

Montana University System New Academic Program Proposal Summary

Campus: Montana State University-Bozeman	Item Number: 119-2010-R0503
Program Title: Doctor of Philosophy Degree in History	DATE: May 29, 2003

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

A crucial component of MSU-Bozeman's mission is "to provide an environment that promotes the exploration, discovery, and dissemination of new knowledge." The doctoral program in History will provide advanced graduate students precisely this opportunity-to explore, discover, and disseminate new knowledge about the history of science, technology, the environment, and the American West. Because of the program's emphasis on the importance of museum-based learning, it will provide students with a strong background in cultural resource analysis, opening possibilities "to serve the people and communities of Montana by sharing our expertise and collaborating with others to improve the lives and prosperity of Montanans.

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

The Board of Regents is committed to "actively participating in the preservation and advancement of Montana's economy and society." To fulfill this mission, it is imperative to have a doctoral program in History in this state that examines the historical interface between, on the one hand, science and technology (two of the primary engines of economic change in the state) and, on the other, the environment. The Board of Regents is committed to offering "programs and services consistent with the changing market and employment needs of the state and nation." The doctoral program in History, with its emphasis on the history of science, technology, the environment, and public history is offering students specializations in fields that will lead to employment in cultural resource management and science and technology policy analysis.

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

Montana has a rich and significant history. By building on the solid foundations of the scholarship laid by the late MSU-Bozeman historians Michael P. Malone and Richard B. Roeder, this program will advance knowledge about the historical importance of technology and science in shaping Montana's frontiers and deepen understanding about how white and native Montanans' ongoing engagements with the environment have fashioned the state's political economy and political culture. It is also clear that, after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the federal government is

investing millions of dollars in improving citizens' knowledge of their history. Reminiscent of the National Defense Education Act of 1958, federal programs like the U.S. Department of Education's "Teaching American History Grants" (with \$100 million in funding each year for the next five years) and the National Endowment for the Humanities "We the People" initiative (with \$25 million in funding) are intended to promote greater historical knowledge and awareness. The doctoral program in History will better position this university and state for federal funds that can be used to preserve and better understand both the state's and nation's history.

4. How will this program contribute to the economic development in Montana?

This program will lead to a better understanding of the economic development of Montana over time. It will produce historical scholarship that will better inform Montanans about how decisions in the past have influenced the present and how thinking contingently and contextually can better prepare us for the future. By building on MSU-Bozeman's already existing non-teaching minor in Museum Studies, the doctoral program in history will provide a resource for many of the over 200 museums in communities around the state to better interpret their collections and use them to link local, state, regional, and national histories.

5. What is the Program's planned capacity?

The program's planned capacity, when it is fully implemented in 4 years, will be 12 doctoral students. These will be in addition to 8 M.A. students for a total of 20 graduate students. This represents a slight increase in the number of graduate students. Currently we average about 15 full-time M.A. students.

6. Resource allocation.

This program requires one new faculty line at a cost of apx. \$42,000 that can be made available through a pending retirement. It also requires that the Department be allowed to recapture a significant share of its vacancy savings to allocate to increased stipends for G.T.A.'s. There is also a strong probability that federal funding will be available for this program from two sources: NSF/EPSCoR and the Science, Technology, and Society Program in the National Science Foundation.