



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.

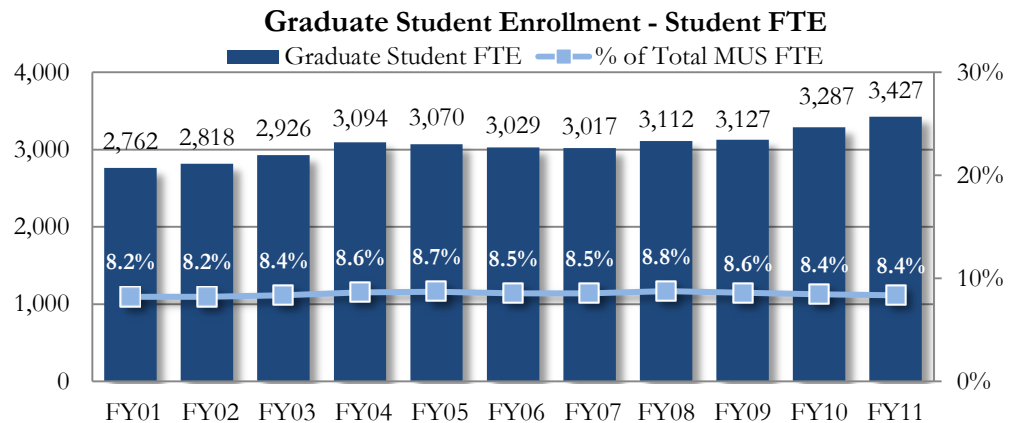
Goal Statement

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 (headcount): In Fall 2010, graduate students comprised **9.1%** of the total number of students (headcount) enrolled in higher education in Montana. In comparison, the regional average was **12.4%**. (source: IPEDS -- public and private colleges and universities)

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 ⁽¹⁾	2001-02	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Graduate Degrees Awarded	1113	1316	1277	1362	1372	1523
Graduate Degrees Awarded per 100 Graduate Student FTE	39.5	43.6	41.0	43.6	41.7	44.4
% STEM Degrees (Narrow)	18%	15%	14%	15%	14%	14%
% STEM Degrees (Broad)	34%	36%	36%	36%	39%	43%

Regional Comparison: (WICHE states, not including CA)

% STEM Degrees (Narrow)	16%	18%	17%	17%	17%	NA
% STEM Degrees (Broad)	31%	34%	32%	32%	34%	NA

¹⁾ includes master's, doctoral, and professional degrees

²⁾ source: MUS Data Warehouse, IPEDS regional comparisons (public institutions only)

STEM (narrow): based on NCES definition using 2 digit CIPs: (14) Engineering and (15) Engineering Tech (11) Comp & Info Sci (26) Biological and Biomedical Sci, (27) Mathematics & Stats, (40) Phy Sci, (41) Sci Tech

STEM (broad): (03) Nat Res & Conservation, (14) Engineering and (15) Engineering Tech (11) Comp & Info Sci (26) Biological and Biomedical Sci (01) Ag Operations (27) Mathematics & Stats, (40) Phy Sci, (41) Sci Tech (51) Health Prof; Also the following 6 digit CIPs were included, Ed Sci 13.1316, Tech Comm 23.1303, Interdisciplinary Studies (MT Tech) 30.9999