

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

\$13.1M

TOTAL SAVED

by Montana students through WICHE Student Access Programs

\$9.2M

SAVED
through WUE

\$1.2M

SAVED
through WRGP

\$2.7M

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 (1,734)**
- ▶ **University of Montana (749)**
- ▶ **University of Montana, Western (305)**

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

- ▶ **Williston State College, ND (97)**
- ▶ **Northern Arizona University (86)**
- ▶ **Northwest College, WY (81)**

WESTERN REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAM



WRGP

Saves students on out-of-state **GRADUATE** 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 (40)**
- ▶ **Montana State University, Bozeman (29)**
- ▶ **Montana State University, Billings (19)**

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

- ▶ **University of Idaho (14)**
- ▶ **University of Arizona (9)**
- ▶ **North Dakota State University (7)**

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.

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

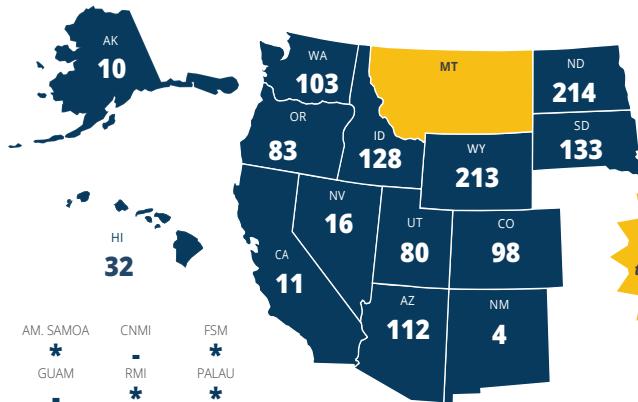
59% of Montana's PSEP graduates returned home to practice (2012-16 for physicians, 2012-21 for all other fields). Students are not contractually required to return.

Montana's institutions and their local economies benefit too. This year, 4 PSEP students enrolled in programs located in Montana. Institutions received \$67,400 in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

462% ROI Gained on Montana's WICHE annual dues (\$164,000/FY 2024)

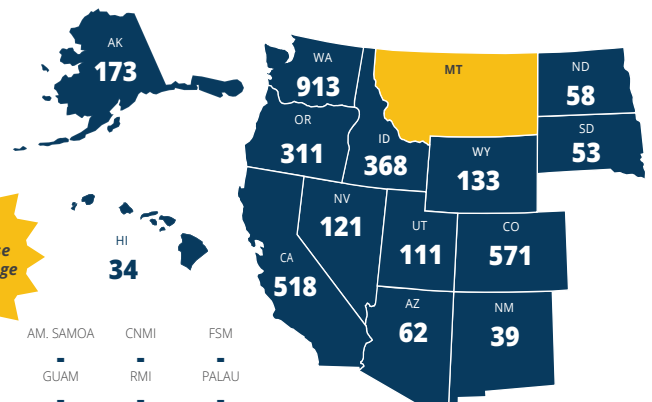
WUE

WUE STUDENTS FROM MONTANA: **1,237**



* Currently do not have any participating WUE schools.

WUE STUDENTS TO MONTANA: **3,465**

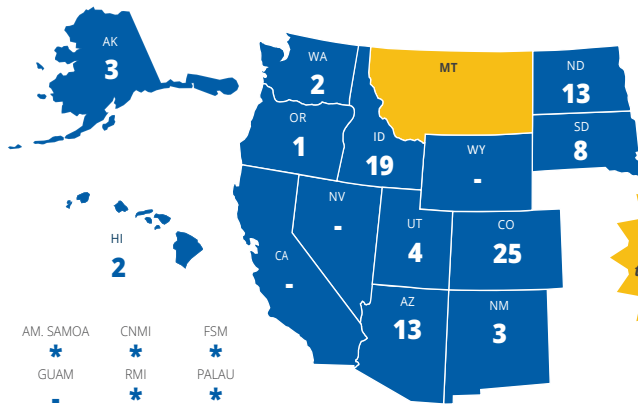


3,465 WUE students chose to attend college in Montana

Note: Students from Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming are eligible for the South Dakota Advantage Program and are assessed resident on-campus tuition rates. These students are also reported as WUE students.

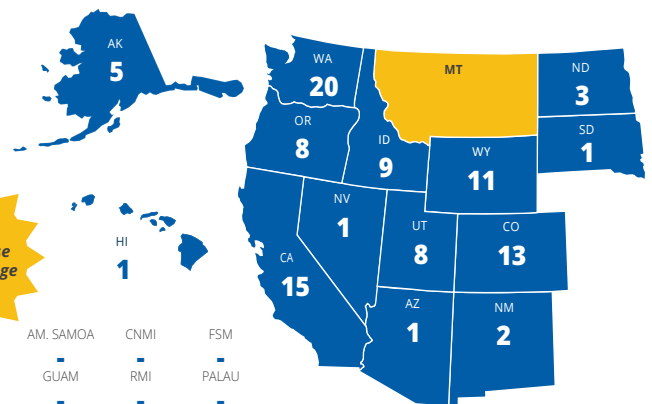
WRGP

WRGP STUDENTS FROM MONTANA: **93**



* Currently do not have any participating WRGP schools.

WRGP STUDENTS TO MONTANA: **98**



98 WRGP students chose to attend college in Montana

PSEP

FIELD	STUDENTS	FEES PAID
Dentistry	16	\$468,000
Medicine	28	\$961,126
Occupational Therapy	5	\$91,800
Optometry	9	\$163,324
Osteopathic Medicine	12	\$263,025
Veterinary Medicine	21	\$727,650
TOTAL	91	\$2,674,925

PSEP students from Montana saved \$2,674,925 in tuition

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING



“The required academic rigor and high cost of medical school can be daunting. PSEP has lifted some of the burden and alleviated some of the anxiety surrounding the cost, and for that I am extremely grateful. After school and residency, I plan on returning to rural Montana to practice. PSEP financial support is a great help for future doctors.”

BROOKE, Montana resident, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, A.T. Still University, AZ

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 UM
- ▶ Highlands College of Montana Tech
- ▶ Miles Community College
- ▶ Missoula College UM
- ▶ Montana University System
- ▶ MSU Northern
- ▶ University of Montana Western

Angela DeWolf King, Montana University System, is a member of 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

Joel Thiel, Montana University System, is a member of 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.

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.

COSTS-SAVINGS PROGRAMS Thanks to collaboration with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), one of four U.S. regional higher education compacts, WICHE-region educational institutions, nonprofits, and public education entities can benefit from three programs: MHECtech, which provides competitively bid purchasing contracts for an array of hardware, software, and technology services; MHECare,

which provides a student health insurance plan and teletherapy services; and a MHEC Cyber Insurance Program, which offers risk transfer and advisory solutions.

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.

Optimal behavioral healthcare

WICHE Behavioral Health Program (BHP) is providing consultation and technical assistance to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Addictive and Mental Disorders Division for its **PROGRAM FOR ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT (PACT)**. This work provides fidelity assessments of each PACT program in Montana using the SAMHSA Assertive Community Treatment Fidelity Review Toolkit. Based on areas of need established by the fidelity reviews, WICHE is designing and implementing improvement activities including education, training, and consultation.

WICHE Behavioral Health Program (BHP) co-administers the **MOUNTAIN PLAINS MENTAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER (MP-MHTTC)**. The MP-MHTTC provides comprehensive training, resources, and technical assistance to mental health providers and other practitioners in the SAMHSA Region 8. Region 8 is comprised of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

In October 2022, WICHE BHP was awarded a multiyear grant from SAMHSA to establish the **MOUNTAIN PLAINS RURAL OPIOID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (MP ROTAC)**. The MP ROTAC develops and disseminates resources, training, and technical assistance that focuses on opioid and stimulant misuse in rural areas throughout SAMHSA's Region 8.

TOGETHER WITH VETERANS (TWV) – RURAL VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM is a national program that enlists rural Veterans and local partners to join forces to reduce Veteran suicide in their own communities. Funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and administered by the WICHE BHP, TWV provides communities with individualized coaching, tools, training, technical assistance, and resources to implement the program in their own communities. The BHP supports 38 rural communities as far east as New Hampshire and as far west as Guam, and of those, supports 18 rural communities in the WICHE region. The TWV program has two sites in Montana, one in Kalispell (Flathead County), and one in Richland County, with more than 2,000 rural veterans receiving services.

Sound public policy

KNOCKING AT THE COLLEGE DOOR is the leading U.S. resource for projections of college-ready students. *Knocking*, which includes a quadrennial publication with additional analysis, is essential for postsecondary policymakers, planning and workforce efforts, and economic development. Visit knocking.wiche.edu to access reports, interactive dashboards, webinars, presentations, as well as state-level data.

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**.

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.

CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS NETWORK Staff from the Montana University System office also 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 technology-enhanced 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

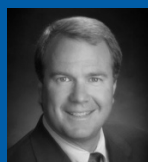
STATE AUTHORIZATION NETWORK (SAN) helps guide institutions through state regulations around online courses and programs. Montana has 11 members. See wcetsan.wiche.edu/member-institutions-organizations for a complete list.

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 poverty-affected students, for whom the high cost of textbooks can be a barrier to postsecondary success.

MONTANA COMMISSIONERS



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