



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Montana University System

Associate to Bachelor's Degree Tuning Initiative

With the support of the Lumina Foundation and College!NOW, the Montana University System will engage in a pilot initiative to tune Associate of Science programs of study in business with Bachelor of Science in Business degrees at MSU Billings, MSU, and UM.

Tuning encourages faculty to identify the learning that constitutes the core of their discipline and to scale student proficiency in that discipline according to degree levels. The word “core” is important, because it does not suggest that Tuning aims at defining the totality of what will be taught in a given discipline. The process tries to define what faculty and curricula from varying institutions and programs have in common as they educate students in their own distinctive ways.

The initial results of this process should be a body of explicit proficiency and outcome statements that make clear to students beginning or in the midst of their studies what they are expected to learn. The Discipline Core, thereby, articulates what knowledge and skills degrees give students, as well as career pathways opened to them by earning their degrees. Fundamentally, this process is about students gaining greater understanding of what it is they are learning, and the importance of that learning in terms of their discipline of interest.

The collective process ends with the degree specification, a document that describes the particular iteration of the discipline as taught at a specific institution. In this step, Tuning encourages faculty in particular programs to consider how their curriculum might best help students achieve the core outcomes, as well as any additional competencies and/or outcomes they deem important.

Generally speaking, Tuning enables faculty to better establish the quality and relevance of degrees in various academic disciplines and professional fields. More specifically, Tuning produces the following six key benefits:

1. Facilitates student success and retention, especially among students from underserved groups, by creating clear expectations for, and pathways to, degree completion;
2. Simplifies the process for students transferring credits between institutions;
3. Emphasizes lifelong learning and important, but often undervalued, transferable skills;
4. Aligns the roles of higher education institutions;
5. Increases higher education's responsiveness to changes in knowledge and its application;
and
6. Ensures the knowledge and applied skills associated with coursework align with civic, societal, and workforce needs.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY ~ Campuses at Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, and Havre

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA ~ Campuses at Butte, Dillon, Helena, and Missoula

Dawson Community College (Glendive) ~ Flathead Valley Community College (Kalispell) ~ Miles Community College (Miles City)

Nearly 50 faculty and staff from Montana’s two-year colleges, as well as representation from the Office of Public Instruction and the Governor’s office, will come together on September 5th to engage in Montana’s first Tuning conference.

The session will be led by Dr. Shelly Valdez, Director of Educational Collaboration for the Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC); and Dr. David Marshall, Associate Director of the IEBC, will also participate. In addition, Dr. Daniel J. McInerney, Professor at Utah State University, will provide a faculty perspective on the Tuning process.

**Montana Associate to Bachelor’s Degree Tuning Initiative
September 5, 2013
Roster**

Name	Title	Affiliation
Victoria Clark	Dean/CEO	Bitterroot College
Trisha Biggs	Faculty, Business, Human Resources	City College
Marsha Riley	Dean/CEO	City College
Pat Cunningham	Associate Professor, Business	Dawson Community College
Craig Smith	Vice President of Institutional Development	Fort Peck Community College
Jessica Hopkins	Faculty Development & Assessment Specialist	FVCC
Kristen Jones	VP Instructional/S Services	FVCC
Janet Heiss-Arms	Assistant Dean	Gallatin College
Amy Williams	Career Pathways Coordinator	Gallatin College
Marilyn Besich	Business Faculty	Great Falls College
Bruce Gottwig	Director, Division of Business, Trades, & Technology	Great Falls College
Heidi Pasek	Associate Dean/CAO	Great Falls College
Daniel Bingham	Dean/CEO	Helena College
John Hartman	General Education/Science	Helena College
Tia Kelley	Gen Ed & Business Technology Division Chair	Helena College
Valerie Martinez	Perkins Coordinator	Helena College
Denise Runge	Academic Dean/VP	Helena College
Barbara Yahvah	Faculty, Accounting & Business Technology	Helena College
John Garic	Dean/CEO	Highlands College
Linda Granger	Chair, Business/Accounting Technology Department	Highlands College

Garth Sleight	Associate Dean of Academic Affairs	Miles Community College
Donna Bakke	Pathways Coordinator	Missoula College
Michelle Boller	Adjunct Faculty, General Administrative Management & Medical Administrative Technology	Missoula College
Cathy Corr	Associate Professor, Chair of Applied Arts & Sciences	Missoula College
Anne Delaney	Associate Professor, Program Director, Radiologic Technology Program	Missoula College
Cec Gallagher	Perkins Staff	Missoula College
Tim Olson	Associate Professor, Accounting Technology	Missoula College
Lynn Stocking	Associate Dean	Missoula College
Doug Coe	Dean, College of Letters, Sciences & Professional Studies	Montana Tech
Tim Kober	Chair, Business & Information Technology Department	Montana Tech
Michelle Morely	Director, Associate of Science Program	Montana Tech
Amy Verlanic	Executive Director, Inst Ed Opportunities	Montana Tech
Gary Amundson	Faculty, College of Business	MSU Billings
Cheri Johannes	Registrar	MSU Billings
Barbara Wheeling	Dean, College of Business	MSU Billings
Heather Thompson	Faculty, College of Technical Sciences	MSU Northern
Lanny Wilke	Faculty, College of Technical Sciences	MSU Northern
Bill Brown	Professor of Management, Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship	MSU-Bozeman
Susan Dana	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Director of the Bracken Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Business Education	MSU-Bozeman
Greg Kegel	Dean, College of Technical Sciences	MSU-Northern
Christine Shearer-Cremean	Dean, College of Technical Sciences	MSU-Northern
Robert Peregoy	Perkins Coordinator	Salish Kootenai College
Terri Herron	Faculty, School of Bus Admin, Chair Dept of Accounting & Finance	University of Montana-Missoula
Belva Jones	Chair, MIS	University of Montana-Missoula
Ken Creech	Assistant Professor of Business	University of Montana Western
Cecil Jones	Professor of Business	University of Montana Western
Anneliese Ripley	Dean, Outreach & Research	University of Montana Western

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Shannon O' Brien	Education Policy Advisor	Governor's Office
David Marshall	Associate Director, Tuning USA	Institute for Evidence-Based Change
Shelly Valdez	Director of Education Collaboration	Institute for Evidence-Based Change
John Cech	Deputy Com Two-Yr & Com College Ed	Office of Commissioner of Higher Education
David Hall	College!NOW Coordinator	Office of Commissioner of Higher Education
Sue Jones	Director of Two-Year Mission Integration	Office of Commissioner of Higher Education
Mary Kulawik	Admin Assistant	Office of Commissioner of Higher Education
Kali Wicks	High School to College Pathways Program Mgr	Office of Commissioner of Higher Education
Renee Harris	Health Sciences Education Specialist	Office of Public Instruction

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