



**MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**  
**Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education**

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May 16, 2002

**TO:** Board of Regents  
**FROM:** Joyce A. Scott, Deputy Commissioner for Academic & Student Affairs  
**SUBJECT:** Level I Announcements & Approvals

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This memo is to inform you of the Level I changes in academic programs approved in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education since the last meeting of the Board of Regents. I will be happy to answer questions about these changes.

**Montana State University-Bozeman**

Request to establish the *Equine Science Option* within the existing Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science. This new option is designed to meet increasing student demand related to equine science and management and to prepare graduates for career opportunities in a variety of equine-related enterprises and other sectors of the livestock industry. Faculty and resources are in place for a science-based program that emphasizes the biology of equine growth, development, reproduction and behavior, and the business aspects of equine-related enterprises.

Request to establish the *Liberal Arts Studio Option* within the existing Bachelor of Arts degree. This request is an extension of the 2000 Program Review in which the Board of Regents approved the conversion of the BFA in Art to include two options, *Graphic Design and Studio Arts*. MSU-Bozeman retained the B.A. in Art, for which options in *Art Education and Art History* previously existed. Omitted in the conversion process was the request by the School of Art to establish a third option under the BA in Art—titled *Liberal Arts Studio Option*. This option serves students who are interested in studio art but not admitted to the BFA in Art and those who do not intend to pursue studio art as a profession.

**Montana State University-Billings**

Request to offer a group of continuing education classes to a cohort of students at the International School of Accounting in Seoul, Korea in Summer and Fall 2002 on a trial basis. These courses are targeted to non-traditional students who want to meet requirements and prepare for the Unified Certified Public Accounting Examination in the State of Vermont. MSU-Billings faculty will deliver courses online.

Request to change the name of the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling to *Master of Science in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling*. To prepare candidates for future roles as rehabilitation counselors, the campus will strengthen the mental health counseling component within the degree. This is in response to requests by practicing Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors who report a significant increase in caseload of individuals with mental illness. This changing demographic requires the counselors to have greater expertise in the mental health field.

Request to terminate the *Community Counseling Option in the Master of Science in Special Education*. This option is misleading for candidates because it does not carry any form of state endorsement for practice. The Rehabilitation Counseling degree is a stronger avenue toward LCPC licensure. The Program Termination Checklist will be placed on file in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

Request to change credit requirements for the *School Counseling Option* in the Master of Education from 60 to 48 semester credit hours to align the program with the state accreditation standards. This will make it possible for candidates who do not wish to have LCPC licensure to earn the OPI endorsement in school counseling with 48 credits. Students who wish to earn state licensure for private practice, will be advised to complete the additional courses necessary for the 60-credit requirement.

### **Montana State University-Northern**

Request to *eliminate its minor in graphic design*, due to low enrollments and inadequate coursework to prepare a student for a career in the field. This was approved by the Board of Regents in July 1997. The program included an associate of science degree, a bachelor of arts degree and a minor. The associate of science degree was converted into an associate of applied science degree in 1999. The BA and AAS in graphic design will continue.

### **Flathead Valley Community College**

Request to offer an *Certificate in Medical Transcription* in response to a shortage of medical transcribers locally as well as statewide. Business advisory board members indicate that the shortage has forced Kalispell Regional Medical Center to advertise for transcribers out of state. According to Employment Projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, medical records and health information technicians are among the fastest growing occupations for years 2000-2010. In addition, the Montana Occupational Job Projections lists a 38.4% increase in jobs in Montana for years 1998-2008.

Request to offer an *Associate of Applied Science in Paramedicine* in response to local needs for more training for current emergency workers and a need for more trained emergency services workers.

Request to offer an *Associate of Applied Science in Radiological Technology* to meet local hospitals' needs. Local hospitals are partnering with FVCC to offer the program because there is a shortage of available workers. The curriculum will include both didactic and clinical components and prepare graduates to use x-ray equipment safely as well as to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists' certification examination. The curriculum totals 68 credit hours

Request to offer a *Certificate in Sports Marketing* to provide students with basic understanding of the sporting industry in relation to professional franchises sports teams. Graduates will be prepared for additional education or immediate employment.

### **The University of Montana-Missoula**

Request to add an *Option in Scientific Applications to the B.A. Degree in Computer Science*. The last program review deleted combined major in Physics-Computer Science. Rather than institute the proposed change to a computational physics option in Computer Science, the Department proposes the *Option in Scientific Applications*. It is intended for motivated students with interest in interdisciplinary applications of computer science to other science disciplines. A student choosing this option must complete MATH 251 and 17 credits in a single physical/biological/ social science discipline. These courses must be selected in consultation with a CS advisor. This 22-credit option is required in addition to the 41 credit major core.

The Department of Computer Science has a strong track record in cross-disciplinary collaboration, and this option provides a more formal mechanism for involving undergraduates in learning and research experiences in such activities. No additional resources are required to implement this option.

Request to offer an *A.A.S. Degree in Radiologic Technology* by cooperation between St. Patrick Hospital and the University of Montana-Missoula College of Technology. This is in direct response to a request from administration at St. Patrick's, which will provide clinical experiences, equipment, and technical training expertise. The College will convert the currently accredited training program of The St. Patrick School of Radiologic Technology, to an A.A.S degree and coordinate program delivery, classroom training and general education. The proposed program totals 72 credit hours.

Currently, three Montana Hospitals (St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula; Benefits Hospital, Great Falls; and St. Vincent's Hospital, Billings) are the only sources of radiologic technician (RT) training, and the three programs cannot to supply enough trained RT's to meet the minimum current annual state-wide demand of approximately 16 additional radiologic technicians each year. All three hospitals limit enrollment in their radiologic training programs to the number of RT's needed for their own operation. Recently, there has been one qualified RT for every two openings in Montana. At St. Patrick's program, there were 47 applicants for 15 openings in Spring 2002.

### **The University of Montana-Western**

Request from The University of Montana – Western and Montana Tech of The University of Montana to engage in a partnership to allow math and science related majors at Montana Tech to become certified teachers. Montana Tech will deliver the content area courses for a secondary endorsement. Western will provide the professional sequence of required education courses as well as the methods courses on Tech's campus. Students will receive a content area degree from Tech. Western will affirm to the Office of Public Instruction or any out-of-state counterpart that students have successfully completed its Teacher Education Program from Western.

Students would have a transcript from Western showing completion of its Teacher Education Program and a transcript from Tech showing completion of the Tech degree. Western's placement office would assist students who have completed its Teacher Education Program in locating positions.

The demand for math and science teachers both within the State of Montana and outside the state far exceeds the number of teachers being certified. The partnership will allow Tech students who are majoring in math and/or science related fields to earn teacher certification through Western. The faculty and administrations of the two institutions are working closely together to assure the content courses identified at Tech meet Montana Teacher Education Program Standards. Certification in other content areas is being considered.