

**ITEM 144-1001-R0709**

**Approval to create a major in Central and Southwest Asian Studies; The University of Montana–Missoula**

**THAT:**

In accordance with Montana University System Policy, the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes The University of Montana to create a major in Central and Southwest Asian Studies.

**EXPLANATION:**

This proposal is to create a major and minor in Central and Southwest Asian Studies in the Department of Anthropology, replacing the current option and minor in Central and Southwest Asian Studies in the Department of Geography. The proposed Central and Southwest Asian Studies major combines interdisciplinary study of Central and Southwest Asia with language training in the regional languages of Central Asia, the Middle East, the former Soviet Union, and the Central Asian part of Western China. The program emphasizes social science approaches to the study of history, politics, environment, and culture of these regions, with a strong provision for the study of their literature and artistic traditions. Students pursuing this degree are to be trained through a program of interdisciplinary courses offered in various departments, as outlined in the major requirements, as well as in the languages of the region.

**ATTACHMENTS:**