

Diversity

& Inclusion

at Montana State University

Diversity is vitally important at MSU.

Excellence at Montana State University is best achieved through a culture of intellectual and personal growth that is diverse and inclusive.

Montana State University is located on the original homelands of Native peoples, and acknowledging this rich history is central to our commitment to learning from the past. We prioritize efforts that support diverse working, teaching, learning, and research environments and opportunities for people in our community.

We create an environment that welcomes, respects, and nurtures all students, staff, and faculty. We cultivate this inclusive environment by respecting and celebrating the diverse dimensions of people's identities, particularly as those identities intersect in complex ways. We promote a culture of individual growth for all, attuned to the importance of differences in age, race, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic status, sex, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability status, religion, and spirituality.

Office of Institutional Equity (OIE)

Montana State University is dedicated to ensuring an environment of non-discrimination and equal opportunity in its education programs and employment opportunities in compliance with state and federal laws. The Office of Institutional Equity supports the University's goals by responding to concerns of protected-class discrimination and harassment. OIE leads investigations into reports of discrimination, harassment, and sexual violence by promptly organizing an impartial and administrative review and, if necessary, recommends equitable resolutions to reports. OIE strives to promote an inclusive, diverse, and supportive environment for members of the campus community regardless of their race, color, national origin (ancestry), sex, sexual preference/orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital or parental status, age, creed, religion or political beliefs, mental or physical disability, genetic information, or status as a veteran.

Safe Zone Program

The Safe Zone Program, a joint effort between the DISC and Counseling and Psychological Services, works to deliver educational trainings and increase the awareness of LGBTQ+ identity and allyship. We believe that promoting a more accepting and inclusive campus environment is beneficial to the growth and development of the MSU Community as a whole. The Safe Zone symbol identifies MSU members who are trained at addressing issues that impact LGBTQ+ individuals, connect them to additional resources when needed, and support the diversity that LGBTQ+ people add to the campus community.

Diversity & Inclusion Student Commons (DISC)

The DISC empowers students to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally by celebrating unique identities/perspectives and promoting opportunities for constructive dialogue. We aim to cultivate a campus culture where everyone can thrive, contribute, and feel a sense of belonging that assists students in reaching their full potential and achieving success.

The DISC provides educational programs, workshops, seminars, and events to foster meaningful conversations and promote personal and community growth. We also understand that students may face challenges during their academic journey, which is why the DISC offers individual advising and mentoring opportunities to help each student find a solution that meets their specific needs.

Diversity & Inclusion Ambassadors (DIAs)

Diversity and Inclusion Ambassadors (DIAs) are a special group of students from different backgrounds who possess unique social identities. DIAs are individuals who learn to collaborate with their peers and strive to understand and appreciate diverse perspectives. As part of their role, DIAs volunteer with the DISC to ensure that it remains a welcoming environment for everyone. They help with tabling and other activities that promote inclusivity and diversity on our campus.

Veteran Support Center

The Travis W. Atkins Veteran Support Center welcomes all veterans of the U.S. Military, eligible dependents, and members of the Selected Reserve who receive Department of Veteran Affairs education benefits.

In addition to certifying eligible recipients for veteran education benefits, the Veteran Support Center staff will help you select the right program for your situation and ensure you understand your rights and responsibilities under VA regulations.

At the Veteran Support Center, we understand that student veterans have different life experiences than our traditional students coming out of high school, which is why we have many programs and resources to help you navigate the system and succeed on campus. We will partner with you every day to help create your signature experience here at MSU.

Women's Center

The Women's Center works to create an equitable environment through educational programs and support services. The Center is open to students, staff, faculty, and community members of all genders. We encourage student engagement, expression, community involvement, and critical thinking. Exchanging ideas enhances the classroom experience and stimulates dialogue surrounding gender constructs, identity, and equality. We invite students to stop by, relax, and explore their concerns, issues, and options through information and conversation.

American Indian/Alaska Native Student Success Services (AIANSSS)

AIANSSS offers advocacy and support for the approximately 800 American Indian/Alaskan Native students at MSU. Services they provide include mental wellness support and referrals, phone for emergency/personal use, computer/printing/copying/fax access, emergency loans, tutoring, and limited academic advising. Students are welcome to use the Dan Voyich Student Commons - Support Center. AIANSSS also helps students network with various American Indian student organizations and connect to other campus resources, community, and supporters.

Registered Student Organizations

Montana State University has a variety of student organizations that create community and celebrate diversity.

- African Student Association (ASA)
- American Indian Council (AIC)
- Asian Student Interracial Association (ASIA)
- Black Student Union (BSU)
- Fuerza Latinx
- International Student Organization (ISO)
- Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (oSTEM)
- Queer Straight Alliance (QSA)

You can view a full list of our student organizations at the URL montana.edu/engagement/organizations/index.html

LGBTQ+ Resource Directory

The MSU LGBTQ+ Resource Directory provides a list of education, advocacy, and support resources for students identifying as LGBTQ+ or allies seeking information and resources.

Gender Inclusive Housing

Learning is enhanced when topics are examined from diverse perspectives. Since individuals possess unique outlooks that reflect the world around us, Montana State University is dedicated to creating an inclusive community that embraces a rich mix in the composition of its student body, staff, and faculty.

University Student Housing is committed to making the residence halls a welcoming place where each person has an equitable place within the community.

Contact Information

Office of Institutional Equity (OIE)

montana.edu/equity | phone: 406-994-2042
email: oie@montana.edu

Veteran Services

montana.edu/veteran | phone: 406-994-3661
email: vets@montana.edu

MSU Women's Center

montana.edu/women | phone: 406-994-3836
email: danforth@montana.edu

American Indian/Alaska Native Student Success Services (AIANSSS)

montana.edu/aiansss | phone: 406-994-4880
email: lisa.perry2@montana.edu

Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI)

montana.edu/diversity | phone: 406-994-1040

Diversity & Inclusion Student Commons (DISC)

Diversity & Inclusion Ambassadors (DIAs)

montana.edu/studentdiversity | phone: 406-994-5801
email: diversity@montana.edu

MSU Safe Zone

montana.edu/safezone | email: diversity@montana.edu

LGBTQ+ Resource Directory

montana.edu/lgbtq | email: diversity@montana.edu