



On the Clock

Fall is in full swing, and a few important deadlines are on the calendar this week alongside new ways to connect and learn together. If you haven't completed your Faculty Evaluation Pre-Intake Form or reviewed your Spring 2027 course materials, now's the time. You'll also find updates on the Academic Affairs Playbook, new ways to talk AI, and a full slate of events to close out September.



Overdue | Faculty Evaluation Pre-Intake Form

All faculty, except Law School faculty, were asked to complete the Faculty Evaluation Pre-Intake Form by last Thursday. **If you haven't completed the form, please do so as soon as possible.** The form confirms evaluation status, captures exemption requests, and ensures cases are set up correctly in Interfolio.

[Complete the 2026 Faculty Evaluation Pre-Intake Form](#). Not sure if you're up for evaluation this year? Review the [Overview of the Faculty Evaluation Process webpage](#).

Questions can be directed to your academic unit's Faculty Evaluation Manager.

[Complete the 2026 Faculty Evaluation Pre-Intake Form](#)

Academic Affairs Playbook Now Live

With the publication of the University's FY27 Playbook, the Academic Affairs Playbook introduced at the Academic Affairs Forum and last week's Faculty Senate meeting is now available. This year's playbook deliberately narrows focus from FY26's broader portfolio to three core projects:

- **Implementing the redesigned Student Learning Assessment (SLA)** process, replacing the biennial departmental model with one built on individual Program Learning Outcomes, beginning late fall 2026.
- **Preparing for the Board of Regents' new Ongoing Program Review pilot** and emerging federal earnings-based accountability measures, including alignment with 4-digit CIP-level data and STATS/Earnings Accountability requirements.
- **Translating the Academic Unit Operating Policy** into workable, college-level procedures, consolidating unfinished FY26 threads including FAR scaling in Interfolio.

Each project connects to continuing work last academic year and to NWCCU accreditation recommendations. Read the full playbook for more information, including executive sponsors and university playbook alignment on the Office of the Provost's Academic Affairs Playbook page linked below.

[Academic Affairs Playbook webpage](#)

Support Focus Inside and Outside the Classroom

Be Here with Brick is a new campus-wide initiative, funded through the Flagship Fund, that helps reduce digital distractions and encourage deeper engagement in learning. After downloading the Brick app and setting preferences, users tap their phone to a Brick station to temporarily pause selected apps.

The tool is free, flexible, and customizable, making it easy for students, faculty, and staff to create intentional moments of focus during class, studying, meetings, and other campus activities.

[Explore Be Here with Brick and find campus locations](#)

RefWorks Transitioning to EndNote Fusion on October 6

On October 6, the library's citation management platform, RefWorks, will transition to EndNote Fusion. The interface will get a refresh, but accounts, settings, and files will transfer automatically, and workflows and writing tools should stay largely the same, with some new features added.

Read the [vendor announcement introducing EndNote Fusion](#) or review the EndNote Fusion FAQs linked below for details on how this will affect your account.

Questions? Contact library.reference@umontana.edu.

EndNote Fusion FAQs

Action Needed | Review Course Materials for Spring 2027

Spring 2027 course materials are now available for review in the Go Griz Store system.

Students begin planning and budgeting for spring courses well before registration opens. Providing accurate course material information now helps students understand expected costs and identify the resources they will need to succeed.

Please review each assigned course and:

- Confirm textbook and courseware selections
- Update materials if changes are needed
- Indicate if your course uses OERs, library resources, or instructor-created materials
- Indicate when no materials are required

Please complete this review by October 15, 2026.

Instructions for course materials adoptions are linked below.

Course Materials Adoption Instructions

UM Impact Office Hours

UM Impact office hours are now available via Zoom on the third Friday of each month, from 10-11 a.m., for anyone who wants to update, customize, or learn more about their UM Impact profile. The first session takes place Friday, September 19, from 10-11 a.m. Visit the UM Impact website linked below for the recurring Zoom link and additional details.

Questions? Contact [UM Impact](#).

[Visit the UM Impact website](#)

Curriculum Submission Deadline | 25 September

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.

[Curriculum Deadlines and Resources](#)

Faculty Senate Recap | 10 September 2026

The Faculty Senate held its first regular meeting of the academic year on September 10, with discussion focused on several priorities for the 2026–27 academic year. Senate leadership outlined three areas of focus for the year: Academic Portfolio Review, artificial intelligence and its impact on teaching and assessment, and Faculty Senate oversight of the University’s dual enrollment program. The Office of the Provost provided updates on academic priorities and the University’s participation in the Montana University System’s pilot for ongoing program review, including new data dashboards, the petition process, and opportunities for faculty feedback as the system-wide framework is developed. Senators discussed the importance of accurate and transparent program data, appropriate context for enrollment and completion measures, and maintaining shared governance throughout the review process. The Office for Disability Equity also provided an update on student accommodations, improvements to the accommodation request portal, and new guidance and processes for classroom recording accommodations. The Senate concluded the meeting in executive session, where an honorary doctorate candidate was recommended for approval.



AI INSIGHTS

Fall 2026 AI Conversations

This fall, faculty and staff have three ways to engage in low-stakes, cross-disciplinary conversations about how AI is impacting teaching, learning, and research.

Monthly Faculty AI Roundtables

Colleagues are invited to gather and vent or celebrate, brainstorm or strategize about the role of AI in teaching, research, or mentoring. Use the links below to RSVP and/or add an AI Roundtable to your calendar.

- [Monday, September 21 AI Roundtable](#) (3-4 p.m., Employee Learning Space)
- [Monday, October 19 AI Roundtable](#) (3-4 p.m., Employee Learning Space)

- [Monday, November 16 AI Roundtable](#) (3-4 p.m., Employee Learning Space)

Fall Writing Symposium: Writing Academic Integrity Statements

Academic misconduct gets a lot of attention, but what does academic integrity look like in the classroom? Participants will be invited to reflect on their syllabi and course assignments, identify unstated expectations, and draft academic integrity statements that build transparency, trust, and meaningful conversations with students.

Wednesday, September 30, 1-2:30 p.m., Employee Learning Space

[RSVP for the Fall Writing Symposium](#)

AI Office Hours

Anyone who teaches or learns at UM is welcome to drop in with AI-related questions.

Wednesdays from 12-1 p.m., beginning September 16, UH 123 and by [Teams](#).

Questions? Contact [Amy Ratto Parks](#), Director of Academic Assessment and Faculty Support.



Mathematics Enthusiast Surpasses One Million ScholarWorks Downloads

The Mathematics Enthusiast, a peer-reviewed diamond open access journal edited by Bharath Sriraman, professor of Mathematical Sciences, surpassed one million downloads on [ScholarWorks](#) this summer. Now in its 23rd year, [the journal](#) charges no subscription or author publication fees, making scholarship freely available to readers worldwide; for each of the past four years, it has been downloaded in more than 190 countries.

Since the journal migrated to ScholarWorks in 2015, Sriraman and the Mansfield Library have worked together to expand its global reach. The milestone reflects what faculty expertise, library publishing infrastructure, and a shared commitment to open access can accomplish together.

Faculty interested in creating or moving an open access journal to ScholarWorks can learn more about the Library's open access publishing support via the link below or [contact Wendy Walker, digital initiatives librarian](#).

Mansfield Library's Open Access Publishing Support



EVENTS



Request the Accessible Videos LEAD Training recording

LEAD Training: Creating Accessible Videos

10:00 - 10:10 AM, Tuesday, Sept. 15, Virtual

This 10-minute LEAD training covers practical tips for adding captions, audio descriptions, and transcripts to video content, so everyone has equal access. The live session has passed, but a recording is available upon request.

UNIVERSITY OF
MONTANA

Ask me, I'm a

CAREER CHAMPION

RSVP for the Career Champions Kickoff

Career Champions Community of Practice Kickoff

**8:45 - 9:45 AM, Thursday, Sept. 24, Employee Learning Space,
Lommasson Center**

The refreshed Career Champions Community of Practice connects colleagues across advising, teaching, mentoring, and campus employment to share what's working in student career development. This kickoff session opens as a full group before moving into smaller practice circles by role.

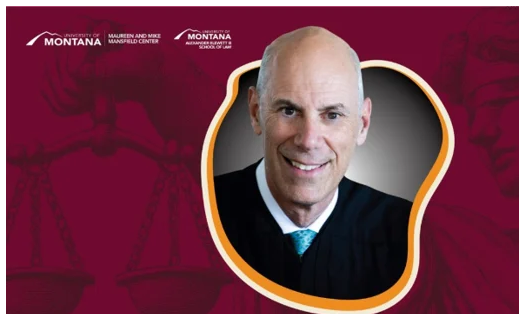


Learn More about the UM Open Championship

UM Open Championship & Festival

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Saturday, Sept. 26, UM Golf Course

The inaugural UM Open Championship & Festival brings golf, food, music, a carnival, and live coverage on ESPN Montana together for a free, campus-wide celebration open to all. Golfers can register for the Festival Scramble or UM Open Championship for a chance at prizes, including a \$10,000 hole-in-one award.



RSVP for the Judge Boasberg Lecture

Judge Boasberg Lecture: Judicial Power Under the Constitution
7:00 PM, Monday, Sept. 28, ALI Auditorium

For this year's Constitution Day, the Alexander Blewett III School of Law and the Mansfield Center jointly present this lecture featuring the Honorable James E. "Jeb" Boasberg, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. All members of the campus community are welcome to attend.



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](#)