REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

MONTANA COUNSELOR UPDATE

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES SHARE ANNUAL UPDATES

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMISSIONS | FINANCIAL AID | SCHOLARSHIPS | NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS | WHAT'S NEW ON CAMPUS

HELPING KEEP MONTANA EDUCATION CONNECTED

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

MONTANA COUNSELOR UPDATE

10:00AM - 3:30PM

**The Counselor Update is provided free to you by MPSEOC and Sponsors. Thank you to all who make this event possible!*

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

EVENT AGENDA & INFORMATION

Thank you for registering for the Montana Counselor Update on
Thursday, October 29, 2026.

Location of Counselor Update | IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION

Agenda |

10:00 a.m. Check-in & Welcome (*Coffee, juice, and rolls are provided.*)
10:10 a.m. Welcome from MPSEOC | Montana Colleges
10:15 a.m. MONTANA CAMPUS UPDATES
11:00 a.m. Break (*The exact Break time will be flexible due to the presenting layout.*)
11:15 a.m. MONTANA CAMPUS UPDATES & STATEWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS
12:00 p.m. Break, Lunch, & NEW! LIve In-Person Discussion Topics (*Lunch provided.*)
1:00 p.m. MONTANA CAMPUS UPDATES & STATEWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS
2:00 p.m. Break (*The exact Break time will be flexible due to the presenting layout.*)
2:15 p.m. MONTANA CAMPUS UPDATES & STATEWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS
3:00 p.m. Questions, Wrap Up, & Evaluations
**Times and events are subject to possible variations.*

Montana Important Announcements & Discussion Included:

- **Financial Aid / FAFSA / MASFAA**
- **MPSEOC | Montana Colleges**
- **GEAR UP | College Application Weeks / ARC**
- **Montana University System**
- **Office of Public Instruction**
- **American Indian College Fund**
- **Big Future / College Board**
- **Montana School Counselor Association**
- **PNACAC**
- **General Updates | Counselor Announcements**

- **SAFETY** | Please refer to www.MontanaColleges.com/update for more information about the safety requirements for the site you are attending. Thank you for helping keep everyone safe.
- **Driving and Parking Instructions** | Please refer to www.MontanaColleges.com/update for more information about the site location you will be attending. Thank you!
- **Questions** | MPSEOC Office | Amy Leary, Executive Director | P.O. Box 7548 Missoula, MT 59807 | Office phone: (406) 531-3531 | Amy.Leary@MontanaColleges.com

We look forward to seeing you at the MPSEOC Counselor Update!

COUNSELOR UPDATE | PRESENTER FAQ'S

What's New this year?

- **Expanded Thank You's to Our Montana Counselors is new this year.**
- **Share Swag or Handouts:** You are welcome to bring campus swag, thank-you items, or informational handouts to share. Attendance typically ranges from 20–50 counselors per site.

What are important presentation tips & reminders?

- **Time Limit:** Each presentation is limited to no more than 5 minutes.
- **Presentation Topics:** Focus on new or updated information rather than reading directly from the printed handout. See TOP 5 | PRESENTATION MODEL & TIPS" page in this packet for more details.
- **Presentation Order:** This year presentations will follow a reverse - alphabetical order by campus with statewide announcements mixed throughout the day. We ask all campus presenters to please plan to attend the entire day to engage with counselors and answer questions even if you have finished your presentation, as a big part of this day is networking and spending time with your area counselors.
- **Presentation Format :** "Top 5 Updates" – This recommendation is based on counselor feedback. They have asked for a clear outline of your presentation with a "Top 5 Updates" model to make presentations more engaging and efficient.
  - Clearly outline your five key points (1–5) during your presentation.
  - Include major scholarship and financial aid deadlines in your presentation.
  - Counselors will have a note sheet to follow along.
- **Final Notes:** Review the "*TOP 5 | PRESENTATION MODEL & TIPS*" page in this packet for more details. Highlight new developments, include scholarship deadlines, and enjoy connecting with Montana counselors.

How will the "Live" round table discussions & luncheon go?

- **When:** This off-screen discussion will have at each site during the lunch time.
- **Participation & Facilitation:** We invite all representatives to join this open lunchtime discussion. Site hosts, MPSEOC members, and all presenters are asked to help lead these on-site discussions and collect feedback and surveys.
- **Topics include:**
  - MSCA Survey & Discussion: MSCA will facilitate a counselor needs survey, followed by an open discussion on how we can better support counselors and students statewide.
  - Financial Aid/FAFSA: Introduce your local financial aid representative, if present, and discuss financial aid, FAFSA, and scholarship questions.
  - Local Topics: Share local issues or trends relevant to your region.
  - Swag & Handouts: During lunchtime, please share any swag, thank you's, handouts, etc.
- **Final Notes:** Review the "*Counselor Live Discussion & Questions*" page in this packet for more details.

How does the "Live" counselor questions during the event work?

- **What to Bring:** Bring a laptop, tablet, or phone to access the live online chat where counselors will post questions.
- **Important Reminder:** Please ensure you or someone from your campus monitors the chat throughout the day to respond promptly. Counselors greatly value this engagement.
- **Details:** Instructions and login details for the live chat will be shared the morning of the event (see attached file for tips).
- **Final Notes:** Review the "*Counselor Live Discussion & Questions*" page in this packet for more details.

Do you have more questions or need help?

- Please reach out, and we are happy to help! Amy.Leary@MontanaColleges.com | 406-531-3531

We look forward to seeing you at the Montana Counselor Update!

TOP 5 | PRESENTATION MODEL & TIPS

After reviewing much feedback on how we can create a more efficient, engaging way to share updates, we have decided to try an updated way of sharing presentations. Instead of reading your handout or trying to mention everything on your campus, counselors have shared that they would appreciate a more outlined approach in your presentation. Therefore, this year we are asking everyone to share their "TOP 5" points about your campus. They can be any five categories you feel most important. However, we would like you to clearly outline the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, points in your presentation. We will also complement this model by having a "TOP 5" outline for counselors to fill in within their printed packet. This will allow counselors to take down notes of your "TOP 5" points while you are talking (in addition to your printed campus page.) As you create your "TOP 5" list of updates, please keep in mind that there have been many special requests by counselors across the state to make sure you include your major scholarship and financial aid deadlines in this presentation and/or on your sheet of information.

EXAMPLE "TOP 5" POINTS TO SHARE AT THE UPDATE

Example topics Listed below. Feel free to use your own top five points.

- **POINT # 1. THE CAMPUS**
- Your Name? Who are you? What kind of campus (2 year, 4 year, public, private, etc.)? Where is your campus located? With whom/what is your campus affiliated?

- **POINT # 2. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**
- What academic programs are new to your campus? What academic programs make your institution unique? In other words, what programs should students and counselors recognize when they think of your campus? Why are they unique and what benefits do they have to offer students?

- **POINT # 3. IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW**
- What information should counselors and students know about your academic programs (waiting lists, deadlines, special scholarships, advising and other services)?

- **POINT # 4. STUDENT LIFE/COMMUNITY**
- What about student life on your campus… student activities, housing, athletics, international experiences or internships? Anything they should know about the town/city where you are located?

- **POINT # 5: DATES TO REMEMBER (PLEASE INCLUDE MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES!)**
- What are important dates to keep in mind (application or scholarship deadlines, financial aid, campus visit programs)?

Remember, all of this information should be brief enough to cover in just 4-5 minutes. If you still have time to spare, feel free to add any other information you would like.

We look forward to seeing you at the MPSEOC Counselor Update!

COUNSELOR LIVE DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS

THIS YEAR'S COUNSELOR UPDATE WILL HOST AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU & COUNSELORS TO INTERACT DURING THE UPDATE.

IN ORDER FOR THIS TO WORK, WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ANSWER THE LIVE COUNSELOR QUESTIONS!

- **NEW! LIVE DISCUSSION & LUNCHEON**
- **What to prepare?** We would love for each representative to join in this new on-site open discussion over the lunch hour. Topics will include:
  - **Financial Aid / FAFSA Questions:** We would ask you to help introduce your local Financial Aid representative if your site has one with you. We will spend this time discussing any financial aid/FAFSA questions.
  - **Survey & Open Discussion - What do counselors need?** We will have a brief survey on how we can continue to help counselors and students in our state even more. If you would help pass these survey's out, and then open this discussion for any sharing that would be great. We will have the Site Host report back with feedback shared and also collect all surveys back.
  - **Local Topics & Trends:** You are also welcome to bring up local topics pertinent to your area too.
  - **Handouts:** You are welcome to bring any campus, swag, or local handouts you would like to share. Sites vary by size, but they usually have between 25-50 attendees typically.

- **WHY ARE WE OFFERING LIVE CHAT?** For those of you who have participated in this event in the past, you know that questions have always be a difficult process due to having nine separate sites across the state. Therefore, questions have always been missed. Therefore, this year in the virtual zoom session, we are offering this online / live chat tool to try and allow for more interaction at the event, but also, for counselors to leave with even more of their questions answered. In order for this to work, we will need your help! Thank you for your team efforts to help counselors even more through live chat.

- **HOW WILL IT WORK?** We will be sharing this LIVE Zoom Chat function during the update. It will be a simple process of joining the zoom session link that we share on the www.MontanaColleges.com/update page, and then just keeping an eye out for questions posted in the Zoom chat by the attending high school counselors. In this chat, high school counselors will be able to submit their questions to the college they have a question for, and then you can immediately respond. We will be sending all unanswered questions out following the Update, so we can get these questions answered.

- **WHAT WILL YOU NEED TO PARTICIPATE?** In order to participate, you will need your own computer - laptop, ipad, phone, etc. to be able to connect to the online Zoom group.

- **WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AS YOUR CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE?** We realize that you will not be able to catch all the questions that your campus is asked in the moment. However, we would ask you to check the questions posted after your presentation and try and respond. If you do not know the answer, you can reply that you will get back with more details after the update. This is a very new virtual model, so please share your feedback on the the evaluation at the Counselor Update. We want to try and help keep offering expanded options for sharing at these events, and appreciate your team efforts! Many thanks!

***Remember, please keep your answers concise and to the point. Thank you for your team efforts to try and make this a successful resource for you and counselors!**

We look forward to seeing you at the Montana Counselor Update!