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.

Missoula College seeks to partner with an existing local organization (MESI- Missoula Emergency Services, Inc.) to create a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree (AAS) in Paramedical science.

The Paramedicine Program will consist of approximately 72 semester credit hours, including approximately 15 general education credits and approximately 1000 clock hours of clinical rotation. The A.A.S. degree will qualify students for national certification and help to meet workforce demand in the field of emergency medicine. MESI instructors will be vetted to ensure their qualifications meet Missoula College instructor standards, and may be retained through Faculty Affiliate agreements or hired directly as Missoula College faculty.

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

Paramedicine is described by the Montana Dept. of Labor and Industry as a high-demand occupation (“Meeting State Worker Demand,” 2017), currently served by a combination of college and community-based programs. Because of intensive requirements for clinical training aboard ambulances and in hospital settings, all programs are "place-based" and rely on local ambulance and hospital facilities for this student clinical training.

In Missoula, the privately-owned Missoula Emergency Services Inc. (MESI) operates a Paramedicine Program that is recognized by the State. And while MESI graduates help meet workforce demand in western Montana, they cannot obtain a national certification because standards call for programs to be Accredited (either independently or through a DOE-recognized Regional Accrerditor). MESI seeks to partner with Missoula College to meet this national accreditation requirement.

Student demand for MESI’s program is consistently high, with class enrollments of 15 students common (personal communication, MESI).
Montana University System

INTENT TO PLAN FORM

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

The proposed Paramedicine Program fits squarely with Missoula College’s Mission to meet Montana’s workforce demand, and will supply Montana with highly-qualified paramedics.

The Program will also provide graduates a “stepping stone” into other health care careers such as Physicians’ Assistants, Physical Therapy, and Nursing.

The proposed Program would rely on many facility partners with whom Missoula College already has well-established partnerships to provide student clinical experiences.

The proposed Program does not necessitate development of any new classes, but would require, and support, several general education classes that are existing requirements of other Health Professions programs.

The proposed Program offers unique opportunities for recruitment.

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

The Proposed A.A.S. in Paramedical Science would complement the State’s three existing Paramedicine Programs and would employ Common Course Numbering. MSU Billings City College and MSU Great Falls College both offer Paramedicine Programs leading to the A.A.S. degree, as does Flathead Valley Community College in western Montana.

All Programs rely on local ambulance services and hospital facilities to provide opportunities for student training, so Missoula College students would remain in the Missoula area for this training. As a result, no adverse impact to enrollment in other College programs is expected.

Signature/Date

College/School Dean:  [Signature]

Chief Academic Officer:  [Signature]

Chief Executive Officer:  [Signature]

Flagship Provost*:  [Signature]

Flagship President*:  [Signature]

*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.