

Ranching Systems Degree Application Instructions

2027 Graduation Cohort

2024 Application Period: October 1st – October 15th, 2024

*The **Ranching Systems Degree at Montana State University** is a **limited enrollment program** with the goal of providing the high-quality, individually tailored educational opportunities to prepare students with the diverse array of skills in livestock production, rangeland ecology, business management and human resources needed by today's ranch managers.*

This application is open to sophomore students who have a minimum of 36 credits (including currently enrolled classes) in courses related to the Ranching Systems degree plan and have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or better. If you have questions about your eligibility to apply, please contact Rachel Frost, frost@montana.edu.

The application process is a time for examining and expressing one's commitment to the program, expectations of the experience, and career objectives. Remember, the application process is focused on potential, rather than immediate qualifications. Do not try to exaggerate previous experience or skills. The truth is the absolute best currency in the application process.

Tips:

- Read the application requirements carefully and follow directions completely!
- The [Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success](#) can help with resume preparation while the [Writing Center](#) can help with essay questions and cover letters. I encourage you to take advantage of these resources.

Combine all files in the order below into a single pdf file and submit applications via email to the program lead before midnight of the final due date. Send completed applications to Rachel Frost, frost@montana.edu

Application materials:

1. **Cover Letter** – introduce yourself and describe your background (both on and off-ranch). Tell us why you chose to apply for the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program. What are your career goals and how will a B.S in Ranching Systems prepare you to achieve those goals?
2. **Résumé** – limit to two pages; use the Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success for feedback and proofing
3. **Application form** – set of general questions, essay questions and skills assessment to be answered by all applicants. The form should be downloaded from the DSRMP Application page. The form is a Word document that you can input answers to directly.
4. **Two letters of recommendation** from non-relatives, (at least one letter should be from a previous employer / supervisor)
5. **Current transcripts** – include all secondary schools attended (these can be unofficial)

Timelines for application process

- **October 1st, 2024** - Applications open for admittance to Ranching Systems Program (2027 Cohort)
- **October 15th, 2024** – Applications due for Ranching Systems Program by 11:59 PM.
- **October 31, 2024** - Applicants screened as qualified or not-qualified based on their application portfolio, and GPA. Applicants reviewed by the DSRMP Steering Committee and dates set for interviews.

- **November 2024** (early in the month) - qualified applicants have in-person interview with Program Leader and Steering Committee
- **December 1, 2024** - applicants receive notification of acceptance
- **January - April 2025** – Host ranches review applications, phone interview students, and student visits the ranch. Students receive preliminary training in basic agriculture safety practices, leadership, and personal communication. Mentor orientation conducted virtually.
- **April 2025** – Students and ranches agree to site specific learning objectives and sign internship MOU.
- **May 2025** – Students begin internship.

How are students placed at host ranches?

- Host ranches have the option to interview students for selection as an intern.
- As much as possible, we will accommodate the needs of individual students and host ranches when pairing interns with locations.
- We aspire to place students in locations where they will be stretched in their knowledge and experiences. When possible, students will be placed on host ranches that have different goals, management strategies, and resources than operations where they have worked previously. We presume students would prefer to be placed on a working ranch that offers maximum potential for expanding their experience and knowledge, rather than limit their learning opportunity in favor of a specific geographic preference.

Dismissal from the Program

Students may be dismissed from the DSRMP prior to graduation for the following reasons:

- Failure to maintain a GPA of 2.75 (*With the exception of personal or family tragedy*)
- Academic misconduct as defined by MSU Student Conduct Code
- Engaging in any illegal activities while a DSRMP student
- Failing an internship course

Montana State University Diversity Statement

Montana State University is committed to creating a culture of intellectual and personal growth. Because learning is enhanced when topics are examined from diverse perspectives and because individuals possess unique outlooks which reflect the world around us, Montana State University is dedicated to creating an inclusive community that embraces a rich mix in the composition of its student body, staff and faculty. The distinction in viewpoints that comes from differences in race, gender, age, language, socioeconomic status, religion, political affiliation and geographical background are appreciated and valued at MSU as important aspects of the campus community at every level and in every sector of the campus.

To this end, MSU welcomes international students and faculty and enthusiastically seeks engagement with peers from around the globe to expand our depth of understanding and share in the discovery of knowledge. MSU has an especially strong commitment to Native Peoples and actively engages in the development of social and educational initiatives to preserve the cultural integrity of all American Indian students, faculty and staff. MSU strives to advance the ideals of human worth and dignity for all by facilitating open discussion, supporting rational resolution of conflict and encouraging on-going examination of values.

Montana State University Discrimination Policy Statement

Montana State University's campuses are committed to providing an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community and that is free from harassment and discrimination based upon race, color, religion, national origin, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran's status, sex, age, political ideas, marital or family status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Such an environment is necessary to a healthy learning, working, and living atmosphere because discrimination and harassment undermine human dignity and the positive connection among all people at our University. Acts of discrimination, harassment, sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation will be addressed consistent with this policy.