



August 1, 2022

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FOREGIVENESS PROGRAM

As an employee of the Montana University System (MUS), you may qualify for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. PSLF is a federal program that forgives the remaining balance on direct loans after 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while an individual is working full-time for a qualifying employer. The MUS is a qualifying PSLF employer.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Education announced a time-limited waiver to allow borrowers to receive credit for past periods of repayment that would otherwise not qualify for loan forgiveness. Under the temporary waiver, any prior period of repayment counts as a qualifying payment, regardless of loan program, repayment plan, or whether the payment was made in full or on time, provided the employment requirements are satisfied.

Many in the MUS may have applied for PSLF and had their application rejected because they did not meet the PSLF criteria. The MUS encourages employees who may be eligible for relief under the program to apply or reapply, even if an application was previously submitted and rejected by the U.S. Department of Education.

The waiver is only available for a limited time. The deadline to submit the PSLF Application for the waiver is **October 31, 2022**. Individual employees are responsible for submitting all necessary forms to the U.S. Department of Education. Requests for employment certification should be directed to campus human resources.

To provide additional clarity for eligibility and to assist a broader range of employees, the MUS will consider a teaching load of 9 credits or more per semester to be “full-time” employment for the purpose of PSLF. This interpretation aligns with the U.S. Department of Education’s recent proposal to overhaul the PSLF Program. The MUS’s interpretation of full-time employment is only applicable to PSLF through the waiver period or until the U.S. Department of Education adopts the revised definition of “full-time” employment as proposed, whichever occurs earlier. This definition only applies to the PSLF Program. It does not apply to benefit eligibility determinations in the MUS or for purposes of the Affordable Care Act or to faculty workload analysis or assignments.

More information, including a handy [Help Tool](#) to determine eligibility and FAQs about the PSLF program, is available [here](#).

URC OFFICE UPDATES

A little moving around has happened this summer in the University Relations Center. An updated office list appears below:

104 Vacant, Director of Alumni Engagement
105 Amanda Badovinac, Executive Director Marketing & Communications
109 Career Services
Sarah Raymond, Director
Sierra Hancock, Student Success & Internship Coordinator
Vacant, Career Fair & On-campus Interview Coordinator
111 Lou Mason, Photographer/Videographer
112 Deanna Johnson, CFO, Montana Tech Foundation
113 Kylee Hamaker, Accountant, Montana Tech Foundation
114 Megan Strickland, Marketing & Communications Specialist
116 Shannon Sampson, Stewardship & Data Development Coordinator, Montana Tech Foundation
117 Shannon Panisko, Director of Annual Giving & Departmental Engagement, Montana Tech Foundation
125 Jaime Heppler, CEO, Montana Tech Foundation
203 Tommy Heppler, Associate Director of Athletic Development
204 Eddie Pantoja, Web Developer
205 Lisa Hibnes, Graphic Artist Manager

MG 102 PLOTTER CHARGES FOR FY23

Beginning July 1, 2022, the new poster printing charges will be as below. This is necessary to cover costs and does not result in a profit.

36x48 color = \$25
24x36 color = \$20
22x28 color = \$15
36x54 color = \$30
36x60 color = \$35
36x72 color = \$45
36x84 color = \$55

BEWARE OF TEXT MESSAGE PHISHING ATTACKS

We continue to see an increase in text message phishing attacks, known as "smishing" (because of the SMS format text messages rely on). Just like with email-based phishing, you should be suspicious if you receive a text message with any of the following characteristics:

- From an unknown phone number or address
- Tells you that you've won something
- Urgently requests you to do something
- Contains a link
- Asks you to reply with personal information or credentials
- Uses a generic salutation like "Hello there!" or "Sir/madam"

If you do suspect a smish, don't respond or click any links, delete the message from your phone, and block the sender. Be secure out there!

ATTENTION ALL ZOOM USERS

Zoom is ending the support for Chrome OS App. Users of this app, please switch to Zoom Progressive Web Application (PWA). Also, please update to the latest version of Zoom at <https://zoom.us/download>. Old end-of-life versions will soon not work. Please email Kathy Stevens at kstevens@mtech.edu if you have any questions.

SURF POSTER SYMPOSIUM

You are invited to attend the SURF 2022 Poster Symposium on **Thursday, August 11** from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Student Success Center Lobby.

TURNITIN TRAINING SESSION

Montana Technological University subscribes to Turnitin, text-matching identification software that can help instructors detect the presence of plagiarism in student papers. This powerful tool also simplifies remote assignment submission and has built-in electronic grading functions that significantly speed up the marking process. The next Turnitin training session is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 17** from 3:30 until 5:00 in Engineering Hall room 106. Please consider attending this session if you have never used Turnitin, want to know more about Turnitin's grading functions, or would like a Turnitin refresher.