Proposal for a Non-Teaching Minor in Military Studies
Montana State University – Bozeman

Objectives and Needs:

Program Description

a. The proposal is to create a non-teaching minor in Military Studies, which would be of primary interest to students in Army and Air Force ROTC. The minor would utilize existing courses within the ROTC programs. The primary objective of this proposal is to increase the number of students in both ROTC departments—students who in the past have chosen instead to attend other universities with Military Studies minors. A second, but equally important, objective is to create a minor that rewards cadets who have worked so hard to obtain a commission as an officer in the United States armed forces.

b. The intellectual basis for this program is derived from the students' desires to develop into future leaders in the United States armed forces.

c. The course of study will be centered on the development and use of one of our country's major instruments of national power, the United States Military. In addition to studying Air Force & Army organization, missions, and operations, the student will gain a broader perspective of the military in general by completing a course in American Military History. In addition, cross-service curriculum emphasizing our country's focus on "Joint" military operations will be the centerpiece of the program. All courses in the proposed curriculum currently exist at MSU-Bozeman and have been approved through the usual faculty course review process. A draft of the proposed catalog copy follows:

Minor in Military Studies

The minor in Military Studies is offered to any student completing the courses of study listed below. The minor not only prepares cadets for active duty service but also provides them the opportunity to study one of our country's major instruments of power, the United States Military. In addition to studying Air Force & Army organization, missions, and operations, the student will gain a broader perspective of the military in general by completing a course in American Military History & a cross-service curriculum emphasizing our country's focus on "Joint" military operations.

Take four of the following: Credits
     MAS 110 & MAS 115—The Foundations of the U.S. Air Force I   1
     MAS 111 & MAS 116—The Foundations of the U.S. Air Force II
          (Prerequisite MAS 110 or MSG101)   1
     MAS 210 & MAS 215—The Evolution of U.S. Air And Space Power I
          (Prerequisite MAS111 or MSG103)
     1
     MAS 211 & MAS 216—The Evolution of U.S. Air And Space Power II
          (Prerequisite MAS210 or MSG200)
     1
     MSG 101—Introduction to Military Lifestyles   2
     MSG 103—Problem Solving & Leadership Management Skills
          (Prerequisite MAS110 or MSG101)
     2
     MSG 200—Leadership Management & Life Skills
          (Prerequisite MAS111 or MSG103)
     2
     MSG 201—Advanced Leadership Concepts and Communication Skills
          (Prerequisite MAS210 or MSG200)
     2

Take the following:

MSG 203—American Military History   3
Take one of the following:
    MAS 309 Field Training, 4 week
      (Prerequisite MAS110, MAS111, MAS210, MAS211)   2
    MSG 303 Military Science Advanced Camp
      (Prerequisite MSG302)   3

Take five of the following:
    MAS 310 & MAS 315 Air Force Leadership and Management I
      (Prerequisite MAS211 or MSG201)
    3
    MAS 311 & MAS 316 Air Force Leadership and Management II
      (Prerequisite MAS310 or MSG301)
    3
    MAS 410 & MAS 415 National Security Affairs/Prep for Active Duty I
      (Prerequisite MAS311 or MSG301)
    3
    MAS 411 & MAS 416 National Security Affairs/Prep for Active Duty II
      (Prerequisite MAS410 or MSG301)
    3
    MSG 301 Small Unit Tactics & Methods of Instruction
      (Prerequisite MAS 211, MSG101, MSG103, MSG200, MSG201)   3
    MSG 302 Preparation for Advanced Camp
      (Prerequisite MAS 310 or MSG301)   3
    MSG 401 Senior Seminar I
      (Prerequisite MAS310 or MSG302)
    3
    MSG 402 Senior Seminar II
      (Prerequisite MAS310 or MSG401)
    3

Total Military Aerospace Studies & Military Science Credits Required   24-29

d. Instruction will be conducted in the classroom with on-site faculty from both the Army and Air Force ROTC departments. Telecommunication delivery methods will not be used for this program. No off-campus delivery will be available for this program.

Need for the program
This program is designed to increase MSU-Bozeman's competitive edge. This equates to recruiting more high caliber students, many of whom bring scholarship support to the university. In comparison, 45 other universities nationwide already offer a military studies minor. In that fashion, by adding the minor at MSU-Bozeman, Montana would compete better with those universities in recruiting and retaining more ROTC scholarship winners and high caliber students, thus increasing enrollment and enhancing revenue for the Montana University System. Each year, Army and Air Force cadets at MSU earn national awards and are some of the top cadet in the nation. In 2003, an MSU-Bozeman Air Force cadet won the national-level First Command scholarship competing with over 2000 other AFROTC cadets. The Army's top cadet in 2003 was ranked number 7 out of 4,800 cadets. The two programs are expected to attract even more outstanding students with the opportunity of earning a Military Studies Minor.

Adequacy, Accreditation, and Assessment Issues:

1. Present Army and Air Force ROTC faculty and facilities are sufficient to conduct this program. No additional funding from the Montana University system will be required, and no new resources (or reallocation) are necessary.

2. No special accreditation will be sought.

3. To achieve our main objective of increasing the number of students in the ROTC program, the primary assessment will be based on the number of new scholarship students to the program as compared to previous years. Along with this primary objective, the number of students completing the entire program and receiving a commission in the armed forces will be compared with previous years.

Impact on Faculty, Facilities, Costs, Students, and Other Departments and Campuses

1. No additional Army or Air Force ROTC faculty will be required. All salaries of current faculty are paid by the Department of Defense.

2. There will be no additional impacts on the current ROTC facilities, library, or computer services. No additional space is required.

3. Per items one and two above, there will be no additional costs to the Montana University System.

4. Both Army and Air Force ROTC have between 90-100 cadets in their programs each year. Per the primary objective—increasing the enrolment of high caliber students—an increase of 10% in each program can be expected. This means that each program could see an increase enrollment of 9-10 cadets per year. The solvency of this proposal will be determined over a 4-5 year period.

5. The only potential for this minor to impact other colleges and departments on campus is through its ability our ability to recruit high caliber students, who will major in degree programs across the university. This proposal should not directly impact any other programs in the College of Engineering or other colleges at MSU-Bozeman.

6. This MSU-Bozeman proposal is similar to and based on programs at other universities.

Process Leading to Submission of Proposal

ROTC leadership first identified the need for this program when prospective students inquired about the availability of a Military Studies Minor, which students were aware was available at other institutions. Following preliminary conversations with university administration, ROTC leadership developed the proposed curriculum. The proposal was reviewed and supported by the College of Engineering Curriculum Committee, the Dean of the College of Engineering, and the university Undergraduate Studies Committee.