

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Institution: Montana State University - Northern
Program Title: Associate of Applied Science Degree in Electrical Technology

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

Montana State University - Northern has a long history of providing technical education to the citizens of Montana. In fact, that technical niche is the institution's unique role among the four-year campuses in the higher education community in the State of Montana. The new AAS degree in Electrical Technology enhances MSU-Northern's special commitment to education in the professional trades and its history of creating high-quality, post-secondary training for those occupations. The Electrical Technology program will also complement and strengthen our existing plumbing program that was approved by the Board of Regents in 2003.

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

The proposed degree in Electrical Technology is the first of its kind in Montana and responds to the employment needs of the state and nation. The degree will further the Board of Regents' goals to provide educational opportunities for Montana citizens, to contribute to the economic development of the State, and to further develop partnerships with industry.

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

Montana citizens, who are interested in an electrical career, must complete the coursework associated with their apprenticeship by taking correspondence courses through an out-of-state educational institution in North Dakota. This degree will make that coursework available in Montana. Graduates of the program will become licensed electricians in Montana or in other states, contribute to the skilled workforce in these economies, and improve the quality of life for students who successfully complete the program.

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

On average, a journeyman electrician makes \$46,000 a year. If at the end of it's third year, the proposed electrical program at Montana State University-Northern meets its goal of graduating 12 future electricians, the program would generate 12 new jobs and \$552,000 in income for the citizens of Montana. If that money is "rolled over" at least three times in the State, it will generate over \$1.7 million in economic activity. Under the current apprenticeship system in Montana, employers of apprentice electricians pay approximately \$125,000 a year to a North Dakota educational institution for coursework associated with their apprenticeship. If this proposal is approved, these dollars could stay in Montana.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

• Break-even point?	10 FTE students
• Enrollments / year?	10/12/15*

• Graduates / year?	8/10/12*
• MT jobs / year?	12 (new)

6. Resource Allocation:

• Total program budget?	\$ 79,800 (salary, benefits, supplies, professional development, etc.)
• Faculty FTE?	1.5
• Staff FTE?	.5

7. Does this program require new resources? Yes No

If yes, what is the amount? \$ 79,800

8. How will the campus fund the program?

The electrical industry has made a strong commitment to donate the majority of the equipment, tools and initial material needs of the program. Students will be charged course fees to cover the cost of consumable materials in the electrical classes. The direct operating costs for the program will be assumed by the budgets in the College of Technical Sciences. Salary for the new faculty members will initially use monies provided by the Montana Legislature for new program development. The projected enrollment in the program will make the program self-sustaining by it's third year.

9. If internal reallocation is necessary, name the sources.

Equipment repair and replacement will come from the student capital equipment fee. The University has instituted a process for reallocating internal institutional dollars to programs that have the potential for growth and making sure money is allocated to new programs. The proposed program in electrical will be the beneficiary of some of those dollars from program operating budgets.

*first year/second year/third year (new)