

### APPLY A





WORKING TO ENSURE ALL MONTANA STUDENTS HAVE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND AND SUCCEED IN COLLEGE

### COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEKS SITE COORDINATOR **SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 11**

### **TOOLKIT**











### COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEKS SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 11

### **CAW OVERVIEW**

### MAKING COLLEGE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Montana College Application Weeks (CAW) offer students dedicated time and space during the school day to complete college applications with the assistance of school staff and volunteers. Montana colleges and universities waive their application fees during this time. By eliminating common barriers, CAW aims to increase college application rates in Montana, especially among low-income and first-generation students. Despite using the term college, CAW should support students pursuing any formal post-secondary education; CAW can also be the time for students to apply for apprenticeships, work experience, and other non-college alternatives.









### **COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEKS SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 11**

## UTILIZING APPLY MONTANA





Apply Montana is the one-stop application portal for all 13 Montana University System schools and 3 community colleges in the state. Apply Montana is the most efficient way for Montana students to apply to college, but it has much to offer beyond the application...

Students, guardians, and site coordinators can access tools to refine the search for the right school and program.







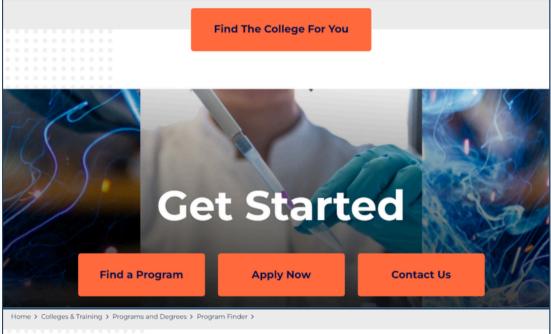




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### UTILIZING APPLY MONTANA





The PROGRAM FINDER is an excellent resource for exploring degree options.

From the homepage: applymontana.mus.edu, scroll to the bottom and select Find a Program.

Use the filters in the Program Finder to focus results on student interests.

### **Program Finder**

The Montana University System offers hundreds of unique programs which allow you flexibility to explore your interests and find programs and degrees that are suited for every kind of learner.











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### **CAW EVENT IDEAS**

MPSEOC FALL FAIRS - (Sept. 9-26) Get seniors to your local fair to meet college representatives and learn more about their options. Consider checking the list of vendors attending and promote this information to students; this is especially useful for career and out-of-state vendors about whom students may lack knowledge...

WHY APPLY DAY - (Sept. 20) Begin the conversation by gaging college interest in your student body prior to CAW. This might include addressing concerns and knowledge gaps but also celebrating student reasons for pursuing higher education. Consider gathering student responses to the question in advance and using Why Apply Day to share student answers.

COLLEGE GEAR GIVEAWAY - Contact colleges for promotional items to incentivize students to apply; see Montana college contact list below.

ALUMNI DAYS - School staff wear gear from and promote their alma maters and college experiences. This might involve a staff competition based on where they attended (great option for assemblies).

COLLEGE CONTEST - Track the number of applications from your school received by individual colleges. Connect with staff at the most popular colleges and arrange for recruiting visits and promotional item giveaways before the spring.

LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE - Contact local media news outlets for reporting on events at your school and general information regarding CAW. Consider sharing student WHYs, events at your school, and data from the senior class. Identify students to highlight with interviews.

CURRICULAR CROSSOVER - Collaborate with teachers to incorporate college and careerrelated lessons into their classes. Connect teachers with college staff to provide detailed insight on college and career pathways for students after high school. Set up guest speakers and facility tours.

DESIGNATED CAW TIME - Ideally done during an advisory/
homeroom period or designated senior class event, run college
application workshops in which students can receive individual
staff instruction and peer support as needed. Prepare resources
for students interested in alternatives to college, so all students can
make productive use of this time. Recruiting community volunteers
may be helpful, especially if availability of school staff is limited.











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## CAW SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

"During the first two weeks of October, you can apply to college in Montana for free. Counselors will be reaching out with opportunities to get it done."

"Public, private, and tribal colleges in Montana waive their application fees during the beginning of October. Ask your counselor how to apply."

"Getting a college degree or certificate doesn't have to take four years... Ask your counselor about faster options and apply to college for free during the first two weeks of October."

"Interested in earning a salary faster? You can get a degree in (<u>MUS Sprint Degree major</u>) from (<u>college name</u>) in (<u># years/months</u>). Ask your counselor how to apply for free..."

"College Application Weeks are right around the corner; here's why (<u>school name</u>) seniors are college bound: (list a few reasons anonymously)."

"College Application Weeks are coming up. Today's college spotlight is on (<u>staff member</u>), who (<u>past tense verb of their choice</u>) at (<u>institution</u>) and graduated in (<u>year</u>). Ask them to tell you more... Go (<u>mascot</u>)!" \*Can continue through CAW as needed.

example: 'Today's college spotlight is on <u>Mr. Elwood</u>, who <u>chilled on the beach</u> at <u>North Idaho</u> <u>College</u> and graduated in <u>2016</u>. Ask him to tell you more... Go <u>Cardinals!</u>'

"These are College Application Weeks. S	o far, ( <u>#</u> )	(high school name)	seniors have applied.
The most popular schools are,	and .	***	









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## CONTACTS FOR PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

#### **MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Mike Ouert mrouert@montana.edu (406) 994-5541 Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success aycss@montana.edu (406) 994-7627

#### **UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA**

Anna Bruning anna.bruning@mso.umt.edu (406) 243-2309

#### **MONTANA TECH**

Angela Hoffman-Cooper ahoffmancooper@mtech.edu (406) 496-4567 Alex Mcclouskey amcclouskey@mtech.edu (406) 496-4698

#### **MSU BILLINGS**

Kealy Dowd kdowd@msubillings.edu (406) 896-5910

#### **UM WESTERN**

admissions@umwestern.edu (406) 683-7731

#### **MSU NORTHERN**

admissions@msun.edu (406) 265-3704

#### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE**

Sean Coleman colemans@rocky.edu (406) 657-1092

#### **UNIVERSITY OF PROVIDENCE**

admissions@uprovidence.edu (406) 791-5202

#### **CARROLL COLLEGE**

Erik Rose erose@carroll.edu (406) 447-4563

#### DAWSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dempster Jackson djackson@dawson.edu (406) 377-9400

#### **FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Molly Parman explore@fvcc.edu (406) 756-3881

#### **MILES COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

admissions@milescc.edu (406) 874-6101











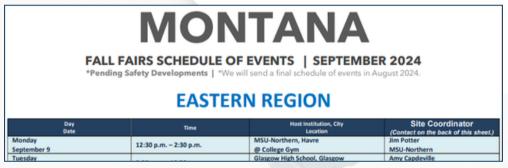
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### **CAW RESOURCES**

#### Why Apply Day: equityinlearning.act.org/acac/resources/why-apply



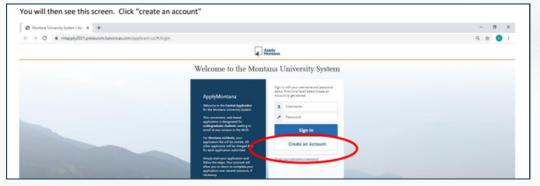
#### MPSEOC Fall Fairs: montanacollegefair.com/schedule



#### Apply Montana: applymontana.mus.edu



#### Apply MT Screenshot Deck: mus.edu/college-access/files/Apply\_Montana\_Prep\_Sheet.pdf





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### **POST CAW SURVEY**

A survey will be sent to you after CAW asking for the following information.

- total number of seniors
- total number of students who applied during CAW
- total number of in-state applications
- total number of out-of-state applications

Please keep track of this information as best you can. Your feedback helps determine how to most effectively serve students and site coordinators in the future.



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## COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEKS STATE CONTACT FOR SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 11 ASSISTANCE

If you are receiving this toolkit, it is because your school is registered to participate in the Montana Arc of Events, including College Application Weeks, FAFSA Completion Month, Complete the Applications Process, and Decision Days.

This toolkit's suggestions for implementing events should be catered to the needs of your school.

If you need ideas or have questions, help is available through the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education; please contact:

Dawes Elwood (he/him) College Access Manager delwood@montana.edu (406) 449-9138



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College Access is a coordinated effort from the Montana Gear Up and Educational Talent Search programs within the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Montana University System.







Automotive Technology C(40)











# MONTANA ARC OF EVENTS 2024-25



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Apply to MT colleges and universities for FREE!

FAFSA COMPLETION MONTH SEE WEBSITE FOR NEW DATES

Complete at FAFSA.GOV for FREE!

C.A.P. MONTH APRIL

Complete the Applications Process.



DECISION DAYS MAY 5-9

Announce and celebrate plans after high school.





Get Started:



