

Level II Action Items

May 2018

From: Deputy Commissioner John Cech

To: Board of Regents

Please see below for an executive overview of the Level II items that are being proposed for your review and action at the May 2018 meeting of the Board of Regents. These items have been submitted by the campuses and reviewed by the Chief Academic Officers of the Montana University System and community colleges. OCHE staff has reviewed the items and provided a short analysis below relying on information submitted by the campuses. For more information and specific details on each item, please see the supporting documentation included on the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee agenda.

Flathead Valley Community College

Request for authorization to establish a C.A.S. in Practical Nursing

Flathead Valley Community College requests authorization to offer a C.A.S. in Practical Nursing. This program was granted temporary approval in 2016 and replaces a 4-semester Associate of Applied Science program. This change from A.A.S. to C.A.S. is a component of the statewide reform of practical nursing curriculum through the HealthCARE MT grant

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Request for authorization to offer a C.A.S. in Medical Assistant

Flathead Valley Community College requests authorization to offer a C.A.S. in Medical Assistant. This new program will replace an A.A.S. FVCC has offered in Medical Assistant for 22 years. Four semesters of coursework are no longer necessary to obtain employment in the field. Offering a C.A.S. will allow students to graduate in three semesters while still being adequately prepared to obtain American Association of Medical Assistant National Medical Assistant Certification.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Dawson Community College

Request for authorization to establish an A.A.S. in Rural Organization Employee Management

Dawson Community College requests authorization to establish an A.A.S. in Rural Organization Employee Management. This A.A.S. will be offered wholly online, and is designed to address the needs of owners, managers, supervisors or team leaders in rural organizations. No similar program exists in the state with an explicit focus on rural organizations. At this time Dawson projects that one additional part-time instructor will be required to support a program which, at full enrollment, may enroll 22 students. No other major new expenditures are anticipated.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Montana State University Billings

Request for authorization to establish a C.A.S. in Practical Nursing

City College at Montana State University Billings requests authorization to offer a C.A.S. in Practical Nursing. This program was granted temporary approval in 2016 and replaces a 4-semester

Associate of Applied Science program. This change from A.A.S. to C.A.S. is a component of the statewide reform of practical nursing curriculum through the HealthCARE MT grant

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Great Falls College Montana State University

Request for authorization to establish a C.A.S. in Practical Nursing

Great Falls College MSU requests authorization to offer a C.A.S. in Practical Nursing. This program was granted temporary approval in 2016 and replaces a 4-semester Associate of Applied Science program. This change from A.A.S. to C.A.S. is a component of the statewide reform of practical nursing curriculum through the HealthCARE MT grant

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Request for authorization to establish an A.A.S. in Computer Programming

Great Falls College MSU requests authorization to offer an A.A.S. in Computer Programming. This program was granted temporary approval in 2016, and will have an initial cohort of 9 students graduate in May 2018. Great Falls College is actively exploring opportunities to expand this program through dual credit and 1+3 or 2+2 articulation with 4-year universities. A second faculty member was hired in AY2017-2018, but enrollment in the program has been sufficient to support the additional expenditure.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

The University of Montana Missoula

Request for authorization to establish a dual B.S./M.S. in Neuroscience

The University of Montana Missoula requests authorization to establish a dual B.S./M.S. in Neuroscience. This dual degree will draw on UM's existing B.S. and M.S. offerings in Neuroscience to offer students an accelerated pathway to a M.S. degree. Montana State University Bozeman also offers B.S. and M.S. degrees in Neuroscience, albeit with a focus that is distinct from UM's programs and without an established 5-year pathway to a B.S./M.S. No similar pathway exists at universities in the Northwest region of the US. No new investments in facilities or personnel will be required to support the program.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Request for authorization to change the M.I.S. to a M.S. or M.A.

The University of Montana Missoula requests authorization to change the Master in Interdisciplinary Studies (M.I.S.) to an M.A. or M.S. as appropriate. The Interdisciplinary Studies graduate program allows students to pursue a master's degree that can be tailored to their career aspirations when such a degree option does not exist. A survey of similar interdisciplinary degree programs in the United States revealed that it would be more in accordance with national trends and more useful to students to offer a M.S. or M.A. than a M.I.S.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Montana Tech of the University of Montana

Request to establish a M.S. in Materials Science & Engineering

Montana Tech of the University of Montana requests to establish a M.S. program in Materials Science and Engineering. No similar program exists in Montana. The proposed program will draw on and complement the collaborative Ph.D. offered by Montana Tech, MSU-Bozeman, and UM-Missoula, and will, at times, act as an on-ramp or off-ramp for students in the Ph.D. program. Students will employ existing, sometimes underutilized, lab resources while conducting their research. No additional faculty will be required, as the program draws predominantly on existing courses offered regularly in the Materials Science Ph.D. program, the M.S. in Project Engineering Management, and individual basic sciences and engineering departments.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Helena College University of Montana

Request for permanent authorization of the C.A.S. in Sheet Metal Apprenticeship

Helena College requests permanent authorization of the C.A.S. in Sheet Metal Apprenticeship. This program was granted temporary approval in 2016 when, based on industry feedback, Helena decided to pilot a shorter C.A.S. apprenticeship pathway in place of their existing A.A.S. program. Following this submission, Helena College plans to terminate the A.A.S. offering. There are no similar programs in Montana.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

The University of Montana Western

Request for authorization to revise the B.S. in Environmental Interpretation to B.S. in Environmental Sustainability

The University of Montana Western requests authorization to revise the B.S. in Environmental Interpretation with options in Biological Naturalist and Geological Naturalist to the B.S. in Environmental Sustainability with an option in Environmental Interpretation. The revised names are more recognized in the field. The change will necessitate only minor curricular changes and no additional facilities or personnel.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve