completion of the unfinished work leading
to the I grade, the student may have access to university resources (e.g.,
library) necessary to complete the work.

N Grade
An N grade may be assigned to students enrolled in specified continual or
on-going learning courses only. This grade indicates that, though students
have not completed the course, they have made satisfactory progress. These
students must re-enroll in the course immediately in order to continue with
the course work and complete the course.

Pass/Fail Registration
Undergraduate students may take some of their University elective courses
on a pass/fail basis subject to the following restrictions:
1. Students can elect the pass/fail option only for courses that are not
specifically required for their academic program. Pass/fail courses
may not be applied toward completion of Core requirements. This
restriction does not apply to (ACT) activity courses.
2. A student may not register for more than one pass/fail elective course
per semester, excluding one-credit (ACT) activity courses.
3. Undergraduate students may take a maximum of twelve credits of pass/
fail elective courses. This maximum does not include courses that are
offered only on a pass/fail basis.
4. Students register for pass/fail courses in the same manner as for other
courses, but they must have written permission from their advisers,
college deans, and the instructors of the course. The Registrar has forms
for this purpose.
5. The instructor’s requirement to obtain a grade of P in the course must
be submitted with the Request for Pass/Fail form.
6. Students may only change a pass/fail registration to a regular
registration, or a regular registration to a pass/fail registration, prior to
the end of the tenth day of instruction. Students will follow the regular
drop-add procedures, except that students changing to a pass/fail
registration must also secure the written permission of the instructor
and adviser (see 4 above).
7. Prerequisites apply for all courses taken on a pass/fail basis.

Pass/Fail Grading
As a general policy, courses at Montana State University are graded by the
letter grades, A, A-, B+, B, etc. However, in certain courses, pass/fail grading
may be more appropriate. Courses may be offered on a pass/fail basis for all
students registered in the course, with the approval of the department head
and college dean. Courses offered on a pass/fail basis will be identified in
the Schedule of Classes. Permission to offer a course on a pass/fail basis is
limited to one academic year; if the permission is not renewed, the course
reverts to a letter-grade basis.

In pass/fail grading, passing work will receive a P grade on the student’s
transcript, but it will not count in the grade point average. However,
the course credit will count toward the number of credits required for
graduation. Failing work will receive an F grade and will count in the grade-
point average.

Grade Changes
Once a grade has been reported by the instructor to the Registrar, it cannot
be changed except in case of clerical error or unless it was fraudulently
obtained. All grades and credits will stand as recorded in the Registrar’s
official record if changes are not reported in writing to the Registrar within
five years of the last day of the semester in which the course was taken.

A change of final grade does not mean allowing additional time to complete
the work of a course or allowing the student to submit work or to take or to
retake examinations after the conclusion of the semester. A change of grade
is not a substitute for an I grade when an I grade cannot be justified.

A change of grade may be made only with the approval of the department
head. If the grade being changed was given more than one academic year
previously, the college dean must also approve the change.

Fresh Start Policy
A former Montana State University undergraduate who returns to the
University after a minimum absence of five years will have the opportunity
to petition to begin a new cumulative (or Fresh Start) GPA as follows:

1. After returning to Montana State University, a student must complete
thirty credits of academic study with a minimum cumulative GPA of
2.5 for the new course work before petitioning for a Fresh Start GPA.
2. A student who is eligible for a Fresh Start GPA must petition for a new
cumulative GPA during the semester following that in which he or she
meets the requirements stated in #1.
3. A student may begin a Fresh Start GPA only once.
4. Student petitions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the
Admission and Graduation Requirements Board. The decisions of the
Board will be final.
5. When the new GPA is started, all previous grades and credits earned at
Montana State University are excluded; it is not possible to select some
grades and credits to exclude while retaining others. Only Montana
State University grades and credits will be excluded.
6. The new GPA begins the first semester the student is re-enrolled. The
transcript will state that a new GPA has been started. The old grades
will remain on the transcript. Although old credits will appear on the
transcript, they may not be used to fulfill any University requirements.

Students wishing to petition for a Fresh Start GPA should contact the
Registrar’s Office to initiate the process.

Dean’s List and President’s List
Any undergraduate student who passes twelve or more college-level credits
and attains a 3.50 grade-point average or better for any one semester is
placed on the Dean’s List. A student who receives a 4.00 grade-point
average and is taking twelve college-level credits or more is placed on the
President’s List. Developmental courses do not count towards the twelve
credits required. The names of the students making the Dean’s List and
President’s List are announced by the Registrar at the end of each semester.
These lists apply only to undergraduate students.
Scholastic Probation and Suspension

When a student’s semester or cumulative grade-point average falls below 2.0, the record of the student’s performance is reviewed by the University Scholastic Appeals Board, which is composed of the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, the Dean of Students, and the dean or assistant dean of the college concerned. The board meets between semesters and at other times as needed to act upon individual cases recommended for either suspension or transfer out of a curriculum. This board has the authority:

1. to suspend a student from the University for scholastic reasons,
2. to reinstate a student who has been suspended for scholastic reasons, and
3. to require a student to transfer out of a curriculum with the consent of both colleges involved.

The chairperson of this board will notify students in writing of the action. (The designation probation, suspension warning, or suspension will be entered on the student’s permanent record.) Semester grade reports indicate the status of students, and it is the individual student’s responsibility to review his or her grade report each semester.

Appeal of Suspension

A student who has been suspended may appeal the suspension if he or she believes there were extraordinary circumstances beyond the student’s control of which the University Scholastic Appeals Board was unaware when it reached its decision. Appeal forms are available from the offices of academic deans.

Reinstatement

A student who was suspended for the first time may be reinstated after one semester has elapsed (exclusive of Summer Session). In order to enroll again at MSU, however, a suspended student must submit an Intent to Register form to the Registrar’s Office. After a second suspension, one academic year must elapse before the student will be reinstated, again with submission of an Intent to Register. Students may complete their intent to register online through their MyInfo account. Completed Intent to Register submissions must be received by the following approximate deadline dates (check with the Registrar’s Office for current deadline dates).

For Reinstatement | Deadline
--- | ---
Fall Semester | August 1
Spring Semester | January 1
Summer Session | May 1

Students who have received more than two suspensions must petition for reinstatement through their academic dean to the University Scholastic Appeals Board. Petitions are available from the academic deans and must be submitted in accordance with the deadlines listed above.

Reinstated students will be on “probation” when they re-enroll. When students achieve a term and cumulative GPA of 2.00 and above, the “probation” designation is removed. Students must have a 2.00 term and cumulative GPA to graduate.

Guidelines Used by the University Scholastic Appeals Board

| Grade Point Average (TGPA = Term GPA, CGPA = Cumulative GPA) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Status | University Probation* | College Probation | N/A | Good Standing |
| Previous TGPA | 0 ≤ TGPA < 1 | 1 ≤ TGPA < 2 | 2 ≤ TGPA ≤ 4 and 0 ≤ CGPA < 2 | 2 ≤ TGPA ≤ 4 and 2 ≤ CGPA ≤ 4 |

* These academic actions appear on the student’s transcript

Credits for Degree Completion

Credits

A candidate for the bachelor’s degree must complete the minimum number of credits required for the degree selected. The minimum number of credits must be composed of credits earned for graduation. The required number of credits varies among the four-year curricula leading to the bachelor’s degree.

Credits Earned for Graduation

Credits earned for graduation include the total number of credits for which passing grades (A through C-, and P) have been received in courses numbered 100 or above. If students repeat courses in which they have passing grades, the most recent grade will be the effective grade for
A course taken by an undergraduate or a non-degree student may not later be repeated and applied toward requirements for a graduate degree. For further credit-use restrictions, see Special Topics and Individual Problems, or refer to the Course Descriptions for maximum allowable credit limits placed on certain courses. All courses taken prior to degree completion are used toward fulfillment of the specific degree requirements, and the permanent record is closed as of the completion date.

**Upper-Division Credit Requirement**
A minimum of forty-two credits for the first degree and at least nine additional credits for the second degree must be earned in courses numbered 300 and above (upper-division courses). As required by the Minimum Competency Requirements, a grade of C- or better is required in all courses to be counted toward the upper division credits required in all degrees.

Note: The curricula for specific majors may have more stringent requirements.

**Special Topics and Individual Problems Courses**
No more than twelve credits of Special Topics 291 or 491 combined in each rubric will count toward graduation. No more than six credits of 492 Independent Study in each rubric will count toward graduation. Some departments have established lower limits than these, and students are responsible for checking course listings to ensure that they do not exceed the allowable number of credits in each category.

**Transfer Student Credit Requirements at MSU-Bozeman**
To graduate from Montana State University, transfer students must earn not less than thirty MSU credits and a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA, as well as meet the curriculum requirements for a degree. Furthermore, twenty-three of the last thirty credits earned to meet graduation requirements must be MSU credits.

**Correspondence Credits and Extension Courses**
No more than thirty semester credits earned by correspondence, extension, or continuing education from accredited colleges or universities may be counted toward graduation. However, special circumstances may warrant consideration, and approval of such courses is on a case-by-case basis.

**Advanced Standing**
Under certain circumstances, if students can demonstrate mastery of course work not taken at the University, they may receive advanced standing and University credit for the course. Two mechanisms are available for obtaining advanced standing:

1. **College Level Examination Program (CLEP).** Montana State University awards credit toward graduation for successful performance in certain Subject Examinations of the College Level Examination Program conducted by the College Entrance Examination Board. Students may arrange to take these examinations on campus or at designated centers throughout the country. Passing grades are determined by Montana State University. These students receive credit and a P grade on the transcript for scores above the passing level; scores below the passing level are not entered on the transcript. CLEP examinations do not apply as a grade waiver for a course previously taken. University Core requirements cannot be satisfied by the CLEP procedures. In general, a department will not give a challenge examination if a CLEP examination is available for the same course.

2. **Advanced Standing by Challenge.** Challenge provides the opportunity to earn college credits and grade points without formal course enrollment. A student who has completed the work of a college course on his or her own initiatives and time, may, with the approval of the student’s academic advisor, the instructor, the department heads, and the college deans, take a comprehensive examination in the subject matter of the course. Performance in the examination will become the basis for a grade in the course, and the results will be recorded on the student’s permanent academic record at the end of the term which the challenge exam is taken. Official permission forms should be secured in advance from the Registrar’s Office. Students must be registered at MSU when they take the challenge examination, and they must have passed ten credits of regular course work at Montana State University before the challenge grade will be recorded on their permanent records.

The challenge examination for credit in a course which is a prerequisite to a second course must be taken before completion of the second course. Students who have enrolled in a regular or an extension course and received a grade other than W or have taken a regular or an extension course for zero credit may not challenge that course. Challenges are not permitted in any 290, 291, 292, 490, 491, 492 and 498 courses.

A fee of $30 per credit is assessed and must be paid prior to taking the challenged exam.

The following list gives the names of the CLEP examinations and the course for which credit is given:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLEP Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRSN 101</td>
<td>Nat Resource Conservation</td>
<td>Natural Resource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOB 170</td>
<td>Principles of Biological Diversity</td>
<td>Gen Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOB 160</td>
<td>Principles of Living Systems</td>
<td>Gen Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECNS 101</td>
<td>Econ Way of Thinking</td>
<td>Intro Microecon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECNS 202</td>
<td>Principles of Macroeconomics</td>
<td>Intro Microecon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDU 221</td>
<td>Educ Psych &amp; Child Development</td>
<td>Sch Age Educ Psych</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIT 110</td>
<td>Intro to Lit</td>
<td>Analysis &amp; Interp of Lit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTR 101</td>
<td>Western Civilization I</td>
<td>Western Civilization I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTR 102</td>
<td>Western Civilization II</td>
<td>Western Civilization II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTA 101</td>
<td>American History I</td>
<td>Am Hist I with essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTA 102</td>
<td>American History II</td>
<td>American History II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 151Q</td>
<td>Precalculus</td>
<td>Precalculus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 171Q</td>
<td>Calculus</td>
<td>Calc with Elem Fncts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRCH 101</td>
<td>Elementary French I</td>
<td>Col French I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRCH 102</td>
<td>Elementary French II</td>
<td>Col French I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRCH 201</td>
<td>Intermediate French I</td>
<td>Col French I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 101</td>
<td>Elementary German I</td>
<td>Col German I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 102</td>
<td>Elementary German II</td>
<td>Col German I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 201</td>
<td>Intermediate German I</td>
<td>Col German I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPNS 101</td>
<td>Elementary Spanish I</td>
<td>Col Spanish I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPNS 102</td>
<td>Elementary Spanish II</td>
<td>Col Spanish I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPNS 201</td>
<td>Intermediate Spanish I</td>
<td>Col Spanish I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 210</td>
<td>Intro to American Government</td>
<td>Am Govt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOB 110</td>
<td>Introduction to Plant Biology</td>
<td>Plant Science, Resource &amp; Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYX 100</td>
<td>Intro to Psychology</td>
<td>Intro Psy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>Intro Soc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In general, a department will not give a challenge examination if a CLEP examination is available for the same course.

**Deficiencies, I, and F Grades**

All “I” grade completions, transfer work, advanced standing, and challenge examinations must be completed and transcripts filed in the Registrar’s Office at least one month before the end of the semester of expected graduation.

**Graduation with Honors**

Graduation with honors or highest honors applies only to undergraduate degrees.

To receive honors, a student must earn a cumulative grade-point average between 3.25 and 3.69. To receive highest honors, a student must earn a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.70. Cumulative grade point averages are computed at the end of the semester of graduation.

All MSU credits attempted and grades received will be used in computing graduation with honors or highest honors.

Transfer students receiving their first baccalaureate degree must meet the cumulative grade-point average requirements stated above and complete a minimum of sixty semester credits at MSU. The credits earned at MSU must compute to minimum grade point averages of 3.25 or 3.70 for graduating with honors or highest honors respectively.

For second degree or subsequent baccalaureate candidates, the grade point average of the first or subsequent degrees will be included in the determination of honors or highest honors.

**Diplomas**

Diplomas are dated the last day of the semester in which the requirements for the degree are completed. Diplomas are mailed to graduates the semester following degree completion after final degree verification is complete.

**Appeals of Graduation Requirements**

The Admission and Graduation Requirements Committee (GARC) is composed of the Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (chairperson), the assistant dean of the college concerned, and the Registrar. This board considers appeals and/or petitions from undergraduate and non-degree students seeking waivers of established requirements in special situations.

Instructions for submitting appeals and petitions are available through the Registrar’s Office.

These submissions should be forwarded by letter to the Registrar and should originate with the student in conjunction with the student’s adviser.

**Student Records**

Access to student records is restricted according to the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA). For more information see www2.montana.edu/policy/family_ed_privacy_act/. Questions regarding privacy of student records should be directed to the Registrar.

**Name Change**

Notice of legal change of name, resulting from marriage, divorce, or other reason, must be promptly filed with the Registrar. Name change forms are available from the Registrar’s Office and must be submitted with copies of a legal court document, driver’s license and Social Security card with new name before academic records can reflect any name change.

**Transcript of Record**

Transcripts are sent only at the signed request of the student. Transcripts may be requested online at www.montana.edu/registrar or may be requested in person at the Registrar’s Office, 101 Montana Hall, and for each transcript issued, a fee is charged. Transcript requests are generally processed within four to six business days, though at the end of the semester, additional time is needed.
If the student requesting a transcript has an outstanding debt with the University, the request will not be processed until the bill has been paid.