

# MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

## LEVEL I REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	130-1003+R0306	Date of Meeting:	March 1-3, 2006
Institution:	The University of Montana - Missoula		
Program Title:	Re-title the Department of Geology to the Department of Geosciences		

Level I proposals are those that may be approved by the Commissioner of Higher Education or the Commissioner's designee. The approval of such proposals will be conveyed to the Board of Regents at the next regular meeting of the board. The institution must file the request with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education by means of a memo to the Deputy Commissioner.

**A. Level I action requested (check all that apply):** Level I proposals include campus initiatives typically characterized by (a) minimal costs; (b) clear adherence to approved campus mission; and (c) the absence of significant programmatic impact on other institutions within the Montana University System and Community Colleges.

- 1. Re-titling existing majors, minors, options and certificates; (e.g. from B.S. in Mechanized Agriculture to B.S. in Agricultural Operations Technology);
- 2. Eliminating existing majors, minors, options and certificates via a Program Termination Checklist;
- 3. Adding new minors or certificates where there is a major;
- 4. Adding new minors or certificates where there is an option in a major;
- 5. Departmental mergers and name changes;
- 6. Program revisions; and
- 7. Distance delivery of previously authorized degree programs.

**B. Level I with Level II documentation:** With Level II documentation circulated to all campus chief academic officers in advance, the Commissioner or designee may propose additional items for inclusion in the Level I process. For these items to move forward, the Commissioner or designee must reach consensus with the chief academic officers. When consensus is not achieved, the Commissioner or designee will move the item to the Level II review process.

- 1. Options within an existing major or degree;
- 2. Eliminating organizational units within larger institutions such as departments, divisions and colleges or schools *with the exception of the five Colleges of Technology where changes require Board action;*
- 3. Consolidating existing programs and/or degrees.

**C. Temporary Certificate or A.A.S. degree programs:** Certificate or Associate of Applied Science Degree Programs may be submitted as Level I proposals, with memo and backup documentation, when they are offered in cooperation with and/or at the request of private or public sector partners and the decision point to offer the program is not consistent with the regular Board of Regents program approval process. Level I approval for programs under this provision will be limited to two years. Continuation of a program beyond the two years will require the normal program approval process as Level II Proposals.

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All other Certificate or Associate Degree programs may be placed on submission at any Board of Regents meeting. They will be placed on action agendas at subsequent meetings. All campuses agree to insure that all other campuses receive program information well in advance of submission.

**Specify Request:**

The University of Montana—Missoula requests permission to re-title the Department of Geology to the Department of Geosciences for the following reasons:

- (a) The new name better represents the composition of the curriculum and scholarship.
- (b) It will better present the focus and evolution of the department to prospective graduate students and future hires.
- (c) The change is consistent with international learned societies and funding agencies.
- (d) The University of Montana has scholars across departments with whom faculty in the current Geology Department conduct joint research.
- (e) The name change will help broaden the national awareness of a scholarly niche in which UM is well poised to compete.