

VISIONS A Newsletter for Students



March 2026

Message From Our Superintendent

Dear High School Students and Families,

As we launch into the second semester of 2026, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment of construction. Our theme this year, Build What Matters, is more than just a slogan; it is a commitment to intentionality in our relationships with our community, our learning, and, most importantly, our students. Spring is a season of transformation, and in our schools, it is the time when the foundations we've laid begin to take their true shape.

For our soon-to-be graduates, this semester is about finishing the "structure" of your high school career with excellence. Every class, game, and conversation is a brick in the legacy you leave behind. If you feel the weight of this transition, it's a sign that you have invested deeply in your journey. It should carry weight and even be bittersweet – this is how you know that you did it right! We encourage you to finish strong, making the most of every academic and extracurricular opportunity. You aren't just finishing a phase; you are building the bridge to your next chapter.

For our underclassmen, now is the time to design your future. As course selection begins, I challenge you to choose pathways that both excite and stretch you. Whether it's a rigorous Advanced Placement course, a hands-on CTE program, or a creative elective, these choices are the blueprints for your career and life. Talk with your families and counselors—build a plan that reflects who you want to become.

Construction is rarely a solo project. If you are facing academic or personal challenges, Great Falls Public Schools is here to provide the scaffolding you need. We are committed to building a community where every student thrives through:

- **Academic Support:** Visit with your counselor and Associate Principal to learn more about the resources available to you.
- **Wellness & Connection:** L.I.F.T. peer mentors and professional mental health specialists who understand that your well-being is the foundation of your success.

Reaching out is not a sign of weakness; it is a vital part of building a strong, resilient life. We are here to walk with you through every challenge.

High school is what you make it, but you don't have to build it alone. Let's make this semester a testament to what happens when we focus on what truly matters: our growth, our connections, and our shared future.

Sincerely,

Heather S. Hoyer, Superintendent
Great Falls Public Schools

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Counselors' Corner

This section of the *Visions Newsletter* is designed to help parents stay current with the classroom and other activities that high school counselors have scheduled for all students to help them in their planning for high school and beyond. If parents are ever in need of more information about any of the Counseling Department activities, call 406-268-6159 for CMR, 406-268-6330 for GFH or 406-268-7703 for PGEC.



Great Falls High Counselors' Corner

8th Grade Parent Night: This will be held on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 6 PM in the Davidson Family Auditorium at Great Falls High School. If you or your student are unable to attend, please reach out to their current school counselor to make sure they have all they need to get scheduled for next school year. Please have a conversation with your student about elective options and your expectations of them as a student in high school.

Scheduling for year 2026-2027: Students will get information the week of February 2nd in their English classes, then Counselors will meet with students the week of February 9th to begin the process of scheduling classes for next year by providing information to all students on course selections and building a schedule which meets graduation requirements and, more important, prepares them for their future.

In the middle of March, counselors will begin individual conferences with Juniors. The goal is to assist students with academic, career, and post-secondary planning along with evaluation of credits. Discussing career and educational goals will help in course selection for the important senior year. Each junior will be given a folder containing valuable information to help students plan for their life after Great Falls High School. Parents, watch for the postcard from your son's or daughter's counselor letting you know the conference has been completed, and the folder given out. Please help your child with his or her post-secondary plan by reviewing the folder's contents.

TESTING COMING UP! Both the Pre-ACT and ACT test will be given on March 24, 2026, at GFHS.

Sophomores: 10th Graders will be getting information in their English classes about signing up to take the Pre-ACT. This test is optional, sign-ups for the Pre-ACT must be completed by March 12, 2026, at 4:00 P.M. The cost of the test is \$21.00, the test will be held on March 24, 2026.

Juniors: All 11th Graders will be taking the ACT test at Great Falls High School on March 24, 2026.

A Reminder to Seniors: This is a busy time of year for completing college applications and scholarship forms. The **GFHS Scholarship News**, which is distributed in senior English classes monthly, lists available scholarships and their deadlines and qualifications. Seniors can pick up the specific applications for each scholarship in the Counseling Center. Students and parents can also access a copy of Scholarship News by visiting the GFHS Counseling website.

Great Falls High Counselor Student Assignment 2025-2026 Counseling Office 268-6330

A-C	Chad A. Getten 406-286-6334	D-G	Amy Schoenen 406-268-6335	H-L	Clint Houston 406-268-6334
	M-R	Rosie Rossberg 406-286-6333	S-Z	Dana Freshly 406-268-6335	

GFHS Counseling information can be found at: <https://gfhcounseling.weebly.com/>



C. M. Russell High School Counselors' Corner

Junior Individual Planning Conferences: Counselors meet with all juniors during second semester for their individual planning conference. The student and their counselor will evaluate the student's credits, discuss career and educational goals, research career and educational information, and make plans for the senior year schedule.

Testing coming up: 10th grade students who elected to take the Pre-ACT and all Juniors will take the ACT test March 24, 2026, at CMR. All other grade levels will have a remote learning day.

Scheduling for 2026-2027: Scheduling for current CMR 9th-11th graders occurred the week of February 16. CMR counselors visited with current 8th graders on February 9th to begin conversations about scheduling for high school. If you have questions about classes available or about the scheduling process, you can access our course catalogs at <https://cmrhs.gfps.k12.mt.us/departments/counseling-center/course-offerings> or contact your student's counselor for more information. Counselors are assigned according to the first letter of the student's last name. (see chart below).

Senior reminders: Remember to apply for scholarships. Our scholarships are listed under the scholarship section of our website. Each month we publish a "SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP" with the latest scholarships available. You can see these, as well as other college information, on our website at <https://cmrhs.gfps.k12.mt.us/departments/counseling-center>

Career Guidance Computer Training: The Montana Career Information System (MCIS) is a computer-based information and reference source that can help students explore career and educational opportunities. To access free career exploration resources, please visit <https://portal.mt.cis360.org/>

**Counselors are assigned alphabetically by your child's last name.
Counseling Office 406-268-6159**

A-C Nick Budeski
406-286-6160

D-G Patty Pace
406-268-6162

H-L Jacie Schoenen
406-268-6112

M-R Courtnee Douglas
406-286-6111

S-Z Riki Johnson
406-268-6110

Please visit our website at: <https://cmrhs.gfps.k12.mt.us/departments/counseling-center>



**Paris Gibson Education Center
Counselors' Corner**

Spring semester at Great Falls College-MSU opened the door for dual enrollment. Paris Gibson Education Center is a strong proponent of dual credit opportunities and encourages students to take advantage of the abundant college course offerings. Many ambitious students are taking more than one class this spring semester. Students interested in dual enrollment need to stop by and see Mr. Kornick for more information.

Juniors at PGEC and across the state will be taking the ACT soon. All 11th grade students will be tested on March 24, 2026, at no cost to the student or their family. We appreciate students taking advantage of this opportunity and helping ensure a smooth testing process.

Sophomores are invited to take the Pre-ACT on March 25, 2026. This is a good opportunity for 10th grade students to assess their skills and prepare for taking the ACT in their junior year. This is an optional assessment.

PGEC Counselor Contact Information

Brittany Light Phone: 406-268-6672

Email: Brittany_light@gfps.k12.mt.us

See Your Counselor for more Information!

ACADEMIC LETTER APPLICATION

CMR students will be given their academic letters on an individual basis. If a CMR student believes they qualify for an Academic Letter, they may see their Counselor for an application.

GFHS students who would like to apply for an Academic Letter may pick up the application from the Records Office At GFHS, these applications must be filed by the end of February.

HEISEY AWARDS

The Trustees of the Heisey Foundation have established a series of awards which will be given at area high schools in the spring. The Heisey is a cash award of \$200. The desire of the Foundation was to put the money back into the communities where it was originally earned. Heisey awards are special in that they are the only award presented to students based primarily on improvement. All students nominated have been judged on their teachers' observations of improvement in citizenship, scholarship, and effort for this year. Students are nominated by their teachers or ad- minitractors.

The Heisey Award Assembly at CMR is traditionally held in the beginning of March in the Bill Williamson Hall Auditorium.

The Heisey Award Assembly at GFHS is traditionally held in the beginning of March in the Davidson Family Auditorium.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY REQUIREMENTS

At both C. M. Russell High School and Great Falls High School, juniors who have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.33 after five semesters are eligible to become candidates for National Honor Society. Seniors are again eligible after the seventh semester with a cumulative GPA of 3.33.

Honor Society Induction:

CMR ceremony is traditionally held in April in the Bill Williamson Hall Auditorium

GFHS ceremony is traditionally held in March in the Old Gym.

HONOR ROLL ASSEMBLY

CMR High School traditionally has an Honor Roll breakfast in the Spring (check w/CMR for updates)

Great Falls High School Academic Honors Assembly is traditionally in March in the Davidson Family Auditorium

The following checklist is designed to help you organize your approach to selecting and applying for post-secondary education and training after high school. The deadlines mentioned are general in nature, so **you should be aware of the specific deadlines required by the schools you plan to attend or apply.**

FALL OF JUNIOR YEAR

1. Take the PSAT (if applicable)
2. Begin making a “List of Colleges” use MCIS
3. Don’t forget grades!!
4. Take the ASVAB to explore career choices

WINTER OF JUNIOR YEAR

5. Continue to look at schools, request information
6. Attend your individual planning conference with your counselor
7. Learn as much as you can about career fields that interest you
8. Attend appropriate college representative visits

SPRING OF JUNIOR YEAR

9. Take the ACT for free!!
10. As you receive information from schools start to narrow down your list
11. Begin the application process if you are interested in academics or ROTC
12. Keep working on grades

SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

13. Visit colleges if you can
14. Continue to narrow your “List of Colleges”

FALL OF SENIOR YEAR

1. Take the first scheduled college entrance test
2. Attend Financial Aid Workshop with your parents
3. File FAFSA as early as October 1. Pay attention to deadlines! There are federal and state deadlines, and the college may also have a deadline.
4. Attend College, university, and military representative visits.
5. Take the ASVAB if you didn’t take it as a junior and are still undecided about possible career directions. Contact a local recruiter for test times or take it with the juniors in October.
6. Make/update your “List of Colleges” (Dream , Probable, Sure thing)
7. Request applications, financial aid information and scholarship information from those schools to which you wish to apply.
8. Meet with your counselor for your Individual Planning Conference
9. Check Scholarship Scoop each time it comes out and apply as appropriate
10. GRADES!!!
11. Finalize academics, ROTC, or early decision applications , as applicable.

DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK

12. Apply to out-of-state schools

FEBRUARY OF SENIOR YEAR

13. Complete MUS Honors scholarship if you qualify and are staying in state.

MARCH OF SENIOR YEAR

14. Apply in-state
15. Application for Financial Aid should be in. Deadlines may be earlier for out of state schools.
16. Continue to apply for scholarships as appropriate.

ACT® TESTING FOR ALL JUNIORS—The State Required Test!

Since 2014, all juniors in public high schools have been provided the opportunity to take the ACT plus Writing test for free in their schools. This free test opportunity has been made possible through a grant that the Montana OPI received.

ACT tests will be Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at CMR, GFHS & PGEC.

Students who are absent on the ACT test dates listed above, will be scheduled to make-up tests. Each school will be sending home a letter with more information regarding the specific times & details needed for the test.

How does this affect ACT testing offered on other dates? The free ACT plus Writing tests are offered to juniors in Montana public schools on these dates only. ACT still offers many additional dates throughout the year for students. These testing opportunities which have associated fees, take place on Saturdays every other month, September through June. Visit www.act.org for more information.

How can my child prepare for the ACT? There are a number of free and fee-based opportunities for students to prepare for the ACT right now.

EdReady - Offered through the Montana Digital Academy in partnership with the Great Falls Public Schools, all students will be offered access to the EdReady Montana ACT Preparation Goal. EdReady Montana is a free, online, individualized math curriculum that helps students prepare for upcoming math courses, supplement their current math classes, or revisit gaps in their math skills. After a short initial diagnostic test, EdReady, takes a student through tutorials to fill in gaps in understanding. EdReady's ACT Preparation Goal will help prepare students for the mathematics section of the ACT and can be accessed from home or school as they work through their own customized study path. Students can speak with their math teachers or counselors to get registered.

ACT test tips, sample questions, and more resources are available at: <http://www.actstudent.org/testprep> select the "Test Prep" link for more information.

March2Success - <https://www.march2success.com/>

March2Success, offered free by the U.S. Army, provides an online study program to help students pre-prepare for standardized tests, improve schoolwork and review materials.

ACT Academy - <https://academy.act.org/>

ACT Academy is a free resource providing personalized practice for the ACT. The learning platform is designed to help students pinpoint areas of academic weakness, improve their ACT scores, and master the core skills needed to prepare for success in college and career.

PreACT

SOPHOMORES & PARENTS: You may be interested in hearing that there is a PreACT test that is designed to show students where they may need to strengthen their knowledge and skills in order to score higher on the ACT Exam as a junior. Typically, the PreACT is offered on the weekends, students will be able to take the test at their high school for \$21. GFPS will offer the PreACT test during the school day on **March 24th at GFHS and CMR, March 26th at PGEC.**

Taking this exam might be some of the best preparation you could ever get for the ACT!

You'll be taking a test that is almost exactly like the ACT in a real testing situation, but without the pressure and stakes of the "real deal". Once your PreACT scores arrive, you will receive information from your counseling center about where you can use those scores to plan a path towards even better ACT scores.

Registration is online and will close on March 12, 2026. Talk to your school counselor for more information about registration.

DIFFERENTIATED DIPLOMA OPTIONS

Students in the Great Falls Public Schools are able to earn three types of High School diplomas. This opportunity is a result of the ongoing efforts of the school district to offer a comprehensive program and to ensure that all students graduate with a diploma that will matter to them on graduation day. In addition, the work students do in school must adequately prepare them for the future and their diploma should reflect that effort and achievement.

The state of Montana requires a minimum of 20 credits to get a diploma from an accredited high school. Great Falls Public Schools has required a minimum of **23** credits for all students in order to graduate from high school. Previously all students who meet these general requirements receive the same type of diploma. Students can now choose to receive the traditional, **Comprehensive Diploma** which is the current type of diploma (**23** credits) or they may choose to pursue two optional diploma types; the **Concentration Diploma** will require students to accrue the same **23** credits, but will recognize students who have concentrated in a particular content area and accumulated **3** or more elective credits from that discipline. The areas of concentration will be; **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), **CTE** (Career and Technical Education), the **Arts and Humanities** (music, drama, art). The **Honors Diploma** will require students to accrue a minimum of **26** credits, **6** of these must be in Honors, Dual Credit (early college), or Advanced Placement (AP) classes. In addition, the student must have no less than a **3.33** cumulative GPA.

High School students in Great Falls have the opportunity of a 7 period day and some students choose a Zero hour (7 AM) class which affords them 8 class periods. Students may also take on-line classes in the summer or during the school year through the Montana Digital Academy or the Great Falls Public Schools Virtual Academy.

The selection of elective AP, Early College and CTE courses continues to expand each year. Look for courses like Introduction to Computer Science, AP Psychology, JMG, AP Econ, Math 151, Honors Geometry, Accounting...and much more. Not all of our students take full advantage of the opportunities that are available to them. All students need to be encouraged to set academic goals and develop a plan for after high school. Each semester, up to and including the last semester of their senior year, should be filled with classes that will assist them in meeting these goals and making their post-graduation plans possible!

If you would like more information on how to apply for the Differentiated Diploma options for the current school year, please visit your high school's website or contact your high school guidance counselor.

Science Technology Engineering Math STEM

3 credits or more in any combination of the following courses:

- Any elective science course beyond the required CTE credit:
- 3 required credits:
- Geology
 - Biology 3-4
 - AP Biology
 - Chemistry (any)
 - Physics (any)
 - Forensic Science
 - Human Biology
 - Environmental Science
 - Any approved MTDA science class
- Intro to Engineering
 - Any Elective Math class beyond the 3 required credits
 - Computer Coding & Design
 - Video Production
 - Any approved STEM area Independent Study class
 - Med-Prep courses
 - Architectural Drafting
 - Engineering Drafting

Career Technical Education (CTE)

3 or more credits in one of the following areas of study beyond the 1 required CTE credit:

- Business Department
- Industrial Technology
- Family Consumer Science
- Med-prep
- Agriculture
- Approved Independent study
- CTE Computer Science

The Arts

3 or more credits in any Art, Drama, Music or video production courses beyond the 1 required fine art credit.

- Any Approved MTDA Fine Arts Course

The Humanities

3 credits or more in any combination of the following courses beyond the required 3 credits of History:

- Economics
- World languages
- Psychology
- Journalism
- Elective Literature or writing classes
- Any approved MTDA courses

Montana's Dual Enrollment Program

What is "Dual Enrollment"? Dual Enrollment (DE) programs give secondary students an opportunity to earn college credit for courses taken while they are still in high school. Dual Enrollment can be a "dual credit" course or a "college credit" course. Dual credit means students simultaneously earn high school credit and college credit and is recorded on both the high school and college transcript. College credit means students earn college credit and is only record-ed on the college transcript.

One-Two-Free Program: In 2018, the MUS introduced a pilot program known as One-Two-Free as an effort to make higher education more accessible to high school students, reduce out-of-pocket costs for Montana families, and promote student achievement. In 2020, the program became permanent with no plans of discontinuity in the foreseeable future. Through One-Two-Free, students may enroll in their first two DE courses, or up to six credits, tuition free (course, program fees, and textbook costs may apply). After utilizing their six free credits, students can enroll in additional DE courses at a rate of 50% of two-year resident tuition. All students have the option to apply for a Hardship Scholarship to cover tuition expenses. If determined eligible, they will receive additional DE courses free of charge (course, program fees, & textbook costs may apply).

How to Apply:

Interested students are encouraged to meet with their high school counselor to discuss any dual credit opportunities. Their counselor can help them determine eligibility choose classes, begin the enrollment process and refer to college and university staff for additional assistance. Get started by reviewing the available dual credit classes available at our local high schools listed below.

Dual Credit Questions can be directed to **Beckie Frisbee:** beckie_frisbee@gfps.k12.mt.us or by phone at 1-406-268-6761

<p>Both CMR and GFHS</p> <p>AP US History AP Government Welding Cohort AP Lit & Composition Interior Design 1-2 Medical Terminology Sign Language College Algebra M121 Pre-Calculus M 151 Intro to Education Accounting 1-2 Statistics Carpentry/ Construction Automotive ASE</p>	<p>CMR only</p> <p>Criminology 1-2 Humanities General Psychology EMT/Basic Medical Terminology</p>
	<p>GFHS only</p> <p>Chemistry AP Biology Welding Intro to Psychology Music Appreciation Physics Drafting I Aural Perception Welding 1-2</p>
	<p>PGEC</p> <p>Automotive ASE</p>

Search for information on Dual Credit options available at University of Providence:

<https://www.uprovidence.edu>

Students are able to:

- Earn college credit while still in high school.
- Learn the rigors of college work early.
- Adjust to college workloads before leaving high school
- Gain confidence in college level work.
- Complete college credits at lower costs

GFPS Virtual Academy

Great Falls Public Schools are happy to announce summer online learning opportunities for students. Summer Virtual Academy offers another way for students to earn credit toward graduation in a flexible environment, with coursework done whenever and wherever a student has access to the Internet. Summer courses afford students the opportunity to free up space in their schedules for additional electives during the school year.

Available Courses*:

Finance and Career Prep (½ Credit)
Essentials of World History (1 Credit)
MT Gov (½ Credit)
U.S. History (1 Credit)
U.S. Government (½ Credit)
Medical Terminology -Dual Credit
(½ Credit)

English 5-6 (1 Credit)
English 7 (½ Credit)
English 8 (½ Credit)
Health and PE 1-2 (1 Credit)
PE 1-2 (No Health) (½ Credit)
Health and PE 3-4 (1 Credit)
PE 3-4 (No Health) (½ Credit)

*All courses run contingent upon minimum enrollment numbers. Any course that does not have eight or more students by 4:00 pm on May 21, 2026, will be cancelled. If the course is cancelled all fees paid will be refunded or students can choose another course with eligible space. All those affected by cancellations will be notified by email on May 22, 2026, with refunds issued shortly thereafter. **Questions? Contact Beckie Frisbee at 406-268-6761 or [Beckie Frisbee@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:Beckie.Frisbee@gfps.k12.mt.us)**

The link and QR code below will take you to the registration form that opens on April 1, at 8 am. Please be aware that Health and PE course typically fill in 7-9 of registration opening.

Register starting April 1 at:

<https://bit.ly/26SummerVA> English, Social Studies, Business and Med Terms.



<https://bit.ly/2026HPE> Health and PE



Job Shadow Program and Internship Opportunities

Great Falls Public School offers around 80 Career & Technical Education courses at Great Falls High School, C.M. Russell High School, Paris Gibson Education Center, East Middle and North Middle Schools that include:

- Business & Computer Science
- Family & Consumer Science
- Health Sciences
- Industrial Technology
- Video Productions
- Stage Craft

We also have opportunities for independent study, internships and job shadows. Credit can be earned through our internship program, which continues to grow. It includes opportunities at City Motor Company, Benefis Hospital, Carnahan's, Alluvion Health, YWCA, Sletten Construction and many more locations. The job shadow program provides students with four hours of "shadowing" in a desired career field. Students can learn what day-to-day life would look like in that career, while making a connection with an industry partner.

In the last calendar year, GFPS had 202 Internships/pre-apprenticeships. We also had 383 students enrolled in dual credit within a CTE field. We also had over 532 students in CTE Concentrator status meaning they have completed at least 2 credits (4 semesters) in a specific pathway.

The impact of Career and Technical Education is outstanding:

- Over 97% of high school CTE students graduate high school on time.
- 92% of CTE students earn an industry recognized credential (IRC).
- 86% of high school CTE students go on to college or get a job within six months.

CTSO's teach Employability Skills including Problem Solving, Interpersonal Skills, Technology Use, Critical Thinking, Personal Qualities & Communication.

We have great partnerships with our community. Whether it be internships or job shadows, or through our Career and Technical Student Organizations such as BPA, DECA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA and Skills USA, the opportunities continue to grow.

Central Montana Works!, in collaboration with the GF Chamber of Commerce, GFPS, and other community partners launched a new career and college exploration opportunity for eighth and tenth grade students in Central Montana on September 15, 2026; click ***Worlds of Work*** to see a video of what the students were able to experience. *This will be an annual event to take place at both the University of Providence and Great Falls College-MSU.*

For more CTE information visit our website at <https://gfps.k12.mt.us/departments/career-and-tech-ed/cte-departments>

See your school counselor today to sign up for a CTE course and get started.



Great Falls Public Schools Foundation

Taxpayers are the primary supporters of public schools. The Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) Foundation exists to build upon the taxpayers' commitment with private funding to enhance education in unique and impactful ways. Through the generosity of donors, the Foundation provides educator grants, student scholarships, building enhancements, and student and teacher recognition opportunities. The Foundation partners with families, businesses, and the community to positively impact the learning experience for students and teachers.

Foundation Scholarships

GFPS Foundation typically awards over 100 scholarships totaling more than \$300,000 to graduates pursuing a wide array of post-secondary education plans.

Two Scholarship Application Periods – The application sessions for Foundation scholarships are as follows: Fall Session (Oct 1 - Nov 15) and Winter Session (Jan 1 – Feb 15). Different scholarships are offered in each session. Students should apply during both sessions.

Online Application – Apply online at <https://gfpsfoundation.org/scholarships/> and contact our office if you need assistance or have questions about the scholarship program.

Award Notifications – Students who are selected to receive scholarships are notified by mail from the Foundation office. Award letters for the Fall Session will be mailed in February. Notifications for the Winter Session will be mailed in April.

Scholarship Disbursements – Once recipients have provided all the necessary information, scholarships are disbursed directly to the educational institutions in July or August unless specified otherwise.

Additional Financial Support for Juniors and Seniors

In addition to post-secondary scholarships, the Foundation offers financial assistance for other areas of learning. If your student needs assistance in any of the following areas, please contact the counseling office at their school for more information:

- Advanced placement (AP) exam fees
- Dual credit course fees
- Accuplacer exam fees
- Virtual Academy class fees

Contact Us

If you have questions about Foundation scholarships, please contact our office at (406) 268-7401 or foundation@gfps.k12.mt.us.



Types of Degrees

Certificate Programs

These programs are less than two years, and allow you to step right into a specific occupation.

Associate & Transfer Degrees

Most take two years to complete, and some can count towards a bachelor's degree.

Bachelor's Degrees

These usually take four years to complete and cover a broad range of subjects.

Graduate Certificates

After you earn a bachelor's or master's degree, these certify you for a specific task or occupation.

Master's Degrees

These programs usually take an additional one to two years after you complete your bachelor's.

Professional Degrees

Certain occupations require a specific degree. Some programs require you to earn a bachelor's degree first.

Doctoral Degrees

The highest degree you can earn in an area of study, these programs follow either bachelor's or master's degrees.

2-Year Colleges

People may choose a 2-year program over a 4-year college because:

Career Goals

For many occupations, you don't need a 4-year degree. In particular, the Health Care industry has dozens of high-paying occupations that require an Associate's Degree. Electrical workers often need only a two-year degree and earn more than most occupations requiring a Bachelor's Degree.

High-paying occupations in Montana that require less than a 4-year degree:

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS REPAIRERS.....	\$87,960	REGISTERED NURSES	\$59,859
RADIATION THERAPISTS.....	\$78,256	MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING TECHNOLOGISTS	\$57,884
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS	\$71,283	MORTICIANS, UNDERTAKERS, & FUNERAL DIRECTORS	\$53,234
NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGISTS	\$71,243	RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS & TECHNICIANS	\$51,278
DENTAL HYGIENISTS	\$69,558	WEB DEVELOPERS.....	\$51,034
DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHERS	\$69,469	ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS	\$50,789
ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS.....	\$63,790	ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS DRAFTERS	\$50,578
TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT INSTALLERS & REPAIRERS.....	\$63,214		
CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGISTS & TECHNICIANS	\$61,364		

To Save Money

- Two-year colleges usually have cheaper tuition and you only pay for two years.
- Many university-bound students spend their first two years at a community college to earn basic credits that will transfer to a 4-year school.
- Community colleges often allow students to live at home. Room and board can be more expensive than tuition.

Limited Time

- Universities focus on a well-rounded education, requiring students to take courses unrelated to their degree. Two-year programs focus on getting students to work as soon as possible.
- Laid-off workers often need to increase their earning potential in a short time.
- Caring for children, ill spouses, or aging parents may limit the time a person has to spend on education.

Short-term Training Programs

Specialized occupational training programs can last anywhere from a day to a year or more. These programs certify you to work in specific careers. Schools and programs in Montana offer several career options, including:

- Beauty and Cosmetology
- Real Estate
- Tax Preparation
- Telecommunications Installation
- Massage
- Outdoor Recreation Outfitters/Guides
- Law Enforcement
- Taxidermy

Job Corps Services around the state provide a variety of certification and training programs for occupations such as Culinary Arts, Dental Assistants, Diesel Mechanics, Facilities Maintenance, Heavy Equipment Operators/mechanics, Nursing Assistants, Pharmacy Technicians, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Painters, Welders, and more.

Click "Montana Schools" under the "Education Tab in MCIS for a complete listing.



AFFORDABLE. LOCAL.

**DISCOVER THE RIVER OTTER WAY
AT GREAT FALLS COLLEGE**



**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE DEN & MO
WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU WITH:**

- teachers who know your name
- hands-on programs
- awesome academic support
- tons of dual enrollment classes
- affordable tuition
- the comfort of staying local



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- Dedicated advising to make sure your credits count
- 1-2-Free: Your first two classes are free
- A 50% tuition discount on the rest of your credits
- Help easing into college classes



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GREAT FALLS COLLEGE MSU REGIONAL
SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING
FAIR

JUDGES NEEDED!

Elementary School: March 12 | 9-11 a.m.

Middle & High School: March 10 | 7:45-11:30 a.m.



Be amazed by the creativity and intelligence of area youth and be a science fair judge.

You don't need to be an expert to be a judge!

To register and for more information: <https://www.gfcmu.edu/home/science-fair/>



GREAT FALLS COLLEGE
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Career & College Readiness Center

Connecting Education to Your Goals

The Career & College Readiness Center plays a key role in developing our current and future workforce by collaborating with our education & training partners, various business sectors, and multiple service organizations. It's through these joint efforts; we are able to create multiple pathway opportunities.

The VISION of the CCRC

is to impact our community by providing adults with the skills to reach desired goals and be contributing and responsible citizens and lifelong learners.

The MISSION of the CCRC

is to serve and empower the adult student to meet personal, educational and career goals by providing the adult learner with the academic and transitional resources for career and college pathways.

Connections 101

Offered in fall and spring, Connections 101 presents a holistic approach to Learning by providing a framework for students to develop and build their:

- Academic knowledge
- Technical expertise
- Self-management skills

At the completion of this program, students will be confident in their **purpose, plan, and path** to transition or continue in:

- Higher Education
- Apprenticeship
- Short-Term Training
- Enter the Workforce

Connections 101 was nationally recognized by the Department of Education Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) as an innovative bridge program. It is a collaborative program between the Department of Labor- Great Falls Job Service office, Great Falls College, and the Great Falls Career & College Readiness Center.

We offer free instruction to help students build skills to meet career & college goals!

For Information:
(406) 771-5108



May you honor your roots, celebrate your growth and let the branches of your future blossoms grow.

Additional Opportunities

- ~ High School Equivalency Diploma
 - o Preparation & Testing
- ~ Short-Term Training
 - o CNA Program (partner w/GFC)
- ~ English Learner (EL) Program
 - o Language Skill building
 - o Community Awareness
 - o U.S. Citizenship/Naturalization
- ~ College Preparation
 - o Skill building in Reading, Writing, and Math
- ~ Career Preparation
 - o Skill building for ASVAB
 - o Skill building for Apprentice Aptitude tests
 - o Work Ethics
 - o Resume, Cover Letter, Interviewing skills
 - o Employment search / application process
 - o Digital Literacy-Microsoft Office & Computer Basics (partner w/GF Job Service and GF Public Library)

Make an appointment to start attending the CCRC.

Go to:
start.gfcrc.com



ADULT DRIVER EDUCATION-(406) 268-6998

For those 18 years and older and **NOT** enrolled in high school.

- Permit & Driving Training
- Permit Only Training



June 15-26,
2026
(406) 268-6998

CAREER PLANNING RESOURCES

Montana Career Pathways

<https://applymontana.mus.edu/careers/career-roadmap/career-pathways/>



<http://lmi.mt.gov/Career/Students>



Montana Department of
LABOR & INDUSTRY

<https://lmi.mt.gov/Career/JobSeekers>



<https://applymontana.mus.edu/prepare/prepare-by-grade/index.html>

 **Reach Higher Montana**

<https://applymontana.mus.edu/prepare/prepare-by-grade/index.html>

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

May is AP exam month. The calendar of exam dates are listed below for the exams you or your student registered for in November. Please see Mrs. Schoenen at CMR or Mr. Getten at GFH for exam locations and more information about AP testing.

All exams begin promptly at 8:00am. or 12:00 pm Studentsts must arrive thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the exam. Most exams are roughly three (3) hours long.

Test Preparation

You can go online at www.collegeboard.org/ap to check out exam formats, sample questions and student responses plus other up-to-date AP information.

On test day, you will need to bring several sharpened #2 pencils, a black or dark-blue ball-point pen, your Chromebook and a charging cord, your College Board log in information, a watch for pacing yourself (smart watches are not allowed) and, for some test-takers, a calculator; check with the instructor first as only certain exams allow calculators and calculator types are limited.

Various items are not allowed in the testing area such as cell phones, iPods, and other personal electronic devices. A complete list of restricted items will be provided prior to testing.

Week 1	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Mon, May 4	Biology	Microeconomics
Tue, May 5	Chemistry Human Geography	US Government and Politics
Wed, May 6	English Literature and Composition	Physics 1: Algebra-Based
Thu, May 7	Physics 2: Algebra-Based	Statistics
Fri, May 8	United States History	Macroeconomics
Art Portfolios due online by Wednesday, May 6, 2026 - 6 PM		
Mon, May 11	Calculus AB <i>or</i> Calculus BC	
Tues, May 12		Psychology
Wed, May 13	English Language and Composition	Physics C: Mechanics
Thu, May 14	Spanish Language and Culture	Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
Mon, May 11	Calculus AB <i>or</i> Calculus BC	

