

M O N T A N A B O A R D O F R E G E N T S
NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Institution: Montana State University - Great Falls, COT
Program Title: Associate of Applied Science degree in Radiologic Technology

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

MSU-Great Falls is committed to addressing the educational and workforce development needs of the Golden Triangle and the state. The institution has a well-deserved reputation for responding to the needs of the healthcare industry. Radiologic technologists are in short supply locally, statewide, and nationally with increasing demand anticipated as the field of radiology develops more diverse applications. The development of the Radiologic Technology program at MSU-Great Falls is the result of a partnership with Benefis Hospital and the Great Falls Clinic. Under this collaborative effort, the two hospitals are providing financial support for the Radiologic Technology program by financing an instructor/clinical coordinator at each institution.

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

The mission of the Montana University System is to serve students through the delivery of high quality, accessible postsecondary educational opportunities, while actively participating in the preservation and advancement of Montana's economy and society. In particular the Montana University System is committed to "be responsive to market, employment, and economic development needs of the State and the nation."

The Radiologic Technology program provides accessible, affordable, efficient, and practical learning opportunities for individuals in Great Falls and Montana. Benefis Healthcare approached MSU-Great Falls requesting the institution join it in a collaborative effort to transform its radiology program it into a college based degree program. The program being phased out has been very successful contributing six highly qualified, well paid, graduates to the local and state economy every year since 1954. The new college based program will expand that number and provide improved training thanks to MSU-Great Falls rigorous pre-requisite courses.

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

Montana's needs for a well trained radiology workforce will continue to increase as the current labor pool ages and workers retire. Healthcare and Social Services are projected to have the largest nonagricultural sector increase in terms of payroll for 2003-2005 as per the Labor Day Report 2004. Radiologic Technology and Technician job growth is expected to increase 26% from 710 in 2002 to 890 in 2012. The average annual job openings in radiologic technology during this time period are projected at 30 positions per year. Due to the wage difference between Montana and other states, it has been very difficult for the healthcare community to recruit Radiologic Technologists from out of state.

The Radiologic Technology program at MSU-Great Falls will increase the pool of certified technologists. Without an available resource pool of technologists to perform radiographic examinations, the resultant shortage of qualified radiologic technologist could have an adverse impact on the quality of healthcare in Montana.

State and National Trends					
	Employment		Percent Change	Average Annual Job Openings	
Montana	2002				2012
Radiologic Technologists and technicians	710	890	+26%	30	
	Employment		Percent Change	Average Annual Job Openings	
United States	2002				2012
Radiologic Technologists and technicians	174,100	214,100	+23%	7,250	

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, America's Career InfoNet: Occupation Profile

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

The healthcare industry is one of the largest economic segments of the State of Montana. Benefis Hospital, the largest healthcare provider in the state requested the assistance of MSU-Great Falls in preserving a Radiologic Technology program in Great Falls and the Great Falls Clinic the second major healthcare provider in the area offered its assistance as soon as it was asked. Currently the Benefis Program graduates six individuals a year, the addition of clinical sites at the Great Falls Clinic allows the program to immediately increase to 8 with 10 graduates the target in the third year. The graduates have the potential to earn approximately \$35,000 per year. The 10 graduates each year after year three will be compensated approximately \$350,000 in yearly salary, which will have a positive effect on the local economy.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

• Break-even point?	20 FTE students
• Enrollments / year?	10 3 rd year and after
• Graduates / year?	10
• MT jobs / year?	10

6. Resource Allocation:

• Total program budget?	\$ 53,500
• Faculty FTE?	2.5 fte
• Staff FTE?	0

7. Does this program require new resources? Yes No

If yes, what is the amount? \$ 53,500

8. How will the campus fund the program?

Through tuition, state allotment, student fees and funding in the form of salaries from local industry.

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

None needed