

Montana University System
INTENT TO PLAN FORM

Program/Center/Institute Title: Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Campus, School/Department: UM-Missoula, College of Health Professions & Biomedical Sciences Expected Submission Date: 6/12/19

Contact Name/Info: Reed Humphrey, Dean, CHPBS, UM-Missoula

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 College of Health Professions & Biomedical Sciences at the University of Montana-Missoula, propose to create a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS). The program will seek accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The MPAS is a full-time program that begins each summer semester (early May) and spans 27 months over seven continuous semesters. Part-time or interrupted attendance is not an option, and no online classes are offered.

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 need for Physician Assistants across the United State, including Montana, particularly in the area of primary and rural care. Employment of physician assistants is projected to grow 37 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. As demand for healthcare services grows, physician assistants will be needed to provide care to patients (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physician-assistants.htm>). Moreover, there is no public option for the MPAS for Montana residents. The only current PA program in Montana is private, at Rocky Mountain College.

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

The University of Montana-Missoula houses health professions programs both at Missoula College (eight programs) and the Mountain Campus, with post-baccalaureate programs in physical therapy, pharmacy practice, athletic training speech language and hearing, social work, public health and clinical psychology. A main initiative at UM is interprofessional education (IPE), so the addition of a PA program on the UM campus creates an environment that will be contemporary and relevant to students, improving both their education and integration into team-based care. UM also houses the Family Medicine Residency program of Western Montana, with multiple rural sites and a primary and rural care orientation, providing an infrastructure for training and IPE. Adding a PA program at UM moves the broader educational mission forward while serving the citizens of Montana.

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.

There is no public option for the MPAS for Montana residents. The only current PA program in Montana is private, at Rocky Mountain College. Through the MUS Institute for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice in Health & Medicine, we expect to collaborate to the maximum extent feasible with our partners in the MUS.

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Signature/Date

College/School Dean: DocuSigned by:
Reed Humphrey
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Chief Academic Officer:

Chief Executive Officer:

Flagship Provost*: DocuSigned by:
Jon Harbor 6/12/2019

Flagship President*: DocuSigned by:
Seth Bodnar 6/12/2019

*Not applicable to the Community Colleges. DocuSigned by:
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Date of Final Review:

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