# M O N T A N A   B O A R D   O F   R E G E N T S

## NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

<u>**ITEM 130-1010-R0106**</u>

**Institution:**      **University of Montana-Missoula**
**Program Title:**     **Master of Science major in Information Systems**

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

The Master of Science major in Information Systems is an interdisciplinary degree offered by the departments of Computer Science and Information Systems and Technology. The degree combines technological and managerial expertise to train individuals to manage the information resources at the highest levels of the firm. One unique aspect of the program is a required course in globalization and outsourcing. Teams of students will participate in a cross-cultural software development project, coordinated across two campuses, one at UM and one overseas.

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

This program furthers the following Montana University System goals as follows:

> Goal B. "To make a high quality, affordable higher education experience available to all qualified citizens who wish to further their education and training."

This will be the only graduate program in Information Systems in the state and the immediate region.

> Goal D. "To be responsive to market, employment, and economic development needs of the State and the nation."

Jobs such as computer system administrators, database administrators, and network administrators are among the fastest growing occupations in the nation, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. *CIO* magazine conducted a survey that indicated that 69% of the nation's Chief Information Officers were concerned that they would not be able to staff IT administrative positions within the next five years. This program will provide a talented pool of IT administrators for our state.

> Goal E. "To improve the support for and understanding of the Montana University System as a leading contributor to the State's economic success and social and political well-being."

This program will support the state's effort to attract more businesses to Montana.

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

As Montana cultivates more clean industry, the need for a technologically advanced workforce increases. This program trains computer professionals for IT administrative jobs. It will be the only graduate program in the state that focuses on preparing graduates for the Chief Information Officer (CIO) position, once they have achieved job experience.

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

Firms locate in areas where they can reasonably expect to hire well-qualified individuals as openings arise. Every medium- to large-sized organization depends on its information technology infrastructure and the administrators who seek to gain competitive advantage for the firm through that technology.  This program provides both computer science and information systems skills for those people who wish to remain in Montana, pursuing an interesting and lucrative career.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

| | |
|---|---|
| • Break-even point? | FTE students |
| • Enrollments / year? | 30 (3$^{rd}$ year) |
| • Graduates / year? | 25 |
| • MT jobs / year? | 15 |

6. Resource Allocation:

| | |
|---|---|
| • Total program budget? | $ 147,844 (3$^{rd}$ year) |
| • Faculty FTE? | 1 (new) |
| • Staff FTE? | 0 |

7. Does this program require new resources?  X  Yes     No

   If yes, what is the amount?  $ 147,844

8. How will the campus fund the program?

    New funding from tuition revenue

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