

I. Objectives and Need

1. Description of Program: The College of Arts and Sciences, in collaboration with The School of Fine Arts, proposes a minor in Irish Studies that will provide students with access to instruction in the fields of language, history and literature. This academic and artistic approach to the subject of Irish culture involves an interdisciplinary and inter-collegiate collaboration that brings together leading scholars in the humanities and in the creative arts.

A key objective of this minor is to build on the high quality of scholarship produced by past and present faculty and to enhance the reputation of The University of Montana as a center of excellence in language, literature, history and the creative arts. Courses in Irish history will focus on the experience of the Irish in the United States, their role in shaping the course of American history and their impact on their homeland. Students in the history courses will receive a solid training in the skills and practices of primary research to complement the excellence of instruction imparted to them in the classroom.

Closely allied to the study of history is the study of literature in both the English and Irish languages. Irish writers in the English language such as Joyce, Beckett, Yeats and others form a core of writers whose work has been the subject of courses offered at The University of Montana for years. In addition, new coursework will focus on writing emanating from the contemporary conflict in Northern Ireland. This literature provides an understanding of the ravages of sectarian violence, as well as a look at the hopefulness of the peace process and its model for tolerance and multi-ethnic inclusiveness.

This minor assumes a pioneering role in offering students the opportunity to study the literary tradition of the Irish language, and offers a way to understand how the experience of conquest and colonization can be connected to the experience of other cultures and identities such as Native American peoples. By providing students with access to the literature of Gaelic Ireland in translation, The University of Montana stands alone as the only institution west of the Mississippi to offer such courses.

This minor is unique in the West for the centrality it accords Irish Gaelic culture in general and the Irish language in particular and in so doing places The University of Montana alongside the University of Notre Dame as the only two institutions in the country with this emphasis. While this commitment may be seen as a logical extension of UM's long involvement in the promotion of the Irish language, it is also true that the need to investigate the place of the Irish language and culture in the formation of the Irish identity in America is an equally important consideration. The dearth of investigative research in this area can be traced to a lack of scholars familiar with the Irish language. This minor proposes the first step towards producing a future crop of scholars with the linguistic training necessary to engage this important aspect of the Irish historical experience.

This minor also recognizes the need to accommodate a growing local and nationwide demand for instruction in the language. Indeed, it was in response to this demand that the University initially got involved in teaching Irish and became aware of the great need for teachers. This minor takes a bold step in meeting this need by providing students with intensive courses designed to produce fluent speakers and competent teachers of the language.

Coupled with the language and history courses are courses that give students access to the music, dance and various other artistic aspects of the Irish culture. It is an aim of this minor to bring together the artistic and imaginative impulse that has shaped theatre and film in Montana and Ireland in a manner that is not only intellectually rewarding for our students, but also appealing to the larger community.

Finally, the minor creates an opportunity for others to make a significant investment of financial and intellectual resources to the university. It will be an attractive investment for the Irish-American community, while, at the same time, will provide a means to access the financial support made available for programs of this sort through the Irish government and the European Union. Intellectually, it facilitates the development of new relationships with other institutions engaged in this field of study. Foremost among these institutions is our sister college, University College, Cork, Ireland [UCC], This minor will mediate the collaboration of student and faculty, the exchange of knowledge and expertise, and the integration of the Irish and American perspectives between both institutions. Such an alliance will be fruitful and will allow this minor to be a natural complement to the existing courses at UM and as a genuinely international program of study.

2. Documented Need for the Program: For the past five years faculty, students, Irish diplomats and members of the administration have been engaged in conversation regarding the implementation of an Irish Studies minor. One clear reason for the enthusiasm demonstrated by such conversations is that students themselves are keen to take courses in Irish Studies. Currently offered Irish and Irish-American history courses are popular, always full to capacity (80-100 students). Similarly, courses in Irish Literature are highly subscribed.

The Irish language courses, once they are listed in the course catalogue and accorded credit status by Modern and Classical Language, will be in equal demand.

This demand for coursework in Irish Studies is the result of a number of factors: the role of the Irish Diaspora in the forging and development of American history; a renaissance in Irish and Irish American culture; the place and role of Ireland in discourses and activities central to the development and devolution of nationalism and imperialism in the twentieth century; the connections between Irish and Native American Indians under colonialism; the regionally specific labor and ethnic experience of Butte; and, finally, the resurgence of the Irish language.

The plans for an Irish Studies minor at The University of Montana have already attracted a good deal of international attention. The former Irish Consul-General in San Francisco, Dónal Denham traveled to Montana several years ago in order to promote such a program. Moreover, one of Ireland's premier institutions of higher education, University College, Cork, has already guaranteed its support for such a program. University College Cork has already developed connections with The University of Montana.

There are major cultural and economic benefits that could accrue to The University of Montana and to the Montana in general through the Irish Studies minor. Increased enrollment and acquisition of federal, international, and community funding will result from having the minor. A cross-disciplinary Irish Studies minor also will enhance a number of cooperative ventures between departments, colleges, and other universities in the region.

There are no developed Irish Studies programs in the American West that offer such a scholarly program. Thus we would attract students from a large market, with the potential to attract a broad spectrum of students. Furthermore, the minor, by explicating the depth and breadth of Montana's and the nation's diversity, will contribute positively toward situating diversity as an integral component of Montana and University of Montana's past, present, and future.

3. Additional Courses and Course Requirements

The minor in Irish Studies will require the successful completion of at least six courses (18 credits), including four courses in the core area.

Required Courses: At least 18 credits, including twelve credits from the required core courses (4 classes) and six credits from the elective courses (2 classes).

Core Courses: Irish language, history, literature, and culture. The core courses are a required cluster of twelve credits (4 classes) for all students pursuing the minor.

MCLG 195 Irish Language Studies: Irish I	3 credits
MCLG 195 Irish Language Studies: Irish II	3 credits
HIST 249 The Irish and Irish-Americans	3 credits
ENLT 322 Irish and/or Northern Irish Literature (in English)	3 credits
or	
ENLT 395 Special topics in Irish and/or Northern Irish Literature, Culture, and Film	

Elective Courses: Students will complete at least six credits (2 classes) from the following courses:

DAN 195 Irish Dance	3 credits
DAN 395 Irish Dance	3 credits
DRAM 395 Irish Theatre: From Yeats to McDonagh	3 credits
ENLT 321 Major Author: Joyce	3 credits
ENLT 322 Irish/Northern Irish Literature	3 credits
ENLT 325 Poetry and Partition	3 credits
ENLT 395 Literature of the Gaelic Revival	3 credits
ENLT 395 Gaelic Culture in Crisis	3 credits
ENLT 395: Four Green Fields: Irish/Irish-American Film	3 credits
ENLT 395 The Troubles and its Tales	3 credits
ENLT 430 Multicultural British Literature	3 credits
ENLT 431 Senior Seminar: James Joyce	3 credits
HIST 249 The Irish and Irish-Americans	3 credits
LS 381 Special Topics: Irish Film	3 credits
MCLG 195 Irish Language Studies: Irish III	3 credits

MUS 195 Traditional Music in Ireland
 MUS 495 Traditional Music in Ireland

3 credits
 3 credits

The majority of core and elective courses are offered under the current curriculum structure.

II. Adequacy, Accreditation, and Assessment Issues

1. Adequacy of Present Faculty, Facilities, Equipment, and Library Holdings: All members of the faculty who will participate in the Irish Studies minor are active teachers and researchers with advanced degrees from major institutions of higher learning. Current faculty include:

Professors/Academic Areas

Ione Crummy: Language acquisition theory, French, French and Irish political and cultural relations, Irish language.

David Emmons: The Irish in the West, history of Butte, labor history, historiography, Irish-American history, Irish history.

Janet Finn: Labor, feminism, and Butte, social work, women's studies and Latin American studies.

Gregory Johnson: Artistic Director of the Montana Repertory Theatre, Irish theatre, Abbey Theatre, acting, directing.

John Hunt: Contemporary Irish Fiction, Joyce, literature of the English Renaissance.

Katie Kane: Irish and Native American colonial and post-colonial experience, ethnic studies, seventeenth century Ireland.

Michael Murphy: Film, film theory, filmmaking, Irish film, and Irish-American film.

Sean O'Brien: Irish and Irish American film, documentary, filmmaking, practical ethics, philosophy.

Traolach Ó Ríordáin: Irish language, nationalism, Gaelic culture, Irish literature in Irish, Irish history, Irish religious history and philosophy.

Eric Reimer: Contemporary Irish and Northern Irish literature and film; Troubles fiction; contemporary British literature; postcolonial theory.

Patrick Williams: music, composition, theory, aural perception, and 16th- and 18th-century counterpoint, Irish Music

Affiliated Faculty:

Kevin Canty: Creative writing, contemporary fiction.

Deirdre McNamer: Creative writing, contemporary fiction, literature of Montana.

Library Resources: A review of library holdings indicate that there exists a resource baseline, covering contemporary Irish literature, Irish history, Irish-American history, Butte, history of the American West, and colonial and post colonial theory. Particular strengths in history and culture lie in literature about Native Americans of North America, with additional strengths in Western history. There is, therefore, a strong infrastructure already in place that would allow for holistic, comparative, diachronic research.

Any deficiencies in research holdings are currently being addressed by several kinds of electronic-access procedures. Access to vital resources is further improved by interlibrary loan for student and faculty research. Future additions will be requested as part of the library's existing processes.

Facilities and Equipment: To implement the proposed minor requires no special equipment. Each faculty office is provided with a computer that is replaced on a three-year rotational cycle. The affiliated departments and Colleges operate and maintain language laboratories, theatre space, classrooms, and presentation technology. The departments have adequate faculty, facilities, equipment, and library holdings to maintain a successful minor. Space for physically housing all faculty is at capacity, but adequate for current needs.

2. Accreditation Status: There are no accrediting agencies identified that currently would have particular concerns with the program herein proposed. However, faculty at The University of Montana have developed links with at least two important Irish Studies programs in the country who are prepared to make their knowledge and expertise available. The proposed minor program fits the standards of professional training in these other programs.

3. Assessment Issues: The associated departments will use a number of instruments to track the degree of success achieved by students in the Irish Studies minor. Recruitment of undergraduate students and their completion of the minor are the critical points for measurement of program success. The departments and faculty will track the number of applications to the minor as well as the number of students who participate in course work. Students also will be tracked using average course work GPA, competence on exams, and other criteria to monitor program quality. The department also recognizes that student retention rates are an indicator

of program health. Accordingly the department will track the number of matriculating undergraduate students along with the number that complete the minor, withdraw, or are pursuing their degree objectives. Successful employment of graduates will also be tracked. Assessment results are reported to the faculty via the department's annual report and in faculty planning meetings. Based on these data, the associated faculty will make suggestions for changes to the faculty.

III. Impact on Faculty, Costs, Students, and Other Departments and Campuses

1. **Additional Faculty Requirements:** Dr. David Emmons

2. **Impact on Facilities:** The proposed program will have no immediate effects on either the College of Arts and Sciences or the College of Fine Arts. Support staff is adequate, given the current number of faculty, teaching assistants, students, and other departmental activities.

3. **Cost Analysis**

BUDGET ANALYSIS

Proposed Program: Minor in Irish Studies											
Campus: Mountain											
	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		
Estimated ENROLLMENT											
FTE Enrollment	8		16		22		27		27		
Estimated Incremental REVENUE											
Use of Current General Operating Funds	0		0		0		0		0		
State Funding for Enrollment Growth	0		0		41,536		50,976		50,976		
Tuition Revenue											
A. Gross Incremental Tuition Revenue	40,207		80,413		110,568		135,698		135,698		
B. Reductions to Incremental Tuition	0		0		0		0		0		
C. Net Tuition Revenue (A-B)	40,207		80,413		110,568		135,698		135,698		
Program/Course Fees	0		0		0		0		0		
External Funds			0		0		0		0		
Other Funds (please specify)			0		0		0		0		
TOTAL Estimated Incremental Revenue	40,207		80,413		152,104		186,674		186,674		
Estimated Incremental EXPENDITURES											
Personal Services	FTE	Cost									
Faculty	1.0	37,000	1.0	37,000	1.0	37,000	1.0	37,000	1.0	37,000	
Other Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Operating Expenses	0		0		0		0		0		
Equipment	0		0		0		0		0		
Start-up Expenditures	0		0		0		0		0		
TOTAL Estimated Incremental Expenditures	37,000		37,000		37,000		37,000		37,000		
Estimated Revenues Over/(Under) Expenditures	3,207		43,413		115,104		149,674		149,674		

4. Enrollment Impact: Planned Student Enrollment

	<u>First Year/05</u> <u>FTE Headcount</u>	<u>Second Year/06</u> <u>FTE Headcount</u>	<u>Third Year/07</u> <u>FTE Headcount</u>	<u>Third Year/08</u> <u>FTE Headcount</u>	<u>Fifth Year/09</u> <u>FTE Headcount</u>
A. New Enrollment	6	10	10	15	15
B. Shifting Enrollment	2	6	12	12	12
Total Enrollment	8	16	22	27	27

IV. Process Leading to Submission of Proposal

This proposal will be reviewed and approved by the Departments of English, History, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Dean of the College of Fine Arts, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Faculty Senate of The University of Montana. No outside consultants were employed for the development of this proposal.