

**Great Falls College
Montana State University
Welding Technology & Fabrication Program**



**Student Information and Application Packet
CAS (1 year) degree
Fall 2026**

(Applications are subject to change year to year)



**GREAT FALLS
COLLEGE**

**MONTANA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Dear Prospective Welding Technology & Fabrication CAS (1 year) Student,

I am thrilled by your interest in the Welding Technology & Fabrication 1 year program at Great Falls College Montana State University. This is an exciting time for welders in our region, and across the country. With an aging skilled workforce and many retirements in the next few years, we expect a high number of job openings for welding program graduates.

Our welding program is structured around the American Welding Society (AWS) outcomes. As a graduate of the Welding Technology & Fabrication program, you will have the opportunity to obtain the skills and knowledge that are highly valued by industry. This program will prepare you to produce welds in all positions, meeting industry standards using the following processes:

Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW)
Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW)
Flux Cored Arc Welding (FCAW)
Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW)

During your time as a Great Falls College MSU student, you will also learn to interpret welding blueprints and weld symbols, understand power sources and current types, and gain other work force skills necessary for entry level welding jobs.

The Welding Technology & Fabrication program has a limited enrollment capacity. Twenty-six (26) new students are enrolled in each intake and have access to a welding instructor and a welding coach. Students will be selected for the program on a first-come, first-served basis from the pool of completed applications received by the application priority deadline.

Information regarding the profession and the program, and the application materials are enclosed in this packet. Please read the materials carefully. For additional information, answers to specific questions, or to set up an appointment, please contact Admissions at (406) 268-3700 or Welding Instructor Todd Reser at his office (406) 771- 5141 or cell (406) 422-3480.

Sincerely,



Quincie Jones, MEd
Director Career & Technical Education
Great Falls College Montana State University
2100 16th Ave S
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 268-3723

Great Falls College Montana State University
Welding Technology & Fabrication
One-year Certificate of Applied Science (CAS) Program

Job Description and Occupational Outlook:

If you are looking for a one-year education that will lead to a career in high demand, Welding Technology & Fabrication might be for you. Welders are typically employed in settings that have shift work, some overtime, and may require work indoors and outdoors. You will oversee welding tasks before, during, and after the process to make sure that a quality job is done. Typical job tasks include interpreting welding blueprints and weld symbols, preparing metal fabrication components, and performing industry standard welds in all positions with a variety of processes including, SMAW, GMAW, FCAW and GTAW. Other tasks related to the welding industry, (i.e., cleaning, material handling, etc.), may also be part of your daily duties. If you have good concentration skills, good hand eye coordination, the ability to work unsupervised, and high standards of accuracy, this is the career for you.

According to the Montana Department of Labor, the 2024 hourly wage in Montana ranged from \$18.26-\$29.45. Great Falls area entry-level welders and fitters will start in the \$18-24 per hour range with the possibility of a benefits package.

Welding Technology & Fabrication CAS Curriculum Outcomes:

GRADUATES ARE PREPARED TO:

1. Apply and evaluate industry safety practices.
2. Interpret basic blueprints and welding symbols.
3. Practice set up and operation of Oxy-Fuel and Plasma Arc Cutting equipment.
4. Produce rudimentary structural welds using GMAW and FCAW in various positions to meet industry standards.
5. Produce Structural welds using SMAW in industry recognized positions to meet qualifying standards.
6. Set up and operate to industry standards Oxy-Fuel, Air Carbon Arc, and Plasma Arc Cutting equipment.
7. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills appropriate to the welding industry.
8. Demonstrate industry work ethic and professionalism.
9. Apply emerging math concepts and measuring techniques to solve problems related to welding and fabrication.

Welding Technology & Fabrication CAS Curriculum

See the Great Falls College MSU Catalog for specific information on the Welding Technology & Fabrication Program: <http://catalog.gfcmsu.edu/academic-programs/welding-technology/>

Program Expenses

Welding students should begin planning early for financial aid or other arrangements to meet their educational needs. Approximate program costs can be found in the current catalog.

<http://catalog.gfcmsu.edu/academic-programs/welding-technology/#estimatedcosttext>

Cohort Information

Classes for the Fall 2026 - Spring 2027 cohort will be held from **11 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday**. Welding students are **REQUIRED to attend an in-person orientation day on Friday, August 21**.

- Fall semester is August 24, 2026 - December 18, 2026
- Fall break: October 19-23, 2026
- Spring semester is January 11, 2027 - May 7, 2027
- Spring break: March 8-12, 2027

Equal Opportunity Policy, Non-Discrimination and Harassment Policy

The Montana State University campuses are committed to a learning and working environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community that is free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based upon race, color, religion, national origin, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, gender, age, political ideas, marital or family status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation (taken together, generally, “protected-class harm”). An inclusive environment is necessary to a healthy and productive college community. The college will take appropriate action to prevent, resolve, and remediate protected-class harm.

Great Falls College Montana State University prohibits and will not tolerate discrimination, harassment, sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, or retaliation on its premises, within any of its programs, services or other College-sponsored activities, or by anyone acting as an agent of the College. Great Falls College Montana State University is committed to providing and ensuring a safe, positive learning environment that is free from harassment.

In order to maintain consistency across the Montana State University affiliation, Great Falls College MSU follows a four-campus policy in regards to discrimination, harassment and retaliation. The policy and references can be found here: https://www.gfcmsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/301_1.pdf

The College’s Equal Opportunity Officers are as follows:

- For students, the Executive Director of Student Services, 2100 16th Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405. Telephone: 406-771-5123
- For employees, the Human Resources Manager, 2100 16th Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405. Telephone: 406-268-3701

Statement about Disability Services

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Instructors must receive an official letter from the Office of Academic Success and Accessibility in order to provide accommodations. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Success and Accessibility or call 406-771-4311 to schedule an appointment. <https://gfcmsu.edu/home/current-students/asa/>

Welding Technology & Fabrication Application and Enrollment Process

(Please follow this checklist to be sure you complete all steps in the process)

1. ADMISSION TO GREAT FALLS COLLEGE MSU

- Apply to the college.**
 - Admission application is online at <https://gfcmsu.edu/home/admissions/>
- Submit a **complete admissions file**. After submitting the online application, submit the following to the Office of Admissions:
 - **Proof of high school completion or equivalency** (high school diploma or final transcript or GED/HiSET diploma or transcript)
 - **Proof of 2 MMRs** (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) vaccinations/titers
- Be in **good academic standing** with the college (see more information on page 6)
- Be **admitted to the college**.
 - Admitted students will receive notification by mail from the Office of Admissions.

2. ADMISSION TO GREAT FALLS COLLEGE MSU WELDING TECHNOLOGY & FABRICATION PROGRAM

- Apply to the program.**
 - Use this packet and **submit pages 8 through 11** which includes:
 - Student Information page
 - Technical Standards
 - Self-Evaluation
- Be admitted to the Welding Technology & Fabrication Program.**
 - Admitted/Denied students will receive notification via email &/or postal mail from the Welding Program.
- Meet (virtually or in-person)** with the Welding Program Faculty
 - This meeting will cover information about and expectations for the program and will be scheduled by the Welding Program Faculty

3. INTENT TO ENROLL

- Return the Intent to Enroll form** by the date listed in your program acceptance letter.

4. ONLINE ORIENTATION

- Complete the online orientation** provided by Great Falls College MSU Admissions.
 - The Office of Admissions will send a link via email.

5. ADVISING & REGISTRATION

- Once the online orientation is complete, Admissions will schedule an advising appointment.
- Meet with academic advisor.**
- Register for classes.**
 - Welding cohort courses are restricted to only admitted welding students.

6. IN-PERSON WELDING PROGRAM ORIENTATION

- Attend the Welding Program Orientation** on Friday, August 21. Details provided in acceptance letter.

Important Information

(Please read carefully)

Admission to Great Falls College MSU:

Students must be admitted to the College prior to the submission of the Welding program application and be in good academic standing with the institution. Therefore, no applications will be reviewed until applicants have been admitted to Great Falls College MSU. See more details about the steps for admission on page 5.

Good Academic Standing

Good Academic Standing means students are not on *academic probation/warning* or *academic probation/warning continued* or *academic suspension*. The Registrar's office verifies academic standing. A student with Good Academic Standing has a cumulative GPA that is greater or equal to 2.0 at Great Falls College MSU.

Currently enrolled students, who are not in Good Academic Standing at the time of Welding application submission, will only be eligible for conditional admission if there are intake spots available after acceptance of applicants currently in Good Academic Standing.

Admission to Great Falls College MSU Welding Technology & Fabrication Program:

The Welding Technology & Fabrication Program admissions committee will review completed application packets after May 15, 2026. Welding cohort courses are restricted entry courses. Only students who have been admitted into the program will be able to enter these courses.

Application Submission Instructions Due Date: May 15, 2026

Completed program application packets are accepted on an ongoing basis but must be submitted by the deadline.

- **Hand-deliver** your application to the Admissions Office in Student Central at Great Falls College, 2100 16th Avenue S, Great Falls MT
- **OR**
- **Mail** your application to Attn: Welding CAS Program Admissions Committee, Great Falls College Admissions, 2100 16th Ave S, Great Falls, MT 59405

** It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the mailed application is postmarked by the deadline date. To ensure your mail is postmarked on a specific day, you must request a manual postmark or use certified or registered mail (learn more at usps.com) or ship through UPS or FedEx and use their tracking services.*

Note: Applications will be date and time stamped upon receipt. The first 26 completed applications, who meet the admissions criteria, will be accepted into the program. Only complete applications will be considered.

Priority Admissions

May 15, 2026: Priority deadline for Welding Technology and Fabrication applications

Notification of acceptance for priority applicants: Accepted/Not-accepted students will be notified via e-mail of their acceptance into the program by **June 8, 2026**.

This notification will be electronic through DocuSign to the email on your application. Accepted

students will receive, and must complete and return, the intent to enroll form sent to your email through DocuSign by the assigned date. If not returned, the place will be offered to another applicant.

If any of the 26 positions remain open after the priority deadline of May 15, 2026, then additional applications will be considered in the order they are received.

August 10, 2026: Last day to submit Welding applications

Information Regarding Transferable Courses

Coursework taken at other educational institutions may be designated as equivalent courses for Great Falls College MSU. For a current listing of approved equivalent courses, visit the Transfer Guide under Student Information at: https://apexprod.msu.montana.edu/apex/r/esg/s_transfer_eq_gf/home?session=16866600483292

All transfer work must be from an [appropriately-accredited](#) institution.

If you have additional questions about transferability of courses, send a written request for evaluation of your prior transcript to the Registrar at Great Falls College MSU. Please include appropriate course descriptions and official transcripts from former colleges with your request for evaluation. Send to:

Registrar's Office
Great Falls College MSU
2100 16th Ave. South
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 771-5128

Student Health Insurance

Program students entering the Welding program are strongly advised to carry their own medical insurance. Health insurance is available through the college for students who do not have other health insurance. Students will be financially responsible for their health care if they become ill or are injured.

All Great Falls College students enrolled for six (6) or more credits are required to have health insurance. For students without coverage, Great Falls College offers a program developed especially for students by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana. This plan provides coverage for injuries and illnesses on or off campus. Please visit <https://gfcmsu.edu/home/current-students/studentengagement/wellness/student-insurance/> for more information.

GREAT FALLS COLLEGE MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
WELDING TECHNOLOGY & FABRICATION CAS PROGRAM
Fall 2026 INTAKE

APPLICATION PACKET COVER AND CHECK-OFF SHEET

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Cell/Other) _____

E-Mail Address _____

GFC MSU Student ID Number _____

Do you allow the school to use this information to update their records? Yes No

For Office Use:

Complete	
	Application for admission to Great Falls College MSU
	High School completion/equivalency
	Admissions immunizations
	Good Academic Standing
	Welding application: Student Information (page 8)
	Welding application: Technical Standards (page 9)
	Welding application: Self-Assessment (pages 10-11)
	Meeting with Welding Faculty Date _____
	Meet (virtually or in-person) with the Welding Program Faculty
	This meeting will cover information about and expectations for the program and will be scheduled by the Welding Program Faculty.

Great Falls College MSU Welding Technology & Fabrication Program

Technical Standards

The Welding Technology & Fabrication Program is a popular program. Therefore, it is important that all students who start the program are serious about completing it and are aware of program expectations. The welding program is operated much like a production welding lab in industry. This is your job, breaks will be scheduled, attendance is required and you are expected to be productive during classroom and lab sessions. Students are exposed to and will need to be comfortable in an industrial work setting.

During the course of the program students will be required to work for prolonged periods while exposed to:

Extreme noise	Extreme heat	Sharp tools and materials
Electrical equipment	Hot metal and flying sparks	Dust and fumes
Machinery with moving parts	Slippery or uneven surfaces	

While in this environment students will need to demonstrate specific technical functions, with or without reasonable accommodation, students must also demonstrate their competency in carrying out these tasks in a safe and effective manner. To successfully complete the Welding program student will be required to:

- Interpret and follow safety procedures and safely operate necessary tools, equipment, and machinery.
- Perform a variety of tasks requiring physical agility sometimes at varying heights and varying positions.
- Read and interpret job specifications then perform procedures accordingly.
- Effectively respond to and communicate in oral and written form from a variety of sources with peers, faculty, and staff.
- Lift and transport equipment and materials up to 100 pounds.
- Effectively read and interpret measuring devices to make precise measurements of 1/16th of an inch and do conversions to decimal equivalents.
- Distinguish indicators of poor vs. quality construction and detect fabrication problems.
- Identify names and uses of tools and machines, survey and select appropriate materials, tools, and equipment for welding work.
- Understand/interpret information from textbooks, handouts, diagrams, charts, and tables.
- Recognize welding terminology and symbols & effectively interpret blueprints and sketches.
- Distinguish shapes, forms, and patterns, including three-dimensional objects.
- Perform mathematical functions to include calculate volumes, circumferences, and area.

I understand that I will be expected to demonstrate competency in the technical standards stated above in order to successfully complete the Welding program. I also understand that I will be learning in a work environment setting exposed to hazards and will conduct myself in a safe manner.

Name (print)

GFC MSU Student ID number

Signature

Date



Welding CAS Program Applicant Self-Evaluation page 1 of 2

Your responses to this questionnaire are used only to determine which services would best promote your individual academic development. With that in mind, please answer these questions as *honestly as possible*:

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT USING THE FOLLOWING SCALE:

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Does not apply
1	2	3	4	5	NA

Study Skills:	CIRCLE SCALE BELOW					
I often attend class.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
When I do miss a class, I get a copy of the notes from that day.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I turn my class assignments in on time.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I take notes when reading the course textbook and other material.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I read my notes, textbooks and other course material to prepare for tests and quizzes.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
My test and quiz scores accurately reflect my studying effort.	1	2	3	4	5	NA

Time Management:	CIRCLE SCALE BELOW					
I use the course outline to guide my course preparation.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I often study more than 2 days before a test or quiz.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I set aside specific times each week to study.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I balance my social life and study time.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I use a planner to help me manage my time.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I have a specific place where I can study with minimal distractions.	1	2	3	4	5	NA

Expectations:	CIRCLE SCALE BELOW					
I find my schoolwork enjoyable and exciting.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I am satisfied with passing all my classes with a 'C'.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I am frustrated that I can't seem to make "A's" in my classes.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
My college grades will be/are the same as my high school grades.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I feel anxious when taking tests, no matter how much I prepare.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I know I will earn my certificate/degree in the expectation time.	1	2	3	4	5	NA

Welding CAS Program Applicant Self-Evaluation page 2 of 2

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT USING THE FOLLOWING SCALE:

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Does not apply
1	2	3	4	5	NA

Living/Working Arrangements:	CIRCLE SCALE BELOW					
My living environment makes studying difficult.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
My work responsibilities interfere with my school responsibilities.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Because of school and work, I have very little time to sleep or study.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
My family responsibilities take up all of my study time.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
My employer is supportive of me attending college and will work with my class schedule	1	2	3	4	5	NA

Support System:	CIRCLE SCALE BELOW					
My friends and family encourage me to complete my college degree.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I have at least one person who shows real interest in my success.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I would probably see a counselor if I could afford one to talk about my feelings and/or life.	1	2	3	4	5	NA

Regarding your studies and academic progress, are there any circumstances or problems you are facing that we have not asked about on this questionnaire?
