

February 5, 2026

To: Chief Academic Officers

From: Joe Thiel
Deputy Commissioner for Academic, Research, and Student Affairs

RE: Approval of January 2026 Academic Items

The following January 2026 academic items have been approved:

LEVEL I ITEMS:

The University of Montana:

- Request for authorization to establish a Career Certification in Employability and Workforce Foundations
Item #1001-LI0126
- Request to retitle the AAS in Sustainable Construction to AAS in Construction Management Item #1004-LI0126
- Request to terminate multiple programs: Certificate in Environmental and Nature Writing, Certificate in Northern Rockies Outdoor Leadership, Certificate in Teacher Librarian Studies, Certificate of Applied Science in Construction Management, Minor in ESL Education
Item #1005-LI0126
- Request for authorization to place multiple programs in moratorium: BS in Integrative Physiology with concentration in Health Enhancement, BS in Geosciences with concentration in Earth Sciences Education
Item # 1006-LI0126
- Request for authorization to retitle the AAS in Welding Technology to AAS in Welding Technology and Fabrication
Item #1007-LI0126
- Request for authorization to terminate the joint Master of Public Health/Master of Public Administration
Item# 1013-LI0126

Montana State University:

- Request approval to retitle the Bachelor of Art in Music to the Bachelor of Musical Arts
Item# 2010-L11225
- Request authorization to retitle the graduate certificate Certificate in Plant Disease to Professional Certificate in Plant Disease
Item # 2011-LI1225



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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- Request authorization to establish a minor in Environmental Economics and Policy
Item #2012-LI1225

Montana State University Billings:

- Notification to place the Early Childhood Studies Minor into moratorium
Item #2701-LI0126

Montana State University Northern:

- Notification of the establishment of a Healthcare Foundations Certificate
Item #2801-LI0326

LEVEL II ITEMS:

Montana State University Northern:

- Request for authorization to establish a Minor in Nonprofit Management
Item #2804-LII0326
- Request for authorization to establish a Chemistry Minor
Item #2802-LII0326
- Request for authorization to establish a Mathematics Teaching Minor
Item# 2805-LII0326

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph W. Thiel".

Joe Thiel
Deputy Commissioner for Academic, Research, and Student Affairs