

ARE YOU HEARING THESE COMMENTS FROM YOUR STUDENTS?

The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) states that over 70% of college undergraduates have at least one “non-traditional student” characteristic and 50% have at least two. Chances are you have many of these students in your classes and programs and may want to learn ways to offer them additional support.

Forge: Pathways & Belonging, a new Access & Success office, was created to serve all MSU and Gallatin College students, with a special emphasis on those who have taken a less traditional path to higher education and may need additional resources and opportunities to find their footing, their community, and their purpose.



LEARN MORE & CONTACT US

Website

montana.edu/access-success/forge

Email

forge@montana.edu

Phone

406.994.2981

Student Hub

102 Strand Union Building (SUB)

Advising Offices

177 Strand Union Building (SUB)



Forge

Pathways & Belonging

Staff & Faculty Guide



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Forge:
Pathways
& Belonging



WHO IS A NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT?

NCES considers a non-traditional student to have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Age 25 or older
- Delayed enrollment after high school
- Attends part time
- Works full time
- Financially independent
- Has dependents
- Is a single parent
- Entered college with a GED rather than a traditional high school diploma

Forge: Pathways & Belonging has added the following student characteristics to NCES's list:

- First generation
- Returning and/or transferring
- From a rural Montana community
- Changing careers
- Veterans
- Has access and/or accommodation needs
- Neurodivergent
- Caregiver to to another adult, kin, or non-related children

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Contact us and meet with our staff to learn much more about Forge offerings.
- Check out - and send your students to - the student hub in 102 SUB (bottom floor, directly beneath SRO).
- Encourage your students to apply for Cat Scholarships to learn if they are eligible for one or more of the scholarships offered at Forge.
- Refer a student who may have challenges we can help them navigate.
- Partner with Forge on events and opportunities to reach more students and grow the Forge Community.

WHAT DOES FORGE OFFER STUDENTS?

Forge: Pathways & Belonging Empowers Students To Own Your Path... Grow Your Skills... Explore Your Opportunities... Reach Your Goals

On this journey, students are offered an “ala carte” menu of opportunities and resources to assist them, including:

- A knowledgeable network of MSU staff and faculty to guide students to needed campus and community services and resources.
- An inviting physical hub for students to find resources, support, community and belonging.
- One-on-one, personalized case management for any student seeking academic or social support and/or looking to explore and create pathways to professional opportunities.
- Interactive workshops, assessments, group meetings, and guest presenters on a variety of topics and resources of interest to the students.
- Opportunities for financial support through scholarships.
- The *Stay The Course* Summer Program that offers financial and other support during summer enrollment.

- Opportunities for students to apply for logistical and financial support to create student clubs or if they have other ideas to bring various student populations together.
- A peer mentoring program that will allow students to work with each other to develop academic excellence, community and belonging, and social and emotional resilience.

