

# MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

## NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

### ITEM 130-1602+R0306

**Institution:** The University of Montana-Western

**Program Title:** Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education Earth Science minor

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

Western's historical mission has been centered on the education of future educators, especially future public school teachers for Montana. This proposal is consistent with this mission since these students are preparing for careers as public school teachers. The university's mission statement strongly supports "education through experiential learning that combines theory and practice." Western's unique setting in one of the best natural laboratories in the country, in combination with our unique Experience One scheduling model allows us to offer a significant portion of this program through field-and-project-based curricula designed to provide students with real-world experiences that cannot be duplicated in classroom-based curricula.

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

This proposal meets the Board of Regent's goals and objectives by providing a stimulating, responsive and effective environment for student learning and academic achievement and by being responsive to market and employment needs of the state and nation.

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

The objective of this proposal is to meet the demand for Earth Science teachers in the state. Earth Science is taught at most high schools and middle schools across the state and the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act have increased the need for teachers with specific content area certification in Montana. At present, few teachers of Earth Science in the public schools in Montana have this certification, so the addition of this certification at UMW will help to meet this demand.

**4. How will this program contribute to economic development in Montana? (Note projected annual economic impact both regionally and statewide.)**

This program will contribute to economic growth in Montana indirectly by improving the quality of secondary science education within the state. K-12 students taught by these graduates will have a better understanding of earth science that may interest them in careers in the earth sciences. There are also the direct impacts of the teacher salaries on the Montana economy.

**5. What is the program's planned capacity?**

• Break-even point?	20	FTE students
• Enrollments / year?	30	
• Graduates / year?	7	
• MT jobs / year?	5	

**6. Resource Allocation:**

• Total program budget?	\$ 0
• Faculty FTE?	2 (existing positions)
• Staff FTE?	0

7. **Does this program require new resources?**  Yes  No

*If yes, what is the amount? \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

8. **How will the campus fund the program?**

All of the courses required for this program are already being taught on-campus for existing programs and have unused course capacity. This program will thus increase efficiency by increasing class sizes. The relatively minor costs of administering and marketing the program will come out of existing campus resources.

In the third year of the program, if projected student numbers materialize, there may be a need to hire one additional faculty member. That is shown in the budget with a cost of \$55,500, including salary plus benefits.

9. **If internal reallocation is necessary, name the sources.**

No reallocation of resources is necessary.