

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS
NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

ITEM 126-1005-R0105

Institution: The University of Montana--Missoula
Program Title: Option in School Psychology (Ph.D. program in Psychology)

1. How does this program advance the campus' academic mission and fit priorities?

The proposed doctoral program parallels The University of Montana's central mission, as stated in the Provost's 2003-2004 Report, to provide "...unique educational experiences through the integration of the liberal arts, graduate study, and professional training with international and interdisciplinary emphases." The doctorate in School Psychology also accomplishes the University's mission by offering "...basic and applied research, technology transfer, cultural outreach, and service benefiting the local community, region, state, nation and the world." This proposed program will also assist with the University's specific goals to both increase the number of annual doctoral graduates, and attract more external funds to support graduate education and research.

The School Psychology is consistent with each of the academic trajectories, as identified in the Provost's Report. Specifically the proposed program:

- A. has an **applied focus**, "based upon a strong foundation of excellence in liberal arts and sciences"
- B. is a **niche program**, "that captures the unique strengths and will achieve national prominence"
- C. has a **graduate and research focus** that will "...have national recognition that benefits the interests of the state, region, and country"
- D. is an **interdisciplinary research** and educational program that "addresses emerging needs for new knowledge and its dissemination"
- E. provides **learning opportunities** "that support the individual styles and life circumstances of students"
- F. takes a **global cultural** perspective, which is "infused throughout" the program
- G. fosters active **engagement** with "the community and society as evidenced throughout teaching, research, and service activities"
- H. is a **dynamic, intellectual environment** "that fosters creativity, innovation and humanity."

The doctorate in School Psychology enhances the above-stated missions of The University of Montana.

2. How does this program fit the Board of Regents' goals and objectives?

This program is consistent especially with Goals A, C, and D, to provide a stimulating, responsive, and effective environment for academic achievement and learning, to deliver higher education in an efficient and coordinated manner, and to be responsive to market and employment needs.

3. How does this program support or advance Montana's needs and interests?

The proposed program will address the state of Montana's need for School Psychology practitioners and administrators both in education and other programs for children. (Please see letter of support from OPI.) In a report entitled "Who Will Teach Montana's Children?," school psychologist positions were ranked as one of the top four most difficult-to-fill positions in the state, along with special education teachers (Nielson, 2002). The State of Montana, Office of Public Instruction (OPI) reports there are currently 70 licensed school psychologists employed in the State of Montana to serve 877 schools with approximately 154,875 students.

4. How will this program contribute to economic development in Montana? (Note projected annual economic impact both regionally and statewide.)

Graduates of this program will have increased employment possibilities. In addition, the program will attract federal funding. Specifically, the U.S. Department of Education's Training and Leadership grants and Personnel Preparation grants.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

• Break-even point?	2.1	FTE students
• Enrollments / year?	4	
• Graduates / year?	4	
• MT jobs / year?	4	

6. Resource Allocation:

• Total program budget?	\$ 14,000
• Faculty FTE?	.16
• Staff FTE?	0

7. Does this program require new resources? Yes No

If yes, what is the amount? \$ 14,000

8. How will the campus fund the program?

Reallocation from current funds.

9. If internal reallocation is necessary, name the sources.