

Montana State Profile

March 1, 2019

State profiles for the data visualization and 50-State Comparison on postsecondary governance structures summarize information about coordinating boards/agencies and governing boards, administrative/service agencies, advisory groups and membership organizations. The most in-depth information is provided for statewide and major postsecondary systemwide coordinating boards/agencies and governing boards.

Note: This resource does not include information related to setting tuition rates, administering funding formulas or allocating funds. The state profile information is based primarily on statutes, codes and state and postsecondary system board/agency policies. To the extent possible, Education Commission of the States reached out to state and system officials to verify our information.

State Overview

The Montana Board of Regents for Higher Education serves as the governing board for four- and two-year institutions within the system and as a coordinating board for community colleges. The board appoints the commissioner of higher education. The board's system office administers state and federal programs, conducts policy research, collects and analyzes data, administers student financial aid programs and provides other services to the institutions. While Montana's universities do not have local governing boards, the community colleges are governed by boards.

Data Point	Description
Single Statewide Coordinating or Governing Board/Agency	
Single Statewide Coordinating Board (or Agency) or Governing Board for All Public Higher Education	Yes
Statewide and Major Systemwide Coordinating Boards (or Agency) or Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Montana Board of Regents for Higher Education (Governing)
Entity Function	Governing and coordinating
Scope of Authority	Statewide



Data Point	Description
Legal Authority	Constitutional
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year and public two-year
Type of Institutions Notes	The Montana Board of Regents serves a governing board for four-and two-year institutions within the system and a coordinating board for the community colleges, which are locally governed.
Primary Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders - Approve or Administer bonds - Approve presidential hiring and/or compensation - Approve institutional missions - Approve of or award degrees and credentials - Develop and/or Administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer) - Develop master/strategic plans for state or system - Develop and/or oversee accountability or performance measures - Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning - Ensure system/institutional efficiencies - Ensure academic program and/or institutional quality - Govern systems and/or institutions - Oversee residency requirements for tuition purposes - Promote or advocate for institutions - Recommend or approve establishing, merging or closing institutions - Review or approve facility/capital construction plans - Set faculty and personnel policies
Budget Role for Institutions	Approve and recommend
New Academic Program Role	Review and approve
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Governing board



Data Point	Description
Number of Board Members (Voting and Non-voting)	10
Number of Board Members Appointed, Serve Based on Role or Selected	10
Number of Board Members Elected through General Election	0
Board Member Composition and Selection	10 members with 6 appointed by governor and confirmed by Senate; 1 member is a student appointed by governor and not subject to Senate confirmation. Governor, superintendent of public instruction and commissioner of higher education serve as non-voting ex-officio members.
Do Institutions Governed (or Coordinated) by a Postsecondary System Board have Individual Governing Boards?	No
Type of Institutions with Individual Governing Boards	Not applicable
Type of Institutions without Individual Governing Boards	Public four-year
Website	http://mus.edu/board/default.asp
Citations	Mont. Const. Article X § 9 Mont. Code Ann. § 25 Montana Board of Regents Policies and Procedures Manual
Statewide and Major Systemwide Coordinating Boards (or Agency) or Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Montana Board of Regents for Higher Education (Coordinating)



Data Point	Description
Entity Function	Governing and coordinating
Scope of Authority	Statewide
Legal Authority	Constitutional
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public two-year
Type of Institutions Notes	The Montana Board of Regents serves a governing board for four-and two-year institutions within the system and a coordinating board for the community colleges, which are locally governed.
Primary Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders - Approve of or award degrees and credentials - Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer) - Develop master/strategic plans for state or system - Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning - Promote or advocate for institutions - Recommend or approve establishing, merging or closing institutions
Budget Role for Institutions	Approve and recommend
New Academic Program Role	Review and approve
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Governing board
Number of Board Members (Voting and Non-voting)	10



Data Point	Description
Number of Board Members Appointed, Serve Based on Role or Selected	10
Number of Board Members Elected through General Election	0
Board Member Composition and Selection	10 members with 6 appointed by governor and confirmed by Senate; 1 member is a student appointed by governor and not subject to Senate confirmation. Governor, superintendent of public instruction and commissioner of higher education serve as non-voting ex-officio members.
Do Institutions Governed (or Coordinated) by a Postsecondary System Board have Individual Governing Boards?	Yes
Type of Institutions with Individual Governing Boards	Public two-year
Type of Institutions without Individual Governing Boards	Not applicable
Website	http://mus.edu/board/default.asp
Citations	Mont. Const. Article X § 9 Mont. Code Ann. § 25 Montana Board of Regents Policies and Procedures Manual
Agencies and System Offices Affiliated with Coordinating and Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
Entity Function	Administrative/service



Data Point	Description
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year and public two-year
Website	https://mus.edu/board/
Administrative and Advisory Entities	
Entity Name	Not applicable
Other Postsecondary System and Multi-Campus Institutional Boards	
Entity Name	Not applicable
Membership Organizations	
Entity Name	Not applicable