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Direct Admit to Rocky Mountain College: Guaranteed Admission and Health Science Pathways for Billings Public Schools Graduates

Direct Admit to Rocky Mountain College: New Guaranteed Pathway for Billings Public Schools Graduates

Billings students now have a clearer, more affordable path to a four-year degree and even advanced health science careers—without leaving Montana.

Rocky Mountain College (RMC) has launched a Direct Admit pathway for Billings Public Schools (SD2) and homeschool graduates, offering:

- Guaranteed admission for eligible students
- Automatic academic scholarship consideration
- Loan-free tuition options for qualifying families
- Streamlined, test-optional applications
- Direct routes into Physician Assistant (PA), Occupational Therapy (OT), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) programs

This Direct Admit initiative is designed to make a private college education at Rocky Mountain College attainable, predictable, and financially realistic for Billings-area families.

What Is the Direct Admit Pathway to Rocky Mountain College?

The Direct Admit pathway is a simplified route from high school graduation in Billings Public Schools to full-time enrollment at Rocky Mountain College.

Guaranteed Admission for Billings Public Schools and Homeschool Graduates

Graduates from Billings Public Schools (SD2) and eligible homeschool programs who:

- Earn a high school diploma or GED/HiSET, and
- Maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher

will qualify for guaranteed direct admission to Rocky Mountain College.

Students with a GPA below 2.5 still have a path to RMC. They may be admitted by submitting:

- Two (2) letters of recommendation, and
- A personal statement

This flexible admissions framework recognizes potential in a wide range of students and gives Billings graduates a clear, local option for college.

Automatic Scholarship Consideration for Direct Admit Students

Every student admitted through the Direct Admit pathway is automatically considered for academic merit scholarships at Rocky Mountain College.

- Direct Admit students may qualify for up to \$17,000 per year in academic merit awards, based on GPA.
- On average, RMC students receive \$26,500 each year in scholarships and grants (excluding loans).

By combining direct admission with strong scholarship support, Rocky Mountain College helps Billings families see a private college as a practical financial choice, not an unreachable goal.

The RMC Promise Scholar Program: Loan-Free Tuition Support

Affordability is a central part of the Direct Admit partnership. The RMC Promise Scholar Program is designed to support students with the highest financial need.

For students who file the FAFSA:

- Full Pell-eligible students can receive loan-free financial aid that covers up to full tuition at Rocky Mountain College.
- Partially Pell-eligible students can qualify for loan-free financial support that reduces tuition to just \$2,500 per year.

This means Billings Public Schools graduates who qualify for Pell Grants may be able to attend RMC with no student loans and minimal out-of-pocket tuition costs, while still receiving the benefits of a small, private college environment.

Streamlined, Test-Optional Application to Rocky Mountain College

The Direct Admit pathway is built for simplicity and clarity.

To apply to Rocky Mountain College through this pathway, students need only:

- Complete RMC's online application, and
- Submit their high school transcript

Standardized test scores (ACT/SAT) are not required for admission.

This test-optional approach ensures that strong students are not blocked from college access by a single exam and allows Billings graduates to focus on their coursework, activities, and long-term plans.

One-on-One Enrollment and Financial Aid Support

Direct Admit students are not left to figure out the enrollment process alone. Every student is paired with a dedicated admissions counselor at Rocky Mountain College who provides personalized, one-on-one guidance.

This support includes:

- Understanding and comparing financial aid offers
- Exploring housing and residential life options

- Course selection and academic planning
- Preparing for orientation and the first semester

For many families—especially first-generation college students—this hands-on approach ensures the journey from high school to college feels manageable, not overwhelming.

Special Direct Pathways to Health Science Careers: PA, OT, DO, and DVM

One of the most powerful features of Rocky Mountain College's Direct Admit initiative for Billings Public Schools is the set of health science pathways that link undergraduate degrees at RMC to advanced professional programs.

Direct Pathways to Physician Assistant (PA) and Occupational Therapy (OT) at RMC

Students from SD2 interested in health sciences, especially careers as a Physician Assistant or Occupational Therapist, can benefit from a direct admit pathway into RMC's nationally competitive graduate programs:

- Physician Assistant (PA) program – capped at 48 seats
- Occupational Therapy (OT) program – capped at 30 seats

These PA and OT programs receive thousands of applications each year from across the country, making them highly selective. The RMC pathway gives local students a meaningful advantage:

- SD2 students can apply as undergraduates at Rocky Mountain College for direct acceptance into these graduate tracks.
- They receive comprehensive and personalized advising to help them stay on track with prerequisites, GPA requirements, and experiential expectations.
- For students who meet program requirements, graduate entrance exams can be waived, and they can enjoy automatic progression from their RMC bachelor's degree into their chosen PA or OT program.

This structure creates a clear, long-term plan for Billings students who want to pursue a Physician Assistant program or Occupational Therapy program without leaving Montana.

Pathways to Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)

In addition to PA and OT, Rocky Mountain College offers a powerful health and medical education pipeline through a collaboration with Rocky Vista University.

Through a joint agreement between Rocky Mountain College and Rocky Vista University, RMC undergraduates can pursue structured pathways into:

- Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
- Proposed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) programs

Beginning in their second year at Rocky Mountain College, qualified undergraduates can pursue direct admittance into these Rocky Vista University programs, provided they meet the established academic and program benchmarks.

This DO and DVM pathway offers:

- A local, step-by-step route from RMC undergraduate study into medical school or veterinary school
- Focused pre-professional advising in areas such as pre-med and pre-vet
- A competitive edge in accessing Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine programs that are typically difficult to enter

Together, these PA, OT, DO, and DVM pathways give Billings Public Schools graduates a comprehensive set of health and medical career options, anchored by a relationship-driven, liberal arts education at Rocky Mountain College.

Why the Direct Admit Pathway Matters for Billings Students and Families

The Direct Admit partnership between Rocky Mountain College and Billings Public Schools is about more than just admissions—it is about reducing uncertainty and clarifying opportunity.

For students and families, this model provides:

- Clear academic benchmarks for guaranteed admission (2.5 GPA and a diploma or GED/HiSET)
- Transparent scholarship consideration, with up to \$17,000 per year in merit aid
- Loan-free tuition possibilities through the RMC Promise Scholar Program
- Test-optional admissions that do not require ACT or SAT scores
- Direct health science pathways to PA, OT, DO, and DVM programs

For Billings and the surrounding region, this initiative means more students can:

- Stay local while pursuing four-year degrees and advanced health science careers
- Build professional futures in medicine, veterinary medicine, occupational therapy, and physician assistant roles
- Contribute as highly trained professionals in clinics, hospitals, schools, and community organizations across Montana and beyond

How Billings Public Schools Graduates Can Get Started

Students and families interested in the Direct Admit pathway to Rocky Mountain College can:

- Visit the Rocky Mountain College [admissions webpage](#) to begin the online application
- Indicate their connection to Billings Public Schools (SD2) or homeschooling in the Billings area by submitting a [free online application](#).
- Request more information about the Direct Admit program, the RMC Promise Scholar Program, and the health science pathways by emailing admissions@rocky.edu.
- Schedule a conversation with an RMC admissions counselor for personalized guidance on eligibility, financial aid, and long-term academic planning

By simplifying admissions, expanding financial aid, and connecting undergraduate education to advanced health science and medical programs, Rocky Mountain College's Direct Admit partnership with Billings Public Schools gives local students the tools to say yes to a college that truly fits—and a future they can confidently build.