

Montana Board of Regents
ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

March, 2026

ITEM 223-2012-R0326

ITEM TITLE Request to re-title the 'Thermal Biology Institute' (TBI) to the 'Extreme Biology Institute' (EBI)

Institution: **Montana State University**

CIP Code: **N/A**

Program/Center/Institute Title: **Thermal Biology Institute**

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

Options: _____

Proposal Summary [360 words maximum]

What: The Thermal Biology Institute was established in 1999 as a campus-wide initiative that brought together researchers from a variety of disciplines, all focused on studying the unique high temperature ecosystems within Yellowstone National Park. As of December 2026, the TBI is comprised of 15 research-active faculty members, most of which study the biochemistry, geochemistry, microbiology, and virology of Yellowstone's thermal environments, from its picturesque hot spring to bubbling mud pots and steaming geysers.

Why: Since the founding of the TBI, the research environment at MSU has changed. While in its early days most TBI-faculty worked on fundamental problems in biology and ecology with the goal of revealing the hidden microorganismal diversity of high temperature ecosystems, some of these faculty are now retired or will retire in early 2026 (for example, Ward, Young, Inskeep, McDermott). In the last several years, new faculty working on related but independent problems were hired and the focus of some established faculty has shifted towards more applied problems, including findings ways to exploit extreme microorganisms for biotechnology (for example, plastic degradation or mitigating the emission of climate-active gases such as methane). In addition, MSU faculty study biological systems that are not high temperature (loosely defined as higher than 120F) but are just as extreme at the ecosystems in Yellowstone National Park. Examples include Foreman and Skidmore (glacial ecosystems, including the Antarctic); Stewart (oxygen minimum zones); Watts and Ewing (Arctic permafrost); Fields, Gerlach, and Peyton (coal beds, heavy metal bioremediation, high pH algae), and Hatzenpichler (deep sea). Currently, the work by these research teams – who have their primary appointments in several departments within three different colleges - is not captured under the realm of the TBI and, therefore, these teams rarely meet and interact on a broader level on a regular basis. Bringing these teams under one umbrella institute would enable new cross-disciplinary interactions, lead to forging new collaborations and, in consequence, new opportunities in research funding, teaching, and exposure of MSU's mission to the public. The idea of rebranding the TBI to the EBI is supported by all current TBI associated faculty and was positively received with external researchers with long-term relationships to the TBI.

Resources: N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments

Montana Board of Regents
ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

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>.

 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*

 x **B. Level II:**

 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*

Montana Board of Regents
ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

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**

Montana Board of Regents
ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

March, 2026

ITEM 223-2013-R0326

Request to modify the name of the Center for American Indian and Rural Health Equity

Institution: Montana State University, Bozeman CIP Code: _____

Program/Center/Institute Title: Center for American Indian and Rural Health Equity (CAIRHE)

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

Options: _____

Proposal Summary [360 words maximum]

What: Request to rename the Center for American Indian and Rural Health Equity (CAIRHE) as the “Center for American Indian and Rural Health Excellence” (CAIRHE).

Why: The Center for American Indian and Rural Health Equity received its first grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) of the National Institutes of Health in September 2014, and it received MUS BOR approval as a research center in 2016. Over the past decade the mission, research, outreach, grant funding, and other accomplishments of CAIRHE and its faculty investigators have broadened to include all aspects of optimum rural health and well-being for the citizens of Montana. CAIRHE is also in its 11th year as a grant recipient in the Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) program at NIGMS. Modifying the CAIRHE name to include “Excellence” represents a closer alignment with not only its major funder but also its work and reputation throughout the state.

Resources:

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments

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>.

 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

Montana Board of Regents
ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

_____ **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*

_____ **B. Level II:**

_____ **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**

Montana Board of Regents
ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

January 2026

ITEM 1014-LI0126

Request authorization to retitle the School of Public and Community Health Sciences to the School of Public and Community Health

Institution: University of Montana - Missoula

CIP Code: **52.2201**

Program/Center/Institute Title:

College of Health

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

Options: _____

Proposal Summary [360 words maximum]

What: Retitle the School of Public and Community Health Sciences to School of Public and Community Health.

Why: This proposal seeks to Retitle the School of Public and Community Health Sciences to School of Public and Community Health. The current name has regularly been characterized as overly long/wordy. The new title is succinct and appropriately descriptive. The name School of Public Health is not permitted by the accrediting body, which only allows this name to be used for fully accredited schools of public health. UM's Public Health degree programs are accredited but the schools administrative structure and portfolio of offerings do not meet the requirements to qualify for the accredited name.

Resources: No additional resources are required.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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>.

 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**

Montana Board of Regents
ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

_____ 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*

X **B. Level II:**

_____ 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

Montana Board of Regents
ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

January 2026

ITEM 1015-LII0126

Request authorization to retitle the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences to the Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences

Institution: University of Montana - Missoula

CIP Code: NA

Program/Center/Institute Title: Skaggs School of Pharmacy/College of Health

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

Options: _____

Proposal Summary [360 words maximum]

What: Change the department name from the Department of Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences to the Department of Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Sciences

Why: With recent proposals to create degrees in Biomedical and Human Sciences, and to rename the Division of Biological Sciences as the Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, it is prudent for the department to distinguish its specific role in Pharmacy education on our campus. At the same time, retaining the 'Biomedical Sciences' portion of the department's name appropriately recognizes the research expertise of many of our faculty.

The department is responsible for teaching 38 credits of the 62 required credits in the first two years of the curriculum; instruction in the didactic courses that provides the foundation for the instruction in application of these principles provided by the Pharmacy Practice department. The department provides Graduate Programs in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Drug Design, and Toxicology, vital instruction in the Pharmacy Practice curriculum. In addition, the department offers a General Education course (PHAR 110N, Use and Abuse of Drugs) as well as a bachelor's level (BS) degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences. The faculty are equally represented along with the Pharmacy Practice department on all standing school committees doing the work necessary for students to complete their professional PharmD degrees.

Resources: None needed

ATTACHMENTS

NA/

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>.

_____ **A. Level I:**

Montana Board of Regents
ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

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*

X B. Level II:

- _____ 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