



# MUS Strategic Plan

## Graduate Education

### Goal 2: Workforce & Economic Development

#### System Initiatives:

Faculty, staff, and students in the Montana University System (MUS) are engaged in science and technology research and graduate education that help build Montana's economic future. The MUS research enterprise also builds partnerships with communities, businesses, and other educational entities to help align science education and research with pressing social and economic challenges.

Expanding graduate education capacity and opportunities will help grow the MUS research enterprise. The following initiatives are key to this effort:

- Improved stipends and resident tuition status to attract competitive graduate students;
- Sufficient start-up funding packages and salaries to retain and recruit competitive faculty;
- Strategic addition of graduate programs to meet workforce needs and research opportunities ; and
- Innovative partnerships and financing to build modern facilities and a competitive research infrastructure.

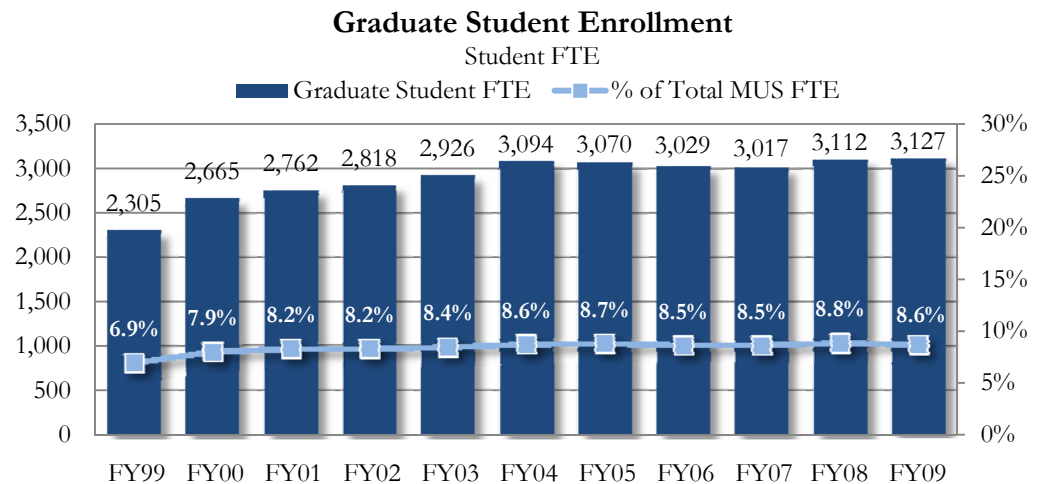
#### Goal Statement

Expand graduate education capacity and opportunities in order to increase educational attainment of Montanans, fuel economic development, grow the research and development enterprise, and contribute to the cultural and social fabric of Montana and the region.

#### Objective 2.3.1

Increase the number and percentage of graduate students in the Montana University System.

#### Metric 2.3.1



Source: MUS Data Warehouse; note: graduate FTE includes students enrolled in master's, doctorate and professional programs

**Regional Comparison:** In Fall 2008, graduate students comprised **9.5%** of the total number of students (headcount) enrolled in higher education in Montana. In comparison, the regional average was **12.5%**, indicating that Montana's graduate educational opportunities are underutilized.

#### Objective 2.3.2

Increase graduate degree production, maintaining a strong concentration in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

#### Metric 2.3.2

#### MUS Graduate Degrees Awarded

MUS Graduate Degrees <sup>(1)</sup>	1998-99	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Graduate Degrees Awarded	978	1351	1428	1392	1447
Graduate Degrees Awarded per 100 Graduate Student FTE <sup>(2)</sup>	42.4	44.6	47.3	44.7	46.3
# of STEM Degrees Awarded <sup>(3)</sup>	329	457	491	477	485
% STEM Degrees Awarded	33.6%	33.8%	34.4%	34.3%	33.5%
% STEM (regional average)	25.2%	24.1%	24.0%	22.0%	21.8%

1) includes master's, doctoral, and professional degrees; source IPEDS

2) source: FTE from MUS Data Warehouse, degrees from IPEDS

3) STEM fields were identified by using CIP code areas of: Natural Resources and Conservation, Engineering, Computer & Information Sciences, Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Agriculture Operations and Related Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics, Physical Sciences, and Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences