



# What Can Earning an MSUB Master's Degree Do For You?

Have you ever thought about going back to college to earn a master's degree? Have you ever wondered about whether or not it would be worth the time, effort, and cost to earn an advanced degree?

- According to the Washington Post, there has been a nationwide surge in the demand for master's degrees from young working professionals who are looking to increase their skills and earn higher salaries.
- Federal data show that from 2000-2012 the annual production of master's degrees jumped 63%.
- The complex knowledge needed in today's economy is creating the need for advanced education.

## Bachelor's vs. Master's:

- According to the Bureau of Labor, the unemployment rate averages 2.6% for those with a master's degree or higher, while it averages 4.0% for those with a bachelor's degree.
- In many fields average starting salaries may fluctuate by more than 20% higher for a worker with a master's degree than a bachelors.

## Montana Outlook:

- Overall, Montana's workforce will need to become more educated to fill future jobs. Workers with a higher level of education will be in demand.
- In general, workers with high education and skill levels were more likely to retain their jobs during a recession than workers with lower skill levels.
- The best choice for workers trying to improve their wages and employability is to obtain higher education and improve their work skills through training.



## Flexible Delivery, Engagement of Faculty, & Internships

The majority of programs at MSUB offer online or evening courses to provide flexible course delivery for working professionals.

- Over 93% of programs offer courses online or in the evening.

A student to faculty ratio of 17:1 allows active engagement of faculty with graduate students. Many programs have even lower student to faculty ratios.

- Faculty are actively involved in advising, mentoring, and overseeing student research projects.

MSUB's location in Montana's largest city provides extensive internship opportunities for students.

- According to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Billings is the largest city in a 500 mile radius and serves as a commercial and transportation hub for the state, as well as a major center for education and medical services. Billings benefits from having a diversified economy, where oil and gas, health care, livestock, and banking play significant roles. The city boasts three colleges (MSU Billings, City College at MSU Billings), two major hospitals, two oil refineries, and an international airport.



## Affordable Tuition

Graduate Studies at Montana State University Billings strives to provide high-quality education at affordable rates.

- For current tuition and fees please visit:  
<http://www.msubillings.edu/boffice/students.htm>
- Financial aid is awarded to over 60% of MSUB students in the form of grants, scholarships, tuition waivers, work-study, and loans.
- Over \$1.4 million in scholarships were awarded to graduate and undergraduate students during the 2014-2015 school year.
- During the 2014-2015 school year, there were 24 graduate assistantships.
- 5 programs at MSUB have been approved, by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), to offer reduced tuition rates for residents from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. To find out more please visit:  
[http://www.msubillings.edu/grad/WICHE\\_Info.htm](http://www.msubillings.edu/grad/WICHE_Info.htm)



# High Success Rate of Students

| MSUB Graduate Data<br>Master's Degree Graduates |                |                   |                 |            |                                    |
|---|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| Master's Degrees                                | Total Response | Employed in Field | ***Total Placed |            | ****Average FT Salary Degree Field |
|   | #              | #                 | #               | %          |                                    |
| Athletic Training                               | 27             | 23                | 27              | 100%       | \$32,942                           |
| Curriculum & Instruction                        | 9              | 8                 | 9               | 100%       | \$35,800                           |
| Online Instructional Tech                       | 10             | 7                 | 10              | 100%       | \$52,625                           |
| Health Administration                           | 26             | 19                | 25              | 93%        | \$68,728                           |
| Interdisciplinary Studies                       | 53             | 35                | 50              | 94%        | \$39,773                           |
| Public Administration                           | 6              | 2                 | 5               | 83%        | \$38,695*                          |
| Public Relations                                | 41             | 25                | 41              | 100%       | \$44,483                           |
| Psychology                                      | 13             | 4                 | 11              | 85%        | I.D.**                             |
| Reading   | 18             | 14                | 18              | 100%       | \$34,000                           |
| Clinical Rehab & MH Counseling                  | 35             | 30                | 34              | 97%        | \$39,747                           |
| School Counseling                               | 44             | 30                | 43              | 98%        | \$34,491                           |
| Special Ed MSSED                                | 36             | 30                | 36              | 100%       | \$43,234                           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                    | <b>318</b>     | <b>227</b>        | <b>309</b>      | <b>97%</b> | <b>\$42,229</b>                    |

Data compiled by Career Services. This data is from new graduates (2011-2013) one year after their graduation.

\*data from Montana State University 2012 graduates

\*\*I.D. = Insufficient Data. The majority of psychology students surveyed were continuing their education.

\*\*\*Total Placed includes employed in or out of field, continuing education, not seeking employment, or serving in the military.

\*\*\*\*Average FT salary reported by all grads in the college employed in their major.