Types of Education Programs

and How They Differ

- **Apprenticeships**
- **Certificates**
- **2 Year Programs**
- **4 Year Programs**

Reach Higher Montana

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No matter what path you choose, we support students investing in themselves! Education is the foundation for your career and life. Luckily, students have different types to choose from in Montana and each option has its own set of benefits.

Apprenticeships

- There are 80 recognized apprenticeship occupations in Montana.

- Employers have in-demand jobs that need to be filled, so they offer on-the-job training for workers.

- Workers earn while they learn and experience zero to little debt.

- Apprenticeships can be a combination of classroom and workplace training and require at least 2,000 hours of experience, which equates to roughly a year of training.

- Career examples: electrician, auto mechanic, hospital coder, utility technician, construction and more! And, apprenticeships are available for occupations outside of the trades, too - like accounting technicians.

- To find an apprenticeship program for you, please visit http://apprenticeship.mt.gov/.

Certificates

- Certificates are designed to provide students with an occupational skill set as they enter the workforce.

- Some certificates are more for completion purposes while others are required to perform the job, but all certificates require around 30 credit hours.

- Certificates are narrow in scope, which allows you to focus on exactly what you need to know and bypass electives.

- Students can quickly elevate their resume as most programs are only a year long.

- Careers examples: dental assistant, emergency medical technician, paralegal, network administration, computer programming, welding, construction, pharmacy technician, and more!

- Montana Schools

  - **City College**, Billings
  - **MSU - Billings**, Billings
  - **Stone Child College**, Box Elder
  - **Gallatin College**, Bozeman
  - **Blackfeet Community College**, Browning
  - **Little Big Horn College**, Crow Agency
  - **Highlands College**, Butte
  - **Montana Tech**, Butte
  - **UM Western**, Dillon
  - **Aaniiih Nakoda College**, Fort Belknap
  - **Dawson Community College**, Glendive
  - **Great Falls College**, Great Falls
  - **Bitterroot College**, Hamilton
  - **MSU Northern**, Havre
  - **Helena College**, Helena
  - **Flathead Valley Community College**, Kalispell
  - **Miles City Community College**, Miles City
  - **Missoula College**, Missoula
  - **Salish Kootenai College**, Pablo
  - **Fort Peck Community College**, Poplar

Two Year Programs

■ Two-year programs can be an Associate of Arts degree, an Associate of Science degree or an Associate of Applied Science degree, all of which can range from 30 to 72 credit hours.

■ To save money, students may start at a community college to complete their general requirements or prerequisites and transition to a four-year school to earn their core credits.

■ Two-year and community colleges often don't have some of the bells and whistles of a 4-year campus, which helps keep education costs down.

■ For certain Associate Degree programs, courses are career-focused and electives are minimal, which helps students jump into the workforce.

■ Many colleges offer online courses to make education accessible.

■ Career examples: paramedic, substance abuse counseling, accounting, network support, webmaster, law enforcement, and more!

■ Montana Colleges

■ **City College,** Billings

■ **MSU - Billings,** Billings

■ **Stone Child College,** Box Elder

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■ **Dawson Community College,** Glendive

■ **Great Falls College,** Great Falls

■ **University of Providence,** Great Falls

■ **Bitterroot College,** Hamilton

■ **MSU Northern,** Havre

■ **Carroll College,** Helena

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■ **Flathead Valley Community College,** Kalispell

■ **Miles City Community College,** Miles City

■ **Missoula College,** Missoula

■ **Salish Kootenai College,** Pablo

■ **Fort Peck Community College,** Poplar
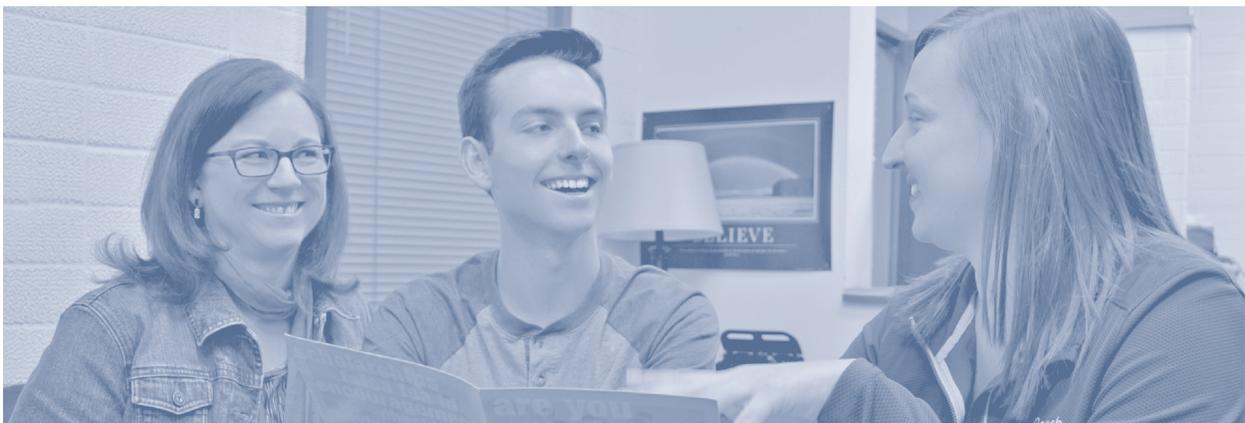
Four Year Program

■ A bachelor degree comprises a four-year program of undergraduate studies totaling 120 credit hours.

■ The national average for in-state public university education costs are $21,370 a year. Luckily, in Montana, we're below the national average at $17,429 a year.

■ Career examples: engineers, journalists, farm, ranch and livestock management, biologist, k-12 teacher, chemist, forestry, social worker, and more!

■ Montana Schools

■ **MSU-Billings**, Billings

■ **Rocky Mountain College**, Billings

■ **Montana State University**, Bozeman

■ **Montana Tech**, Butte

■ **UM-Western**, Dillon

■ **University of Providence**, Great Falls

■ **MSU-Northern**, Havre

■ **Carroll College**, Helena

■ **University of Montana**, Missoula

■ **Salish Kootenai College**, Pablo

ProTip: Do you know what field of study you want to pursue, but not sure where to start? Check out the Montana University Systems program inventory application. It details the programs each campus provides. Pretty neat!

Check it out: Cost comparison of college tuition (2 year through graduate).

Reach Higher Montana

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💡 Services are provided at no cost to Montana families. Reach Higher Montana is a nonprofit that helps students strategically pursue educational opportunities.

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