

Montana University System New Academic Program Proposal Summary

Campus: The University of Montana—Missoula COT	Item Number: 122-1008-R0104
Program Title: Practical/Registered Nurse	Date: March 25-26, 2004

- 1. How does this program advance the campus' academic mission and fit priorities?** The mission of the College of Technology is to serve the community by providing accessible educational opportunities that meet the needs of business and industry as well as the needs for individuals' professional growth as valuable contributors to the social and economic fiber of the community and the state. This program update is the College's collaborative response to the requests from local health care providers who need more registered nurses and educational options for currently practicing practical nurses seeking professional growth.
- 2. How does this program fit the Board of Regents' goals and objectives?** The proposed program revisions provide accessible, affordable, efficient, responsive, practical, and realistic learning opportunities for individuals who are tied to Missoula and surrounding communities by offering multiple entry and exit points, from CNA to LPN to RN. This "ladder concept" offers educational opportunities to many who are not able, for a variety of reasons, to progress through generic four-year nursing education. Given the current economic climate affecting education, this program has strong potential for improving health care, local economy, and personal/professional growth in an educationally sound, responsive manner. The program, when allowed to go forward, supports the MUS position as a leading contributor to the economic, social, and political well-being of Montana by responding to specific needs with a specific program designed to meet community needs.
- 3. How does this program support or advance Montana's needs and interests?** For the foreseeable future, Montana's nursing workforce needs will increase. Reasons for this are complex and include the growing proportion of elderly, out-migration of nursing professionals and a large rural environment, combining to pose great challenges to health care providers. Updating UM-MCOT's Nursing Program will increase the regional and statewide pool of registered nurses and thereby assist in meeting Montana's projected nurse shortage, though we expect most will remain in this locale. Additionally, as was stated in the goals of the BOR, this program reflects the continuing dialogue the COT maintains with the community, advisory committees, and business partners. This program supports the MUS commitment to the future of Montana, its economy, and the welfare of its citizens. As our population ages, health care needs will escalate. This program offers a means of proactively addressing the future as well as the present in an innovative manner that enriches the lives of Montana citizens through the people it educates and the people they serve.
- 4. How will this program contribute to economic development in Montana?** (Note projected annual economic impact both regionally and statewide.) Students completing a CNA/PN licensure will earn an average salary of 20,000. For many "place-bound" students, rural locations and job/goal oriented students, the CAN/PN provides very fast employment option in many locations throughout the state. Offering a seamless LPN to RN program allows individuals opportunities to increase their earning power, which may help keep them in Montana. However, it is anticipated that out of the 40 PNs, 20 will exit the program at that point in time and go into the workforce after one year of education. These PNs will then be generating 400,000 per year in salary dollars on which they will pay taxes, shop at local businesses, support their families and provide community growth. RNs will comprise a

graduating class each year of 20 students who will each earn a mean salary of 25,000. These RNs will generate 500,000 in salary dollars each year. Over a five year period of time, this program by itself will be responsible for training 570 nurses, fill needed Montana jobs, and channel 6,412,500 of salary dollars into the economy. If the seven-times economic development turnover formula is used, this will have a gross community development value of 6.300,000 a year or five year impact of 44,887,500. Individual economic impact is also important. Education is and should be a value-added investment in a student's future. From an individual student standpoint, he/she will invest approximately 7123 (tuition and fees) in a two-year RN program at UM-MCOT. An RN will earn approximately 125,000 during the five years after graduation. Therefore, for every dollar the student invested in the RN program, he/she will net a return of over 17.54 (1:17.54 ratio). The service, economic value to their workplace, community, family and state is incalculable.

5. What is the Program's planned capacity?

Break-even point?	110
Enrollments/year?	120
Graduates/year?	60
MT jobs/year?	60

6. Resource Allocation

Total program budget? At complete implementation	221,410
Faculty FTE?	4
Staff FTE?	0

Does this program require new resources? Amount?

Yes, a tuition surcharge of 200 per student per semester and 100 summer term. No new expenditures for space are required due to the excellent relations that the College has with its hospital partners.

How will the campus fund the program?

The existing nursing program at UM-MCOT is currently funded by the University. The addition of the student surcharge plus existing budgeted amounts will support the program.

If internal reallocation is necessary, name the sources.

None is needed