



Midterm Momentum

With the semester well underway, this issue starts with the Spring 2027 course materials review, due October 15. You will also find ways to share graduate program news and to teach or mentor with the Franke Global Leadership Initiative, plus four events running through October 13.



Two Weeks Remaining | Review Course Materials

The Spring 2027 course materials deadline is approaching.

If you have not yet reviewed your assigned courses, now is the time to confirm course materials and resource requirements. Accurate information helps students prepare financially and academically for the upcoming semester.

Please verify textbooks, digital resources, OERs, library materials, and no-materials-required courses before the deadline.

Please complete this review by October 15, 2026.

Instructions for course materials adoptions are linked below.

[Course Materials Adoption Instructions](#)

OER Named a High-Impact Practice

AAC&U (Association of American Colleges and Universities) has identified open educational resources (OER) as higher education's 12th high-impact practice. Its report, [Open Educational Resources: A New High-Impact Practice](#), draws on nearly 700,000 student records from 15 institutions and the experiences of more than 200 instructors. Researchers found that OER can do more than lower textbook costs. In some contexts, OER was associated with lower withdrawal rates and shorter time to completion for some students.

Openly licensed materials can also be revised, remixed, and customized, which lets instructors align readings with their learning objectives and students.

If you assign a costly textbook, this may be a good time to explore alternatives. Through the Mansfield Library's OER Concierge Discovery Service, a librarian will search for open textbooks and other OER that fit your course and can check whether a library-licensed e-book could give students no-cost access.

Questions? Contact [Wendy Walker](#).

[Explore UM's Textbook Affordability Services](#)

Share Your Graduate Program News

Do you have graduate student or faculty achievements, upcoming events, or program news to share? The Graduate School can help spread the word and celebrate the work happening in your department. Submit a social media post request using the Graduate School Social Media Request form linked below.

If your department already posts on its own social media accounts, tag or mention the Graduate School so we can engage with and share your content.

Questions? Contact Grad.School@umontana.edu.

[Graduate School Social Media Request Form](#)

GLI Seeks Instructors and Capstone Mentors

The Franke Global Leadership Initiative (GLI) is accepting applications for AY 2027-2028 for GBLD 194 instructors and capstone mentors. GBLD 194 instructors teach the GLI first-year seminar in the fall. Capstone mentors guide a GLI capstone team for an academic year.

Applications for both roles are due November 1.

Optional information sessions will be held on Zoom on Thursday, October 22. The mentor session runs from 1 to 1:30 p.m., and the instructor session runs from 2 to 2:30 p.m. Each role's webpage, linked below, has details on the application process and the session Zoom link.

Questions? Contact [Gillian Glaes](#).

[Learn More About Capstone Mentoring](#)

[Learn More About GLI Leadership Seminars](#)



EVENTS



**10 Minute Teaching
and Tech Tips**

[Join the Virtual Canvas Training](#)

LEAD Training: Building Better Discussions in Canvas

10:00 - 10:10 AM, Tuesday, Oct. 6, Virtual

Learn to optimize Canvas discussions, consider AI's impact on student responses, and create engaging prompts in this brief session from Learning Experience and Design (LEAD). Can't make it live? A recording will be available afterward.



[More Session Details on GrizHub](#)

November Elections Q&A with VP Kuntz

12:00-1:00 PM, Tuesday, Oct. 6, Employee Learning Space

Learn about our roles as Montana University System employees with regard to the upcoming November elections. Dave Kuntz, vice president for Marketing and Communications and University spokesperson, will give a brief presentation, followed by Q&A and discussion.



[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.



[Dialogue In-Person Registration](#)

[Dialogue Virtual Registration](#)

Mansfield Dialogue: Governor Asa Hutchinson **7 PM, Tuesday, Oct. 13, UC Ballroom and/or Virtual**

The Mansfield Center presents a dialogue with Governor Asa Hutchinson on how America can move beyond divides and place principle above partisanship. Journalist Maritsa Georgiou will moderate a conversation focused on practical solutions, mutual respect, and the rule of law. Learn more on the [Mansfield Center dialogues page](#).



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](#)

