

Why Make This Change?

The proposal to create a new College of Science at the University of Montana is the result of a significant amount of planning and strategy by the faculty in the sciences. Right now, the College of Humanities and Sciences is the largest on campus. It includes everything from Biology to English to Psychology. This size makes it difficult to give each program the support it needs. By creating distinct colleges dedicated to the foundational disciplines of higher education, we can:

- Give science programs more visibility
- Create leadership attentive to the needs of each discipline
- Help all departments thrive within their unique contributions to STEM education

This change will not only support STEM programs. It is a chance to reinvest in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The new structure:

- Gives faculty in these areas space to build a shared mission and identity
- Allows better planning around teaching, research, and service specific to their disciplines
- Creates new opportunities for visibility and collaboration across campus

Faculty Senate recently voted to support faculty in the Humanities and Social Sciences request to take the lead in shaping their transformed college—a move that builds ownership and energy for the future.

Does It Make Fiscal Sense?

We've studied the structure closely. With thoughtful staffing and planning, the two-college model can operate efficiently and improve upon the current structure by providing better focus and leadership. We are also planning to share key administrative services between colleges to reduce duplication and increase efficiency—like finance, advising, and communications.

| PROPOSED College of Science | CURRENT College of Humanities and Sciences | PROPOSED Humanities and Social Science |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Dean 1-2 Associate Deans 5 Chairs | 1 Dean 3 Associate Deans 18 Chairs | 1 Dean 1-2 Associate Deans 11 Chairs |

In addition to staffing, we recognize that the colleges will require support in administrative areas related to the structural changes. This is why appointing interim deans this summer to lead the creation of the College of Science, and the transformation of the Humanities and Social Sciences, is vital.

The Big Picture

Ultimately, restructuring the College of Humanities and Sciences and creating a new College of Science will:

- Strengthen science education and research
- Re-center the humanities and social sciences as a vital part of UM's Mission
- Promote transparent, efficient spending aligned with student and faculty needs

It's a strategic step toward a stronger, more focused university.