

From: Deputy Commissioner John Cech
To: Board of Regents

Please see below for an executive overview of the Level II items that are being proposed for your review and action at the March meeting of the Board of Regents. These items have been submitted by the campuses and reviewed by the Chief Academic Officers of the Montana University System and community colleges. OCHE staff has reviewed the items and provided a short analysis below relying on information submitted by the campuses. For more information and specific details on each item, please see the supporting documentation included on the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee agenda.

University of Montana Missoula
B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences

The current pharmacy program is a six-year program in which students complete a minimum of two years of pre-professional curriculum before apply for entrance into the four-year professional program. Upon completion of the professional program, students are awarded a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree. Those students that do not have a degree upon entering the professional program do not receive a Bachelor's Degree at any point in the program. The B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences is proposed to address this need. Students would receive the B.S. following completion of the second professional year. The curriculum for the B.S. degree would mirror the pre-pharmacy requirements and professional pharmacy courses.

This program will fill an unmet need for a Bachelor's level degree for the Skaggs School of Pharmacy. By awarding a degree prior to completion of the pharmacy program, professional pharmacy students will be able to enroll in graduate studies and receive graduate credit for graduate level courses in the last two years of the program. Students who leave the pharmacy program after the second year will be leaving with a degree acknowledging the four years of work they have completed.

Approximately 30-40 students in each class enter the Pharm.D. program without a Bachelor's degree. It is expected that at least half of those will choose to pursue the new B.S. degree. No additional time or resources on the part of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy faculty and staff will be required since students will not be required to deviate from the requirements for the Pharm.D. degree. There are currently no similar programs within the Montana University System.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

D.P.T. and M.P.H Dual Degree

A dual degree program for a Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) is proposed to provide a distinct path of training to prepare new practitioners in physical therapy with a focus on public and community health. The proposed program would integrate the two already existing programs into a formalized dual degree program (D.P.T./M.P.H.) without requiring any changes to the existing programs. The degree requirements will be configured such that students will take one additional semester of classes in order to complete the two degrees concurrently.

Currently, students are already pursuing the Certificate in Public Health while completing the DPT degree. This is due in part to the movement in the physical therapy field to expand the scope of practice to address population health issues. The dual degree program provides the opportunity for physical

therapy students to add public health expertise to their clinical and administrative competencies. The University anticipates that 3-5 new graduate students will enroll in the new dual degree program each year. No additional faculty or resources will be required at this time; however, rapid and sustained growth of the program may require reconfiguration of course offerings. No other MUS institutions award a D.P.T. or M.P.H. degree, let alone a dual degree.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Pharm.D.-M.P.H. Dual Degree

Similar to the other proposed dual degree programs, the proposed Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) and Master in Public Health (MPH) would integrate two existing programs into a formalized dual degree (Pharm.D.-M.P.H.). This degree option would allow students to complete the 42-credit MPH and 200-credit Pharm.D. degree in 4 years without requiring any changes to the existing programs.

The Pharm.D.-M.P.H. will increase the employability of graduates in the UM Pharm.D. program, who face an increasingly competitive job market. Employment of pharmacists is projected to grow only 3 percent. While the increase in demand for prescription medications is expected to lead to higher demand for pharmaceutical services, employment in traditional pharmacies is projected to decline slightly. A formal program that defines a clear pathway and course savings is expected to increase the student demand for the dual degree. Currently, 5 Pharmacy students have completed the Certificate in Public Health in the last 5 years.

The University anticipates that 3-5 new graduate students will enroll in the new dual degree program each year. No additional faculty or resources will be required at this time, however, rapid and sustained growth of the program may require reconfiguration of course offerings. No other MUS institutions award a Pharm.D. or M.P.H. degree, let alone a dual degree.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Pharm.D. – Pharmaceutical Sciences M.S. Dual Degree

Like the other dual degree program proposals, the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) and Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Drug Design (M.S. PSDD) would integrate two existing programs into a formalized dual degree program (Pharm.D./M.S.). The formalization of a Pharm.D./M.S. dual degree program would provide a clear path for pharmacy students that are interested in coupling their professional pharmacy training with a Master's level research degree without requiring any changes to the existing programs

The integration of laboratory-based research and pharmacy practice curriculum, allows graduates to compete more effectively for drug development and drug discovery job opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry and academics. Despite recent slowing in the growth of pharmacy positions overall, leadership positions have experienced growth as have opportunities for pharmacy residency programs. Pharmacy students pursuing dual degree programs will be well positioned to compete for residency positions and ultimately attain pharmacy leadership positions.

It is anticipated that two Pharm.D. students will initially enroll in the program with as many as six students from each Pharm.D. cohort enrolling in subsequent years. No additional faculty or resources are required at this time. There are no other Pharmacy programs in the MUS, so the dual degree at UM would represent a unique opportunity for students in Montana.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Community Health and Prevention Sciences option in the M.P.H

University of Montana seeks to add an option in Community Health and Prevention Sciences to the existing Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree. This 42-credit degree option would be offered collaboratively between the Department of Health and Human Performance and the School of Public and Community Health Sciences. Currently the University offers a M.S. in Health and Human Performance with an option in Community Health and a separate M.P.H. generalist degree. The new degree option would provide a distinct combination of courses and training to prepare new practitioners in public health with a focus on community and behavioral sciences, without requiring changes to the existing programs.

Community health and prevention practice is a growing field. With the implementation of the new program, students would be able to earn a M.P.H. degree in community health from a public health program that is nationally accredited. Students in the current on-line MPH program, particularly those with no prior public health work experience, would benefit from the enhanced incidental learning, research opportunities, and community building that can occur in face-to-face learning environments.

The University anticipates that 3-5 new graduate students will enroll in the new dual degree program each year. No additional faculty or resources will be required at this time, however, rapid and sustained growth of the program may require reconfiguration of course offerings. While no other institution in the MUS offers an M.P.H. degree, MSU Bozeman offers a B.S. and M.S. in Community Health.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

University of Montana Western
Minor, Certificate, A.A., and a B.A. in Glass

University of Montana Western proposes the addition of a new minor, certificate, associate of arts, and bachelor of arts in Glass. These degrees would be offered in a stackable model and expand upon the existing 3 courses offered at the university to include all disciplines of glassworking: furnace glass, torch-worked, fusing, casting, and coldworking. These disciplines will function to advance the careers of Western's students in commercial and fine arts, entrepreneurship, teaching, arts management, technical careers in scientific glassblowing, and will benefit cross disciplinary science students whose prospective job placement potential will be enriched from the knowhow of scientific glassblowing (chemists, biologists, physicists, etc.).

This need for this program has arisen from a shortage of institutions in the U.S. and regionally offering courses in glass arts and scientific glassworking as well as continued high enrollment in glass classes at Western and positive student feedback and interest from students in glass making. Salem Community College (one of only two scientific programs in the U.S.) boast a near 100% job placement rate for scientific glass students into national labs, pharmaceutical companies, private practices, and academic institutions. They also have a regular waitlist of 10 applicants, and deny many others. The initial demand for the program is expected to be 20 students due to the full Fall 2016 enrollment in the courses currently offered.

Additional faculty resources are not needed at this point. If enrollment exceeds 20 students, the need for additional faculty will need to be assessed. A fully functioning glass facility exists on campus and a dedicated torchworking studio space is currently being added (set to be completed in February 2017), so no additional resources are required for the program. No similar programs exist in the MUS, the state or a 10-state region. There are only two other schools in the U.S. that offer degrees in scientific glassblowing, in Arizona and New Jersey.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Montana State University Bozeman
The Western Lands and Peoples Center (WLPC)

MSU is proposing to create WLPC as a BOR recognized institutional center with the desire for the center to become an international hub for the study of critical issues involving the western US and Canada. The core mission of the center will be to foster the integrated study of the North American West with a focus on human/environmental interactions of the region. The center will help to provide a deeper understanding of the many social, political, and economic changes driven by this region, and will serve as a forum for discussion between the university and public over issues facing the state and region.

Funding for the center stem from a Humanities and Social Science Phase II grant for \$350,000 from the Office of the Vice President of Research and Economic Development and the Office of the President at MSU, a grant from the National Humanities Alliance to fund a series of week-long public history events scheduled for fall 2016, and from the ongoing MSU capital campaign. Additional funding will be sought from regional and national foundations as well as federal agencies. The immediate resources for the center will be office space for an administrative assistant, a Director, and various activities.

The University of Montana Missoula's O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West has a similar, but not duplicative focus as the proposed center at MSU. The focus of the center at UM is on regional growth and development (economics, geography, demography, and regional sciences), regional journalism (online and radio), and regional history, while the WLPC at MSU focuses on the study of the North American West's geography and geology; ecological studies of wildlife, fisheries, and resources in the West; studies of Indigenous societies and issues facing Native American peoples across the region; human/environmental interactions; the Digital Humanities; museum studies; and the culture, film, literature, and history of the region. It is the desire of MSU to develop collaborative activities and programming of relevance to future initiatives at both campuses.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve