



Helena College and Federal Financial Aid

Helena College Scholarships and Awards

Below is a partial list of scholarships provided for Helena College students. A complete and up-to-date list can be found on the Helena College website. Some scholarships are offered by the College and others are offered by community organizations, business firms, endowment funds, etc. For more information, students should contact the Financial Aid Office.

American Business Women's Scholarship
Boeing Access to Education Scholarships
Campus Compact
Everett D Potter Scholarship
Grosfield Memorial Nursing Scholarship
Harold Hamm Memorial Scholarship
Helena College Foundation Scholarships
Helena Valley Timing Association Scholarships
Lacey Miller Memorial Nursing Scholarship
Montana Food Distributors Association
Opportunity Bank of Montana Scholarships
Peter Nelson Scholarships
Shodair Children's Hospital Nursing Scholarship
Shupe Scholarship
Soroptomist Training Awards Program
Soroptomist Vocational Technical Scholarships
Student Senate Scholarships

Private Scholarships

Many private organizations provide financial assistance to Helena College students. Scholarship information may be obtained by contacting civic, professional, religious, or other community organizations in addition to high school guidance offices and the internet. Listing of web resources is available in the Financial Aid Office. One such website is www.fastweb.com. Private scholarships are generally applied one-half to each successive semester after the funds are received.

Tuition Waivers

The Montana Board of Regents has authorized the waiver of either full or partial tuition fees for certain categories of students. These categories include:

Native American
Montana Veterans
War Orphans
Dependents of Prisoners of War
Senior Citizens
Surviving Dependents of Montana Firefighters or Peace Officers



Faculty and Staff

MUS Employee Dependent

MUS High School Honors

Applications for fee waivers are made prior to and must be completed within 14 days of the start of the semester in which the student expects the fee waiver. More information and applications are available in the Financial Aid Office.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Certain persons with an employment disability may qualify for education assistance through the Rehabilitative/Visual Services Division, Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Students should contact that office at 406-444-2590 for more information.

Veterans Education Benefits

Veterans may be eligible to receive benefits under various chapters of the GI Bill:

- Chapter 30 – New GI Bill provides benefits for those who first entered active duty after July 1, 1985.
- Chapter 34 – The old GI Bill is available to veterans who entered active duty before July 1, 1985.
- Chapter 35 – Vocational Rehabilitation is for veterans who have a service-connected disability. Contact the Veterans Administration, Fort Harrison, MT 59636, or call toll-free 800-827-1000 to apply.
- Chapter 1606 – Guard/ Reserve members need to contact their Education Officer to determine eligibility.

Applications for Montgomery GI Bill educational benefits may be obtained online at www.gibill.va.gov or from the Veterans Benefits Coordinator, located in the Helena College ACCESS Center at 406-444-2766.

The Veterans Administration expects veterans to make satisfactory academic progress and pursue a final objective. All veterans and eligible persons receiving benefits are required to report promptly when they drop or add courses, or withdraw completely.

Veterans receiving federal financial aid must report their benefit information to the Financial Aid Office via the Initial Notification Letter or by calling 406-444-6883.

A Veterans Tuition Waiver may be available for veterans who have exhausted their benefits. Students should contact the Financial Aid Office for further information.

Higher Education Assistance (HEA) and Tribal Grants

Native American students may be eligible for need-based grants from the HEA or the student's tribe. For more information, students should contact the Tribal Educational Specialist.

Note: All benefit information must be reported to the Financial Aid Office.



Federal Financial Aid

Students should complete the FAFSA after October 1 and request that your Student Aid Report be sent to Helena College, Title IV Code 007570. It takes approximately 4 to 6 weeks for a paper FAFSA application to be processed. Applications submitted via the internet take considerably less time (www.fafsa.gov). Students (and parents, if applicable) must have a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) and password to sign the FAFSA electronically (www.fsaaid.ed.gov). Students must re-apply for federal aid each year. Delays in receiving financial aid are often the result of late or incomplete submission of the FAFSA.

Except for the Federal PLUS (Parent) Loan, eligibility for the following indicated federal financial aid resources depends on submission of the FAFSA. The Student Aid Report (SAR), resulting from the FAFSA, provides an expected family contribution (EFC), which is used to determine eligibility for federal need-based financial aid.

1. Federal Pell Grants are awarded to students with exceptional financial need.
Note: Pell grants are available to all students who are eligible; however, the following grants are awarded on a priority base only.
2. Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) funds are limited and are available to students with exceptional financial need who have received a Federal Pell Grant.
3. Work-study employment opportunities are available through the need-based Federal Work Study (FWS) as well as the need-based and non-need based State Work Study (MWS) programs. Limited funds are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, in accordance with College policy. Awards are usually between 10 and 15 hours per week.
4. Loan monies at federally regulated interest rates are available to students and their parents. Federal loans, except the Federal PLUS (Parent) Loan, are awarded on a need and non-need basis as documented through the FAFSA.
 - a. Federal Stafford Loan – available to students on either a need (*subsidized*) or non-need (*unsubsidized*) basis. *Subsidized* loans do not require payment of interest by the student so long as the student is attending college at least half-time. The federal government subsidizes the interest burden. *Unsubsidized* loans require payment or capitalization of interest upon disbursement. Interest rates are set annually in accordance with federal regulations.
 - b. Federal PLUS (Parent) Loan – for parents of dependent students who want to borrow to help pay for their student's education. Interest rates are set annually in accordance with federal regulations.