

My name is Emma Hoover. I am currently a junior at Montana Western, and plan to graduate in May with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, Pre-Professional Medicine. My value system has always revolved around helping others. Before I came to Montana Western, I was involved in a whole slew of extra curriculums. I was president of my high school's Key Club for three years; we would frequently volunteer in Helena in any number of opportunities, including shoveling driveways for the elderly, cleaning up our campus and the surrounding neighborhood, raising money for The Thirst Project, sewing reusable facemasks, and donating winter care kits to Helena's homeless shelter God's Love. I was also a part of National Honors Society in high school, which required volunteer hours. Some of these hours I spent at the women's shelter, where I prepared meals for the mothers and their families taking refuge there, but most of my hours came from my church's youth group. My home church, Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, has a high school group called Safehouse. For two years I served the members of Safehouse as a youth leader. I would prepare devotions and bible studies for my peers, lead them in prayer, and organize activities for them. My church is also very dedicated to service, so many of our activities resulted in volunteering opportunities at organizations like the God's Love homeless shelter and the Intermountain Children's Home. If I could redo high school, I would definitely do it all again. I feel my participation in these groups taught me compassion, empathy, and, most importantly, altruism. This experiences also sparked in me the need for change. All around me I could see how my community was failing, and I wanted to do anything I could to make it better. When I arrived at Western, I was so comforted by the incredibly tight campus community. Going to football games or watching that year's musical made me feel so welcome and included. Again, however, I noticed ways that our campus was struggling. In my attempt to help alleviate these struggles, I joined the Residence Life team. I have worked in Residence Life for two years; one as a Resident Assistant and one as a Hall Director. The work that I have been allowed to do in these two years has meant so much. Nothing makes me happier then when a former resident tells me how much I helped them their freshman year. I am currently an active member of the Student Leadership Academy, which is working hard to make sure our students' needs are being met by their student leaders. My goals as a senator would be to ensure that students feel their concerns are being heard and addressed accordingly. Though change takes time, and most of us will graduate before we see these changes put in place, I feel it is important for the students of Montana Western to feel invested in this campus community.