

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

LEVEL II REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	148-1501-R0910	Date of Meeting:	September 22-23, 2010
Institution:	Montana Tech of the University of Montana		
Program Title:	Statistics		

Level II proposals require approval by the Board of Regents.

Level II action requested (check all that apply): Level II proposals entail substantive additions to, alterations in, or termination of programs, structures, or administrative or academic entities typically characterized by the (a) addition, reassignment, or elimination of personnel, facilities, or courses of instruction; (b) rearrangement of budgets, cost centers, funding sources; and (c) changes which by implication could impact other campuses within the Montana University System and community colleges. Board policy 303.1 indicates the curricular proposals in this category:

- 1. Change names of degrees (e.g. from B.A. to B.F.A.)
- 2. Implement a new minor or certificate where there is no major or no option in a major;
- 3. Establish new degrees and add majors to existing degrees;
- 4. Expand/extend approved mission; and
- 5. Any other changes in governance and organization as described in Board of Regents' Policy 218, such as formation, elimination or consolidation of a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory, or similar unit.

Specify Request:

The Department of Mathematical Sciences at Montana Tech would like to convert the Statistics Option in the Mathematical Sciences Program into a separate program (i.e., degree) called the Statistics Program. The Statistics Option has been a popular and successful option in the Mathematical Sciences degree. Students graduating with the Statistics Option have been very successful in finding jobs and have been accepted in graduate programs in Statistics at Texas A&M, University of Washington, UC Davis, Colorado State, University of Wisconsin, Purdue University, Oregon State University, Montana State University, and the University of Idaho.

Rationale: The faculty in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Montana Tech feels that it would

- help in recruiting students to Montana Tech by having a statistics program separate from the math program. With the current popularity of the AP Statistics Exam it is likely that some high school students will be looking for programs in statistics when choosing a college;
- enhance the career opportunities of students earning the current statistics option. Many employers prefer to hire graduates having a degree in statistics over students having degrees in mathematics. The current status of the non-teaching job market for students earning undergraduate degrees in mathematics is primarily for students having statistics/data analysis skills. The job as a statistician is currently one of the top rated jobs (#3) in the science and engineering fields according to CareerCast.com;
- increase our graduate's chances of being accepted in the top rated graduate programs in statistics. The overwhelming majority (> 90%) of our graduates attending graduate programs pursue advanced degrees in statistics;

- be the first official undergraduate Statistics Program at a Montana University System school. The Department of Mathematical Sciences currently offers a Statistics Option and Minor in Statistics.

Cost: The proposed relabeling of the Statistics Option in the Mathematical Sciences Program will not require any new faculty or the creation of a new department head, and thus has no anticipated cost to the university. The Department of Mathematical Sciences currently has three Ph.D. statisticians teaching the department's statistics courses. The Statistics Program faculty will continue to serve as members of the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

The curriculum for a degree in Statistics will be the same as it currently is under the Statistics Option in the Mathematical Sciences Program, so no new classes are being proposed with the Statistics Program proposal.