

Montana University System
INTENT TO PLAN FORM

Program/Center/Institute Title: Equine Studies – Minor

Campus, School/Department: College of Technical Sciences – MSU Northern

Expected Submission Date: Mar 2018

Contact Name/Info: Larry Strizich, Dean of the COTS

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/preparingacademicproposals.asp>.

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

A minor in Equine Studies with a science-based approach to the animal science of horses used for recreation, work and sport. The minor will include elements of horsemanship including western riding, training colts and conformance of horses to a standard. The minor will focus on science including equine anatomy and physiology, breeding and genetics, nutrition as well as health issues that may require intervention by a vet. The minor may lead to the student moving more into the field of veterinarian or vet-tech, but avoids vet-specific subjects such as pregnancy checks.

The minor is intended to provide 'value-added' to a degree in Ag-Operations, Agriculture technology, Ag-Mechanics, Biology or Business Administration, though the minor will not be restricted to those majors. This minor will be a stand-alone program of study intended to increase the value and employability of a graduate who wishes to include this body of knowledge and skills in their career.

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

There is a strong interest among Northern students to augment a current program of study to include education on horse science. The interest includes both for personal enrichment as well as for aspiration to include horses as part of a career in agriculture, business or other primary major.

3) Describe how the program/center/institute fits with the institutional mission, strategic plan, and existing institutional program array.

The institution currently houses a vibrant Agriculture Operations baccalaureate degree program, as well as business programs. Discussions with current and prospective Northern students have revealed a strong interest in incorporating Equine studies in the current offerings at Northern. The institution seeks to increase enrollment while offering a much desired option to current program offerings.

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

Northern will work with faculty from the MSU Bozeman campus and NARC in the development of this minor, and hopes to use MSU Faculty currently stationed at the Northern Agriculture Research Center to aid in the delivery

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of instruction. Rather than duplicating the efforts of MSU, we seek to extend the reach of the Bozeman program while adding a much desired enhancement to programs at Northern.

Northern met with the Chancellor and Provost from UM Western to discuss the different emphasis of Northern's proposed Minor in Equine Studies and the current UM Western Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Natural Horsemanship. It was agreed that this proposed minor would provide greater options for MSU Northern students majoring in the agricultural areas. In addition, we discussed the potential for students to transfer the credits in the proposed minor to the UM Western program. We will work with the UM Western Provost as we develop the specific learning outcomes and coursework to enhance the transfer options.

Northern also met with Rita Kratky, CAO at Miles Community College, and with Brett Badgett, Equine Studies faculty at Miles Community College to discuss the relationship between Miles's Equine Science programs (AAS, AA) and the proposed Minor in Equine Studies at Northern. It was agreed that the programs are complementary and provide an important transfer option for Miles students to one of Northern's four year degrees. We will collaborate on the course development to align where appropriate with equine courses at Miles Community College.

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Signature/Date

College/School Dean:  / Oct 5, 2017

Chief Academic Officer:  / Oct 5, 2017

Chief Executive Officer:  / 10.5.2017

Flagship Provost*:  / 10/27/17

Flagship President*:  Oct 30, 2017

*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.