

Montana University System
INTENT TO PLAN FORM

Program/Center/Institute Title: M.S. in Veterinary Science

Campus, School/Department: Microbiology & Immunology and WIMU Program

Expected Submission Date: 1/1/2020

Contact Name/Info: Mark Quinn, 994-4707

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 Department of Microbiology & Immunology and WIMU Program propose a new Masters of Science (M.S.) in Veterinary Science. This will be a Plan B or coursework-only M.S. degree and is not currently available within the Montana University System. By allowing our first-year veterinary students to complete a M.S. degree while at MSU, this program will take advantage of the unique training at our WIMU site and will provide recognition of their achievement.

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 WIMU Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine is a cooperative program involving Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Utah whereby students are trained for either one or two years at the regional sites and then go on to Washington State University for the remaining years to finish their DVM. Montana WIMU students complete one year of coursework at MSU, which is comprised of 37 graduate level credits. We propose that students successfully completing these credits would receive a Plan B (coursework) M.S. in Veterinary Science. No new courses, instructors, or new funding would be needed to implement this program. This degree would increase the competitiveness of students who were not able to complete the four-year DVM program for employment in the animal health industry or for the pursuit of other advanced educational pursuits (e.g., Ph.D. programs). Indeed, there is a continued need for scientists and educators who will be leaders in biomedical and veterinary research and post-secondary instruction [Camilli, G. and Hira, R. (2019) *J. Sci. Educ. Technol.* 28: 1]. Completion of the M.S. in Veterinary Science will provide our WIMU students with this training and would provide alternative career opportunities if desired.

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

The proposed program is consistent with the strategic vision of Montana State University. Specifically, this program addresses Goal 1.2 under Intentional Focus 1 of the MSU Strategic Plan by expanding high-quality graduate education opportunities and will directly increase the potential number of M.S. degrees awarded. In addition, this program addresses Goal 2.1 under Intentional Focus 2 of the MSU Strategic Plan by providing training and a degree that can be used to address problems in agriculture and animal science related to food security and community wellness.

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- 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 program supports and complements the University's efforts to elevate its areas of excellence, to expand graduate program opportunities, and to increase the number of degrees awarded. There are no other comparable programs in the MUS. In fact, only a few universities in the country offer a similar 1-year M.S. program (as examples, Mississippi State University offers a similar coursework M.S. in Veterinary Science; The Ohio State University offers a 1-year M.S. program in Veterinary Medicine; University of Nebraska-Lincoln offers a 1-year M.S. program in Veterinary Sciences; and the University of Minnesota offers a 1-year M.S. program in Veterinary Medicine). These programs have similar coursework as our proposed program and are all 30 credit M.S. programs. This program will not only complement the WIMU D.V.M. program and will be a potential added benefit to MSU WIMU students, but it will also complement existing graduate programs in the department of Microbiology & Immunology, including a Plan B M.S. program in Microbiology & Immunology.

Signature/Date

College/School Dean:  02/14/2020

Chief Academic Officer:  2-18-20

Chief Executive Officer:  Feb 18, 2020

Flagship Provost*:  2/18-20

Flagship President*:  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.