

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

LEVEL II REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	140-301-R0908	Date of Meeting:	September 24, 2008
Institution:	Flathead Valley Community College		
Program Title:	Associate of Arts in Substance Abuse Counseling		

Level II proposals require approval by the Board of Regents.

Level II action requested (check all that apply): Level II proposals entail substantive additions to, alterations in, or termination of programs, structures, or administrative or academic entities typically characterized by the (a) addition, reassignment, or elimination of personnel, facilities, or courses of instruction; (b) rearrangement of budgets, cost centers, funding sources; and (c) changes which by implication could impact other campuses within the Montana University System and community colleges. Board policy 303.1 indicates the curricular proposals in this category:

- 1. Change names of degrees (e.g. from B.A. to B.F.A.)
- 2. Implement a new minor or certificate where there is no major or no option in a major;
- 3. Establish new degrees and add majors to existing degrees;
- 4. Expand/extend approved mission; and
- 5. Any other changes in governance and organization as described in Board of Regents' Policy 218, such as formation, elimination or consolidation of a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory, or similar unit.

Specify Request:

Flathead Valley Community College requests that its Associate of Applied Science in Substance Abuse Counseling be re-named to Associate of Arts in Substance Abuse Counseling.

This change is necessary to comply with MCA 37-35-202 which outlines the requirements for applying for licensure as an addiction counselor.

Flathead Valley Community College
Associate of Arts
Substance Abuse Counseling

1. Overview

The need for addictions counselors in the state of Montana continues to grow with the increasing number of people requiring services. This program prepares graduates to serve in an entry-level capacity in human service agencies, as well as to intern as chemical dependency counselors under approved supervision within recognized agencies. The state mandates an AA in Chemical Dependency Counseling (MCA 37-35-202 paragraph 2(b) plus specific hours of instruction in precisely defined chemical dependency categories (ARM 8.11.107). The designated AA will meet the Department of Labor and Industry expectations and will also prepare students to meet additional requirements if the minimum standards are raised beyond the AA degree.

2. Need

There has been a continued need for individuals trained in addictions to work with the ever-growing population in need of substance abuse counseling. This can be seen in the recent development of new programs to meet the needs of individuals with methamphetamine addiction. The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) has launched a statewide initiative to improve the state's system of prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation of the citizens of Montana who suffer from addiction and/or mental disorders. There are currently 18 approved licensed addiction treatment facilities across Montana that provide both supervised work experience and employment for graduates of the AA in Substance Abuse Counseling program. Further, the Department of Corrections is expanding community-based programs with an identified need to provide substance abuse counseling and education. Kalispell is one of seven sites scheduled to open new long-term residential treatment facilities for low-income citizens.

3. Institutional and System Fit

Flathead Valley Community College has had an approved Associate of Applied Science Degree in Substance Abuse Counseling since 1996. The program has an active advisory committee. Dawson Community College and MSU-Billings have similar programs and have previously changed their degrees to designated Associate of Arts degrees.

4. Program Details

Required Substance Abuse coursework includes:

SA 102	Drugs and Society	3 credits
SA 140	Cultural Issues in Addiction Recovery	1 credit
SA 200	Introduction to Substance Abuse Counseling	3 credits
SA 210	Case Management	2 credits
SA 220	Assessment and Evaluation Procedures	2 credits

SA 240	Substance Abuse Counseling II	3 credits
SA 260	Group Process	3 credits
SA 279	Legal, Ethical and Professional Issues	3 credits
	General Education	40 credits
	Total	60 credits

5. Resources

This is an existing program; no new resources are required.

6. Assessment

The progress of graduates is tracked. Course content is modified dependent upon feedback from graduates who are licensed addiction counselors and recent interns. The current advisory board is also instrumental in assessing the program. Additionally, faculty maintain close contact with each individual site internship supervisor. Site supervisors provide assessment of curricular preparedness of students and faculty oversight of student internship experiences. The information is used to inform curriculum and review processes. In addition, students provide official and informal feedback for each class.

7. Process Leading to Submission

Flathead Valley Community College submitted a request to the Two Year Council to approve an exception to Regent Policy 301.12 allowing a designated Associate of Arts degree in Substance Abuse Counseling. The Two Year Council recommended approval at its April, 2008 meeting.