

# MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

## NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

### ITEM 126-1009-R0105

**Institution:** The University of Montana--Missoula

**Program Title:** Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution (Law School)

1. How does this program advance the campus' academic mission and fit priorities?

Alternative Dispute Resolution offers non-litigation methods of conflict resolution. The proposed certificate program is designed to better educate law students regarding alternatives to litigation.

The Mission Statement of the University of Montana, in part, addresses providing economic development of the State, serving as a center of liberal education, and promoting interdisciplinary dialogue between professional schools and academic disciplines. The Alternative Dispute Resolution courses at the Law School address this mission. The courses are interdisciplinary and call upon the best teachings of liberal students in developing of dispute resolution mechanisms that provide alternatives to failed win-loss forms of conflict resolution.

The Mission Statement of the Law School is to prepare students for the practice of law by integrating theory and practice. The proposed Certificate program does exactly that. It will better prepare students to practice dispute resolution by offering mechanisms that more appropriately address client needs, cause the least harm to conflicting parties, draw least upon public resources, and further the dual goals of cooperation and conciliation.

2. How does this program fit the Board of Regents' goals and objectives?

The Mission Statement for the University of Montana System provides that post-secondary education has the responsibility of making Montana a better place to live by providing for the State's economic growth, and enhancing the physical environment and cultural well-being of the State. To accomplish this mission, the University System must foster appropriate and creative forms of dispute resolution that provide other than win-lose solutions. The Certificate Program enables the Law School to better address this need.

3. How does this program support or advance Montana's needs and interests?

Alternative Dispute Resolution is being used successfully in Montana to resolve both public and private disputes. The Certificate program will assure that an increasing number of Montana attorneys are equipped to productively engage, where appropriate, in non-litigation forms of dispute resolution.

4. How will this program contribute to economic development in Montana? (Note projected annual economic impact both regionally and statewide.)

Increasingly, life in the United States is becoming more complicated. These complications often result in disputes, and unfortunately disputes cause litigation. Because economic development often represents change and conflicts with other societal values, it is ripe with disputes, disputants and litigation. Because litigation is slow, expensive, and tends to increase the hostility of the disputants, it is an inefficient mechanism for resolving conflicts arising from economic development issues. The increased use of non-litigation forms of dispute resolution for resolving all issues, most certainly economic development issues, has the potential for saving the disputants and the public millions of dollars, be more expedient, provide for mutual understanding rather than increased hostility, and result in more lasting settlements.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

• Break-even point?	FTE students
• Enrollments / year?	10
• Graduates / year?	10
• MT jobs / year?	

6. Resource Allocation:

• Total program budget?	\$ 0
• Faculty FTE?	0
• Staff FTE?	0

7. Does this program require new resources? Yes  No

If yes, what is the amount? \$ 0

8. How will the campus fund the program?

This program requires no new resources.

9. If internal reallocation is necessary, name the sources.

The program does not require any relocation of funds.