

University of Montana Priority Projects

Butte
Dillon
Missoula



The University of
Montana

Missoula College

<http://www.umt.edu/buildmissoulacollege>



Architect rendering of proposed building

The University of Montana

and the state Board of Regents have made a new Missoula College building a top priority for funding by the 2013 Legislature. If approved, the facility would be the first academic building on UM's South Campus, located along Arthur and South avenues only a few blocks from the University's central mountain campus.

Offering excellent programs in everything from nursing and electronics to entrepreneurship and energy technology, Missoula College (formerly the College of Technology) has seen enrollment skyrocket in recent years. The original Administration Building was built in 1968 for 400 students, and another building added in 1978 allowed an enrollment of 700. The college now serves about 2,500 students. The existing facilities are outdated and small, with no ability to expand. They are

not what today's students expect from a UM education.

In the past 10 years, Missoula College has had the highest growth rate of full-time equivalent students of any two-year college in Montana — at 120 percent.

Missoula College offers outstanding transfer and professional technical education for the state of Montana. Its programs offer two-year pathways to excellent careers and future education, helping fuel Montana's economic engine with unparalleled workforce development.

About 30 disciplines and programs would move to the new building, which would provide more space for classrooms, instructional laboratories, conference rooms, counseling rooms, a library, common areas and faculty offices.

University officials want Missoula College more fully integrated into the University, both for practical reasons of delivering cost-effective services to students and for maximizing educational opportunities for students and faculty.

The current facilities near Sentinel High School were designed using an outdated open classroom concept where students can hear lectures from other classes across thin room dividers. At times, students attend classes in trailers and modular units, some of which were built by the students themselves.

If approved, the new Missoula College would be built in two phases, creating a building with 137,000 gross square feet. Construction would start in March 2014.

The Board of Regents changed the name to Missoula College in 2012 to promote its mission to serve all Montanans.

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