

# GAP YEAR ASSOCIATION



*HOW TO*

**Earn  
college  
credit**

**During your gap  
year program**



# School of Record

UNIVERSITY OF  
**MONTANA**

If you are enrolled in a gap year program that is **Accredited by the Gap Year Association** (GYA), you may be eligible to enroll in college credit coursework during your gap semester.

GYA maintains a **School of Record** relationship with the **University of Montana** (UM), allowing gap year students to enroll in a number of UM-approved courses for undergraduate credit. Students who complete the coursework will earn an official UM transcript.



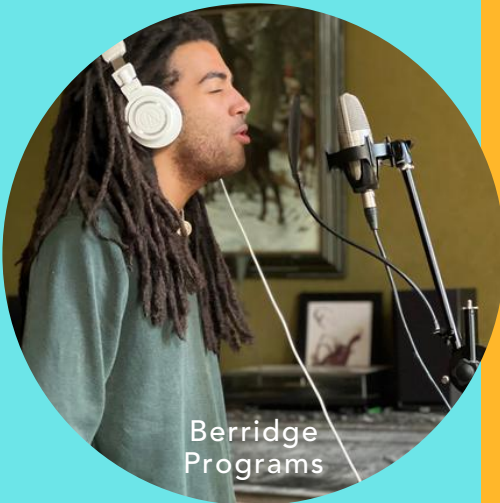


# WHY EARN COLLEGE CREDIT?



## ADDITIONAL LEARNING & REFLECTION

GYA courses offer students a supplementary lens through which they can view their gap year experience. Whichever topic(s) a student chooses, the course(s) will give them structured reflections and additional insights into various schools of thought that will inform how they perceive their program experiences.



## STAYING ON TOP OF CREDITS

Sometimes a student wants to take a gap year, but they (and/or their family) are concerned about "falling behind" their peers who are heading directly to college. Enrolling in one or more GYA courses can allow them to have a gap year experience while remaining academically engaged and earning a transcript from a reputable university.



## ACCESS TO FUNDING SOURCES

Enrolling in a GYA course can grant a student access to funding sources such as AmeriCorps Education Awards and 529 education savings plans—funding sources that are only available if you are earning credit from an eligible institution—which they may apply to their college credit fee AND gap year program tuition.

# ***HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?***

In addition to their program tuition, students enrolling in GYA college credit pay a credit registration fee of **\$1,950**. This is a flat fee that covers any courses a student chooses to enroll in during a single semester, up to 12 credits.

If students have access to a 529 Education Savings Plan or AmeriCorps Education Award, they may apply those funds to both their program tuition and credit registration fee. **Please contact your program provider as soon as possible if you are considering one of these options.**

# HOW DOES IT WORK?

1

Get accepted to a participating GYA Accredited Program, and let them know you'd like to enroll in GYA courses for college credit. They will provide you with the necessary enrollment paperwork to register for your course(s) of choice.

2

Select the course(s) you'd like to take (the number of courses you are eligible to enroll in will depend on the length and content of your program), complete the appropriate registration forms, and submit your forms to your program contact at least two weeks prior to your program start date.

3

GYA will send you an introductory email welcoming you to the College Credit Program and including an introduction to your GYA Instructor of Record, who will grade all of the coursework you submit for your independent study.

4

Start packing and getting excited for your program to start! Review your course syllabus to make sure you have a good understanding of the course expectations and assignments to stay on top of once your program has started.





# GYA COURSES



*For students participating  
in a cohort-based program*

## **CTE 191: INTRO TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

*3 semester credits*

This course is designed to introduce students to principles, theories, and practices of leadership development. Through a combination of theoretical frameworks, self-reflection, and practical applications to lived experiences, students will gain insights into effective leadership strategies, communication skills, and ethical decision-making. The course facilitates self-assessment of students' leadership styles and examination of successful leadership qualities in various contexts.



## **COLS 191: SELF & CULTURE IN EXPERIENTIAL COHORTS**

*3 semester credits*

This course is designed to foster an understanding of fundamental principles of communication, relationship-building, cultural development, and other group dynamics within an experiential cohort-based program. Through readings, self-reflection, and examination of group dynamics in their cohort-based experience, students will examine the roles that culture, identity, and communication play in cohort formation within personal, academic, and/or professional settings.

# ***GYA COURSES***



Spanish Gap Year

*For students participating in a formal internship program*

## **CTE 298: INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP**

*1-6 semester credits*

This internship course is designed for students gaining hands-on experience in a wide range of industries (including journalism, graphic design, creative writing, marketing, finance, etc.) in an international setting. By completing reflective exercises, participating in intentional mentorship, and submitting internship evaluations, students can earn up to 1 semester credit for every 45 internship hours.



BroadFutures

## **CTE 298: DOMESTIC INTERNSHIP**

*1-6 semester credits*

This internship course is designed for students gaining hands-on experience in a wide range of industries (including journalism, graphic design, creative writing, marketing, finance, etc.) in a domestic U.S.-based setting. By completing reflective exercises, participating in intentional mentorship, and submitting internship evaluations, students can earn up to 1 semester credit for every 45 internship hours.

# ***CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE ENROLLING...***

## **IS COLLEGE CREDIT RIGHT FOR YOU?**

Earning college credit for a gap year experience has its perks, but it won't be the right choice for every student! Some students are intentionally planning a gap year in order to get a break from traditional academics, and enrolling in college credit coursework might detract from the overall experience.

## **CREDIT TRANSFERABILITY**

Students might be drawn to the possibility of earning credits that will count towards an eventual degree at a college or university. While they will receive an official University of Montana transcript for any GYA coursework completed during their gap year, we can't guarantee if/how the credits will transfer towards other degree requirements—it is incumbent upon the student to check on transferability with their registrar.

## **DEFERRAL/ACCEPTANCE POLICIES**

If a student has already been accepted to a higher education institution and is choosing to defer their acceptance—or if they have a specific school they would like to apply to after their gap year—it is **IMPERATIVE** that they consult with the appropriate admissions office to ensure they are aware of any policies regarding credit accrual during a deferral period or prior to formal acceptance.

## ***QUESTIONS?***

Contact your program provider for more information, or view college credit details on the Gap Year Association's website

