

Academic Affairs

Newsletter



Semester, Set, Go

The semester is almost here, and this issue is packed with what you need to get ready. You'll find course-prep essentials, curriculum deadlines, waitlist overrides, and a lineup of LEAD trainings to help you start the term strong. Take a look, mark your calendar, and reach out with any questions along the way.



Understanding How Gradescope Uses AI

Last week's newsletter described Gradescope as "an AI-assisted grading platform," prompting questions about how AI factors into the tool. To clarify: Gradescope does not generate feedback on assessments. Instructors remain responsible for providing answers and feedback.

Gradescope was piloted this spring as a replacement for scantrons, developed to speed up grading of paper-based exams and homework in large-enrollment and STEM courses. It digitizes paper-based assessments and connects them to the class roster in Canvas. Instructors review and grade directly through the Canvas integration, and once complete, students see grades and feedback in the Canvas Gradebook.

Gradescope uses AI to support instructors by matching handwritten names to class rosters, grouping similar handwritten answers for consistent grading, and auto-grading bubble sheets and coding assignments using an instructor-provided answer key.

Questions? Contact LEAD@umontana.edu.

Download the Gradescope Setup Instructions

Waitlist Overrides Available Early This Semester

Waitlists will be released to campus earlier this semester, with the Closed/Full Course Override appearing in GrizPortal and Banner beginning Tuesday, August 18.

This gives students more opportunity to complete registration before the term starts. Issuing overrides before classes begin can also give a clearer picture of course demand sooner.

Departments that already coordinate overrides internally can continue that process. If you're unsure how overrides are handled in your department, check with your chair or dean for guidance.

If you issue an override, keep classroom capacity in mind, as a larger room may not be available if a class needs to move. Check [Facilities Services Classroom Layouts](#) for room capacities.

For full details, see the Registrar's Office Waitlists: Faculty Guide linked below.

Questions? Contact dawn.barnhart@umontana.edu.

Registrar's Office Waitlists: Faculty Guide

CourseLeaf Curriculum Forms Updated

The updates to the CourseLeaf curriculum forms are now live, designed to make the proposal process easier and provide clearer guidance for those proposing or reviewing curriculum proposals.

As you begin working with the updated forms, the Faculty Senate Office welcomes your feedback. If something is unclear, you have a suggestion for improvement, or

want to share what's working well, let them know. Your input will help shape continued improvements to the curriculum proposal process.

Questions? Contact facultysenate@umontana.edu.

View the CourseLeaf Submission Guide

Curriculum Submission Deadline: September 25

The Faculty Senate fall curriculum deadline is Friday, September 25, 2026. All proposals intended for Fall 2027 implementation must be submitted through CourseLeaf by this date.

The deadline applies to new and revised course and program proposals, Writing Course and General Education rolling review proposals, and Level I and Level II proposals.

For 2026–2027, rolling review categories include Writing Courses in Writing, Literature, and Fine Arts, and General Education Courses in Expressive Arts, Ethics and Human Values, and Social Sciences.

Instructions, deadlines, and supporting resources are available on the Faculty Senate curriculum website linked below.

Questions? Contact facultysenate@umontana.edu.

Faculty Senate Curriculum website

Canvas Reminders for the New Semester

A few helpful reminders as you prepare Fall courses in Canvas.

Training: Live sessions, including popular 10-minute Teams trainings, are posted on [LEAD's Griz Hub page](#). Faculty new to Canvas can start with the self-paced [UM Canvas Essentials Course](#).

Accessibility: All course materials, including Canvas content and outside files, should meet [university accessibility standards](#). LEAD offers support through the [Paws for Accessibility Challenge](#), the [Panorama Digital Accessibility Platform](#), and live trainings.

Adding TAs: Teaching Assistants (TAs) complete [FERPA training through CITI](#) before enrollment, then submit an [Enroll or Unenroll Users request](#). Undergraduates may be enrolled as Learning Assistants (LAs), not TAs.

Stay connected: Watch for tips in Monday Memos ([Global Announcements](#)) on your Canvas Dashboard, or [schedule a one-on-one with an Instructional Designer](#).

Questions? Contact LEAD@umontana.edu.

Learn more on the Teaching and Canvas Support webpage



EVENTS



Join the Ready, Set, Teach Series on GrizHub

LEAD Training: Ready, Set, Teach: Semester Startup Series

Various Times, Tuesday, August 18, Virtual

Kick off the semester with six 10-minute Teaching & Tech Tips trainings to help you get your Canvas courses ready. Attend live or catch the recording later at your convenience.



[Register for AI Essentials Training](#)

LEAD Training: AI Essentials

2-3 PM, Wednesday, August 19, Virtual

Explore UM-approved AI tools and the ALWAYS process for effective prompting, collaboration, and transparency. Learn how to adapt assessments, including AI-resistant quizzes and higher-order thinking tasks.



[Register for Canvas Accessibility Essentials Training](#)

LEAD Training: Canvas Accessibility

2-3 PM, Thursday, August 20, Virtual

Learn practical strategies for meeting Title II ADA requirements, with real Canvas examples for creating accessible documents, videos, quizzes, and course pages. Whether you're new to accessibility or refining your skills, you'll leave ready to build inclusive, compliant courses.



State of the University Address GrizHub Event

State of the University Address

8 - 10:30 AM, Friday, August 21, Montana Theatre, PAR-TV Bldg.

The campus community is invited to President Shinn's first State of the University event, to be followed by a reception.



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

University of Montana, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT 59812

[Manage preferences](#)