Legal Resources in Missoula
VETS Office – University of Montana

This list provides a starting point for Veterans in need of low cost legal assistance in Missoula.

Civil Law Resources

Montana Legal Services Association
543-8343; 800-666-6899; 211 N Higgins, Ste. 401; M-F 9-4; www.mtlsa.org. Services include assistance for problems related to family law, domestic violence, housing, bankruptcy law, landlord/tenant disputes, public benefits and consumer law.

Missoula Self Help Law Center
258-3528; 200 West Broadway Room 271(next to the Clerk of Court office); http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/coe/selfhelpcenter.htm. Provides assistance to those who cannot afford an attorney or who choose to represent themselves in civil legal matters such as family law.

Associated Students of the University of Montana Legal Services
243-6413; University Center, University of Montana; http://life.umt.edu/asum/asm_agencies/New_Legal_Services/default.php. Provide legal help for students at the University of Montana, does not help with contested family law matters, such as divorces or parenting plans.

Community Dispute Resolution Center
543-1157 (1pm-5pm); 336 W. Spruce, 59806; cdrcmissoula.org. Nonprofit confidential mediation services at little or no cost. Programs specialize in solving landlord/tenant problems, parenting plans, employment disagreements, and family conflicts.

Family Law Resources

Child Care Resources
728-6446; 105 E. Pine St. On lower Lever; M-F 8-5; www.childcareresources.org. Offers child care payment assistance for low-income families, referrals for families seeking child care providers, a resource library, nutrition reimbursement, and trainings for child care providers.

Child Support Enforcement
329-7910; 2675 Palmer St., Ste. C; M-F 8-5; www.childsupport.mt.gov Provides federally mandated child support enforcement services.

Child and Family Services Abuse and Neglect Reporting
1-866-820-KIDS (5437) - Statewide toll-free number for reporting child abuse/neglect.

CASA of Missoula
542-1208; 240 N Higgins, Ste 14; www.casamissoula.org. Court Appointed Special Advocates instruct volunteers to become advocates for abused and/or neglected children.

Criminal Law Resources

Crime Victim Advocate Program
830-3830; 500 N. Higgins, Ste 201; M-F 8:30-4:30; www.co.missoula.mt.us/opgweb/Grants/CVA.htm. Provides crisis counseling and safety planning as well as assistance getting an order of protection for victims of domestic violence, incest, rape or stalking. Explains court process and helps victims find information.

Student Assault Resource Center (SARC)
24 hr help line 243-6559; Curry Health Center, 634 Eddy St.; M-F 10-5; Summer hours M-F 9am-4pm; www.umt.edu/curry/SARC. Confidential resource center for students and
community members who are survivors of sexual and relationship violence, stalking and sexual harassment.

Veterans Treatment Court – Missoula County Court
258-4641; Missoula County Courthouse, 200 West Broadway; [http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/veteranscourt/](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/veteranscourt/). Veterans Treatment Court is for Veterans charged with a crime who have serious treatment issues that contributed to their involvement in the criminal justice system and are most often related to their military experience.

**Veterans Resources**

National Veterans Legal Services Program
202.265.8305; [http://www.nvlsp.org/](http://www.nvlsp.org/). Washington D.C. based non-profit organization that reviews and appeals claims for disability benefits denied by the VA. Also provide legal services for on-going class action litigation on behalf of veterans.

Montana Veterans Affairs Division

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
493-3700; 2687 Palmer Street, Suite C; [http://www.montana.va.gov/locations/Missoula_VA_Community_Based_Outpatient_Clinic.asp](http://www.montana.va.gov/locations/Missoula_VA_Community_Based_Outpatient_Clinic.asp). Outpatient medical services, clinics, classes, PTSD counseling, returning service member services.

Missoula Vets Center

Disabled American Veterans Van
(406) 363-8396; Department of Montana Volunteer Transportation Network; [www.dav.org/veterans/MSO.aspx](http://www.dav.org/veterans/MSO.aspx). DAV Van provides free transportation for Veterans to VA approved medical appointments across the state.
Things You Should Know!

*** GO TO ALL OF YOUR SCHEDULED CLASSES!!!

If you sign up for a class and do not show up for it, this may cause a HUGE debt with the VA.

Dropping Classes

If you are going to drop classes you need to let the VETS Office know. Dropping a class may cause a debt with the VA. Changing the grade option of your course to Credit/No Credit is viewed the same in the VA system as dropping a class. Make sure you contact to VETS Office before you do a class change or drop the class.

Repeating Classes

If a student does not pass a class the VA will allow the student to repeat the class. The University of Montana views any grade below a C- as a failing grade. If a student chooses to repeat a class that they have passed the VA will not pay for the costs associated with the repeated course.

Confirmation of VA Aid

The University of Montana has implemented a confirmation of aid process to hold classes for a chapter 33 student until the VA tuition payment is received by the University. Students may not get a refund from the University until Financial Aid and/or payment from the VA pays all student charges.

Degree Plan

VA education benefits will only cover courses required for a specific program. If a student takes courses that are not required for his/her program, the VA will not pay for those courses. A common example is when a student takes excessive elective credits after already reaching their elective credit limit. We are required to have a degree plan for every student using VA educational benefits Students will need to submit a new degree plan if their graduation goals are altered (changing majors, adding minors, etc.).

Military Transcripts

Your time in the service and any training or school you may have attended in the military counts for college credits. All service except for the Air Force can get military transcripts from JST.doded.mil. Please request a copy be sent to the University of Montana for review. The approved credits will be added to your University transcript. Veterans that served in the Air Force can get military transcripts from the Air Force Community College.

**If you need help or don’t know what to do, please come see us.**
# Helpful Contacts

## Main Campus Contacts

**UM VETS Office**  
WWW.UMT.EDU/VETERANS  
1000 East Beckwith  
Missoula Mt 59812  
(406) 243-2744  

**Undergraduate Advising Center**  
Lommasson Center 269  
(406) 243-2835  

**Registrar's Office**  
Lommasson Center 201  
(406) 243-2995  

**Residence Life Office**  
101 Turner Hall  
Residence Hall: (406) 243-2611  
University Villages: (406) 243-6030  
Lewis and Clark Villages: (406) 552-3409  

**Admissions Office**  
Lommasson Center 101  
(406) 243-6266  

**Financial Aid Office**  
Lommasson Center 218 or Griz Central  
(406) 243-5373  

**Business Services**  
Lommasson Center 236  
(406) 243-2223  

**ASUM Child Care**  
Preschool and Family Resources  
University Center Room 119  
Director: (406) 243-2542  
Center Coordinator: (406) 243-2588  

**Curry Health Center**  
634 Eddy Ave  
(406) 243-2122  

**Disability Services for Students**  
Lommasson Center 154  
(406) 243-2243  

## Missoula College

**UM VETS Office**  
WWW.UMT.EDU/VETERANS  
1000 East Beckwith  
Missoula Mt 59812  
(406) 243-2744  

**Academic Advising Center**  
Missoula College  
(406) 243-7925  

**Admissions Office**  
Missoula College  
(406) 243-7882  

**Financial Aid Office**  
Missoula College  
(406) 243-7901  

## Missoula Services

**Missoula Veterans Center**  
500 N. Higgins Avenue, Suite 202  
(406) 721-4918  

**Missoula VA Clinic**  
2687 Palmer Street, Suite C  
(406) 493-3700  

**VA Vocational Rehabilitation Office**  
2681 Palmer Street, Suite  
(406) 721-3510  

**Montana Veterans Affairs**  
1911 Tower Street  
(406) 542-2501  

## VA Contacts

**VA Education**  
WWW.GIBILL.VA.GOV  
1-888-442-4551  

**WAVE Certification**  
WWW.GIBILL.VA.GOV/WAVE  
1-877-823-2378