

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

ITEM 130-1604+R0306

Institution: The University of Montana-Western

Program Title: Psychology Option in A.A.S. in Equine Studies and B.S. and A.A.S. in Natural Horsemanship

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

The University's mission statement supports "education through experiential learning that combines theory and practice." This program delivers that type of learning experience while taking advantage of existing coursework to create areas of study that meet student demand. This option area of psychology aids in preparing our equine program students for entry as professionals in the new and rapidly expanding field of equine-assisted therapy (including equine-assisted learning, therapy for the emotionally disturbed, and leadership training for adults).

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

The proposed degree program fits the Board of Regents' goals and objectives, primarily: 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 Goals 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. How does this program support or advance Montana's needs and interests?

Several professionals in the field, both on-campus and off-site, had indicated interest in the development of such an Option area at UMW, particularly associated with the applied discipline of natural horsemanship. A final factor in bringing forth the proposal was the strong interest by a number of students in pursuing a potentially lucrative career in some aspect of equine-assisted therapy.

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

This program will contribute to economic development in Montana by preparing individuals with unique skill sets that are likely to find immediate employment or are well prepared to enter graduate school for further preparation to deliver some type of therapy or training to other individuals.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

• Break-even point?	20	FTE students
• Enrollments / year?	30	
• Graduates / year?	7	
• MT jobs / year?	5	

6. Resource Allocation:

• Total program budget?	\$ 0
• Faculty FTE?	3 (existing)
• Staff FTE?	0

7. **Does this program require new resources?** Yes No

If yes, what is the amount? \$ _____

8. **How will the campus fund the program?**

The existing coursework is funded by a combination of tuition, state-support and private funds provided by La Cense Montana. If the program expands as projected extra faculty will be needed to cover additional course sections. Funds for this will be provided by the extra tuition and state support generated by the additional students.

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

This program requires no internal reallocation of funds.