

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: University of Montana - Western

Program Years: 2011 - 2017

List of the programs reviewed:

- B.S. in Biology; B.S. in Ecology; Biology Secondary Education
 - B.A. Visual Arts Option
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Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:

B.S. in Biology; B.S. in Ecology; Biology Secondary Education

The campus recommends continuation of its Biology programs.

B.A. Visual Arts Option

The campus recommends continuation of the B.A. Visual Arts Option.

Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.

Please see the attached detailed individual Program Review summaries.

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: The University of Montana Western

Program Years: 2011-2018

List of the programs reviewed:

Biology

Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:

The department and its degree programs (BS: Biology; BS: Ecology) should be maintained.

Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.

Major	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Biology	128	128	125	98	102	94	97
Biology, Secondary Education	9	9	5	4	2	2	4
Ecology	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
TOTAL	137	137	130	102	106	96	108

Graduates by Major	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Biology	10	15	11	12	22	23	15
Biology, Secondary Education	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	17	11	12	22	23	15

As the Biology program developed over the past seven years, the degree structure has evolved rapidly based on the ability of our faculty to provide diverse and rigorous course offerings in support of specific Options aligned with professional school entrance requirements and workforce needs. In the last

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seven years a new BS: Ecology degree has been developed as has a new option area in Pre-Professional Medical and Veterinary Sciences.

The number of majors within the Biology Department have remained fairly stable over the last seven years. The slight decrease in majors seen starting in 2013 may be attributed to declining numbers of high school graduates across the state, but the number of majors seems to have stabilized again. With 6 full-time faculty members in the department, we feel that a 110 – 130 headcount falls within a sustainable range of student to faculty ratios (18:1 to 21:1) and course scheduling ability. Additionally, this number of majors in addition to our support of other majors through general education and required courses supports high enrollment in most of our courses. The Biology Secondary Education program, while not well enrolled, consists entirely of content area and professional core courses that are all well enrolled. The cost of maintaining that program is therefore minimal.

Biology faculty offer numerous sections of courses each semester that help fulfill the Natural Sciences area of the UMW General Education curriculum for both science majors and non-science majors. Over the last seven years, the biology department has averaged over 7.5 general education sections per year.

Over the last seven years, Biology faculty have made significant efforts to improve success and retention of students. Some of these efforts include small class sizes (most are capped at 20 - 24), experiential learning as a pathway to science inquiry in biology courses, engaging students in authentic research opportunities with faculty, in-depth student advising by Biology faculty, utilization of the campus Learning Center to support in-class learning, career workshops and assistance with internship placement.

Graduates from our programs have gone on to successfully enter a number of graduate and professional programs, as well as relevant careers after graduation. In the last seven years, over 23 graduates have entered veterinary school, medical school, pharmacy school, physical therapy school, nursing and Ph.D. and Master's degree programs.

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Institution: **The University of Montana Western**

Program Years: **2011-2018**

List of the programs reviewed:

Fine Arts - Visual Arts

Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:

The Visual Arts Option degree program should be maintained.

Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.

Year	Majors	Degrees Granted
2011	29	4
2012	31	6
2013	39	7
2014	25	8
2015	31	3
2016	25	7
2017	18	5

As is evident in the summary table, the number of students majoring in Visual Arts and completing their B.A. Visual Arts Option degree has held relatively steady, and interest in this content area at The University of Montana Western has remained strong.

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Additionally:

- In addition to the B.A. Visual Arts Option, The University of Montana Western Fine Arts Program serves students pursuing a B.S. in Arts Education, Fine Arts Minors, General Education Requirements, and recently added B.A. in Glass, A.A in Glass, and Certificate in Glass.
- Since a large number of the courses offered are used in the general education program, these are highly-enrolled and successful.
- All courses are hands on and skill-centered. Broad base core classes and course requirements expose students to multiple mediums and a broad range of visual arts skills. A high degree of experiential learning is incorporated in courses at all levels.
- The Visual Arts programming is in large part self-sustaining through the generous support of the Mary Baker Emerick Endowment for art student scholarships, art education equipment, art education facilities, and art education programming. Such funds are used to support students and to continue improving fine arts and arts education students' success through the maintenance and improvement of each of these factors.
- The core vocabulary of Visual Arts, as reflected by the principles and elements of design, are introduced to students in the visual language courses and art history courses and reinforced through critiques, discussions, and written assignments in subsequent courses.
- Art history courses provide countless examples of how artwork has reflected the cultural and historical context of the artists. Concept-driven assignments, personal reflections, project statements, and thesis work invite students to consider the way their own cultural and historical context is reflected through their artistic choices.
- Students employ technology throughout all of their courses, whether conducting research online, constructing slide presentations and written papers through appropriate software, or learning the basic artistic production technologies such as print presses, glassblowing torches, or kilns. There are also digital media arts courses and internships available for students particularly interested in developing digital media.
- Art History courses prepare students to write about artists, art history, and art criticism through discussions, short reflections, collaborative research and presentations, and essays. Upper level research-based art courses like the Art Seminar continue to build on these skills in order to serve the final thesis.
- Students go on into a number of art-related fields that serve communities in Montana, including: Art Education ranging from Pre-K to High School and beyond; Community arts programs; Arts Programming and Development; Independent Design or studio work. Some students also go on to pursue graduate degrees in Fine Arts or related fields.
- Faculty participate fully in important university committees and in other forms of professional service.
- In 2018, the Fine Arts faculty have organized an impressive student recruitment initiative at the regional, state, and national level.