

Montana Board of Regents  
ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

APRIL 2025

ITEM 1010-LII0525

**Request Authorization to form the College of Science**

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Institution: **University of Montana-Missoula**

CIP Code: **N/A**

Program/Center/Institute Title: **College of Science**

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Includes (please specify below):    Face-to-face Offering: \_\_\_\_\_    Online Offering: \_\_\_\_\_    Blended Offering: \_\_\_\_\_

Options: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Proposal Summary**

**What:** The University of Montana proposes the formation of a new College of Science. The following academic units will move from the College of Humanities and Sciences to the new College of Science: Biological and Biomedical Sciences; Chemistry and Biochemistry; Computer Science; Mathematical Sciences; and Physics and Astronomy. Research units associated with these academic units will also move to the new college.

**Why:** The College of Science mission drafted by the planning taskforce is:

“To prepare students to lead in advancing knowledge, supporting the role of science and technology in Montana’s economy and culture, and tackling both local and global challenges to meet the needs of the state of Montana, the region and the nation through innovative and inclusive education and research. The College fosters opportunities for student engagement in research across the undergraduate and graduate curricula, supports interdisciplinary collaboration through thoughtful application of disciplinary rigor, and champions the societal value of pure and applied science. Students graduate prepared to investigate enduring questions, solve problems, and design solutions to scientific and technological challenges.”

The formation of the College of Science is grounded in the following strategic objectives:

- Elevate UM’s profile in science and technology, providing a clear identity that attracts prospective students and faculty interested in STEM disciplines and positions UM as a regional leader in science education and research;
- Strengthen interdisciplinary programs and research with the Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, the College of Health, and the University at large
- Enhance collaboration across STEM departments by promoting shared resources and facilitating communication;
- Develop new interdisciplinary initiatives in data science, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, scientific entrepreneurship, ethics in science, and science communication;
- Recruit and retain STEM faculty with the expertise to enhance research and mentorship opportunities in the college and allied programs across the university;
- Align administrative support across departments with similar cost structures to optimize financial planning, resource allocation, and philanthropy to foster a sustainable research portfolio given current challenges in federal funding;

**Resources:** The College of Science will build on the existing faculty and staff assigned to the assembled academic and research units. The College's administration will be budgeted from the current Academic Affairs allocation and from a negotiated distribution of the non-general fund financial resources and administrative personnel supporting the College of Humanities and Sciences. We anticipate the new College will require hiring a full-time Dean, part-time Associate Dean, and Academic Finance

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Officer in addition to the current department chairs, division leadership, and administrative staff. The University plans to off-set this investment with efficiencies gained from an expansion of shared administrative services between the College of Science, the College of Humanities and Sciences (to be retitled), and the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education. These administrative changes will take a full fiscal year to operationalize. This allows a transition year under the leadership of an Interim Dean while the founding Dean is recruited.

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**ATTACHMENTS****Attachment #1 - Request to Plan**

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Please mark the appropriate type of request and submit with any additional materials, including those listed in parentheses following the type of request. For more information pertaining to the types of requests listed below, how to complete an item request, or additional forms please visit <http://mus.edu/che/arsa/academicproposals.asp>.

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**A. Level I:****Campus Approvals**

\_\_\_\_\_ **1a. Placing a postsecondary educational program into moratorium** (Program Termination and Moratorium Form)

\_\_\_\_\_ **1b. Withdrawing a postsecondary educational program from moratorium**

\_\_\_\_\_ **2. Establishing, re-titling, terminating or revising a campus certificate of 29 credits or less**

\_\_\_\_\_ **3. Establishing a B.A.S./A.A./A.S. area of study**

\_\_\_\_\_ **4. Offering an existing postsecondary educational program via distance or online delivery**

**OCHE Approvals**

\_\_\_\_\_ **5. Re-titling an existing postsecondary educational program**

\_\_\_\_\_ **6. Terminating an existing postsecondary educational program** (Program Termination and Moratorium Form)

\_\_\_\_\_ **7. Consolidating existing postsecondary educational programs** (Curriculum Proposal Form)

\_\_\_\_\_ **8. Establishing a new minor where there is a major or an option in a major** (Curriculum Proposal Form)

\_\_\_\_\_ **9. Revising a postsecondary educational program** (Curriculum Proposal Form)

\_\_\_\_\_ **10. Establishing a temporary C.A.S. or A.A.S. degree program** *Approval limited to 2 years*

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**B. Level II:**

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**1. Establishing a new postsecondary educational program** (Curriculum Proposal and Completed Request to Plan Form)

**2. Permanent authorization for a temporary C.A.S. or A.A.S degree program** (Curriculum Proposal and Completed Request to Plan Form)

**3. Exceeding the 120-credit maximum for baccalaureate degrees** *Exception to policy 301.11*

**4. Forming, eliminating or consolidating an academic, administrative, or research unit** (Curriculum or Center/Institute Proposal and completed Request to Plan, except when eliminating or consolidating)

**X**

**5. Re-titling an academic, administrative, or research unit**