



Falling Into Focus

As fall settles in across campus, this week's issue helps keep priorities clear: reviewing Spring 2027 course materials, navigating new Tableau dashboards, and understanding updated affiliate renewal terms. You'll also find the call for the MUS Teaching Scholars program, along with a full slate of upcoming events, from the ongoing LEAD 10-minute training series to sessions on tenure, promotion, and sabbatical preparation.



Review Spring 2027 Course Materials by October 15

Providing course material information early supports student affordability and access. When materials are identified in advance, students can compare options, access financial aid resources, and prepare for the first day of class. Early reporting also helps identify courses using OERs, no-cost materials, and other affordable resources.

Please review your Spring 2027 courses and confirm that the information students will see is accurate by **October 15, 2026**.

Many UM courses also participate in Immediate Access (IA), a partnership between the University of Montana, publishers, and the Go Griz Store that delivers digital course materials through Canvas to all enrolled students by the first day of class,

typically at a 20-60% discount off list price. Students may opt out and purchase materials elsewhere if they prefer.

If you would like your material/course to be included in the Immediate Access program, click Adopt & Enroll when prompted during the adoption process.

Instructions for course materials adoptions are linked below.

Course Materials Adoption Instructions

NWCCU Mid-cycle Visit | October 5-6

The University of Montana submitted its Year Three Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) on August 24, 2026. The report addresses mission fulfillment, student achievement, and programmatic assessment, and reflects input gathered from across the university. This is a formative step in the eight-year review cycle intended to review our progress towards our next comprehensive Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness in Fall 2031.

A peer evaluation team will visit campus October 5-6 for a day and a half of on-site review. Additional information on the visit schedule, along with invitations to meet with the evaluators, will follow closer to the visit dates.

The full report is available here: [UM's Year 3 Mid-Cycle Accreditation Report \(PDF\)](#).

Opening Meet and Greet

Faculty and staff who are involved or interested in the process are welcome to attend an opening meet and greet with the evaluation team. Please RSVP via the link below so we can plan for an accurate headcount.

RSVP for the NWCCU Meet and Greet

Faculty and Campus Affiliate Renewals Move to Calendar-Year Terms

Affiliate appointments are shifting from a September 30 expiration to December 31, aligning affiliate status with the calendar year. All current affiliates have already been

extended through 12/31/26, so no action is needed for that step.

The annual renewal cycle now runs each fall instead of spring or summer. This year's key dates are October 23 (affiliate renewal form due) and November 23 (department approval due). Watch for renewal-related emails from the Office of the Provost, and help your affiliates and approvers stay on schedule.

Questions? Contact officeoftheprovost@umontana.edu.

Learn More About Faculty Affiliates

Apply for the 2026 MUS Teaching Scholars Program

The Montana University System is accepting proposals for this year's [MUS Teaching Scholars program](#), themed "Being Human, and Human Wellbeing, in the Age of AI." Faculty of all ranks and career stages are invited to apply. Selected faculty lead faculty learning communities throughout the year, exploring teaching and learning strategies that strengthen student and faculty wellbeing, and receive a \$1,500 award plus up to \$500 to support their learning community's activities.

Proposals are due October 9.

"My experience as a UM Teaching Scholar was memorable, impactful, and fun. It's a rare delight to work with colleagues from across the MUS on something we're all genuinely excited about, and to learn how other campuses operate."

— Amy Ratto Parks, Director of Academic Assessment and Faculty Support, 2024 MUS Teaching Scholar

Apply for the 2026 MUS Teaching Scholars Program

Tableau Trainings for Chairs, Directors, and Admins

Academic Affairs is offering Tableau training sessions this month for department leadership and staff. Each session covers how to navigate Tableau, view reports available to your role, and find data specific to your college or department, including dashboards related to Academic Portfolio review.

- [Department Chairs and Program Directors](#): September 28, 1 to 2 p.m., Mansfield Library, Room 283
- [Department Admins](#): September 29, 9 to 10 a.m., Mansfield Library, Room 283
- [Department Admins](#): September 30, 2 to 3 p.m., Teams

Additional sessions for Budget Analysts and Academic Finance Officers will be offered in early October.



EVENTS



Attend the LEAD AI Resources Training

LEAD Training: AI Resources for Supporting UM Students

10:00 - 10:10 AM, Tuesday, Sept. 22, Virtual

Join LEAD tomorrow for a brief virtual session exploring resources available to UM students that support AI literacy and responsible use. Can't attend live? The session will be recorded and available to view afterward.



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.

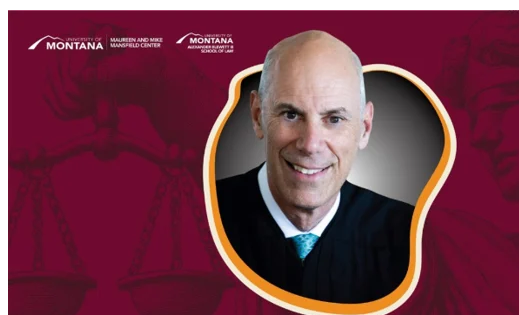


Learn More about the UM Open Championship

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.



RSVP for the Tenure and Promotion session

Tenure and Promotion Session **2:00 - 2:50 PM, Wednesday, Sept. 30, Education Bldg. 241**

Join representatives from the Office of the Provost and an experienced dean and department chair as they share insights on the tenure and promotion process and tips for completing the Individual Performance Record (IPR). Designed with early career faculty in mind, this session will help you understand expectations and how to position yourself for success.



[RSVP for the Global Homecoming Reception](#)

[View Event Details on GrizHub](#)

Global Homecoming Reception

4:00 - 5:30 PM, Friday, Oct. 2, Mansfield Library, 4th floor

Join the UM community for a reception celebrating alumni's global contributions. Open to faculty, staff, students, alumni, and their families, with light fare served. The event is co-sponsored by several global and international programs across campus, including the Baucus Institute and the Franke Global Leadership Initiative.



[RSVP for the NWCCU Meet and Greet](#)

NWCCU Meet and Greet

8:00 - 9:00 AM, Monday, Oct. 5, UC Ballroom

The University of Montana recently submitted its Year Three Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report on August 24, 2026. A peer evaluation team will be on campus October 5–6 as part of the review process. The report addresses UM's mission fulfillment, student achievement, and programmatic assessment, and was prepared with input from across the university.



[Join the Sabbatical Session Online](#)

Preparing to Apply for Sabbatical

2:00 - 2:50 PM, Friday, Oct. 9, Virtual

This session offers guidance on preparing a sabbatical application. Learn about the proposal review process and the sabbatical proposal evaluation rubric. Representatives from the Office of the Provost and the Sabbatical Review Committee will be available to answer your questions.



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

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