



A GUIDE FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

MONTANA CAMPUS ORIENTATION 2025

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

MONTANA GEAR UP

10 Unexpected Items for Your Dorm Room

DISINFECTANT WIPES

It will be important to keep your dorm's surfaces clean and disinfected. Bacteria and germs can build up and wipes are a must-have if you live in a dorm or with roommates.

SLIPPERS/SLIDES

Having a pair of flip-flops/slippers/slides/Crocs you can use to take showers is a must. Trust us. These will be helpful and comfortable.

HANDHELD VACUUM

Your room will get dirty. That's a fact. The question is how to help keep it clean. A handheld vacuum is easy to store and an important tool to have your first year of college.

LAUNDRY BAG/BACKPACK

Laundry, laundry, laundry... It sneaks up on you and you'll need a way to carry that mass of clothes to the washing machines. Some laundry hampers can double as bags for your clothes.

STAIN REMOVER PEN

You're out having dinner with your friends and then it happens—a piece of pepperoni lands on your new shirt. Fortunately, a stain remover pen can save the day...and your shirt.

RAIN JACKET/UMBRELLA

Wherever you go to college, it will probably rain. Even a brief shower can make your walk to class wet and unpleasant. Be prepared with a rain jacket or umbrella in your bag.

COUNTER TOP WATER FILTER

A counter-top water filter consists of a pitcher connected to a removable and replaceable carbon water filtration system. Now you can enjoy fresh, filtered water in your own dorm room.

WATER BOTTLE

Hydration is vital for a successful and healthy college experience. Having a water bottle handy helps keep your hydration levels at peak levels. Go ahead, keep filling up that water bottle and show off your school spirit!

POWER STRIP/EXTENSION CORD

It's your first day in your new dorm room and you notice there's only one electrical outlet. Solve this problem by packing a power strip and extension cord. You will need to plug in your electronics and mini-fridge.

DAMAGE FREE WALL HOOKS

Most colleges will not allow you to nail or put other holes in your dorm walls. Damage-free hooks provide a non-invasive method to hang pictures, posters, or other wall decorations.

TIPS FOR OVERCOMING HOMESICKNESS

SHARE YOUR FEELINGS

- It's okay to be homesick
- Let someone know
- Try talking with a friend, counselor, or Resident Assistant

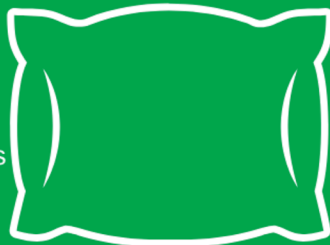


GET OUT THERE, HAVE FUN!

- Try new experiences
- Build your college support system
- Get to know your roommate and classmates
- Get to know your community

MAKE YOUR NEW HOME YOUR HOME

- Decorate the way you want
- Comfy pillows and posters
- Pictures of family and friends
- Plants and flowers



STAY CONNECTED WITH FAMILY AND LOVED ONES

- Call your friends and family
- Keep them informed
- Visit home when you can

HOMESICKNESS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

- Start your own holiday traditions
- Give gifts, treat yourself, spend time with friends



8 Tips to Prepare for First Year Orientation

Understand the Benefits of Orientation

- Get to know your way around campus
- Learn about campus services and resources
- Sign up for clubs and activities
- Register for classes

Complete Any Pre-Orientation Tasks

- Complete any required documents or tasks before orientation
- These may include immunization records or roommate questionnaires

Review the Course Catalog

- Write down the classes you want to take
- Write down any questions you may have for your advisor
- See which classes are in-person or online

Stick to the Program

- Attend the entire orientation
- Participate in any "icebreaker" events being held
- Make new friends

Take Notes

- Take a notebook
- Write down notes and questions
- Follow up with faculty or campus guides

Prepare a List of Questions

- Meet your academic advisor and other faculty
- Everyone will be prepared to answer your questions
- Take advantage of this initial window to ask questions

Learn your Way Around

- Be prepared before school starts
- Find out where your classes are located
- Visit the library and health center
- Find your dorm and dining hall

Be Friendly and Flexible

- Be open-minded and polite
- Make a good first impression
- Go make friends and have fun

YOU'VE GOT THIS!



Public 4-Year Universities

Montana State University Bozeman



There are two mandatory orientation components for all new students. Freshman Orientation/Class Registration consists of a short online Pre-Orientation and a 2.5 day in-person Orientation/Class Registration held on the MSU Campus where students will receive their Fall 2025 class schedule.

Campus Orientations: June 9-11, June 23-25, July 14-16, August 17-19

Information: <https://www.montana.edu/admissions/orientation/freshmen.html>

Contact: Orientation@montana.edu or call 1-888-MSU-CATS

Montana State University Billings



We designed this mandatory, two-day event to welcome new students to MSU-Billings. Providing meaningful sessions, meeting new Yellowjackets, exploring student service programs, mastering the art of navigating campus programs, and previewing college clubs and organizations will introduce you to our college experience.

Campus Orientation: July 14-15

Information: <https://www.msubillings.edu/orientation/>

Contact: NSS@msubillings.edu or call (406) 657-2888

Montana State University-Northern Havre



Navigate Northern Days packs orientation with events showcasing the great experiences our students have in class and on campus. Designed to prepare you for success during the first year of college, Navigate Northern Days is mandatory for all first year and transfer students.

Campus Orientation: August 18-19

Information: <https://www.msun.edu/admissions/orientation.aspx>

Contact: Admissions@msun.edu or call (406) 265-3704

University of Montana Missoula



Mandatory online orientation for all incoming students. The on-campus Big Sky Experience is also mandatory for traditional first year students. The Big Sky Experience is a five-day welcome week that kicks off with residence hall move-in day a week before classes begin in Fall 2025.

Campus Orientation: August 18-22

Information: <https://www.umt.edu/orientation/first-year-students>

Contact: Orientation@mso.umt.edu or call (406) 243-2332

Montana Technological University Butte



First year and transfer students attend a mandatory, on-campus orientation. Students living on-campus will move in on the first day of Orientation.

Campus Orientation: August 20

Information: <https://www.mtech.edu/student-life/orientation>

Contact: Campuslife@mtech.edu or call (406) 496-4335

University of Montana-Western Dillon



Mandatory on-campus orientation for first year and transfer students. Orientation events include: Convocation (the official start of the school year ceremony), academic exploration activities, a hike to the hillside "M" and much more.

Campus Orientation: August 15-18

Information: <https://www.umwestern.edu/orientation>

Contact: Admissions@umwestern.edu or call (406) 683-7453

Private Universities

Carroll College



Helena

The New Student Orientation is designed to provide you with essential information related to academic requirements and campus resources at Carroll. In addition, orientation activities provide you with the opportunity to make valuable connections with current faculty, staff, and students. Freshman Orientation shapes new students' experiences by encouraging new friendships, discovering Helena, and absorbing a key part of the Carroll experience—helping others.

Campus Orientation: August 17-19

Information: <https://www.carroll.edu/admission-aid/admitted-students/fall-orientation>

Contact: Admissions@carroll.edu or call (406) 447-4300

Rocky Mountain College



Billings

Orientation provides new to RMC students in making positive transitions to college life by preparing them for success in the classroom and within the greater college community. At Orientation, you'll interact with other student peers, faculty, staff, and student leaders who will support you throughout your college career.

Campus Orientation: August 11-17

Information: <https://rocky.edu/orientation>

Contact: Visit@rocky.edu or call (406) 657-1057

University of Providence



Great Falls

First year students starting directly after high school, are required to attend New Student Orientation. This includes commuting students as well as those choosing to live on campus. Transfer students are not required to attend, but are highly encouraged to participate.

Campus Orientation: August 16-21

Information: <https://www.uprovidence.edu/admissions/new-student-orientation/>

Contact: Admissions@uprovidence.edu or call (406) 791-5202

Community Colleges

Dawson Community College

Glendive



Orientation is a two day introduction to the Dawson community, including academics and residence life! During orientation, you will meet your student ambassadors, your academic adviser, Residence Life Staff and the rest of the Dawson Community. You will get to register for your fall courses, move into student housing, and get to know each other. By the time classes begin, we hope you're as excited to be here as we are to have you in our community!

Campus Orientation: To Be Determined. Please call DCC for specific dates and times.

Information: <https://www.dawson.edu/news-events>

Contact: Info@dawson.edu or call (406) 377-9400

Flathead Valley Community College

Kalispell



All new degree-seeking students have an advising and registration orientation appointment, which is individualized for the student. The group orientation is an afternoon event on campus in August prior to the start of the fall semester and is aligned with move-in day for student housing.

Campus Orientation: Currently Scheduled for August 22

Information: <https://www.fvcc.edu/student-services>

Contact: Info@fvcc.edu or call (406) 756-3822

Miles Community College

Miles City



In preparation to make your transition to college as smooth as possible, we invite you to complete the Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) process. All new students, including transfer students and students returning after an absence of more than five years, are required to complete orientation before they register for their first semester courses at Miles Community College.

Campus Orientation: June 19, July 8, August 13, August 25

Information: <https://www.milesccl.edu/Admissions/soar.aspx>

Contact: Admissions@milesccl.edu or call (406) 874-6101

Public 2-Year Colleges

UM-Bitterroot College

Hamilton



New students have a mandatory one-on-one meeting by appointment with a student services manager. When a new student registers for classes, they receive an orientation bag; get an overview of the campus website, financial aid, and parking; and get a tour of the facilities.

Campus Orientation: The Fall 2025 orientation schedule will be posted closer to the beginning of the semester at <https://www.umt.edu/bitterroot-college>

Information: <https://www.umt.edu/bitterroot-college>

Contact: Meri1.telin@umontana.edu or call (406) 375-0100

MSU City College

Billings



MSU-City College orientation is offered on-campus in conjunction with MSUB orientation. Orientation is for all new, incoming students and is designed to provide academic advising, introduction to degree requirements, aid students in course registration, and prepare them to join the Yellowjacket family.

Campus Orientation: July 14-15

Information: <https://www.msubillings.edu/orientation>

Contact: CCadmissions@msubillings.edu or call (406) 247-3000

MSU-Gallatin College

Bozeman



MSU-Gallatin College offers a fully online orientation. Orientation registration is restricted to the students who have confirmed seats in their majors. Students also have an appointment with their advisor via video conference, phone, email, or in-person (student's choice).

Campus Orientation: Online

Information: <https://gallatin.montana.edu/apply/online-orientation.html>

Contact: gallatincollege@montana.edu or call (406) 994-5536

MSU-Great Falls College Great Falls



All new MSU-GFC students are required to complete the Online Orientation prior to scheduling their first advising appointment and registering for classes. The Online Orientation is a series of short videos that students will view in order to learn about creating their single login and password for access to BannerWeb/My Info, how to use the class schedule and academic catalog, and how to access a variety of student resources before classes begin.

Campus Orientation: Online Orientation

Information: <https://admissions.gfcmsu.edu/orientation/index.html>

Contact: Admissions@gfcmsu.edu or call (406) 771-4300

UM-Helena College Helena



In-person sessions offered at both Helena College campuses and include lunch, meeting instructors, campus tours, a chance to win tuition waivers, and other prizes.

Campus Orientation: Donaldson Campus-August 20, Airport Campus-August 22

Information: https://helenacollege.edu/student_support_center/orientation.aspx

Contact: (406) 447-6900

Montana Tech Highlands College Butte



New student orientation occurs on-campus and is required for all incoming first-year and transfer students.

Campus Orientation: August 20-21

Information: <https://www.mtech.edu/student-life/orientation/>

Contact: Campuslife@mtech.edu or call (406) 496-4335

UM-Missoula College



Online new student orientation is mandatory for all incoming students. The on-campus Big Sky Experience is also mandatory for traditional first-year students. The Big Sky Experience is a five-day welcome week that kicks off with residence hall move-in day a week before classes begin in the fall.

Campus Orientation: August 18-22

Information: <https://www.umn.edu/orientation/first-year-students>

Contact: Orientation@mso.umn.edu or call (406) 243-2332

Tribal Colleges

Aaniiih Nakoda College

Harlem



New and returning student orientation is offered for 1-2 days for both fall and spring semesters. Orientation is designed to provide students with important information about college services, register for classes, learn to navigate campus, and make connections with advisors, staff, and faculty.

Campus Orientation: Third week in August. Check website for exact dates.

Information: <https://ancollege.edu/students/new-students/>

Contact: tcochran@ancollege.edu or (406) 353-2607

Blackfeet Community College

Browning



The fall 2025 orientation will be a multi-day event, getting used to campus, meeting with campus departments, learning about financial aid, and other activities.

Campus Orientation: August 19-21

Information: <https://bfcc.edu>

Contact: bfccinfo@bfcc.edu or call (406) 338-5441

Chief Dull Knife College

Lame Deer



The Student Orientation Class is mandatory for all new incoming students. This orientation class is designed to make the adjustment to college life a pleasant experience. Students will become acquainted with college personnel and location of classrooms. This class will also acquaint students with registration, financial aid, tutoring, counseling, student clubs and organizations.

Campus Orientation: Student Orientation Class

Information: http://cdkc.edu/general_information.htm

Contact: (406) 477-6215

Stone Child College

Box Elder



A one day orientation is offered prior to the start of each semester.

Campus Orientation: August 20

Information: <https://www.stonechild.edu/>

Contact: ITadmin@stonechild.edu or call (406) 395-4875

Fort Peck Community College

Poplar



College Orientation is required for all new and transfer students. It is conducted at the onset of both fall and spring semesters. Orientation assists students with admissions, placement assessment, financial aid, and registration. It is also useful in providing valuable information such as the location and use of all campus facilities and services. Orientation highlights college academic assistance, special services and extra-curricular programs.

Campus Orientation: August 20th-Fall, January 7th-Spring

Information: <https://fpcc.smartcatalogiq.com>

Contact: (406) 768-6300

Little Big Horn College

Crow Agency



New Student Orientation is scheduled before fall semester begins and is listed in the College Calendar. Placement testing, advisor meetings, registration and information regarding special programs, scholarship and financial aid are included in New Student Orientation.

Campus Orientation: Currently scheduled for the last week of August. Please check website for exact dates.

Information: <http://www.lbhc.edu/Admissions>

Contact: (406) 638-3104

Salish Kootenai College

Pablo

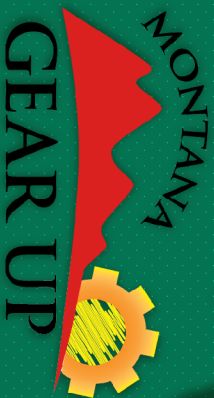
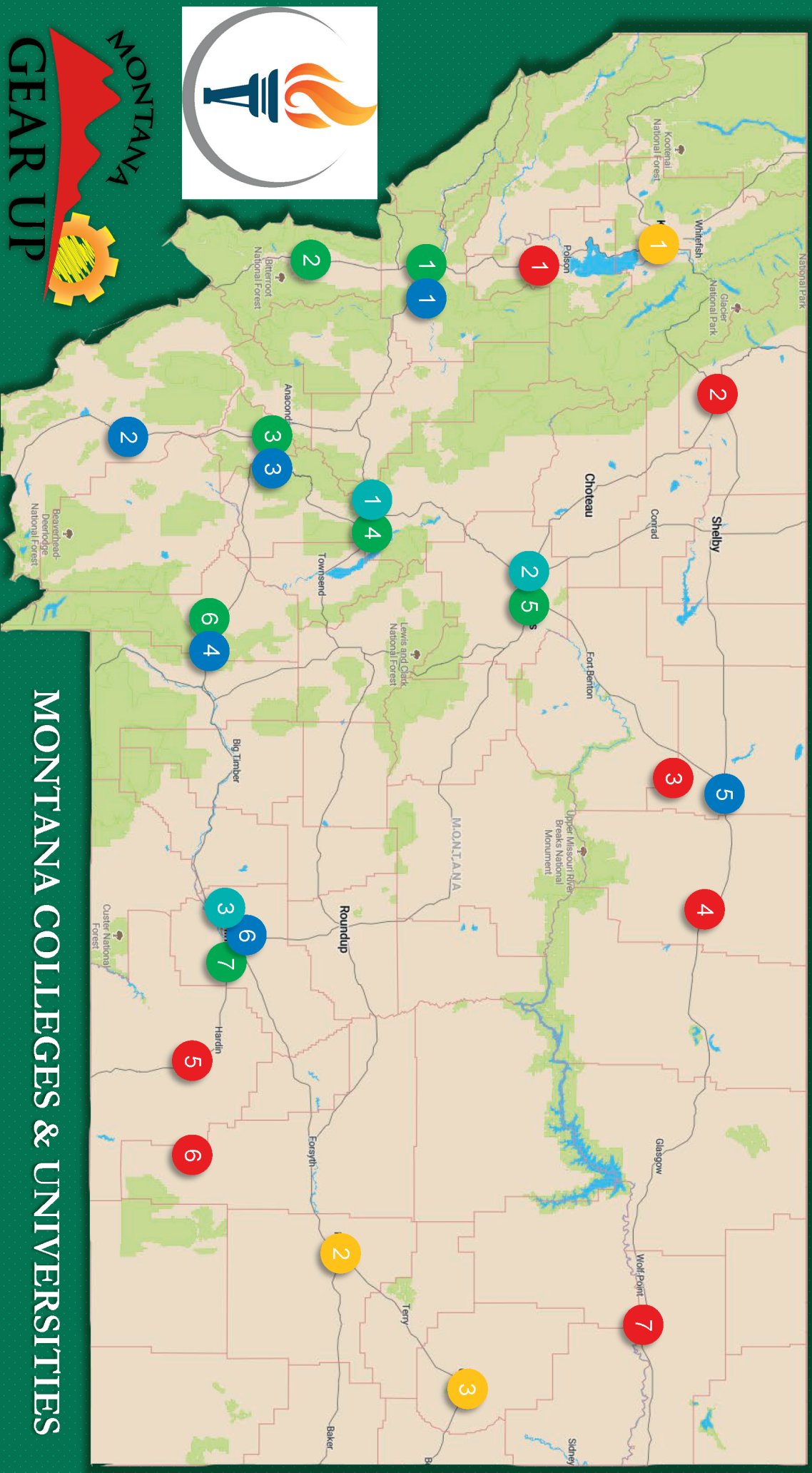


Students may choose to complete either a series of online orientation modules or a one-day, in-person orientation on campus including sessions on student services, financial aid, and meetings with campus departments. Students are required to complete one of these orientation options.

Campus Orientation: September 12th

Information: <https://www.skc.edu/>

Contact: Admissions@skc.edu or call (406) 275-4800



MONTANA COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES