

# REQUEST TO PLAN ITEMS

May 2021

DATE: May 10, 2021  
FROM: Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman  
TO: Board of Regents  
RE: May 2021 Request to Plan Proposals – Executive Summary & OCHE Analysis

Please see below for an executive overview of the Request to Plan items that are being proposed for your review and action at the May 2021 meeting of the Board of Regents. These items have been submitted by the campuses and reviewed by the Chief Academic Officers of the Montana University System and Community Colleges. OCHE staff has reviewed the items and provided a short analysis below relying on information submitted by the campuses. For more information and specific details on each item, please see the supporting documentation included on the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee agenda.

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## **Montana State University – Bozeman**

### **Request to Plan a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Across the Life Span Certificate**

The proposed certificate would allow advance practice registered nurses (APRN) to become nationally certified as a psych-mental health nurse practitioner. All courses for the proposed program already exist within MSU's College of Nursing (CON) Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, so no new courses or funding would be needed. The proposed program would meet demand for psych-mental health providers in Montana and the region.

### **Request to Plan a Master of Engineering – Environmental Engineering Option**

The proposed option would allow students to achieve specialization and advanced training in environmental engineering without requiring a thesis or professional paper. The proposed option would be added to the existing Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) degree program and would consist of 30 credits of coursework. The proposed option is intended for recent graduates and working professionals and reflects the move towards having a Master's degree being the industry standard. All courses for the proposed option already exist within the M.Eng. program so no new resources are needed.

### **Request to Plan a Master of Engineering – Manufacturing Engineering Option**

The proposed option would prepare students from multiple disciplines to enter the workforce in an advanced manufacturing position and to train working professionals to further their skills and advance in their careers. An informal poll of employers found that the additional training would make graduates more attractive applicants with access to higher starting salaries. Additional courses would need to be developed to accommodate the addition of the option as most of the existing courses are already at capacity, and faculty would need to be assigned to teach them. This could mean the need to hire an additional faculty member.

### **Request to Plan a Ph.D. in Indigenous and Rural Health**

The proposed Ph.D. would prepare professionals to lead the development, implementation, and evaluation of health systems, programs, and policies; direct research programs; and educate and train the next generation of health professionals. The Ph.D. would focus on Indigenous research methods, community engagement, and public health policy and infrastructure with the goal of developing practitioners to address the health needs of Indigenous and rural communities in Montana and the region. The program would be offered through a blended teaching modality, making it accessible to

people in Bozeman and around the state or country. The proposed program would require internal reallocation of FTE (faculty and staff) to teach and manage the program and may require additional sections of existing courses.

#### **Request to Plan a Master of Engineering – Civil Engineering Option**

Similar to the Environmental Engineering Option, the proposed Civil Engineering Option would allow students to achieve specialization and advanced training without requiring a thesis or professional paper. The proposed option would be added to the existing Master's of Engineering (M.Eng.) degree program and would consist of 30 credits of coursework. The proposed option is intended for recent graduates and working professionals and reflects an increased demand within the construction industry. All courses for the proposed option already exist within the M.Eng. program so no new resources are needed.

### **University of Montana – Missoula**

#### **Request to Plan an Online B.S. in Business**

The proposed online B.S. would leverage a recent partnership with Wiley, which provides online program management services, to offer a new degree option to remote students. Labor and demand analyses conducted by EAB, Ruffalo Noel Levitz, and Wiley identifies online undergraduate business programs as an underserved area where UM could expand. To bring the program online, Wiley would provide technical, administrative, and marketing support. UM would need to hire at least 2.5 in new tenure track faculty and 1.0 FTE in other support personnel to offer the required credit hours and support the transition of the existing programming into the online format. In the short-term, support for these costs would need to come from UM administration, though the program is anticipated to be more that self-supporting long-term. The College of Business has had success with online degrees at the graduate level and is looking to expand to the undergraduate level with this proposal.

### **The University of Montana Western**

#### **Request to Plan Health and Human Performance A.A.S.**

The proposed A.A.S. would prepare students to earn certification in personal training or fitness instruction and could serve as a bridge to the existing B.A.S. in Health and Human Performance. The proposed program reflects both growth within the fitness industry and a growing need for professionals with at least some college coursework. No additional resources would be needed to start the program.

**MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**  
**REQUEST TO PLAN – OCHE ANALYSIS**

**ITEM 194-2010-R0521**

**Request to Plan a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Across the Life Span Certificate – Montana State University-Bozeman**

OCHE ANALYSIS				
<b>Labor market outlook</b>	According to O*Net, the Nurse Practitioner field will grow rapidly in the next ten years. Currently, the average salary in for Nurse Practitioners in Montana is \$114,970, which is higher than the national average of \$111,680. The broad field of Mental Health practice is also projected to grow rapidly in the next ten years. Nationally, the majority of NP jobs require a Master’s degree and about 10% require a Doctorate or Post-Baccalaureate certificate, and 62% of mental health positions require a Master’s degree.			
<b>Related programs / centers / institutes</b>	None			
<b>Budget Impact</b>	X	<b>LOW</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only incidental costs</li> </ul>	MEDIUM	HIGH
All courses needed already exist and no new faculty need to be hired.				
<b>CAO discussion and follow-up</b>	No concerns were raised during the CAO call.			
<b>ARSA/BOR comment and direction for Level II proposal</b>				

**ITEM 194-2013-R0521**

**Request to Plan a Master of Engineering-Environmental Engineering Option – Montana State University-Bozeman**

OCHE ANALYSIS																					
<b>Labor market outlook</b>	According to O*Net, environmental engineering jobs are projected to increase 3-4% in the next ten years. On average, workers in Montana in the field earn \$85,890 per year, compared to the national average of \$92,120. The majority (64%) of jobs nationally require a Bachelor’s degree and approximately 27% require a Master’s degree.																				
<b>Related programs / centers / institutes</b>	Montana Tech offers an option in Environmental Engineering within their Master of Engineering program.																				
<b>Related programs / centers / institutes</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Environmental Engineering Master’s degree graduates, 2017-2019</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>2019</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2017</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Montana Tech</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Montana State University</td> <td>0</td> <td>7</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Environmental Engineering Master’s degree graduates, 2017-2019					2019	2018	2017	Montana Tech	7	7	1	Montana State University	0	7	2
Environmental Engineering Master’s degree graduates, 2017-2019																					
	2019	2018	2017																		
Montana Tech	7	7	1																		
Montana State University	0	7	2																		
<b>Budget Impact</b>	X	<b>LOW</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only incidental costs</li> </ul>		MEDIUM		HIGH															
<b>Budget Impact</b>	All of the required courses for this program already exist.																				
<b>CAO discussion and follow-up</b>	No concerns were raised during the CAO call.																				
<b>ARSA/BOR comment and direction for Level II proposal</b>																					

**ITEM 194-2014-R0521**

**Request to Plan a Master of Engineering-Manufacturing Engineering Option – Montana State University-Bozeman**

OCHE ANALYSIS				
<b>Labor market outlook</b>	According to O*Net, manufacturing engineering jobs are expected to grow rapidly in the next ten years. On average, workers in Montana in the field earn \$101,730 per year, compared to the national average of \$88,950. The majority (76%) of jobs nationally in the field require a Bachelor’s degree.			
<b>Related programs / centers / institutes</b>	None in Montana			
<b>Budget Impact</b>	LOW	<b>X</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	HIGH
<b>Budget Impact</b>	Additional courses will need to be developed and an additional faculty member may need to be hired. Additional laboratory space would be required to house manufacturing hardware and systems.			
<b>CAO discussion and follow-up</b>	No concerns were raised during the CAO call.			
<b>ARSA/BOR comment and direction for Level II proposal</b>				

**ITEM 194-2015-R0521**

**Request to Plan a Ph.D. in Indigenous and Rural Health – Montana State University-Bozeman**

OCHE ANALYSIS					
<b>Labor market outlook</b>	Data about the specific focus of this degree are not available on O*Net, but the broader field of community health is expected to grow rapidly in the next ten years. The average wage in Montana is \$40,330, compared to the national average of \$42,000. Degree requirement information is not available.				
<b>Related programs / centers / institutes</b>	Public Health graduate programs exist at UM-Missoula and MSU Northern, though not at the Ph.D. level, and neither has the same focus as the proposed program.				
<b>Budget Impact</b>	LOW	X	MEDIUM	HIGH	
<b>Budget Impact</b>	Internal reallocation of faculty and staff FTE will be needed to manage and teach the program and additional sections of existing courses may need to be added.				
<b>CAO discussion and follow-up</b>	There was some discussion about the staffing plan for the program in both the short-term and long-term, but no concerns were raised by OCHE staff or campus representatives.				
<b>ARSA/BOR comment and direction for Level II proposal</b>					

ITEM 194-2016-R0521

**Request to Plan a Master of Engineering-Civil Engineering Option – Montana State University-Bozeman**

OCHE ANALYSIS						
<b>Labor market outlook</b>	According to O*Net, manufacturing engineering jobs are expected to grow slower than average in the next ten years. On average, workers in Montana in the field earn \$76,520 per year, compared to the national average of \$88,570. About 43% of jobs nationally in this field require a Bachelor’s degree and about 26% require a Master’s degree.					
<b>Related programs / centers / institutes</b>	Montana Tech offers an option in Civil Engineering within their Master of Engineering program.					
<b>Budget Impact</b>	X	<b>LOW</b> • Only incidental costs		MEDIUM		HIGH
	All courses needed already exist.					
<b>CAO discussion and follow-up</b>	No concerns were raised during the CAO call.					
<b>ARSA/BOR comment and direction for Level II proposal</b>						

**ITEM 194-1001-R0521**

**Request to Plan an Online B.S. in Business – University of Montana-Missoula**

OCHE ANALYSIS					
<b>Labor market outlook</b>	The broad field of business is expected to grow rapidly in the next ten years. The average wage in Montana is \$60,500, compared to the national average of \$77,420. Degree requirement information is not available.				
<b>Related programs / centers / institutes</b>	MSU-Bozeman and Montana Tech offer undergraduate degrees in Business but not completely online. MSU Billings offers an online undergraduate degree in Business Administration, with options in Accounting, General Business, Marketing, and Management. MSU-Northern offers an online undergraduate degree in Business Administration.				
<b>Budget Impact</b>		LOW		MEDIUM	
				X	<b>HIGH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>substantial commitment of resources relative to institutional budget</li> </ul>
	Existing courses will need to be adapted to the online format and at least 2.5 FTE in new tenure track faculty and 1.0 FTE in support personnel will need to be hired.				
<b>CAO discussion and follow-up</b>	There are still questions around funding, staffing, and tuition that need to be addressed. OCHE staff are working to follow-up.				
<b>ARSA/BOR comment and direction for Level II proposal</b>					



ITEM 194-1600-R0521

**Request to Plan a Health and Human Performance A.A.S. – The University of Montana Western**

OCHE ANALYSIS						
<b>Labor market outlook</b>	According to O*Net, the fitness instruction field is expected to grow rapidly in the next ten years. Currently, the average salary in Montana is \$35,010, compared to the national average of \$40,510. Nationally, 36% of fitness instruction positions require a post-secondary certificate.					
<b>Related programs / centers / institutes</b>	UM Missoula, MSU Bozeman, Montana Tech, and MSU Billings all offer similar programs at the Bachelor level but not at the Associate level.					
<b>Budget Impact</b>	X	<b>LOW</b> • Only incidental costs		MEDIUM		HIGH
	All courses needed already exist.					
<b>CAO discussion and follow-up</b>	No concerns were raised during the CAO call.					
<b>ARSA/BOR comment and direction for Level II proposal</b>						