

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

LEVEL II REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	138-401-R0108	Date of Meeting:	January 10 & 11, 2008
Institution:	Miles Community College		
Program Title:	Associate of Applied Science in Equine Studies		

Level II proposals require approval by the Board of Regents.

Level II action requested (check all that apply): Level II proposals entail substantive additions to, alterations in, or termination of programs, structures, or administrative or academic entities typically characterized by the (a) addition, reassignment, or elimination of personnel, facilities, or courses of instruction; (b) rearrangement of budgets, cost centers, funding sources; and (c) changes which by implication could impact other campuses within the Montana University System and community colleges. Board policy 303.1 indicates the curricular proposals in this category:

- 1. Change names of degrees (e.g. from B.A. to B.F.A.)
- 2. Implement a new minor or certificate where there is no major or no option in a major;
- 3. Establish new degrees and add majors to existing degrees;
- 4. Expand/extend approved mission; and
- 5. Any other changes in governance and organization as described in Board of Regents' Policy 218, such as formation, elimination or consolidation of a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory, or similar unit.

Specify Request:

Miles Community College (MCC) seeks approval to award the Associate of Applied Science degree in Equine Studies.

Miles Community College is working in collaboration with UM-Western to provide a 2 + 2 transfer degree into their BS of Natural Horsemanship. In partnership with this 2 + 2 AS degree, Miles Community College would also like to offer a two year Associate of Applied Science degree as well. This degree will allow students to complete a variety of courses in equine management that will prepare them for employment in the equine industry. Employment opportunities include: a horse trainer, farrier, stable manager, rancher or a plethora of careers that are developing in the equine field. The AAS degree varies from the AS transfer degree in that it provides students with hands-on experience that recognizes the needs of area ranches, guiding services and hoof care businesses. The addition of the AAS in partnership with the AS degree will ensure strong enrollment in the equine transfer courses.

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS
NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Institution: Miles Community College

Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Equine Studies

1. **Overview: (Provide a one paragraph description of the proposed program. Be specific about what degree, major, minor or option is sought.)**

The proposed Associate of Applied Science degree in Equine Studies will provide students with the knowledge and hands-on experience necessary to become highly employable in the equine industry. Equine students will be qualified to work as a trainer, farrier, stable manager, producer, or feed salesperson. Students will learn all aspects of horsemanship, ranch activities, non-evasive training techniques, hoof trim and care, as well as equine science.

2. **Need:**

- a. **To what specific need is the institution responding in developing the proposed program?**

The equine industry is a very large and important part of our national, state and local economies. Specifically in our region horses are raised for use in agriculture, sport, entertainment and recreation. In an economic study completed by Deloitte Consulting LLP for the American Horse Council Foundation in 2005, they summarized that the equine industry is highly-diverse and provides significant economic impact at the impact rate of \$102 billion.

Highlights of the study stated that there are 9.2 million horses in the United States, with 4.6 million Americans involved as horse owners or service providers. The horse industry employs 453,612 full-time equivalent jobs.

Duane Johnson, superintendent at the Montana Agricultural Northwestern Research Center has found a 6.5% annual growth rate in the Pacific Northwest equine industry. There are over 130,000 registered horses in the state of Montana alone with thousands of horses not registered with a breed association.

This program supports the growth of the equine industry, by providing a well-trained employee base to fill the jobs that serve this industry.

- b. **How will students and any other affected constituencies be served by the proposed program?**

Students interested in becoming a part of the equine industry will have an opportunity to complete a program that prepares them to work with and train ranch horses, as well as serve in other auxiliary functions to the industry. This program is unique in the state and designed specifically for our region as students will train horses to complete common ranch tasks such as roping and cow handling. They will also learn complete horse care, nutrition, equine science and basic farrier skills. Those with a strong interest in horseshoeing may complete additional electives that will certify them as a farrier.

- c. **What is the anticipated demand for the program? How was this determined?**

A program will be considered full with 12 – 15 students per instructor. We anticipate the

program to be full upon approval by the Board of Regents when marketing can take place.

Community members approached the college with the concept of an equine program. From this suggestion, two courses were instituted during the 2006 – 2007 academic term. During the fall semester 12 students enrolled in a “Western Horsemanship” class as an elective course. That spring, a “Starting the Young Horse” class was instituted with 13 students enrolled. It was during this spring semester, that Miles Community College approached UM Western with the concept of a 2 + 2 program with their institution.

The Miles Community College Endowment Board voted to fund a position for one year to hire a person to develop the Equine Studies program and work with the advisory committee and the UM – Western on articulated coursework. Without any advertising, the program has six potential students based solely on word of mouth discussions by advisory committee members. These students are currently completing an Introduction to Equine Studies course. Should this program be approved by the Montana Board of Regents, Miles Community College is sure all spots in the program would be filled by the 2008-2009 academic year.

3. Institutional and System Fit:

a. What is the connection between the proposed program and existing programs at the institution?

Currently Miles Community College has an Agriculture certificate as well as an AS in Agribusiness that is a 2 + 2 program with Montana State University. The Equine Studies degree would enhance the agriculture related offerings we have on this campus. It will also allow for the sharing of faculty resources between the two programs.

b. Will approval of the proposed program require changes to any existing programs at the institution? If so please describe.

The approval of the AAS in Equine Studies will not require changes to any existing programs.

c. Describe what differentiates this program from other, closely related programs at the institution (if appropriate).

The agriculture certificate and Agribusiness degree at Miles Community College have components of animal science, soil resources, plant science and natural resource conservation as well as business courses. The Equine Studies degree will focus solely on animal science and nutrition, with an emphasis on working specifically with horses. While our Agriculture degrees are broader, the Equine Studies degree will be very specific.

d. How does the proposed program serve to advance the strategic goals of the institution?

The mission of Miles Community College is to promote student success and lifelong learning through accessible, quality programs and community partnerships. The seven strategic initiatives include:

1. Foster quality leadership.
2. Provide a quality student experience.
3. Provide quality academic programs.
4. Cultivate quality community relationships.
5. Recruit and retain students.
6. Nurture a healthy College environment.

7. Actively seek sustainable funding.

This program has the rigor to provide a quality academic program, while at the same time the hands-on curriculum provides relevance to the students and insures their quality student experience. As this program was proposed by our community and highly supported by our advisory group of 15 individuals who work in the industry, we have enhanced our community partnerships and relationships.

As with all colleges in Montana, we must meet the needs of our region as well as find programs that will foster interest from students outside of our state for recruitment and retention. This program has shown it has a strong local interest, but will also serve students from other states that are looking for this type of educational experience.

- e. Describe the relationship between the proposed program and any similar programs within the Montana University System. In cases of substantial duplication, explain the need for the proposed program at an additional institution. Describe any efforts that were made to collaborate with these similar programs; and if no efforts were made, explain why. If articulation or transfer agreements have been developed for the substantially duplicated programs, please include the agreement(s) as part of the documentation.**

As mentioned, we are working with the UM – Western to establish a 2 + 2 articulation into their BS in Natural Horsemanship. The AAS degree proposed here would not be the transfer degree. Rather, this will be a stand-alone program that provides employable skills for students after two years. Those students planning to complete a four-year degree will enter into the AS in Equine Studies which is the transfer program that will be articulated with UM – Western.

The AAS in Equine Studies proposed by Miles Community College differentiates from other AAS degrees in Montana because it adds the working ranch horse component as well as skills that would allow students to become farriers or work for guiding services. No other AAS degrees in the state have this focus.

4. Program Details:

- a. Provide a detailed description of the proposed curriculum. Where possible, present the information in the form intended to appear in the catalog or other publications. NOTE: In the case of two-year degree programs and certificates of applied science, the curriculum should include enough detail to determine if the characteristics set out in Regents' Policy 301.12 have been met.**

Following is the proposed Equine Studies degree program as suggested by the Advisory Committee. The math required is satisfied by BU110 (Business Math), written communications are satisfied with CA105 (Technical Writing), and the human relations component is embedded in the Horse Conformation and Equine Sales and Marketing classes.

EQUINE STUDIES AAS DEGREE
Total credits 60

Freshman Fall Semester			Freshman Spring Semester		
EQ155L	Intro to Basic Horsemanship	3	EQ102 EQ102L	Horse Conformation (embedded oral communications)	2 2
SC101 SC101L	Principles of Biology	3 1	EQ130 EQ130L	Hoof Care Science Hoof Care Science Lab	1 1
EQ101	Introduction to Equine Studies	4	EQ252L	Horsemanship 1: Building a Relationship	3
BU110	Business Mathematics	3	EQ165L	Livestock Handling & Ranch Roping	3
CA105	Technical Writing	3	BU108	Vocational Bookkeeping	3
	Total Credits	17		Total Credits	15

Sophomore Fall Semester			Sophomore Spring Semester		
EQ254L	Horsemanship 2: Harmony with Your Horse	3	EQ203	Equine Science II	4
EQ202	Equine Science I	4	EQ255L	Horsemanship 3	3
EQ201	Basic Horse Care & Nutrition	4	EQ256L	Starting the Young Horse	3
EQ253L	Intro to Colt Starting	3	EQ232	Equine Sales and Marketing (human relations component)	3
				Elective	1
	Total Credits	14		Total Credits	14

ELECTIVES

EQ150L	Driving the Harness or Work Horse	1 credit
EQ151L	Packing the Horse or Mule	1 credit
EQ241P	Equine Internship	3 credits
EQ 205	Hoof Care – Trimming and Shoeing	1 credit
EQ 205L	Your Horse (Pre-req. EQ 130 & 130L)	3 credits
EQ 250 L	Professional Hoof Care for Farrier Certificate (Pre-req. EQ 205 & 205L)	2 credits

- b. Describe the planned implementation of the proposed program, including estimates of numbers of students at each stage.**

The program will enroll 15 students in the 2008 – 2009 academic year, and an additional 15 students in the second year for a total of 30 students in the program. The College will allow no more than 20 students per instructor for safety purposes. Therefore, if interest in the program surpasses our current facilities, the College will have to determine the cost effectiveness of two instructors, as well as the addition of physical space.

5. Resources:

- a. Will additional faculty resources be required to implement this program? If yes, please describe the need and indicate the plan for meeting this need.**

One additional faculty position will be required for this program. Miles Community College will absorb the costs of this person in their general budget.

- b. Are other, additional resources required to ensure the success of the proposed program? If yes, please describe the need and indicate the plan for meeting the need.**

Currently the College is using the rodeo arena for these classes. There is also an enclosed arena that a member of the community is allowing the college to use free of charge. The College will be looking at a campaign fund to build an indoor arena facility to be used by the Equine Studies and Agriculture programs as well as the Rodeo team for practices.

6. Assessment: How will the success of the program be measured?

The success of this program will be measured by the number of students that complete the program, as well as their placement in the equine industry. Qualitative studies on the employer's satisfaction with these students will also be considered.

All coursework will be required to meet the rigor set forth by the Academic Standards committee as well as through the general education assessment tools instituted by the College.

7. Process Leading to Submission: Describe the process of developing and approving the proposed program. Indicate, where appropriate, involvement by faculty, students, community members, potential employers, accrediting agencies, etc.

Community members and the Ag Advisory Committee discussed the need for an Equine Studies program at Miles Community College. The Agriculture instructor, Jack Larson, located an adjunct faculty person who would be willing to teach one class per semester at the college to test the interest of this type of program with our students. The classes were instituted in the fall of 2006. Enrollment in these courses was sufficient enough that the College started looking into a complete program.

It was in the spring of 2007 that Miles Community College visited with UM – Western about the possibility of a 2 + 2 program into their BS in Natural Horsemanship. Western was interested, and representatives from Miles Community College came back and started putting together a transfer program.

The Equine Advisory committee was instituted to look at the proposed curriculum. It was through these discussions with the committee and the students who had previously been enrolled in our equine test courses, that it was determined the College also needed a complimentary AAS degree. Individual course proposals for the program started going through the Academic Standards Committee at Miles Community College in May of 2007. The development of the AAS degree and each course proposed within the degree has continued to be discussed and approved through the Academic Standards committee.

The Miles Community College Endowment Board gave money to the college to hire a faculty member in the Equine Studies area for the 2007 – 2008 academic year. Josh Bilbrey has been charged to continue the development of the classes and the program through the input of students and the advisory committee. Mr. Bilbrey also works closely with the Dean of Academic Affairs to assure quality programming.