

Academic Affairs

Newsletter



Before the Cap and Gown

Commencement is days away, but there is plenty to take care of before Saturday arrives. This week's newsletter covers regalia pickup and line-up logistics for faculty, a planned campus power outage on May 11, dean search survey deadlines, and a few other updates worth your attention. Take a few minutes to read through before Commencement gets here.



Faculty Commencement Guide: Regalia, Line-Up, and Day-Of Details

Spring Commencement is this Saturday, May 9. Here is what faculty need to know.

Regalia: If you pre-ordered, check your email for pickup instructions. Note that due to a shortage, all hoods will likely be in UM colors. If you did not pre-order, visit Herff Jones' onsite regalia distribution in UC 170 (next to UC Market) — bring your Griz Card. Hours: May 6–9, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Return regalia to UC 170 by 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Line-up: Faculty line up with graduates in the Rec Center (basketball courts). Enter through the North-facing emergency exit doors off Parking Lot Z and look for the Faculty banner. Morning ceremony: line-up 8–8:30 a.m., processional at 8:35 a.m. Afternoon ceremony: line-up 1–1:30 p.m., processional at 1:35 p.m. Faculty hooding doctoral candidates should line up at the Graduate School banner.

Faculty are encouraged to congratulate their graduates as they exit the stage during the ceremony.

Do not leave personal belongings in the Rec Center. All personal belongings found after the processional begins will be collected and placed into the Adams Center Lost and Found.

Questions? Email commencement@umontana.edu.

Spring 2026 Commencement Details

Apply for the 2026 Summer Teaching Institute by May 8

Applications for the 2026 Summer Teaching Institute are due May 8. Hosted by Organizational Learning and Development, this intensive four-day workshop runs June 1-4 and focuses on evidence-based teaching practices and curricular design strategies aimed at improving learning outcomes for all students.

More information can be found on the [Summer Teaching Institute webpage](#).

2026 Summer Teaching Institute Application

Summer 2026 Course Waitlist Process Updates

The Registrar's Office has made a few adjustments to the summer 2026 waitlist process. Starting May 5, summer waitlists will be released to departments, and the Closed/Full Course Override will activate, allowing departments to manage high-demand enrollments earlier if they choose. Automated waitlist notifications remain active through May 15. The release date for Autumn waitlists will be announced in June.

For more information, visit the Faculty Waitlist Guide linked below.

Faculty Waitlist Guide

Microsoft Education Tool Replacing OneDrive in Canvas - Coming Mid-June

In mid-June, the Microsoft OneDrive tool in Canvas will be replaced by Microsoft Education, which includes direct access to OneDrive and integrated tools such as Teams. No immediate action is required.

As the rollout approaches, faculty with existing OneDrive content in Canvas can expect targeted transition guidance, access to an automated migration tool for updating existing links, and updated use documentation. Watch for additional communications from LEAD as these resources become available.

Questions? Contact the [Learning Experience and Design](#) team.

[LEAD website](#)

Scheduled Power Outage | May 11, 6-8 a.m.

Facilities Services will conduct a Black Start Test of the Combined Heat and Power Plant on Monday, May 11, from 6–8 a.m. The test involves cutting campus power completely and restarting the CHP plant without external electricity, verifying that backup systems can restore normal operations independently.

During the test window, only buildings with emergency generators will have power. Campus operations are expected to return to normal by 8 a.m., ahead of the regular workday.

Faculty and staff who rely on continuous power for research, equipment, or operations should review potential impacts before May 11. Questions or concerns can be directed to Tim Gauthier, Associate Director of Engineering and Utilities, at tim.gauthier@umontana.edu.



Share Your Feedback: HSS and COS Dean Search Candidate Surveys

If you attended a candidate forum for the College of Humanities and Sciences or the College of Science dean searches, please take a few minutes to complete your candidate feedback survey. Your input is an important part of the search process.

Surveys close Thursday, May 8, at 12 p.m.

- [Complete the HSS Candidate Survey](#).
- [Complete the COS Candidate Survey](#).

For a full list of candidates and forum dates, visit the [HSS Dean Search](#) and [COS Dean Search](#) pages.



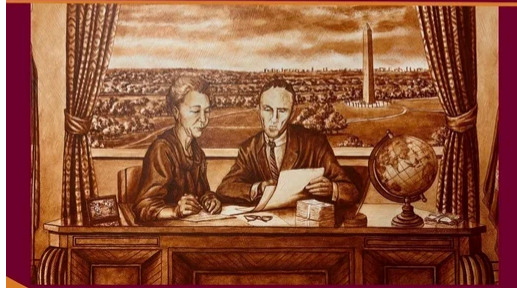
[Learn More and Join Event Virtually on GrizHub](#)

LEAD Training: AI-Aware Assessment - Part 1

10:00-10:10 a.m., Tuesday, May 5, Virtually

Join Learning Experience and Design for a 10-minute exploration of AI-aware assessment strategies for knowledge and understanding level objectives. An optional Q&A follows the session. A recording will be available in the LEAD Teams channel for those unable to attend live.

***Mansfield Mural II Unveiling:
The U.S. Senate: Stewardship
and Statesmanship***



[Learn More and RSVP on GrizHub](#)

Mural Unveiling: The Senate Years of Mike Mansfield
5:30 to 7p.m., Tuesday, May 6, Mansfield Center

The Mansfield Center invites the UM community to the unveiling of the second mural in a three-part series on Senator Mike Mansfield's life and legacy, created by Missoula muralist Hadley Ferguson. The event is free and open to the public.



[Learn More and Join Event Virtually on GrizHub](#)

LEAD Training: AI-Aware Assessment - Part 2
10:00-10:10 a.m., Tuesday, May 12, Virtually

Join Learning Experience and Design for a 10-minute exploration of AI-aware assessment strategies for knowledge and understanding level objectives. An optional Q&A follows the session. A recording will be available in the LEAD Teams channel for those unable to attend live.



SUBMISSIONS

Use the AA Newsletter Submission Form button below to share your content with the Academic Affairs sector. To be considered for next Monday's newsletter, submissions need to be received by Friday at 10:00 AM.

[AA Newsletter Submission Form](#)

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