

**Montana University System**  
**INTENT TO PLAN FORM**

Program/Center/Institute Title: Master of Public Policy

Campus, School/Department: Department of Public Administration & Policy (UM Alexander Blewett School of Law) Expected Submission Date: Fall 2019

Contact Name/Info: Dr. Sara Rinfret, Chair, Department of Public Administration & Policy

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 University of Montana's Department of Public Administration & Policy proposes a new graduate level degree to meet workforce and student demand. The Master of Public Policy degree is an online graduate level degree and directed at public sector employees seeking to enhance their skills to lead and manage effectively the implementation of public policies, projects, and programs that resolve important societal problems. This first-of-its kind graduate degree for the MUS, addresses public sector problems through the lens of law, policy, and public administration. We use curriculum already offered in our MPA Program in a focused way to develop, assess, and evaluate approaches to current and emerging policy issues.

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

The Master of Public Policy program helps to address demand already established by the significant student enrollment growth in the Department of Public Administration & Policy (DPAP). For example, DPAP's newly created graduate level certificate in public policy has already admitted 10 students for Fall 2019. This is without advertisement. In addition, feedback from our annual student exit survey has asked for the creation of an MPP. Most importantly, our accreditation body, NASPAA encouraged we meet workforce demand and diversification with our curriculum through the creation of an MPP.

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

The Master of Public Policy degree serves UM's institutional mission (community of excellence in law, policy, and public service), the Department of Public Administration and Policy's strategic vision and existing mission to provide a cutting edge education for public and nonprofit sector professionals.

**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.**

This will be the first-ever Master of Public Policy graduate degree offered in the MUS system. This complements the already strong Department of Public Administration & Policy's Master of Public Administration Program. In addition, it helps to meet workforce demand for pre-career and mid-career professionals interested in policy analysis, working for a think tank, or an emphasis on quantitative/qualitative research.

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**Signature/Date**

**College/School Dean:** DocuSigned by:  
*Paul Kingis*  
085DCC221F774B7... 5/5/2019

**Chief Academic Officer:**

**Chief Executive Officer:**

**Flagship Provost\*:** DocuSigned by:  
*Jon Harbor*  
3045804175FA449D... 5/10/2019

**Flagship President\*:** DocuSigned by:  
*Seth Bodnar*  
045804175FA449D... 5/12/2019

\*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.**