

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Montana State University - Northern**

Program Years: **AY19 – AY25**

List of the programs reviewed:

Criminal Justice BS, Criminal Justice minor, Electrical Technology AAS, Integrated Health Sciences BS, and Integrated Health Sciences minor

Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:

See below

Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.

See below

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Montana State University-Northern**

Program Years: **2015-2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

Criminal Justice BS, Criminal Justice minor

Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:

RETAIN AND GROW THE PROGRAM(S)

Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.

Enrollment:

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
BS	91	94	88	80	67	52	54	46	38
minor	10	8	4	1	3	4	4	5	3

Graduates:

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
BS		22	16	24	18	16	14	12	10
minor		5	1	1	1	0	1	2	2

The Criminal Justice Program at Montanan State University-Northern offers a comprehensive education tailored for students interested in careers within law enforcement, corrections, and advocacy (Criminal Justice umbrella). Established in response to demand within the rural community, the program maintains flexibility by offering both in-person and online courses. This dual-delivery format is valuable for students across the state and beyond, who can take advantage of the rigorous curriculum from a distance or through a traditional classroom setting. The program's flexibility makes it appealing to working students and those with family commitments, and the program remains sustainable by drawing students to its accessibility and thorough approach to criminal justice education.

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One of the standout features of the Criminal Justice Program is its emphasis on practical experience and interdisciplinary learning. On-campus education offers scenario-based decision making, processing a crime scene for forensic science, presenting cases to actual judges from the community, and handling individuals in the correctional system. The program encourages students to pursue a minor in fields like Psychology, Business, or Community Leadership, which complements their studies in criminal justice and broadens their career perspectives. Additionally, the program offers as an elective a co-operative education component, offering students hands-on experience in community agencies, police departments, or court systems. Students frequently report positive experiences in these co-ops, which not only help them to network with professionals but also provide a realistic glimpse into their potential careers. Many co-op placements transition into longer-term employment, which highlights the program's success in preparing students for the workforce and the valuable collaborative connections in the local community and State.

The Criminal Justice Program has sustained its quality and maintained strong connections with local law enforcement agencies and advocacy groups, as well as neighboring two-year colleges through articulation agreements. These partnerships create a pathway for students from community colleges to transition seamlessly into the program, adding value to both the local community and the students' education. The program's continued relevance and strong support network demonstrate its potential for growth. With declining enrollment in universities nationwide, efforts will be made to recruit new students to bolster numbers. Advertising the robust skills gained from the criminal justice program and the attractive career paths are the main selling points to high school students and potential non-traditional students. Prominent career paths include:

- Police Officer
- Deputy Sheriff
- Correctional Officer
- Probation / Parole Officer
- Game Warden
- Crisis Intervention Specialist
- Offender Program Practitioner
- Victim / Witness Advocate
- Social Worker
- Researcher

There was a significant increase in enrollment Fall 2025 in the entry level courses, which bodes well for efficacy of recruitment and outreach initiatives. We will continue to monitor the needs of our students and of the community and revise and refresh the program as needed.

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Institution: **MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-NORTHERN**

Program Years: **2017-2025**

List of the programs reviewed:

ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY (AAS)

Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:

RETAIN AND MAINTAIN THE ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.

ACADEMIC YEAR	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Major Count (Fall)	51	42	36	33	47	56	62	68
Graduates (Spring)	20	17	14	30	13	24	20	24
Retention Rate: Fall-to-Fall	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	71%	83%	81%	70%	81%	88%	84%	78%

Enrollment numbers in the Electrical Technology program have been steady, with 30-32 new students enrolling each fall semester of the last few years. With these increased numbers, we have hired a third instructor to handle the academic overload. Graduation and retention numbers have also been high, with many of our graduates going straight into employment and finding success with several electrical contractors in Montana and surrounding States.

Still working closely with the Montana Department of Labor, the curriculum has stayed up to date and progressed with the ever-changing electrical trade. New PLC trainers are being added to replace out-of-date trainers and will allow our students to be up to date on working with Programmable Logic controllers, while gaining experience in troubleshooting motor controls.

In conclusion, the Electrical Technology program at Northern shines as one of the best Electrical Technology schools in the nation. Our students are having a very high rate at first-time pass on the Montana journeyman exam, as well as some even continuing to gain their Master's License and becoming business owners of their own. The Electrical trade has no signs of slowing down, and Northern will continue to accommodate these young students to gain a future in the Electrical field.

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Montana State University-Northern**

Program Years: **AY19 - AY25**

List of the programs reviewed:

Integrated Health Sciences BS, Integrated Health Sciences minor

Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:

RETAIN AND GROW THE PROGRAM(S)

Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.

Integrated Health Sciences was previously named Health Promotion. Trends in enrollment and completion under both of these program names are provided below.

Enrollment:

	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
BS - Health Promotion	37	32	28	28	11	5	-
BS – Integrated Health Sciences	-	-	-	6	20	33	37
TOTAL	37	32	32	34	34	38	37

Enrollment:

	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
Minor - Health Promotion	5	11	6	7	4	2	1
Minor – Integrated Health Sciences	-	-	-	-	2	1	2
TOTAL	5	11	6	7	6	3	3

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Graduates:

	AY19	AY20	AY21	AY22	AY23	AY24	AY25
BS - Health Promotion	8	6	9	7	3	3	2
BS – Integrated Health Sciences	0	0	0	0	1	3	9
TOTAL	8	6	9	7	4	6	11

Graduates:

	AY19	AY20	AY21	AY22	AY23	AY24	AY25
Minor - Health Promotion	1	3	1	0	1	0	0
Minor – Integrated Health Sciences	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
TOTAL	1	3	1	0	2	1	2

The Integrated Health Sciences program at Montana State University-Northern offers a flexible, well-rounded education designed for students interested in pursuing careers in health-related fields. Students are able to choose one of two concentrations within the major, Exercise Science or Pre-Allied Health. Students are also able to choose to minor in Integrated Health Sciences as a complement to another major (e.g., Business, Criminal Justice).

Enrollment in the BS program has remained steady over the last seven years. This is quite notable as, during this time period, the program has gone through a name change and has experienced significant turnover in one of the two faculty lines. Further, Integrated Health Sciences students have found great success not only in the job market, but in graduate school with students earning admissions to graduate programs in Physical Therapy, Athletic Training, Optometry, Physician Assistant, and Kinesiology. Enrollment in the minor program has fared less well as fewer students have been selecting this option.

Faculty in the Integrated Health Sciences program have pursued INBRE funded research over the last several years, resulting in increased undergraduate research opportunities for students, increased access to cutting edge instrumentation, and lab modernization that has benefited multiple undergraduate courses. Along with this momentum, faculty have been implementing curriculum changes to move the program forward and identify strategies for additional growth in enrollment.

Given this program's strong momentum and the sharp growth that the healthcare sector has experienced over the last several decades (and is predicted to continue to experience for decades to come), MSU-Northern sees an opportunity for strategic investment in the Integrated Health Sciences program in both physical and human capital, with the goal of spurring on sustainable growth and, thereby, better serving the Hi-line, the state of Montana, and our students.