



## 2026 Montana TRIO ACHIEVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION



### GRANT INFORMATION

The Montana TRIO Achievement Grant is a one-time award of \$1,500. This grant will be awarded to the first 230 applicants that meet grant **eligibility requirements**. This grant is disbursed directly to the student's institution of higher education. The grant may be used to cover the student's costs of attendance (tuition, fees, books, room, meal plans, etc.) at any U.S. accredited college or university that awards an associate's degree or higher.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Read the **eligibility requirements** to determine if you are eligible to apply for an Achievement Grant.
2. Complete this application.
  - a. The Applicant Information on page 2 and the Authorization section at the top of page 3 must be completed by the applicant and their parent/guardian if the applicant is under 18 years of age. Please type or print clearly.
  - b. The college preparatory requirements on page 3 must be completed and signed by the applicant's high school counselor or their designee.
3. Attach your 7<sup>th</sup> semester transcript.
4. Submit completed and signed application and additional materials **no later than March 2, 2026**, either by mail to the address below or by using the Montana University System's secure mail service at <https://mus.edu/securemail.html>. Applications will be reviewed as they are received. Awards must be claimed within 3 semesters following high school graduation.

**Mail To: MT GEAR UP Scholarship Department; P.O. Box 203201; Helena, MT 59620-3201**

For Questions: Contact Madie Moore at the Montana GEAR UP Program ([mmoore@montana.edu](mailto:mmoore@montana.edu) / 406-449-9129)

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

**To be eligible for an Achievement Grant you must:**

- Be enrolled in a Montana TRIO Talent Search or Upward Bound Program before or during your junior year of high school.
- Be a participant in a Montana TRIO Talent Search or Upward Bound Program at the time of high school graduation.
- Maintain and graduate with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0.
- **Have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and be Pell Grant eligible.**  
**Note:** Check your FSS (FAFSA Submission Summary) to determine if you are eligible to receive Pell funds; final determination of Pell Grant eligibility will be confirmed by the campus prior to disbursement of funds.
- Be on track to complete the Montana University System college preparatory curriculum as evidenced by your 7<sup>th</sup> semester high school transcript. **The college preparatory requirements must be met and authorized by graduation to receive funding.**



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## APPLICANT INFORMATION

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Parent/Guardian First Name	Parent/Guardian Last Name	
Mailing Address	City	Zip
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email
Social Security Number (required)	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	State Student ID
High School	Expected Graduation Date (MM/YYYY)	City
Have you submitted the 2026-27 FAFSA?	If yes, are you Pell eligible?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**Educational Plans:** Please list the college(s) you plan to apply to. Enrollment and Pell eligibility will be verified in Fall 2026 or at the start of the semester when the scholarship is claimed.

Talent Search and Upward Bound Program Information			Enrollment Date: _____	
<b>IMPORTANT!</b> Eligible applicants must be <b>currently</b> enrolled in a Montana TRIO Talent Search or Upward Bound Program. Please indicate which program you are enrolled in.				
	Program	Director	Email	Phone
	<b>Montana State University – Billings</b>			
	Talent Search & Upward Bound	Barb Waters	barbara.waters@msubillings.edu	406-657-2176
	<b>Montana Tech</b>			
	Talent Search	Dr. Kristi Bailey	kbailey3@mtech.edu	406-496-4694
	Upward Bound	Jeni Mason	jmason2@mtech.edu	406-460-0629
	Upward Bound Math/Science	Jeni Mason	jmason2@mtech.edu	406-460-0629
	<b>North Central Montana</b>			
	Upward Bound	Emma Lamebull	emma.lamebull@ftbelknap.org	406-353-8401
	<b>Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)</b>			
	Talent Search	Angela DeWolf King	aking@montana.edu	406-449-9143
	<b>Salish Kootenai College</b>			
	Upward Bound	Heather Licht	heather_licht@skc.edu	406-275-4988
	<b>University of Montana</b>			
	Upward Bound	Dannette Fadness	dannette.fadness@umontana.edu	406-243-2219



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## Authorization:

I authorize my (child's) TRIO Program and the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to use my (child's) name and high school in promotional materials, newsletters, and state newspapers.

☐ Yes ☐ No

By signing this application, I authorize my (child's) high school and/or other educational institution to provide any necessary documents or information to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to confirm my (child's) eligibility for this award. In addition, upon enrollment, I authorize my (child's) chosen campus to release my (child's) Pell Grant eligibility status to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. By signing this application, I certify that the information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Incomplete applications may not be considered.

Student Signature	Guardian Signature	Date
<p align="center"><b>Montana University System - College Preparatory Requirements</b></p> <p align="center"><b>This section must be completed and signed by your high school counselor or their designee.</b></p> <p><b>Instructions for counselor:</b> In order to document that this student is on track to meet the Montana University System College Preparatory requirements by the time of graduation, please check all courses that this student has either successfully completed with a <u>passing grade</u> or is currently enrolled in and on track to pass by the end of the 2025-26 school year.</p>		
<b>Mathematics:</b>	<b>3 years</b>	<p>Courses <b>must</b> include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II (or their sequential equivalents). Students are encouraged to take a math course in their senior year. In schools where a student may take Algebra I in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the student must still complete 3 years of math in high school.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Algebra I <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra II <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain: _____)</p>
<b>English:</b>	<b>4 years</b>	<p>In each year the content of the course should have an emphasis upon the development of written and oral communication skills and literature.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 9<sup>th</sup> Grade <input type="checkbox"/> 10<sup>th</sup> Grade <input type="checkbox"/> 11<sup>th</sup> Grade <input type="checkbox"/> 12<sup>th</sup> Grade</p>
<b>Lab Sciences:</b>	<b>2 years</b>	<p>One year must be earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics; the other year can be one of those sciences or another approved college preparatory laboratory science.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Earth Science <input type="checkbox"/> Biology <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> Physics <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain: _____)</p>
<b>Social Studies:</b>	<b>3 years</b>	<p>The courses <b>must</b> include Global Studies (such as World History or World Geography); American History; and Government, Economics, Indian History, or other third-year courses. Students must complete a full year of Global Studies such as World History or World Geography, a full year of American History, and an additional year in another social studies field such as economics, psychology, sociology, tribal government, or Indian history.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Global Studies <input type="checkbox"/> American History <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain: _____)</p>
<b>Electives:</b>	<b>2 years</b>	<p>World language (2 years preferred), computer science, visual and performing arts, or vocational education units which meet the Office of Public Instruction guidelines. (Such as Information Technology or Computer Science.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Year 1 (Explain: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Year 2 (Explain: _____)</p>
<b>Counselor Signature</b>	<b>Printed Name</b>	<b>Date</b>