

Postsecondary Credits Counted Towards the Future Ready Payment

Updated December 1, 2025

MCA 20-9-306, as amended by HB 252 in the 2025 legislative session, charges the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to provide “an annually updated list of the criteria of courses of study, including any completion or examination requirements, that a high school student may take that result in eligibility for transcribed credit at any unit of the Montana university system.” These criteria will determine college-level credit opportunities which may contribute towards the “Future Ready payment”.

Under board of regents’ policy, the following categories of college-level training and/or examination result in transcribed credit and may contribute towards the Future Ready payment.

1. College-level courses from certain accredited postsecondary institutions.

College level courses earned from institutions of higher education accredited by one of the following accrediting agencies may count towards the future ready payment:

- Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)
- Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSCHE)
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NECHE)
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
- WASC Senior College and University Commission

The following Montana postsecondary institutions currently meet the required accreditation standards:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Montana State University – Bozeman | • Helena College |
| • Gallatin College MSU | • Dawson Community College |
| • Montana State University – Billings | • Miles Community College |
| • City College MSU-Billings | • Flathead Valley Community College |
| • Montana State University – Northern | • Aaniiih Nakoda College |
| • Great Falls College MSU | • Blackfeet Community College |
| • University of Montana – Missoula | • Chief Dullknife College |
| • Missoula College UM | • Fort Peck Community College |
| • Bitterroot College UM | • Little Big Horn College |
| • Montana Technological University | • Salish Kootenai College |
| • Highlands College Montana Tech | • Stone Child College |
| • University of Montana – Western | • Carroll College |
| | • Rocky Mountain College |
| | • University of Providence |

For a course to count towards the Future Ready payment:

- The student must achieve a grade of C- or better or a “pass” if the course is graded on a pass/fail. A grade of C- or better is required for the course to meet general education or program requirements in the Montana University System.
- The course may not be remedial or developmental in nature. For Montana University System institutions, remedial courses are listed below the 100-level (e.g. M 095).

Montana University System Institutions offer semester credits. Should a student earn college credit in quarter-hour increments, the credit value should be divided by 1.5 to yield the semester credit equivalent for calculation of the Future Ready payment.

A student need not go on to matriculate to a college following high school graduation for coursework to count towards the Future Ready payment.

2. AP or IB courses with appropriate examination results

Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses may count towards Future Ready payments if students earn certain AP or IB examination results. AP and IB scores are equated to Future Ready credit levels by subject area and exam score in appendix A (AP) and appendix B (IB).

These matrices report college credits commonly awarded by Montana University System institutions to students with these examination results. *Individual institutions may award more or less college credit.* The Montana University System is currently working to further align credit award for AP and IB courses.

APPENDIX A: AP EXAMINATION TO FUTURE READY CREDIT EQUIVALENCY

Updated December 1st, 2025

	AP EXAM SCORE & EQUIVALENT FUTURE READY CREDIT		
	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5
2D art	3	3	3
3D Art and Design	3	3	3
African American Studies	3	3	3
Art History	3	3	3
Biology	4	4	4
Calculus AB	4	4	4
Calculus BC	4	4	8
Chemistry	3	3	3
Chinese Language & Culture	6	12	15
Comparative Politics	3	3	3
Computer Science	3	3	3
Computer Science Principles	3	3	3
Drawing	3	3	3
English Language Comp	3	3	3
English Literature & Comp	3	3	3
Environmental Science	3	3	3
European History	3	3	3
French Language	6	9	12
German Language	6	9	12
Human Geography	3	3	3
Italian Language	6	9	12
Japanese	6	9	12
Latin	3	3	3
Macroeconomics	3	3	3
Microeconomics	3	3	3
Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism	3	3	3
Physics C: Mechanics	3	3	3
Physics 1	4	4	4
Physics 2	3	3	3
Precalculus	3	3	3
Psychology	3	3	3
Spanish Language	6	9	12
Statistics	3	3	3
US Government and Politics	3	3	3
US History	6	6	6
World History	3	3	3

This table reports college credits commonly awarded by Montana University System institutions to students with these examination results. *Individual institutions may award more or less college credit.* The Montana University System is currently working to further align credit award for AP and IB courses.

APPENDIC B: IB EXAMINATION TO FUTURE-READY CREDIT EQUIVALENCY

Updated December 1st, 2025

	IB EXAM SCORE & EQUIVALENT FUTURE READY CREDIT			
	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7
Biology HL	4	4	4	4
Biology SL	3	3	3	3
Business & Management HL	3	3	3	3
Business & Management SL	0	3	3	3
Chemistry HL	3	3	3	3
Chemistry SL	0	3	3	3
Computer Science HL	3	3	3	3
Dance HL	3	3	3	3
Design Technology HL	3	3	3	3
Economics HL	6	6	6	6
Economics SL	0	0	0	0
Environmental Systems & Societies SL	3	3	3	3
Extended Essay EE	3 credits for either an A or B			
Film HL	2	2	2	2
Further Mathematics HL	3	3	3	3
Geography HL	3	3	3	3
Geography SL	0	0	0	0
Global Politics HL	3	3	3	3
Global Politics SL	3	3	3	3
History: Africa and Middle East HL	3	3	3	3
History: Americas HL	3	3	3	3
History: Asia & Oceania HL	3	3	3	3
History: Europe HL	3	3	3	3
History: Islamic HL	3	3	3	3
History: World HL	3	3	3	3
Language A: English Language & Literature HL	6	6	6	6
Language A: English Literature HL	6	6	6	6
Language A: French Language & Literature HL	12	12	12	12
Language A: German Language & Literature HL	12	12	12	12
Language A: Japanese Language & Literature HL	12	12	12	12
Language A: Spanish Language & Literature HL	12	12	12	12
Language B: French HL	9	9	12	12

Language B: French SL	3	3	6	6
Language B: German HL	9	9	12	12
Language B: German SL	3	3	6	6
Language B: Japanese HL	9	9	12	12
Language B: Japanese SL	3	3	6	6
Language B: Latin HL	9	9	12	12
Language B: Latin SL	3	3	6	6
Language B: Spanish HL	9	9	12	12
Language B: Spanish SL	3	3	6	6
Mathematical Studies SL	0	3	3	3
Mathematics SL	4	4	4	4
Mathematics HL	4	4	4	4
Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches SL	0	0	0	0
Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches HL	3	3	3	3
Mathematics: Applications & Interpretation SL	0	0	0	0
Mathematics: Applications & Interpretation HL	6	6	6	6
Music HL	3	3	3	3
Music SL	0	0	0	0
Philosophy HL	6	6	6	6
Philosophy SL	3	3	3	3
Physics HL	8	8	8	8
Psychology HL	3	3	3	3
Psychology SL	0	0	0	0
Social & Cultural Anthropology HL	3	3	3	3
Sports, Exercise & Health Science SL	3	3	3	3
Theatre Arts HL	3	3	3	3
Theory of Knowledge	0	0	0	0
Visual Arts HL	3	3	3	3

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