



UM-Helena and Federal Financial Aid

UM-Helena Scholarships and Awards

Below is a partial list of scholarships provided for UM-Helena students. A complete and up-to-date list can be found on the UM-Helena website. Some scholarships are offered by the College and others are offered by community organizations, business firms, endowment funds, etc. For more information, students should contact the Financial Aid Office.

American Business Women's Scholarship
Campus Compact
Everett D Potter Scholarship
Harold Hamm Award
Home Builder's Association
Last Chance Kiwanis Scholarship
Lula Mae Clay Nursing Scholarship
Montana Broadcaster's Scholarship
Montana Food Distributors Association and Coors Inc
Morrison Aviation Scholarship
Perry Mathews Scholarships
Peter Nelson Scholarships
Seigal Service Scholarship
Soroptomist Training Awards Program
Soroptomist Vocational Technical Scholarships
Student Senate Scholarships

Private Scholarships

Many private organizations provide financial assistance to UM- Helena students. Scholarship information may be obtained by contacting civic, professional, religious, or other community organizations in addition to high school guidance offices and the internet. Listing of web resources is available in the Financial Aid Office. One such website is www.fastweb.com. Private scholarships are generally applied one-half to each successive semester after the funds are received.

Tuition Waivers

The Montana Board of Regents has authorized the waiver of either full or partial tuition fees for certain categories of students. These categories include:

Native American
Montana Veterans
War Orphans
Dependents of Prisoners of War
Senior Citizens
Surviving Dependents of Montana Firefighters or Peace Officers
Faculty and Staff
MUS Employee Dependent



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Applications for fee waivers are made prior to and must be completed within 14 days of the start of the semester in which the student expects the fee waiver. More information and applications are available in the Financial Aid Office.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Certain persons with an employment disability may qualify for education assistance through the Rehabilitative/Visual Services Division, Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Students should contact that office at 406-444-1710 for more information.

Note: This information must be included on the Financial Aid Initial Notification Letter and will be included in a student's eligibility for Title IV aid.

Veterans Education Benefits

Veterans may be eligible to receive benefits under various chapters of the GI Bill:

- Chapter 30 – New GI Bill provides benefits for those who first entered active duty after July 1, 1985.
- Chapter 34 – The old GI Bill is available to veterans who entered active duty before July 1, 1985.
- Chapter 35 – Vocational Rehabilitation is for veterans who have a service-connected disability. Contact the Veterans Administration, Fort Harrison, MT 59636, or call toll-free 800-827-1000 to apply.
- Chapter 1606 – Guard/ Reserve members need to contact their Education Officer to determine eligibility.

Applications for Montgomery GI Bill educational benefits may be obtained online at www.gibill.va.gov or from the Veterans Benefits Coordinator, located in the UM-Helena ACCESS Center at 406-444-2766.

The Veterans Administration expects veterans to make satisfactory academic progress and pursue a final objective. All veterans and eligible persons receiving benefits are required to report promptly when they drop or add courses, or withdraw completely.

Veterans receiving federal financial aid must report their benefit information to the Financial Aid Office via the Initial Notification Letter or by calling 406-444-6883.

A Veterans Tuition Waiver may be available for veterans who have exhausted their benefits. Students should contact the Financial Aid Office for further information.

Higher Education Assistance (HEA) and Tribal Grants

Native American students may be eligible for need-based grants from the HEA or the student's tribe. For more information, students should contact the Tribal Educational Specialist.

Note: All benefit information must be reported to the Financial Aid Office.

Federal Financial Aid

Students should complete the FAFSA after January 1 and request that your Student Aid Report be sent to



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UM-Helena, Title IV Code 007570. It takes approximately 4 to 6 weeks for a paper FAFSA application to be processed. Applications submitted via the internet take considerably less time (www.fafsa.gov).

Students (and parents, if applicable) must have a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to sign the FAFSA electronically (www.pin.ed.gov). Students must re-apply for federal aid each year. Delays in receiving financial aid are often the result of late or incomplete submission of the FAFSA.

Except for the Federal PLUS (Parent) Loan, eligibility for the following indicated federal financial aid resources depends on submission of the FAFSA. The Student Aid Report (SAR), resulting from the FAFSA, provides an expected family contribution (EFC), which is used to determine eligibility for federal need-based financial aid.

1. Federal Pell Grants are awarded to students with exceptional financial need.
Note: Pell grants are available to all students who are eligible; however, the following grants are awarded on a priority base only.
2. Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) funds are limited and are available to students with exceptional financial need who have received a Federal Pell Grant.
3. Montana Higher Education Grant (MHEG) funds are limited and are a state-sponsored grant available to Montana residents enrolled at least half-time and who have exceptional financial need.
4. Baker Grant funds are limited and are a state-sponsored grant available to Montana residents enrolled full-time who have a minimum of \$2,575 in earned income, and have an EFC between 0 and 6,550.
5. Work-study employment opportunities are available through the need-based Federal Work Study (FWS) as well as the need-based and non-need based State Work Study (SWS) programs. Limited funds are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, in accordance with College policy. Awards are usually between ten and 15 hours per week.
6. Loan monies at federally regulated interest rates are available to students and their parents. Federal loans, except the Federal PLUS (Parent) Loan, are awarded on a need and non-need basis as documented through the FAFSA.
 - a. Federal Stafford Loan – available to students on either a need (subsidized) or non-need (unsubsidized) basis. Subsidized loans do not require payment of interest by the student so long as the student is attending college at least half-time. The federal government subsidizes the interest burden. Unsubsidized loans require payment or capitalization of interest upon disbursement. Interest rates are set annually in accordance with federal regulations.
 - b. Federal PLUS (Parent) Loan – for parents of dependent students who want to borrow to help pay for their student's education. Interest rates are set annually in accordance with federal regulations.