

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

LEVEL I REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	135-1604+R507	Date of Meeting:	May 31, 2007
Institution:	The University of Montana - Western		
Program Title:	New B.A. Option In Mathematics		

Level I proposals are those that may be approved by the Commissioner of Higher Education or the Commissioner's designee. The approval of such proposals will be conveyed to the Board of Regents at the next regular meeting of the board. The institution must file the request with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education by means of a memo to the Deputy Commissioner.

A. Level I action requested (check all that apply): Level I proposals include campus initiatives typically characterized by (a) minimal costs; (b) clear adherence to approved campus mission; and (c) the absence of significant programmatic impact on other institutions within the Montana University System and Community Colleges.

- 1. Re-titling existing majors, minors, options and certificates; (e.g. from B.S. in Mechanized Agriculture to B.S. in Agricultural Operations Technology);
- 2. Eliminating existing majors, minors, options and certificates via a Program Termination Checklist;
- 3. Adding new minors or certificates where there is a major;
- 4. Adding new minors or certificates where there is an option in a major;
- 5. Departmental mergers and name changes;
- 6. Program revisions; and
- 7. Distance delivery of previously authorized degree programs.

B. Level I with Level II documentation: With Level II documentation circulated to all campus chief academic officers in advance, the Commissioner or designee may propose additional items for inclusion in the Level I process. For these items to move forward, the Commissioner or designee must reach consensus with the chief academic officers. When consensus is not achieved, the Commissioner or designee will move the item to the Level II review process.

- 1. Options within an existing major or degree;
- 2. Eliminating organizational units within larger institutions such as departments, divisions and colleges or schools *with the exception of the five Colleges of Technology where changes require Board action;*
- 3. Consolidating existing programs and/or degrees.

C. Temporary Certificate or A.A.S. degree programs: Certificate or Associate of Applied Science Degree Programs may be submitted as Level I proposals, with memo and backup documentation, when they are offered in cooperation with and/or at the request of private or public sector partners and the decision point to offer the program is not consistent with the regular Board of Regents program approval process. Level I approval for programs under this provision will be limited to two years. Continuation of a program beyond the two years will require the normal program approval process as Level II Proposals.

All other Certificate or Associate Degree programs may be placed on submission at any Board of Regents meeting. They will be placed on action agendas at subsequent meetings. All campuses agree to insure that all other campuses receive program information well in advance of submission.

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Specify Request:

The University of Montana-Western proposes offering a B.A. Option in Mathematics for those students with a strong interest in mathematics but who do not want to be mathematics teachers. UMW's mathematics programs underwent a rigorous review process during 2005-2006. Developing a mathematics degree program for non-educators was one of the recommendations of the external reviewer brought in during this process. UMW already offers a B.S. in Secondary Education with a Mathematics Option (major). The proposed B.A. Option in Mathematics would make use of the same courses already being offered for the B.S. program.

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NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

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

The primary objective of this program is to provide graduates with a broad education in mathematics to prepare them for graduate school or employment in mathematics intensive jobs. UMW already does this for students who are studying to be teachers of mathematics through its B.S. in Secondary Education, Mathematics Option (Major). The B.A. Option in Mathematics would serve the needs of those students who are not interested in becoming K-12 teachers of mathematics. It advances the priorities established by program review and fits the mission of the campus to provide accessible education in areas of need.

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

This program increases access to a mathematics program while making more efficient use of MUS resources.

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

Individuals trained in mathematics are in short supply in society in Montana and beyond. Graduates of this program will be prepared to go on to graduate school or accept employment in a variety of mathematics-intensive positions

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

This program is not expected to have a direct major impact on economic development in Montana but graduates have the potential to be of major value to employers in the state.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

• Break-even point?	2	FTE students
• Enrollments / year?	5	
• Graduates / year?	5	
• MT jobs / year?	3	

6. Resource Allocation:

• Total program budget?	\$ 0
• Faculty FTE?	5.0
• Staff FTE?	0

7. Does this program require new resources? Yes No

If yes, what is the amount? \$ _____

8. How will the campus fund the program?

The only costs of the program will be some minor amounts of faculty, staff and administration time to promote and administer the program. No additional faculty, staff or administration will be hired to do this but these duties will be added to what they are already doing.

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

N/A

The University of Montana Western
Proposal for a New B.A. Option in Mathematics
May-June 2007

a. Specify the objectives to be achieved by this program

The primary objective of this program is to provide graduates with a broad education in mathematics to prepare them for graduate school or employment in mathematics intensive jobs. UMW already does this for students who are studying to be teachers of mathematics through its B.S. in Secondary Education, Mathematics Option (Major). The B.A. Option in Mathematics would serve the needs of those students who are not interested in becoming K-12 teachers of mathematics.

b. Specify in detail present faculty, facilities, and equipment, and library holdings in support of this program, and compare them to known or anticipated standards for accreditation.

There are currently three tenure-track faculty, all of whom possess doctorates in mathematics or related areas, and one full-time non tenure-track faculty member with a masters in mathematics. There are several classrooms devoted primarily to teaching mathematics, a computer lab equipped with Mathematica software, and a mathematics learning center that the faculty take turns staffing. The library possesses a mathematics collection sufficient for regional accreditation purposes, including increasing electronic access to databases.

c. Detail additional faculty requirements as to qualifications, salary, and recruitment.

No additional faculty will be needed since all of the courses are already being taught for the existing Mathematics Education degree.

d. Submit budget information that describes estimated incremental revenues and expenditures associated with the program for a three- to five-year period; and estimated student enrollments for the same time period.

e. Student enrollment is expected to be low in this program (see attached budget form). However, since all of the courses are currently scheduled to be taught for the benefit of existing programs, only minimal administrative costs are associated with this program.

f. List the new courses this program will add to the curriculum and specify course requirements for the degree. There are no new courses required for this degree. Degree requirements are attached.

g. Indicate the interdepartmental implications of additions to this program or supporting courses in departments which contribute to the new program of studies.

The only course required in the program that is taught by another department is PHYS 233 General Physics. This course is required in several other programs and is therefore taught at least once per year.

h. Explain how the recommendation to submit this proposal to the Board of Regents was made: Include information about process followed, faculty involvement, employer or community input, market demand for graduates, employment prospects and starting salaries, as well as other justifications.

During the 2005-6 academic year a thorough program review was conducted, including an external reviewer who was brought to campus. The external reviewer met with faculty, administrators and students. One recommendation to come out of this review was to consider the implementation of a mathematics program for non-teachers.