

## Montana University System New Academic Program Proposal Summary

CAMPUS: THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA-WESTERN

ITEM NUMBER: 126-1601-R0105

*Program Title: Bachelor of Science in Natural Horsemanship*

*Date: January 20-21, 2004*

### **1. How does the program advance the campus's academic mission and fit priorities?**

The University's mission statement supports "education through experiential learning that combines theory and practice." The proposed BS degree in Natural Horsemanship is an extension of The University's existing AAS degree. These degrees represent an effective partnership between business/industry and the University, whereby students are provided the opportunity to engage in both classroom work and application-based, hands on learning activities on-site at the business partner's facility. The expanded program is consistent with the University's priorities: it represents a commitment to add an additional degree focus to the existing and successful Equine Studies program.

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

The proposed degree program supports Goal B ("To make a high quality, affordable higher education experience available to all qualified citizens who wish to further their education and training") and Goal D ("To be responsive to market, employment, and economic development needs of the State and nation") of the Strategic Plan. Specifically, the proposed program would support Goal B1: "To identify or seek creative funding alternatives that will expand public and private resources;" and Goal D 1, 3 and 4: 1) "To offer programs and services consistent with the changing market and employment needs of the state and nation;" 3) "To promote the full spectrum of higher education needs and opportunities in 2-year, 4-year, and graduate and professional education;" and 4) "To make the Montana University System more accessible and responsive to business, government and other constituencies."

### **3. How does the program support or advance Montana's needs and interests?**

The proposed program will provide students additional employment options in the equine and farm and ranch industries both through the core Natural Horsemanship program and through the two option areas: science and management. The success of the existing Equine Studies program indicates that the interest in this area is high both within the state and outside. Moreover, graduates from this program will have a university level credential, increasing their job competitiveness.

4. How will the Program contribute to the economic development of Montana (Note projected annual economic impact both regionally and statewide.)

The farm and ranch industry, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2001) will grow by a rate of 6% over the next five years. The horse industry alone provides over \$112 billion to the United States Gross Domestic Product. This revenue includes 1.4 million people employed full-time and over 7 million individuals that are horse owners or

otherwise are involved in the industry. Students who graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Horsemanship will enter the job market with a competitive edge: a state of the art education that combines both classroom instruction and hands on experience through the cooperative partnership between the University and La Cense Montana.

5. What is the program's planned capacity? **40 FTE students**

Break-even point?	20 FTE students
Enrollments/year?	10 net new students per year
Graduates/year?	7
MT jobs/year?	5

## 6. Resource Allocation

Total program budget? \$38,638 in year 1.

1.0 total: Faculty FTE. (.5 full-time existing position split between Equine Studies and Natural Horsemanship plus 0.5 adjunct FTE and start-up expenses. Includes \$17,280 in in-kind services from La Cense Montana)  
0 Staff FTE:

*Does the program require new resources?*

No additional faculty will be required by the University of Montana Western. La Cense Montana, under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (see Item 122-1601-R0304, March 25-26, 2004), will provide the additional faculty that will be needed for the BS program.

*How will the campus fund the program?*

The existing Equine Studies program is currently funded by the University. Other program expenses will be donated resources from La Cense Montana.

*If internal reallocation is necessary, name the sources?*

The potential reallocation pool consists of funds allocated to adjuncts, overload payments for regular faculty and funds resulting from retirements and resignations.