

Montana University System

INTENT TO PLAN FORM

Program/Center/Institute Title: Bachelor of Arts Degree in Nonprofit Administration

Campus, School/Department: University of Montana, Dept. of Public Admin. & Policy, Alexander Blewett School of Law Expected Submission Date: August, 2020

Contact Name/Info: Dr. Sara Rinfret, sara.rinfret@mso.umt.edu; 243-4702

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 is uniquely positioned to be the first institution in the state to offer a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Nonprofit Administration. Professionalization of the nonprofit sector has increased the need for undergraduate degrees in the field. UM's BA in Nonprofit Administration will develop students' professional and managerial competencies to qualify for jobs in the nonprofit sector, a highly diversified and distinctive wing of our nation's economy that makes up 11% of Montana's workforce. Curriculum will build interdisciplinary knowledge and skills necessary for competent, professional staff and organizational leaders including fundraising, grant writing, strategic planning, public service, financial management, and board management to name just a few. Courses will be offered online and in-person and engage students in experiential, community-based learning to ground their education in real-world experience and capitalize on high impact practices such as service learning and internships.

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

Communities and our democracy depend on civil society and community networks embedded in the nonprofit sector. Since 2001, the development of nonprofit administration curriculum at UM has focused on applicability of professional skill sets relevant to the strength and success of the nonprofit sector. The professionalization of the nonprofit sector over the past three decades created more demand for university-level preparation for leadership in the sector. UM is the only higher education institution in the state to offer curriculum in nonprofit administration, therefore we have an urgent obligation to maintain and grow our curriculum at the highest level. Students seek full-degree programs in the field to equip them for leadership in the nonprofit sector and careers with social impact. Typical entry-level employment in the sector requires a Bachelor's degree. Employment needs for social and community service managers in nonprofit organizations is projected to grow 18% from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations (US Bureau of Labor Statistics). The nonprofit sector is a distinctive wing of our nation's economy that makes up 11.2% of Montana's workforce and 10% nationally. It provides 11.5% of all Montana wages (MT Nonprofit Economic Report).

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

The BA in Nonprofit Administration will prepare students for critical community engagement and community building careers, and strongly supports UM's mission to shape global citizens who are creative and agile learners committed to expanding the boundaries of knowledge and to building and sustaining diverse communities. Furthermore, curriculum in the program will be highly experiential and include service learning and internships which closely align with and support additional aspects of UM's commitment to education...as personal development and citizen preparation, workforce development and training, graduate education and research, service learning, and community building on and off the campuses. The BA in Nonprofit Administration ties closely with UM's Partner with Place Priority for Action because of the integration of high impact practices into the core curriculum. Students in the major will engage in service learning courses and complete a 300-hour internship – important goals stated in Partner with Place Objective 1. The BA in Nonprofit Administration also directly connects to UM's Justice, Policy, and Public Policy Community of Excellence which states that UM develops citizens who serve their communities and participate in democratic governance through advocacy, dialogue, dissent, and ethical decision making. The nonprofit sector is the primary arena in our society in which citizen action, community building, and community engagement occur. Educating professionals to work in and lead organizations in the civil/nonprofit sector is of upmost importance for creating and supporting programs and services for vibrant communities in which all of our citizens can grow and thrive. Core curriculum for the BA in Nonprofit Administration will be in the Department of Public Administration and Policy (DPAP). DPAP will partner with other departments and disciplines at UM to offer elective courses to provide a well-rounded set of courses to prepare students for work in the diverse nonprofit sector.

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 BA in Nonprofit Administration is the first in Montana. We are the only campus in the entire Pacific Northwest region that will offer a specific undergraduate degree in Nonprofit Administration, thereby giving UM a stronghold in the marketplace for students who are seeking this specific academic and professional development opportunity. MSU Northern offers an undergraduate BA degree in Community Leadership. This program is different from UM's proposed program because it includes an emphasis on public sector work and preparing students for employment in federal and state government, and recreation programs. UM will commit to communicating with MSU Northern's program to identify areas where there may be opportunities to collaborate on specific coursework through online modalities.

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Signature/Date

College/School Dean:	DocuSigned by: <i>P. F. King</i> 75BF53961631458...	5/23/2019	DocuSigned by: <i>Sara Kinfret</i> B919C31987464F8...	5/23/2019
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Chief Academic Officer:

Chief Executive Officer:

Flagship Provost*:	DocuSigned by: <i>Jon Harbor</i> 3045804175FA449D...	5/23/2019
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Flagship President*:	DocuSigned by: <i>Seth Bodnar</i> 3045804175FA449D...	5/23/2019
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*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.