

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

ITEM 126-301-R0305

Institution: Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC)

Program Title: Surgical Technology AAS Degree

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

Flathead Valley Community College provides educational programs that prepare students for the workforce in response to the community's needs. In response to a request from the medical community in the Flathead Valley, FVCC has expanded its Surgical Technology program to provide students with the knowledge, resources and skills to pass the certification exam and ensure quality patient care in the surgical/medical field. Having the associate degree in surgical technology will enable individuals to further their employment options and achieve greater economic well being. As technology advances, more diverse applications will create new jobs in this field. Furthermore, the associate degree will allow students greater ease in continuing their education to more advanced degrees.

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

The AAS in Surgical Technology responds to the changing market and employment needs of the state and nation. FVCC was approached by Kalispell Regional Medical Center (KRMC) to develop and offer this program. The Surgical Technology program also expands community partnerships with area hospitals for student clinical experiences and is located at Kalispell Regional Medical Center where students learn while using state-of-the-art equipment. Kalispell Regional Medical Center and North Valley Hospital in Whitefish have been instrumental in supporting this educational opportunity for individuals in the region. The program received its initial three-year accreditation in July 2004, from the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology.

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

The U.S. Department of Labor projects a faster than average growth in the need for surgical technologists. Demand for these workers will rise as the population ages and as new technologies allow for more and varied surgeries. Hospitals will remain the primary employer, but physician offices and clinics, including ambulatory surgical centers, will provide the majority of new jobs. Presently, Montana employs 270 surgical technologists who earn an average of \$32,790 annually. The projected need, according to the data for year 2010, is 323 surgical technologists. The Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Research & Analysis Bureau also reports that out of the state's 20 top employers, six are hospitals. There is a shortage nationwide of instructors and directors for Surgical Technology Programs, providing an opportunity for surgical technologists to pursue further education and consider teaching or directing.

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

The first graduating class completed the program August 13, 2004. Five graduates have secured full-time employment at Kalispell Regional Medical Center (KRMC). Another graduate has been offered a part-time position at KRMC. One more graduate is employed full-time at the University Medical Center at Tucson, Arizona. In Montana, surgical technologists average \$32,790 annually as verified by Kalispell Regional Medical Center. Providing individuals with the opportunity to earn this average salary contributes to the economic development of the state and region.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

• Break-even point?	10 FTE students
• Enrollments / year?	The program will admit 8 students the first year and will retain 6 to 8 students the second year for a total of 14 to 16 students.
• Graduates / year?	6 to 8
• MT jobs / year?	14

6. Resource Allocation:

• Total program budget?	\$ 47,070 (salary, benefits, educational supplies, accreditation fees and professional development)
• Faculty FTE?	1
• Staff FTE?	0

7. Does this program require new resources? Yes No

If yes, what is the amount? \$ 2,800 for annual accreditation fees and professional development for the full-time instructor

8. How will the campus fund the program?

Start up costs for the program were funded through a grant with the U.S. Department of Labor. Ongoing costs will be funded by student enrollments.

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

N/A