

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

### \$15M

#### TOTAL SAVED

by Montana students through WICHE Student Access Programs.

### \$11.3M

**SAVED**  
through WUE

### \$1.2M

**SAVED**  
through WRGP

### \$2.5M

**SAVED**  
through PSEP

## WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE



### WUE

Saves **UNDERGRADUATE** students on out-of-state tuition. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top Montana WUE schools for out-of-state undergraduate students:

- ▶ **Montana State University, Bozeman (1,715)**
- ▶ **University of Montana (700)**
- ▶ **University of Montana Western (293)**

Top out-of-state WUE schools for Montana undergraduate students:

- ▶ **Dickinson State University, ND (253)**
- ▶ **Northwest College, WY (110)**
- ▶ **Sheridan College, WY (77)**

## WESTERN REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAM



### WRGP

Saves **GRADUATE** students on out-of-state certificate, master's, and doctoral programs. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top Montana WRGP schools for out-of-state graduate students:

- ▶ **University of Montana (54)**
- ▶ **Montana State University Billings (12)**
- ▶ **Montana State University, Bozeman (10)**

Top out-of-state WRGP schools for Montana graduate students:

- ▶ **University of Idaho (17)**
- ▶ **Minot State University, ND (9)**
- ▶ **North Dakota State University (8)**

## PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM



### PSEP

Helps students pursuing careers in **10 HEALTH FIELDS**. They can enroll in programs in the WICHE region and receive substantial tuition support from their home state/territory.

**88 Montana students paid reduced tuition** for health care studies not offered by public institutions in their home state.

**59% of Montana's PSEP graduates returned home to practice** (2012-16 for physicians, 2012-21 for all other fields). Students are not contractually required to return.

**Montana's institutions and their local economies benefit, too.**

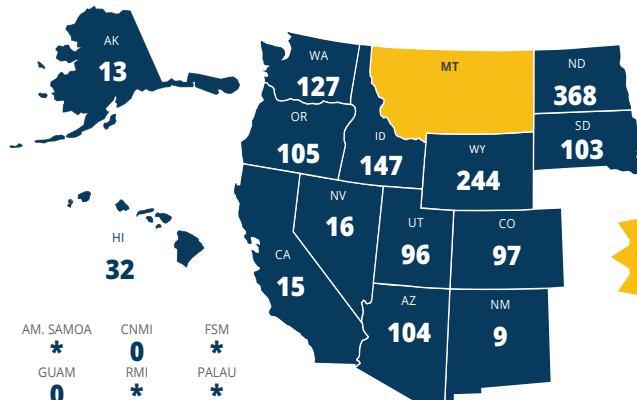
This year, 3 PSEP students enrolled in programs located in Montana. Institutions received \$51,675 in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

**559% ROI** gained on Montana's WICHE annual dues (\$169,000/FY 2025)

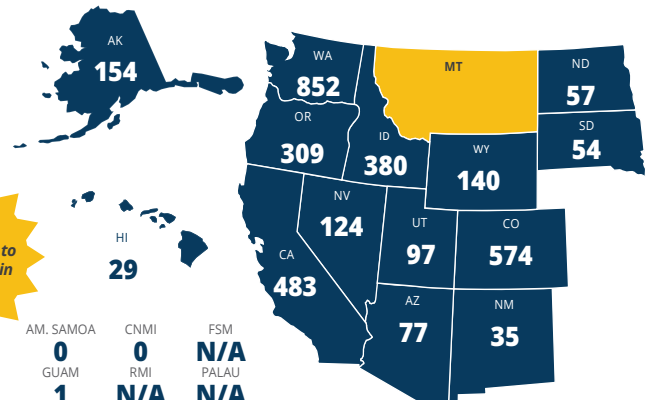
## WUE

WUE STUDENTS **FROM** MONTANA: **1,476**

WUE STUDENTS **TO** MONTANA: **3,366**



3,366 WUE students chose to attend college in Montana

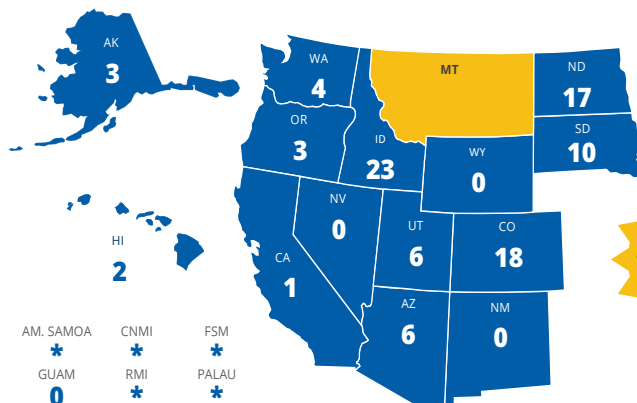


\* Currently do not have any participating WUE schools.

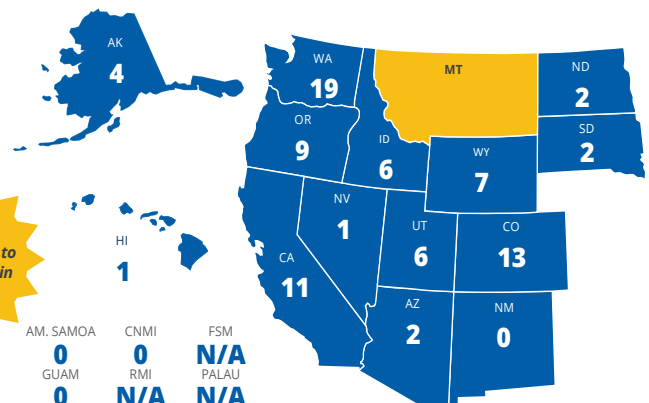
## WRGP

WRGP STUDENTS **FROM** MONTANA: **93**

WRGP STUDENTS **TO** MONTANA: **83**



83 WRGP students chose to attend college in Montana



\* Currently do not have any participating WRGP schools.

## PSEP

## WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

FIELD	STUDENTS	FEES PAID
Dentistry	17	\$518,267
Medicine	28	\$963,900
Occupational Therapy	6	\$41,667
Optometry	8	\$164,600
Osteopathic Medicine	9	\$204,800
Veterinary Medicine	20	\$637,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>\$2,530,434</b>

PSEP students from Montana saved \$2,530,434 in tuition



“ PSEP has enabled me to pursue my dental career even though my home state did not offer a degree in dentistry. It has alleviated the financial burdens typically faced by out-of-state students, allowing me to confidently plan for both dental school and a potential residency after graduation. ”

**KAMDEN**, Montana resident, Dentistry, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

## Regional collaboration

WICHE brings together senior academic leaders to foster dialogue about issues facing individual institutions through its leadership and professional development networks.

### WESTERN ALLIANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC LEADERS – 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Bitterroot College
- ▶ City College at MSU – Billings
- ▶ Dawson Community College
- ▶ Flathead Valley Community College
- ▶ Gallatin College
- ▶ Great Falls College MSU
- ▶ Helena College
- ▶ Highlands College
- ▶ Miles Community College
- ▶ Missoula College UM
- ▶ Montana University System
- ▶ MSU Northern
- ▶ University of Montana Western

Angela DeWolf King, Montana University System, serves on the Alliance executive committee.

### WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM – 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Montana Technological University
- ▶ Montana State University – Bozeman
- ▶ Montana State University – Billings
- ▶ Montana University System
- ▶ University of Montana

Joe Thiel, Montana University System, serves on the Forum executive committee.

**WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY** is a yearlong professional development program for academic leaders aspiring to become chief academic officers in the WICHE region. Fifteen cohort members from Montana institutions have participated in the Academy since its inception in 2015.

WICHE offers student health and technology contracts through a **COST-SAVINGS PROGRAM** with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) to colleges and universities, K-12 school districts, local and state municipalities, and nonprofit organizations with an education emphasis. Last year, entities that used these contracts saved 9% over what they otherwise would have outside this joint purchasing arrangement. The total savings in Montana was \$226,015.

**NO HOLDING BACK** Flathead Valley Community College is one of 12 WICHE institutions that participated in 2022-23 in analyzing data, policies

and practices related to transcript and registration holds, contributing toward tools for other institutions to undertake this work.

## Optimal behavioral health care

The WICHE Behavioral Health Program (BHP) provides consultation and technical assistance to the Montana Department of Health and Human Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Division regarding implementation of its **PROGRAM FOR ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT (PACT)**. The BHP's Fidelity Review team also conducts fidelity assessments of PACT programs in Montana using a modified tool that is based on the SAMHSA evidence-based practice of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT).

**MOUNTAIN PLAINS RURAL OPIOID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (MP ROTAC)** develops and shares resources, training, and technical assistance focused on opioid and stimulant misuse in rural areas in Region 8. This is funded through a multiyear grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM (RCORP)** is a multiyear initiative supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to identify treatment barriers and best practices for preventing and treating substance use disorder. In Montana, the RCORP program supports four grantees.

## Sound public policy

Montana participates in the **STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT (SARA)** through WICHE. This voluntary agreement provides reciprocity for the state authorization of distance education. WICHE Commissioners have been strong advocates for protecting the state voice in important governance decisions affecting this agreement and staff continue to support participating states and improving student protections while bolstering access.

Created by the WICHE Commission in 1995, the **LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC)** works to strengthen state-level postsecondary policymaking across the West. Members are legislators appointed by each state, territory, or freely associated state in the WICHE region; they meet annually to explore emerging policy issues and develop strategies for interstate collaboration.

**KNOCKING AT THE COLLEGE DOOR** is the leading U.S. resource for projections of high school graduates. Released in December 2024, the newest edition is essential for postsecondary policymakers, planning and workforce efforts, and economic development. Visit [wiche.edu/knocking](https://wiche.edu/knocking) to access reports, interactive dashboards, webinars, presentations, as well as state-level data.

**DATA EXPERTS** WICHE staff provide analysis on finance, financial aid, articulation and transfer, strategic planning, student demographics, and more, as well as host peer-to-peer calls of state, system, and institutional chief academic officers to identify areas of potential collaboration and resource sharing across the West.

**DATA RESOURCES** WICHE offers curated data and policy resources to support better-informed decision-making. WICHE's research projects and collaborations cover postsecondary completion, health workforce development, behavioral health in postsecondary education, open educational resources (OER), state finance, prior learning assessment, and more.

- ▶ **Tuition and Fees in the West** includes tuition, fees, and enrollment data about 350+ public institutions in the West.
- ▶ **Benchmarks: WICHE Region** presents information on the West's progress in improving access to, success in, and financing of higher education.
- ▶ Data on over 35 indicators in WICHE's **Regional Fact Book for Higher Education in the West**.

**CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS NETWORK** Staff from the Montana University System office participate in regular collaborative calls with colleagues around the region.

## Innovative solutions

**WCET – THE WICHE COOPERATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES** is the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of digital learning in higher education. Its growing membership includes institutions, higher education agencies and systems, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in all U.S. states and several Canadian provinces. WCET members include:

- ▶ Montana State University – Billings
- ▶ Montana State University – Bozeman
- ▶ Montana University System
- ▶ University of Montana

**STATE AUTHORIZATION NETWORK (SAN)** helps guide institutions through state regulations around online courses and programs. Montana has 11 members. See [wcetsan.wiche.edu/member-institutions-organizations](https://wcetsan.wiche.edu/member-institutions-organizations) for a complete list.

WICHE has convened the **OERWEST NETWORK**, which is part of a nationwide collaborative to scale the development and adoption of free course materials. Open educational resources (OER) have shown promise in improving student outcomes, particularly for students whom the high cost of textbooks can be a barrier to postsecondary success.

**TECHNOLOGY AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR TRANSFER SUCCESS PROJECT** offers two-year grants to partner institutions to create technology solutions to assist transfer students. In Montana, the partnership is between Montana University System and Helena College.

## Montana Commissioners



**Maryrose Beasley**  
Doctor of Veterinary  
Medicine, Homestead  
Veterinary Clinic



**Clayton Christian**  
Commissioner of  
Higher Education,  
Montana University  
System



**Llew Jones**  
Representative,  
Montana State  
Legislature

## Legislative Advisory Committee

**David Bedey**  
Representative, Montana State Legislature

**Paul Tuss**  
Representative, Montana State Legislature

**Llew Jones**  
Representative, Montana State Legislature

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