

Montana University System New Academic Program Proposal Summary

Campus: The University of Montana - Western

Item Number: 118-1602-R0103

Program Title: Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education **Date:** January 16-17, 2003

1. How does this program advance the campus' academic mission and fit priorities?

This program would expand to a baccalaureate degree the traditional strong role that UM-Western has played in Early Childhood Education in the state. The degree's strong component of intensives and field experiences supports the campus mission statement's emphasis on experiential learning. The campus priority of developing a fuller array of programs within its traditional areas of academic strength is also supported by this proposal.

2. How does this program fit the Board of Regents' goals and objectives?

In an effort to provide a stimulating, responsive, and effective environment for student learning, student living, and academic achievement, Western's proposed B.S. in Early Childhood Education builds on its A.A.S. in Early Childhood Education to deliver a baccalaureate degree in a format that will facilitate higher level academic achievement in students that are largely placebound and underserved.

In an effort to deliver higher education services in a manner that is efficient, coordinated, and highly accessible, the proposed B.S. in Early Childhood Education program will be delivered to students in a format that allows them to remain in the workforce in their current locations.

In an effort to be responsive to market, employment, and economic development needs of Montana and the nation, Western's proposed B.S. in Early Childhood Education Studies responds to the increased need for greater numbers of more highly educated individuals in the early childhood education field.

3. How does this program support or advance Montana's needs and interests?

This program will result in graduates that are better able to provide high quality early childhood education in the state of Montana. Better quality early childhood education better prepares children for success in the public schools in Montana. Greater availability of high quality childcare will also allow more parents and guardians to return to the Montana workforce.

4. How will this program contribute to economic development in Montana? (Note projected annual economic impact both regionally and statewide.)

Graduates of this program will qualify for higher level positions in the childcare industry. The program will also indirectly benefit the economy by allowing more parents and guardians to return to the workforce.

5. What is the Program's planned capacity?

Break-even point? 25 FTE students

FTE students 40 FTE students

Enrollment/year? 80 headcount/40 FTE

Graduates/year? 20 graduates per year

MT jobs/year? Over the period from 1988 to 1998, the industry added about 100 new jobs per year. The industry also has a high turnover rate so that a number of replacement positions are likely to occur each year.

6. Resource Allocation

Total program budget? \$60,744

Faculty FTE? 1.0

Staff FTE? 0.4

Does this program require new resources? Yes **Amount?** \$60,744

How will the campus fund the program? The campus is applying for grant funds to cover the start-up costs as well as the initial costs of an additional full-time faculty member. Once the program is established, continued funding will be dependent upon the increased revenue generated by increased enrollment.

If internal reallocation is necessary, name the sources? No internal reallocation of resources will be necessary to fund this program.