Montana University System

INTENT TO PLAN FORM

Program/Center/Institute Title: C.T.S. in Addiction Studies

Campus, School/Department: Dept Applied Arts & Sciences, Missoula College

Contact Name/Info: Linda Eagleheart-Thomas, Ph.D. Professor Psychology; Dir. Addiction Studies Pathway in General AA

Expected Submission Date: SP 2019

To increase communication, collaboration, and problem-solving opportunities throughout the MUS in the program/center/institute development process, please complete this form not more than 18 months in advance of the anticipated date of submission of the proposed program/center/institute to the Board of Regents for approval. The completed form should not be more than 2-3 pages. For more information regarding the Intent to Plan process, please visit http://mus.edu/che/arsa/academicproposals.asp.

1) Provide a description of the program/center/institute.

The Department of Applied Arts & Sciences is proposing a Certificate of Technical Skills in Addiction Studies. The certificate meets the educational component required by the Montana Behavioral Health Board for LAC Application. The CTS will have about 30 credits of 10 core Addiction courses (330 hrs course work & 150 hrs. clinical practicum). The certificate is intended to be about 2 semesters. The CTS student is: Baccalaureate, post-Baccalaureates in allied majors (e.g. Social Work, Health and Human performance, nursing, psychology, and education); community professionals Licensed Addiction Counseling to their credentials (LCPC, LPC, MSW, LCSW; BSW, Ph.D, PsyD., Ed.D., & MA in the following: Sociology, Psychology, Education). The certificate provides the core courses in Addiction Studies to satisfy application requirements for candidacy for LAC and for the workforce in response to Montana's growing needs for addiction counselors.

2) Describe the need for the program/center/institute. Specifically, how the program/center/institute meets current student and workforce demands. (Please cite sources).

Substance Abuse Counselors advise people who suffer from alcoholism, drug addiction, etc. They provide treatment and support in client addiction recovery or modification of problem behaviors. “The median annual wage for substance abuse counselors...was $43,300 in May 2017. Employment of substance Abuse counselors is projected to grow by 23% from 2016-2026, much faster than the growth for the average of all occupations.”(https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/substance-abuse-behavioral-disorder-and-mental-health-counselors.htm). A Montana study found that over 160 addiction counselors are currently needed for Drug court needs. (Bringing Treatment Courts to Scale in Montana, 11/2018). The CTS is for graduating students, community professionals desiring to expand credentials, and returning students updating their current degree by including addiction counseling education. Only 13% of 26 million Americans needing treatment receive it. (https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/infographics/drug-alcohol-use-in-college-age-adults-in-2017 ). An OPIOID epidemic recognized at the highest levels of government demonstrate immediate need additional trained substance abuse counselors.
3) **Describe how the program/center/institute fits with the institutional mission, strategic plan, and existing institutional program array.**

The proposed certificate satisfies the requirement of lowering cost in education, while providing a substantially high-demand career with excellent starting salaries and entry-level opportunities. This certificate is in DIRECT alignment with the University of Montana health care initiatives, by offering educational opportunities in short amounts of time (<2 years). This program fits squarely with Missoula College’s Mission to meet Montana’s workforce demand, and will supply Montana with high quality Substance Abuse Counselors where there are currently LOW numbers. Providers are being flooded with individuals seeking counseling, but do not have enough trained counselors to recruit from. There is Federal financial assistance institutions providing this training in states with LOW numbers of LAC. This trend strengthens the real-world value of two-year programs and certificate programs, such as this proposed C.T.S.. As a result of all this growth in health care coverage, and federal funding/recognition of the need, the job outlook is expected to be highly favorable. Because of the attention of the Opioid epidemic, federal funding has opened up substantially. The certificate would be available as an "add on" to degree-seeking students by taking the core courses which will take about 1 academic year to complete. Partnering with the Montana tribal entities would be possible which is part of the greater UM strategic plan. The certificate would provide unique opportunities for recruitment including Native American Students, and Social Work Majors. We have already established behavior health partners for other health professions, and will continue with those to provide students with clinical experiences.

4) **Describe how the program/center/institute overlaps, complements, or duplicates existing efforts in the MUS.**

Describe efforts that will be made to collaborate with similar programs at other institutions. If no efforts will be made, please explain why.

The proposed CTS is not duplicating the programs at Flathead Valley Community college or Salish Kootenai Tribal College, closely aligned with their BSW program. Due to the distance of FVCC & SKC there is no apparent competition for student body, as we will be drawing from a different pool of students. There is a collaborative relationship, with specific support and referral to the Missoula College from the School of Social Work at the UM, consortium agreement in place since 2009. UM School of SW has actively referred social work students to the Missoula college addiction courses. Recently, a joint seminar for the UM and MC students in either the addiction or the social work pathway, focusing on how students could participate in a pathway to a career with several “stepping off points.” These “tiers” will allow students to “grow” in their career, having flexibility of starting and stopping at various points in academics, based on individual or family needs. The first would be the 2-year A.A.S. degree; the second would be the 4-year BSW, or Psychology BA, or a B.A.S. in Addiction Studies, and finally, advanced degrees, e.g. MSW, MA in Counseling, Ph.D., Ed.D. A MOU with the UM Psychology Department allows students to Addiction courses as electives. Approaching the psychology department with the offer of the CTS for their psychology student body would be pursued. Since addiction studies is not offered as a minor to the BA psychology, the CTS is ideal to add to the baccalaureate only student in psychology. Finally, remote Tribal Colleges may align with the Missoula College, offering our CTS in Addiction Studies as a collaborative program/transfer or 2 term residency. Additionally, a Certificate of technical skills Studies would be desirable by the graduate students in the Master of Social Work program and other professionals. Students could begin with a CTS, and later add in general education and receive an AA or A.A.S for transfer within the MUS system. The courses are CCN and are transferable within the MUS system.
Montana University System

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Signature/Date

College/School Dean: [Signature] 12/10/2018

Chief Academic Officer:

Chief Executive Officer:

Flagship Provost*: [Signature] 12/20/2018

Flagship President*: [Signature] 12/20/2018

*Not applicable to the Community Colleges.

Date of Final Review:

When submitting the proposal to the BOR, include this signed form with the Level II request.