

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

ITEM 130-1601-R0106

Institution: The University of Montana-Western

Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Natural Horsemanship

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

The University's mission statement supports "education through experiential learning that combines theory and practice." The A.A.S. degree supplements the B.S. degree in Natural Horsemanship for those students who desire a two-year degree instead of a four-year degree. These degrees represent an effective partnership between business/industry and the University, whereby students are provided the opportunity to engage in both classroom work and application-based, hands on learning activities on-site at the business partner's facility.

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

The proposed continued offering of the degree program supports Goal B ("To make a high quality, affordable higher education experience available to all qualified citizens who wish to further their education and training") and Goal D ("To be responsive to market, employment, and economic development needs of the State and nation") of the Strategic Plan. Specifically, the proposed program would support Goal B1: "To identify or seek creative funding alternatives that will expand public and private resources;" and Goal D 1, 3 and 4: 1) "To offer programs and services consistent with the changing market and employment needs of the state and nation;" 3) "To promote the full spectrum of higher education needs and opportunities in 2-year, 4-year, and graduate and professional education;" and 4) "To make the Montana University System more accessible and responsive to business, government and other constituencies."

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

The proposed program will provide students additional employment options in the equine and farm and ranch industries both through the core Natural Horsemanship program and through the two option areas: science and management. The success of the existing Equine Studies program indicates that the interest in this area is high both within the state and outside. Moreover, graduates from this program will have a university level credential, increasing their job competitiveness.

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

The farm and ranch industry, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2001) will grow by a rate of 6% over the next five years. The horse industry alone provides over \$112 billion to the United States Gross Domestic Product. This revenue includes 1.4 million people employed full-time and over 7 million individuals that are horse owners or otherwise are involved in the industry. Students who graduate with a A.A.S. degree in Natural Horsemanship will enter the job market with a competitive edge: a state of the art education that combines both classroom instruction and hands on experience through the cooperative partnership between the University and La Cense Montana.

**5. What is the program's planned capacity?**

• Break-even point?	10
• Enrollments / year?	40
• Graduates / year?	20
• MT jobs / year?	15

**6. Resource Allocation:**

• Total program budget?	\$
• Faculty FTE?	3 (in all equine programs)
• Staff FTE?	0

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

If yes, what is the amount? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**8. How will the campus fund the program?**

The program will continue to be funded by a combination of tuition, state support and private industry support. La Cense Montana has provided over \$100,000 this year in funds and services to help support this program as well as the B.S. in Natural Horsemanship. This has made it possible to offer the program without any course or program fees. Students pay only regular tuition and the standard mandatory fees.

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

No internal reallocation is necessary to continue offering this program.