

Attending school while filing for unemployment benefits:

There are two parts of Montana law that can allow benefits while attending school:

If your school or classes do not affect your availability for work, you can actively look for work, and would accept a fulltime job if offered, your benefits can be approved. You must follow the regular work search rules and if offered a job that conflicts with the class, be willing to drop out. If your schooling is completely on-line or done at your own convenience, and doesn't interfere with work at all, it's in this category.

If you want to go to school or training to be qualified for a more stable career, this can be approved if you can show that the training will make you more employable, give you greater earning power or provide more stable employment (full time, year around as opposed to seasonal). In this case, you are not required to look for work. You will be asked to have a school official sign a verification that you are attending class and making satisfactory progress each week. Approval must be requested at the beginning of each semester or term.

If you are trained as part of your job, that is considered work, not school or training. You are not 'in training' for the purposes of biweekly filing. Report those hours as regular work hours and pay as regular earnings, and say 'no' to the question about school on the biweekly filing.