

Montana University System
INTENT TO PLAN FORM

Program/Center/Institute Title: **Master of Arts in Art Therapy and Counseling**

Campus, School/Department: **MSUBillings, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences/Art Department**

Expected Submission Date: **July 2020**

Contact Name/Info: **Dr. Patricia Vettel Becker**

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.

Art Therapy is an integrative mental health and human services profession that enriches the lives of individuals, families, and communities through active artmaking, creative process, applied psychological theory, and human experience within a psychotherapeutic relationship. The master's degree is the educational level required to apply to the national Art Therapy Credentials Board (ATCB) for certification. The proposed Art Therapy graduate program would include the necessary coursework, practicum, and internship hours required to apply for state licensure as Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPC). This program will feature interdisciplinary collaborations, including those between the departments of Art, Psychology, and Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling. The Department of Art within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences will house the new program. The National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) accredits art therapy graduate programs. MSU Billings has been NASAD-accredited since 1980, and it is the Art Department that manages this accreditation. The department is enthusiastic about hosting this program. Moreover, we plan to develop a pre-art therapy undergraduate track within the current B.A. in Art degree program and a 3+3 or 3+2 program, allowing students to complete both the undergraduate and graduate degrees in six rather than seven years. A graduate certificate in studio art will also be developed to support both the proposed degree and high school teachers seeking the graduate credits necessary to teach dual-enrollment art classes.

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

Due to high demand from students and a lack of graduate Art Therapy programs in the state and larger region, developing this program has long been a goal of the MSUBillings Art Department. The 2017 Montana Department of Labor and Industry Market Outcomes report lists "Rehabilitation Counselors" as the only master's degree program under "Potential Areas for New Program Development" for the "South Central Region and Statewide" (2017, 11). Art Therapy is projected for job growth at 12 percent through the year 2024, which is faster than average. (<https://www.bestcounselingdegrees.net/faq/what-is-the-career-outlook-for-art-therapists/>)

This program is likely to bring in new students, particularly those interested in both studio art and a career in the therapy and counseling fields. A survey of current MSU Billings students conducted In November 2019 found that

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of the 240 students surveyed, 52 reported that they were interested in an Art Therapy Master's degree, which represented 22%. The Art Department's Advisory Council met on October 1, 2019. Members were supportive of this proposal and offered feedback concerning possible community partners. We have prepared short surveys for both potential employers of graduates of this program and for current LCPCs requesting their feedback. Additionally, Art Therapy is a credential that current state-licensed counselors and therapists may want to attain, as well as those new to the field. As the largest urban and health care region in the state, MSU Billings is the ideal location for this new program.

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

The Master of Arts in Art Therapy and Counseling degree program fits with the MSUBillings institutional mission to deliver a transformative education that empowers students from diverse backgrounds to succeed by providing an opportunity for students to apply their talents and interest in art to the strong and growing counseling career field. The program fits with the MSUBillings strategic plan in the following ways:

Theme I: Building Educational Programs To Support Student Needs: The program is being designed in response to long-standing student requests, with student input, and with engagement with community partners, including regional practicing Art Therapists. The program will leverage high-impact educational practices and will broaden opportunities for student and faculty scholarship.

Theme II: Progressively Grow The University: The program will increase student enrollment by providing a degree option that bridges the Art and Counseling fields with the potential to draw enrollment both within Montana, and to be a leader within the larger regional area (the closest programs are in the Minneapolis, Denver, and Seattle metro areas).

Theme III: Strengthen Relationships With The Community To Enhance Partnership Opportunities: The program is being designed with the advice of community members to meet workforce needs. The needs of educational communities to provide dual-enrollment art courses are also being considered in the program design.

The program fits within the existing institutional program array by extending the B.A. in Art degree program and using the interdisciplinary nature of Art Therapy to build new opportunities for students by leveraging both new and existing institutional resources.

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 Master of Arts in Art Therapy and Counseling degree program will be unique in Montana and the larger region. The program consists of three elements: an art therapy core, studio art content, and mental health content that will lead to students becoming national Registered Art Therapists through the Art Therapy Credentials Board and Montana Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors. The studio art content, and mental health content will overlap with other Master's level curriculum in the Montana University System. At Montana State University Billings, this will be a strength, as existing Psychology and Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling coursework will be used to fulfill the mental health content requirements. Every effort will also be

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made to create articulation agreements to align curriculum with other programs that offer graduate-level studio art and mental health content. These programs include the Master of Science degree in Counseling and Master of Fine Arts from MSU-Bozeman, the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Master of Fine Arts from UM-Missoula. These articulations would also assist alumni from these programs and other practicing counselors in pursuing Art Therapy credentials through MSUBillings. Articulation with School Counseling programs will also be explored.

Signature/Date

College/School Dean: *Christina Shaver*

Chief Academic Officer: *Heidi Auld*

Chief Executive Officer: *Sam Edel*

Flagship Provost*: *Phil Makina 2-18-20*

Flagship President*: *Debra Reynolds Feb 18, 2020*

*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.