

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

LEVEL II REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	146-2006-R0310	Date of Meeting:	March 4-5, 2010
Institution:	MSU- Bozeman		
Program Title:	Master of Engineering Degree		

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:

The College of Engineering at Montana State University-Bozeman seeks approval to establish a Master of Engineering degree. This is a professional (terminal) degree. It positions MSU to meet current and expected needs of engineers in Montana and beyond to attain the title of Professional Engineer. It is expected that perhaps as early as 2012 engineers will need 30 credits beyond the Bachelor's degree to be Professional Engineers. It also offers the opportunity for practicing professionals to engage in lifelong learning and enhance the workforce in Montana. Most practicing professionals need to increase their knowledge and not necessarily pursue a research based program.

The M.Eng is differentiated from current Master of Science degrees in that the focus is on the current or potentially practicing professional engineer. It is not a research-based degree. Rather it has a strong career focus to develop a workforce skilled in multiple engineering areas to meet today's business and industry demands for engineers. It is solidly supported by the College of Engineering's advisory councils and Montana engineers. Many other institutions like MSU have had M.Eng programs for a long time. With the expected full implementation of the Model Law in Montana and across the U.S., we must position ourselves to offer this professional degree. In addition, it will strengthen current graduate programs in Engineering by establishing a stronger connection between the laboratory and the practice of engineering for our faculty, students, and the State of Montana.