

January 10, 2008

ITEM 138-2705-R0108

Approval of Proposal to Designate an Associate of Arts Degree in Rehabilitation and Related Services; Montana State University-Billings

That:

The Board of Regents authorizes MSU Billings to offer a designated AA degree in Rehabilitation and Related Services.

Explanation:

This request is propelled by the following:

1. The AA in Rehabilitation and Related Services is primarily intended to attract students into the degree program, and to meet identified workforce needs.
2. The Department of Labor and Industry has set the standard to include a designated AA degree with coursework and internship requirements specific to Chemical Dependency Counseling (See the document E-mail from Cynthia Reichenbach) (Also see the MCA attachment 37-35-202 Paragraph 2b).
3. The state legislature determines some of the course content for the program and its overall educational requirements. The last three legislatures have had bills introduced to raise the minimum education level for CDCs to a Bachelor's Degree (the de facto National Standard). The designated AA will presently meet the Department of Labor and Industry expectations and will also establish preparedness to meet additional requirements if/when the minimum standards are raised beyond the AA Degree.