

Established Local Applicant Documentation

The University of Montana is a public, state institution of higher education in the State of Montana, and qualifies as a state governmental entity. It is established as a state educational institution by Title 20 (Education), Chapter 25 (University System), Part 2 of the Montana Code. *See* MONT. CODE ANN. § 20-25-201, *et. seq.* (2021). As a state governmental entity, The University of Montana is considered a local entity for purposes of the FCC noncommercial point system determination “throughout the area within which their authority extends.” *Reexamination of the Comparative Standards for Noncommercial Educational Applicants*, Report and Order, 20 CR 301, 65 FR 36375, 15 FCC Rcd 7386, (April 21, 2000) at paragraph 54.¹ Accordingly, as the statewide public university system, the University of Montana qualifies as a local entity applicant throughout the state of Montana, including Dillon, Montana. The University of Montana has been in existence since 1895, and is therefore an “established” local entity pursuant to Section 73.7003(b)(1) of the FCC’s Rules, which requires continuous local applicant qualification for no fewer than two years. *See* attached, from <https://www.umt.edu/125/history.php>. In addition, the University of Montana has a campus located at 710 S. Atlantic St., Dillon, Montana 59725 (the University of Montana Western), *see* attached, within 25 miles of the reference coordinates for the community to be served (Dillon, Montana). The Dillon campus has been part of the University of Montana since July 1988. The University is therefore also an established local entity for these reasons pursuant to Section 73.7000 and 73.7003(b)(1).

¹ “For example, the New York State government would be considered local throughout New York State, including New York City, but the New York City Board of Education would be local only in New York City.” *Id.*

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UM History

An act of Congress of Feb. 18, 1881, dedicated 72 sections (46,000 acres) in Montana Territory for the creation of a University.

Montana was admitted to the Union on Nov. 8, 1889, and the Montana Legislature soon began to consider where the state's permanent capital and state university would be located. To be sure that the new state university would be located in Missoula, the city's leaders made an agreement with the standing capital of Helena that Missoula would stay out of the bidding for the new capital and would support Helena over its leading competitor, Anaconda.

Missoula won the legislative vote for the new university in February 1893 at the third Montana Legislative assembly. The University formally opened in 1895. While plans for a university campus were progressing, classes were temporarily held at nearby Willard School.

The South Missoula Land Company, owned by A.B. Hammond, Richard Eddy and Marcus Daly, joined with the Higgins family in donating land for the new campus. In June 1898 the cornerstone for A.J. Gibson designed University Hall was laid and Missoula became "the University City."

The original plan of the University campus was designed by one of its first professors, Frederick Scheuch, who called for the central oval to be surrounded by immediate and future University buildings. Although Scheuch's plan called for all building entrances to face the center of the Oval, buildings were later constructed with three-story in the Renaissance Revival style, with hipped roofs and Spanish green roof tiles.

The first set of buildings were set up around the Oval in 1895. Since that time, various campus plans and architectural styles have been used. Today the campus consists of 220 acres and is bordered to the east by Mount Sentinel and the north by the Clark Fork River.

UM Presidents

Oscar John Craig (1895-1908)

Clyde Augustus Duniway (1908-1912)

Edwin Boone Craighead (1912-1915)

Frederick Charles Scheuch (1915-1917)

Edward Octavius Sisson (1917-1921)

Charles Horace Clapp (1921-1935)

George Finlay Simmons (1936-1941)

Ernest Oscar Melby (1941-1945)

James Allen McCain (1945-1950)

Carl McFarland (1951-1958)

Harry Kenneth Newburn (1959-1963)

Robert Johns (1963-1966)

Robert T. Pantzer (1966-1974)

Richard Charles Bowers (1974-1981)

Neil S. Bucklew (1981-1986)

James Verch Koch (1986-1990)

George M. Dennison (1990–2010)

Royce Engstrom (2010-2016)

Sheila Stearns (2016-2017)

Seth Bodnar (2018-)

Contact information

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Nature of the Institution

The University of Montana Western, an innovative four-year public institution, is located in Dillon and Beaverhead County in southwestern Montana. Montana Western is a comprehensive University with programs emphasizing active, hands-on experiential learning. To better facilitate this type of learning, Montana Western transitioned to Experience One block scheduling in fall 2005. Under this system, students typically take a single course at a time, three hours per day, usually four courses per semester. Each course lasts for 18 instructional days over three and one-half weeks.

Excellence in undergraduate instruction is Montana Western's primary goal, enhanced by close student-faculty relationships, fine teaching facilities, and an exceptional academic environment. Public service and research by faculty, staff, and students contribute to the broader mission of the institution. Montana Western has programs in the arts and sciences, teacher education, early childhood education, business, equine studies, and natural horsemanship.

Constituencies Served

The primary reason for Montana Western's existence is to serve the educational needs of Montana citizens, businesses, and other

Financial Aid**Tuition and
Fees**

**Services for
Student
Success****Student
Services &
Programs****Residence Life
Office and
Bulldog Card
Center**

**Definitions of
Academic
Terminology****FERPA and
Rights to
Confidentiality****Student Code
of Conduct****Enrollment
and
Graduation**

Directory

organizations. Montana Western serves people of all ages—from infants to senior citizens—through programs offered on its campus by the university or by other affiliated organizations. Students enrolled in UMW courses and programs are both traditional-aged recent high school graduates and nontraditional-aged students. Increasing numbers of out-of-state students add to campus diversity and greatly contribute to making Montana Western a more interesting place to obtain a university degree while participating in abundant extracurricular activities.

Institutional Philosophy

Montana Western believes learning is best accomplished by having students engaged in authentic learning activities within each academic discipline. With the skilled and knowledgeable guidance of its professors, UMW's academic programs feature many opportunities for field experiences, labs, projects, and internships.

By fostering a hunger for knowledge, appreciation for differences in people and ideas, and pride in creative and technical achievements, UMW provides a foundation for lifelong personal growth and productivity. Montana Western's philosophy fosters well-rounded graduates who are sensitive yet skeptical, skillful in special areas yet reflective about general themes, and aware of their complex world and committed to its improvement. Graduates are prepared to be good citizens as they contribute positively to social structure and the economic vitality of the communities in which they reside.

Accreditation

The University of Montana Western is accredited by: The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

The University of Montana Western is an institutional member of: The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE).

The University of Montana Western teacher education programs are accredited by: The National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The University of Montana Western has received specialized accreditation for its Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Applied Science degree programs in business through: The International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE).

History of Montana Western

Information

My Portfolio

In 1889, the Act of Congress under which the State of Montana was admitted to the Union set aside acres of the public domain for the establishment and support of normal schools. As a result of this Act, Dillon was selected as the site for the State Normal School in 1893. The Legislature of 1897 created an Executive Board, which selected a president and faculty. The first session of the school opened September 7, 1897.

In 1903, the Legislature changed the name of the institution to State Normal College. On April 6, 1931, the State Board of Education approved the four-year course and authorized conferring the degree of Bachelor of Education. On December 8, 1947, the State Board of Education changed the name of the degree to Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Effective July 1, 1949, the Legislative Assembly changed the institution's name to Western Montana College of Education.

In April 1954, the State Board of Education authorized the granting of a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education and the degree of Master of Science in Education. The 1965 Montana Legislature changed the name of the institution to Western Montana College effective July 1, 1965.

At the January 1987 meeting of the Board of Regents of the Montana University System, the Board took action to administratively merge Western Montana College with The University of Montana. Montana Western became a four-year affiliated campus of The University of Montana in July 1988, and the name of the campus became Western Montana College of The University of Montana. A Bachelor of Arts degree with multiple option areas was authorized by the Board of Regents in 1991 with five thematic areas: Environmental Sciences, Literature & Writing, Pre-professional Health Sciences, Social Science, and Visual Arts.

In January 2001, the Board of Regents authorized a name change to the University of Montana Western, with approval granted by the 2001 Montana Legislature effective July 1, 2001. With this change, UMW gained university status in recognition of the breadth and strength of its academic programming.

Montana Western began Experience One scheduling for all first-time baccalaureate-seeking freshmen in fall 2004, with the full transition to Experience One occurring in fall 2005.

Location

With a population of 5,500, Dillon is situated in the beautiful Beaverhead

Valley. The town is the center of ranching, mining, and recreational activities. Winters are historically mild and summers are pleasant with cool nights. The valley is noted for its typically crystal clear air and blue skies with abundant snow in the surrounding mountains but relatively little snow or rain in the valley.

Dillon provides a safe, small-town environment for Montana Western. Community concerts, theater, and other programs serve cultural needs of the community. Also available are churches of various denominations, public library, YMCA, golf course, parks, hospital, and social and fraternal organizations. Many nearby recreational areas provide opportunities for nature study, picnics, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and skiing.

The area is rich in historical interest. The Big Hole Battlefield, Bannack (first territorial capital), and Virginia City (second territorial capitol) are within easy driving distance. The Lewis and Clark Expedition's travels through the Beaverhead Valley in 1805 are commemorated at Clark's Lookout State Park, located one mile north of Dillon. One of the sources of the Missouri River is found in a tiny stream emerging from a spring in the area's hillside. A museum, developed by the Beaverhead Museum Association, houses many relics from the region's early days.

Located in the southeastern residential section of Dillon, the beautiful campus consists of well-developed lawns, shade trees, walks, and historical and picturesque buildings. A visitor to the Montana Western campus enjoys an unsurpassed panoramic view of southwest Montana, with several beautiful mountain ranges punctuating the surrounding landscape and a wide variety of recreational activities for the outdoor enthusiast located within a short distance.

The campus is convenient in terms of physical space, layout of facilities, and proximity to community resources, providing easy access to friendly student-centered faculty, personnel, and services. Montana Western is committed to fostering a sustainable environment and is heated by biomass. Recent renovations including energy efficiency projects and a restoration of historic Main Hall contribute to UMW's emerging role as an innovative regional interdisciplinary arts and sciences university while maintaining its tradition of excellence in teacher education, business, two-year associate degree, and certificate programs.






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Information about COVID-19: View UMW's latest updates and more (<https://www.umwestern.edu/montana-western-covid-19-information/>)



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