

Academic Affairs

Newsletter



Full Speed Ahead

This week's newsletter brings updates on the Academic Portfolio Review, a pair of instructor compliance reminders, and the Faculty Senate's fall curriculum deadline. You'll also find funding opportunities, upcoming trainings, and a save the date for a systemwide wellbeing summit.



Academic Portfolio Review: OCHE Pilot Data Update

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education recently shared Ongoing Program Review data as part of this year's Academic Portfolio Review pilot, sorting programs into Review, Monitor, and Exempt categories. For the Mountain Campus, 22 CIP groups landed in Review and 23 in Monitor; for Missoula College, no CIP groups landed in Review and 2 landed in Monitor. Programs identified for review will be notified directly starting Wednesday, September 2. A closer look at individual program trends and next steps will follow in next week's newsletter.

For a comprehensive overview of the current stage of the Ongoing Program Review Pilot, our data validation efforts, and planned petitions to OCHE, read the full Academic Portfolio Review update linked below.

[Read the full Academic Portfolio Review update](#)

Attendance and Distance-Only Compliance Reminders

Instructors are asked to help with two important compliance measures this semester.

All instructors are required to log attendance for the first 15 instructional days, or the equivalent for part-of-term classes. Attendance, for financial aid purposes, means active engagement with course content, such as attending class, completing coursework, posting in a forum, or emailing about course content. Logging in without engaging in coursework does not qualify. Instructors can use the [Canvas Roll Call Attendance tool](#), a weekly Canvas quiz or discussion, or other methods like sign-in sheets or iClickers.

Instructors are also asked to be aware of Distance-Only status criteria. Continuing students are held to the same standards as incoming students, and status approval requires current enrollment in an Online Program listed in the 2026-2027 Catalog. Full criteria are available on the [Distance-Only status webpage](#).

Instructors can also visit the Registrar's Attendance webpage, linked below, for full attendance details.

Questions? Contact officeoftheregistrar@umontana.edu.

Registrar's Attendance webpage

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.

Questions? Contact facultysenate@umontana.edu.

Find Curriculum Deadlines and Resources

Classroom Recording Accommodations: Clarification

Some students are approved to record class sessions as a reasonable accommodation.

What's Required of You

- Notify the class that recording is taking place during the semester. Montana law requires notice, not consent; no one else needs to agree to being recorded.
- Protect the student's privacy with reasonable steps to keep their identity confidential.

Montana's statute permits recording once all parties have received clear prior notice; your notification to the class satisfies this.

Starting the Process

The [Classroom Recording/CART Agreement form](#) is now available in the UM Solutions Center and can be initiated by faculty or students.

Students may use a tool such as Genio. See [Genio's data security and privacy information](#) for intellectual property or security questions.

Suggested Syllabus Language

Some students may be approved to record class sessions as a reasonable accommodation. If this occurs, you will be notified that recording is taking place. Montana law requires notice, not consent. Recordings are for the approved student's personal use only and may not be shared.

Concerns & Questions

If recording would fundamentally alter the classroom experience, contact the student's access consultant to discuss alternatives. Additional Questions? [Ask ODE](#).

How to submit questions, requests, and concerns to ODE

Catch Up on LEAD 10-Minute Trainings

Faculty and staff can browse the [LEAD 10-Minute Trainings site](#) for a quick list of upcoming sessions, along with past session titles, recordings, and resources. Check out what's coming in September or catch up on a training you missed.

Already in the LEAD Teams channel? The training site is linked at the top of the page. Not a member yet? [Join the LEAD Teams channel](#) to get calendar invites and notifications about new training and resources.

Visit the LEAD Training Site

Faculty Advisor Needed for New Alpine Ski Racing Club

Students are organizing an alpine ski racing club and need a faculty advisor to help get it formalized. The team would compete in the U.S. Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association's Grand Teton Conference, using Montana Snowbowl as a home mountain just 20 minutes from campus.

Those interested in serving as advisor can contact Tucker Sargent at tucker.sargent@umontana.edu.

Learn more about Ski Racing Co-Ed Club Sports

Apply for the Faculty International Activity Award

Funded by the Office of the Provost, the Faculty International Activity Award supports faculty for three to twelve months of professional development and personal enrichment overseas, with no effect on sabbatical eligibility. Exchanges are available with many of UM's partner universities, and the International Council will also consider proposals with other institutions, provided applicants clearly describe

how the visit will foster collaborative research or creative activity at the university level. Awardees must comply with UM's international travel guidelines.

Applications are due by 12:00 pm on Friday, October 30. Submit your completed proposal as a PDF to global.engagement@umontana.edu with the subject line "(Your Last Name)_Faculty International Activity Awards." Late proposals will not be considered.

Questions? Contact Donna Anderson at donna.anderson@umontana.edu.

Learn More about the Faculty International Activity Award

Apply for Experiential Learning Faculty Support Funding

Experiential Learning and Career Success invites faculty and staff to apply for up to \$1,500 in funding to support student experiential learning. Funding can support internships, service learning, research, field experiences, clinicals and practicum, project-based learning, community engagement, and other hands-on learning opportunities.

Applications are open now through September 18, 2026, and funding decisions will be shared by September 25. Those interested can apply for Experiential Learning Faculty Support Funding via the link below.

Apply for Experiential Learning Faculty Support Funding

Save the Date: MUS Mental Health & Wellbeing Summit

Faculty and staff across the Montana University System are invited to save the date for "Building Cultures of Care," the MUS Mental Health & Wellbeing Summit, taking place Monday, October 19 through Tuesday, October 20 in Great Falls. Sessions begin Monday at 1 p.m. and conclude Tuesday by 4 p.m.

Those interested in building skills to support their campus community can also consider free certification trainings offered around the summit. COMET and QPR courses run Monday morning before sessions begin, and Mental Health First Aid is offered all day Wednesday, October 21.

Registration details will be shared soon. In the meantime, mark your calendar and learn more about [COMET](#), [QPR](#), or [Mental Health First Aid](#).



Costello Wecker Co-Edits Special Issue on Academia in Crisis

Dr. Erin Costello Wecker co-edited a special issue for *Peitho*, a peer-reviewed journal in rhetoric and composition. The issue, "Academia in Crisis: How Feminist Rhetorical Scholars Respond," features seventeen articles examining the current crisis in higher education as connected to long-standing structural issues in academia, including neoliberalism, corporatization, precarity, and the devaluation of care and humanities work.

Dr. Costello Wecker is also writing a book about Kate Kennedy, an Irish immigrant who argued successfully before the California Supreme Court in the mid-1800s, establishing gender pay parity and protections against arbitrary demotion or dismissal. While researching in County Meath, Ireland this summer, Dr. Costello Wecker located the remains of the Kennedy family home, a discovery later featured in the *Meath Chronicle*.

Read the [special issue on Peitho's website](#).





Join the Canvas Accommodations Training

Supporting Every Learner: Student Accommodations in Canvas
10:00-10:10 AM, Tuesday, Sept. 1, Virtual

Join this quick, practical training on setting up accommodations in Canvas so students get the support they need to complete their coursework. Can't attend live? A recording will be available afterward.



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](#)