

Two Year and Community College Education Committee

FY 2025 Work Plan

ONGOING CHARGE

- Develop collaborative programs with the healthcare community in Montana to assist with workforce needs in the healthcare professions;
- Develop collaborative efforts with the education community in Montana to ensure that the State has a qualified teacher corps;
- Create similar collaborative efforts with employers, employer organizations and employee organizations statewide to provide a well-trained work force within Montana;
- Work with the two-year college community to develop policies and programs that satisfy the State's workforce needs and to increase enrollments at those institutions;
- Assume responsibility for other tasks, as assigned by the Board or the Chair.

WORK PLAN *(priority areas targeted for FY25)*

1. Innovation in flexible career training

- Expand “Montana’s Future at Work” dual enrollment certification pathways.
- Expand and evaluate the Year to Career initiative, which is launching affordable credentials (1 year or less) that both align with a good-paying occupation and are stackable to a longer degree.
- Pilot data gathering and technology deployment to assist students, employers, and policymakers in understanding the skills imparted through training and better evaluate the impact of short-term (often noncredit) training experiences.
- Revise BOR credit for prior learning policy and pilot approaches for system credit for prior learning equivalencies.

2. Expand accelerated and industry supported training opportunities

- Evaluate expanded Sprint Degree pathways and develop plans for ongoing marketing, increased industry participation and addition of further programs.

3. Enhance prison and pre-release education

- Partner with the Department of Corrections to intentionally expand access to both prison education programs (for-credit degree programs supported through Pell grants) and appropriate short-term training.
- Collaborate to enhance communication and continuity of service for students moving from prison to pre-release to reintegration.

4. Improve Students’ Transfer Experience

- Maintain and monitor the MUS common course numbering system.
- Benchmark and assess institutions’ transfer services, particularly in enrollment and advising.