

From: [Office of the MSU Provost](#)
Subject: Announcing the Inaugural "Snowmester"
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MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Dear Colleagues,

While this letter comes to you on a warm summer day during the first week of the fall semester, our thoughts are already stretching ahead to winter and to an exciting new offering for Montana State students.

For the first time in our history, MSU will offer an interim winter semester. The inaugural "Snowmester" will run between Nov. 30 through Jan 5. During that period, we plan to offer an array of online courses designed to let students take advantage of this year's extended interval between fall and spring semesters.

Planning is in the early stages. In the upcoming weeks, we will be working with deans, department heads, faculty, the Registrar's Office, key student support services and other areas to build out a collection of offerings that will be attractive to students who may be interested in pursuing this option over the extra-long winter break that we have this year.

Snowmester online courses will provide opportunities for students who may have dropped a course and want to catch up or those who simply want to get ahead during the long winter break. Many of the offerings will be core courses that are foundational for student success or crucial prerequisites. The Snowmester could also offer opportunities for undergraduate research, independent study, service learning and special topics courses fit for the winter season.

There will be a Snowmester program fee of \$250 per credit hour. This program fee will be part of students' Spring Semester bill. Tuition will be calculated as part of the Spring Semester, thus students registered for 12 or more credit hours during the conventional part of the Spring term will not incur tuition charges for Snowmester courses. A web site that is underdevelopment will contain additional information and details.

We are proud of the manner in which MSU faculty, staff and students have faced

and surmounted many challenges presented by the pandemic over the past five months. Certainly, opportunities have arisen from some of those challenges. We believe the Snowmester is one of those exciting opportunities, illustrating MSU's agility and strength in adapting to meet the needs of these times.

Best regards,



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