

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Montana State University**

Program Years: **AY2018-AY2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

American Studies

Earth Sciences

Counseling

Food Systems, Nutrition, and Kinesiology

Human Development and Community Health

Health Professions Advising

Masters of Science in Science Education

Nursing

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

See individual unit reports

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 individual unit reports

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW – AMERICAN STUDIES

Institution: **Montana State University – American Studies**

Program Years: **AY2018-AY2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

Bachelor of Arts in American Studies
Master of Arts in American Studies
Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies

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

All programs will be retained.

The College of Letters and Science will prioritize marketing and expansion of the interdisciplinary BA in American Studies. This will be done via reorganization of the BA program themes, development of a certificate in American Studies for undergraduates, restructuring administration and faculty appointments, and additional advertising and administration budget for the next 3 years. A mid-cycle ad-hoc review will be conducted in the 28-29 academic year.

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.

A program peer review site visit was conducted March 3, 2025. Documents informing this analysis include program self-study, peer review team report, and dean's recommendation report.

American Studies is an interdisciplinary program housed in the College of Letters of Science. Undergraduate students have enrolled in large numbers in the American Studies sequence of introductory courses, particularly AMST 101D and AMST 201IH. The doctoral program continues to enroll and confer a high number of doctoral degrees. Recent graduates are gainfully employed as program and executive directors and coordinators for a variety of sectors and faculty at universities across the west.

Low enrollment and completion rates in the undergraduate degree remain a concern for the program as a whole. It is evident in the program self-study data that Covid, rapid changes in program leadership until July 2022, and low faculty FTE affected program marketing and therefore, enrollment. The College of Letters and Science is proposing reorganization of the BA program themes to connect with student interest and the latest scholarship in American Studies, development of a certificate in American Studies for undergraduates to provide baseline student demand for upper-division courses that are presently underenrolled and forge pathways for those interested in the major, restructuring administration and faculty appointments to increase formalized commitments from departments across the college, and additional advertising and administration budget for the next 3 years to revive the BA in American Studies. The College of Letters and Science is willing to make this investment as the impact graduate teaching assistantships and teaching experience for the BA program has on the strength of

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW – AMERICAN STUDIES

applicants and thriving of the graduate programs. Thus, it will be important to keep offering high-enrollment undergraduate Core courses such as AMST 101D and AMST 201IH and increase enrollment in upper-division courses. The department will review the effectiveness of the changes on the BA degree in a mid-cycle ad-hoc review in the 28-29 academic year.

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW – AMERICAN STUDIES

ENROLLMENT										
DEGREE	MAJOR 1, 2, 2nd DEGREE	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BA	Major 1	American Studies	AMST	6	8	10	8	4	3	3
BA	Major 2	American Studies	AMST	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
BA	2 nd Degree	American Studies	AMST	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT:				6	10	13	10	4	3	3
DEGREE	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
MA	American Studies		AMST	2	3	3	3	4	1	3
PhD	American Studies		AMST	24	23	21	19	19	15	20
TOTAL GRADUATE ENROLLMENT:				26	26	24	22	23	16	23
TOTAL ENROLLED:				32	36	37	32	27	19	26
	MINOR DESCRIPTION		CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
N/A										
AWARDED DEGREES										
DEGREE	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BA	American Studies		AMST	2	1	3	3	5	0	1
MA	American Studies		AMST	0	1	0	3	2	1	1
PhD	American Studies		AMST	2	2	3	4	6	2	4
TOTAL DEGREES AWARDED:				4	4	6	10	13	3	6

Montana University System
EARTH SCIENCES - PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Montana State University – Earth Sciences**

Program Years: **AY2018-AY2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

Bachelor of Science in Earth Sciences

- Geography Option
- Geology Option
- GIS/Planning Option
- Paleontology Option
- Snow Science Option

Earth Science Teaching Minor

GIS Minor (Non-Teaching)

Water Resources Minor (Non-Teaching)

M.S. in Earth Sciences

M.S. in Land Rehabilitation (Interdisciplinary degree)

Ph.D. in Earth Sciences

Ph.D. in Ecology & Environmental Sciences

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

All programs will be retained.

GIS/Planning and Geography options will be combined into one option.

The department will develop a certificate in Avalanche Forecasting.

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.

A program peer review site visit was conducted April 7 & 8, 2025. Documents informing this analysis include departmental self-study, peer review team report, and dean's recommendation report.

Earth Sciences is a successful department in the College of Letters of Science. The department has maintained consistently strong enrollment (260 undergraduate and 42 graduate students in 2024) and has awarded a high number of degrees (49 B.S., 11 MS and 3 PhDs in 2024). Graduate students expressed tremendous enthusiasm for the master's and doctoral programs. The program has cultivated enthusiasm among its students and participating faculty, evident in the consistent success of the Earth Sciences' annual Student Colloquium. The strengths of the program include steady and high student enrollment, the high number of degrees conferred, growing and popular concentrations, including Snow Science and Paleontology, and the continuous success and vibrancy of the Earth Sciences Field Camps and other experiential offerings for students.

Montana University System
EARTH SCIENCES - PROGRAM REVIEW

Over time, the GIS/Planning and Geography options have come to have considerable overlap and attract similar cohorts that lead to equally fulfilling career-readiness for several career pathways. With both options only graduating single-digit number of students per year, merging the two options and streamlining the curriculum should decrease curricular complexities and increase retention and graduation. Within the next year, the department will decrease the BS in Earth Sciences options from five to four options and streamline all curriculums which will allow for a refocus on undergraduate advising. The curricular changes are anticipated to minimize course bottlenecks and reduce time to degree for all four of the options.

Earth Sciences maintains an active MS and PhD in Earth Sciences graduate programs, 26 and 16 students respectively in 2023. Earth Sciences also participates in the interdisciplinary PhD in Ecology and Environmental Sciences hosting 5 students in the Earth Sciences department and is regularly graduating students from these programs.

The department will develop a certificate in Avalanche Forecasting to meet continued student, public and industry demand for forecasters. The department has a long-standing tradition of avalanche expertise in snow science that meets the needs of the industry.

Montana University System
EARTH SCIENCES - PROGRAM REVIEW

ENROLLMENT										
DEGREE	MAJOR 1, 2, 2nd DEGREE	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BS	Earth Sciences	GIS	EGIS	30	30	23	24	19	27	29
BS	Earth Sciences	Geology	ESGL	85	70	76	71	72	67	68
BS	Earth Sciences	Geography	ESGR	26	26	24	21	25	29	29
BS	Earth Sciences	Paleontology	ESPL	64	72	77	86	91	94	90
BS	Earth Sciences	Snow Science	ESSS	38	42	45	51	40	47	43
CERT	Earth Sciences Certificate		ESTO	2	2	4	4	7	1	0
TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT:				245	242	249	257	254	265	259
DEGREE	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
MS	Earth Sciences		ESCI	24	25	24	25	26	26	24
PhD	Ecology & Environment Sciences	Earth Sciences	ECES	2	4	4	4	4	5	3
PhD	Earth Sciences		ESCI	20	20	18	18	15	16	18
TOTAL GRADUATE ENROLLMENT:				46	49	46	47	45	47	45
TOTAL ENROLLED:				291	291	295	304	299	312	304
	MINOR DESCRIPTION		CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Minor	Earth Science Teaching		TESC	2	2	1	2	1	0	0
TOTAL MINOR ENROLLED:				2	2	1	2	1	0	0

Montana University System
EARTH SCIENCES - PROGRAM REVIEW

AWARDED DEGREES										
DEGREE	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BS	Earth Sciences	GIS	EGIS	7	5	6	8	5	5	6
BS	Earth Sciences	Geology	ESGL	22	14	12	10	25	11	15
BS	Earth Sciences	Geography	ESGR	5	8	3	10	5	5	8
BS	Earth Sciences	Paleontology	ESPL	2	8	10	3	10	16	9
BS	Earth Sciences	Snow Science	ESSS	18	3	8	7	4	2	10
MS	Earth Sciences		ESCI	5	8	6	7	7	6	11
PhD	Ecology & Environment Sciences		ECES	n/a	n/a	1	1	1	1	1
PhD	Earth Sciences		ESCI	3	0	5	2	1	4	3
TOTAL DEGREES AWARDED:				62	46	51	48	58	50	63
AWARDED MINORS										
	MINOR DESCRIPTION		CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Minor	Earth Science Teaching		TESC	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MINORS AWARDED:				1	1	0	0	0	0	0

Montana University System
COUNSELING - PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Montana State University - Counseling**

Program Years: **AY2018-AY2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

- Addiction Counseling Certificate
- Mental Health Support Certificate

Externally Accredited Programs partially covered in this review

Accreditor: [Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs \(CACREP\)](#)

Reaffirmation of Accreditation – Feb 22, 2023 – March 31, 2031

- MEd, School Counseling
 - MS Counseling
 - Clinical Mental Health Counseling Option
 - Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling
-

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

All programs will be retained

To improve recruitment and retention the Department of Counseling will:

- Establish advisory board of local and regional professionals and community partners.
 - Market certificate programs widely through outreach and connections with undergraduate programs and tribal colleges creating a pathway that connects an Associate's degrees to a graduate certificate
 - Explore feasibility and effectiveness of obtaining National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission (NASAC) accreditation for Addictions Counseling certificate
 - Explore feasibility of the Mental Health Certificate acquiring financial aid eligibility.
-

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.

A program peer review site visit was conducted March 7, 2025. Documents informing this analysis include departmental self-study, peer review team report, and dean's recommendation report.

The Addictions Counseling and Mental Health Support Certificate programs at Montana State University exemplify the Department of Counseling's commitment to addressing critical workforce needs in Montana and beyond. Designed to provide accessible, high-quality education, these programs leverage innovative approaches to meet the needs of working professionals, rural students, and non-traditional learners. With strategic plans to expand curriculum offerings, strengthen community partnerships, and enhance career pathways, both certificates should see an increase in enrollment and provide valuable training for diverse

Montana University System
COUNSELING - PROGRAM REVIEW

populations. By emphasizing high-touch advising, flexible scheduling, and a strong online learning community, the department is poised to further its impact. Future initiatives, including dual licensure pathways, NASAC accreditation, targeted marketing, and peer mentorship programs, will ensure these certificates remain relevant, rigorous, and responsive to evolving demands in the fields of addiction counseling and mental health support.

Enrollment and graduation remain steady in all programs with minimal perceived threat to changes in workforce demand. The department introduced the Certificate in Mental Health Support (Online) in 2022 to better support those who work in environments that intersect with human services. Enrollment has not yet reached the anticipated 25 students. To address enrollment, in 2025 the program was opened to undergraduate students at MSU who may receive the certificate upon graduation from their chosen undergraduate program since this program is considered post-baccalaureate. Though early in the establishment stages of this program, some students starting this certificate are migrating to a Masters in a mental health program instead. The certificate in and of itself is not financial aid eligible, so there is also an unanticipated barrier to enrollment in the program for many professionals. The department is exploring the feasibility of acquiring financial aid eligibility for the Mental Health Certificate.

The Addictions Counseling certificate is generally a post-bachelor's program that helps meet the needs of requirements for licensure in addictions counseling. Students may only need some of the coursework, depending on their state's licensure and certification processes, so graduation from the certificate program does not accurately reflect the high value of the program to the workforce. The Addictions Counseling certificate has also opened up a dual licensure pathway, allowing post-master's students from various educational backgrounds to pursue additional licensure and expertise.

The department will continue to offer these programs online where appropriate to serve working individuals and keep the programs accessible and portable.

Montana University System
COUNSELING - PROGRAM REVIEW

DEGREE	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CERT	ACCO-CERT	n/a		32	27	16	19	12	23	24
CERT	MHSO- CERT	n/a		0	0	0	0	22	19	19
MEd	School Counseling			10	12	13	14	14	10	9
MS	Counseling	Clinical Mental Health option; Marriage, Couples, and Family option	CNSL	32	31	37	37	41	40	36
TOTAL GRADUATE ENROLLMENT:				74	70	66	70	89	92	88
TOTAL ENROLLED:				74	70	66	70	89	92	88

AWARDED DEGREES										
DEGREE	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CERT	ACCO-CERT			11	13	18	10	16	7	13
CERT	MHSO-CERT			0	0	0	0	0	7	7
MEd	School Counseling			5	5	6	6	8	5	3
MS	Counseling	Clinical Mental Health option; Marriage, Couples, and Family option	CNSL	19	10	19	17	16	20	16
TOTAL DEGREES AWARDED:				35	28	43	33	40	39	39

Montana University System
FOOD SYSTEMS, NUTRITION, AND KINESIOLOGY - PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Montana State University – Food Systems, Nutrition, and Kinesiology**

Program Years: **AY2018-AY2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

Bachelor of Science in Food and Nutrition
 Dietetics Option
 Nutrition Science Option
Bachelor of Science in Health Enhancement K-12 (Health and Physical Education)
Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management
 Food Enterprise
 Lodging and Facilities
 Restaurant Management: Farm to Table
Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology
 Exercise Science Option
 Health and Fitness Option
Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems
 Sustainable Food Systems Option
Dietetic Systems Leadership
Master of Science in Exercise and Nutrition Sciences
Doctor of Philosophy in Exercise and Nutrition Sciences
Master of Science in Sustainable Food Systems

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

All programs will be retained with the exception of the BS in Hospitality Management: Food Enterprise Option.

Within the BS in Hospitality Management, the department will:

- retitle and move 'Lodging and Facilities option' to 'Hospitality Business option' JJCOB
- retitle 'Restaurant Management option' to 'Sustainable Hospitality option'
- remove the 'Food Enterprise option' and establish a Food Security Certificate to augment the other options.

MS in Sustainable Food Systems program will add an online option.

All Bachelor's of Science programs will be reviewing and streamlining curriculum to reduce major required credits to more closely align with BOR policy of no more than 80 major required credits.

To increase enrollment and graduations rates while decreasing time to graduation, the department will be establishing advisory board for all programs and reviewing course sequencing.

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.

A program peer review site visit was conducted April 21 & 22, 2025. Documents informing this analysis include departmental self-study, peer review team report, and dean's recommendation report.

The Department of Food Systems, Nutrition, and Kinesiology (FSNK) was created as a result of the previous 7-year program review. As one of the three resulting departments from the original Department of Health and Human Development, it remains noteworthy in its scope of programs, ranging from Kinesiology with 480 declared undergraduate majors in AY 2023-24 to Hospitality Management with 63 declared undergraduate majors in AY 2023-24. The diversity of its programs makes it difficult to reference the department as a singular unit. Yet, there are common strengths across the degree programs, including a focus on experiential learning (through research, lab-based coursework, internships, and simulations) and interdisciplinary efforts with the Mark & Robyn Jones College of Nursing, Departments of Native American Studies, Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering, Department of Human Development and Community Health and others.

Enrollment and graduation numbers varied across programs and years with all programs currently at program-sustaining enrollment levels. Departmental efforts in the future will focus on 1) establishing programmatic advisory boards of local and regional professionals and community partners who will provide feedback on curricular content and sequencing to meet the needs of diverse communities, bolster support for degree programs, and assist with recruitment of prospective students and program alumni to serve as internship supervisors and industry mentors; and 2) reviewing course sequencing and offerings to optimally meet student demand to increase graduation rates and decrease time to graduation.

An FSNK study of low graduation rates for the MS in Sustainable Foods program uncovered a student demand for online courses to complete the program in their communities where their projects and research would be most relevant. The department is currently proposing an online modality option for the program to make the program more accessible to county extension agents and community leaders as well as allowing current graduate students to complete the program. This strategy is meant to address the low enrollment and graduation rates of the MS in Sustainable Foods program.

To increase the visibility of the BS in Hospitality Management and clarify the differences in options for students, FSNK is retitling two of the options (Lodging and Facilities & Restaurant Management: Farm to Table). Renaming these options will more closely align with industry name recognition, better reflect broader student curricular demands for each option. Due to no enrollment in the third current option, Food Enterprise, the option will be terminated and a Food Security certificate offered to augment the other options. The Food Enterprise option had no students in the program, but students are taking some of the coursework in the option's curriculum to augment their hospitality and culinary majors. Enrollment and graduation are expected to increase with these name changes and the new campus hotel experiential learning opportunity.

All Bachelors of Science programs in the FSNK department will benefit from reviewing their adherence to the BOR policy of a maximum of 80 major-required courses. Programs with greater than 80 required credits,

Montana University System
FOOD SYSTEMS, NUTRITION, AND KINESIOLOGY - PROGRAM REVIEW

consequently, have high curricular complexity which is keeping the average time to degree longer than four years for the FSNK BS degree programs.

FSNK is to be commended for growing the MS and Dietetics Leadership Internship and the fledgling PhD programs. The Dietetics Leadership Internship programs is now hosting above the originally proposed enrollment. The PhD Exercise and Nutrition Science program, new in 2021, is on-track with predicted cohort sizes of 6-8 students and 2-4 graduates per year after the fourth year of the program.

Montana University System
FOOD SYSTEMS, NUTRITION, AND KINESIOLOGY - PROGRAM REVIEW

ENROLLMENT										
DEGREE	MAJOR 1, 2, 2nd DEGREE	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Food and Nutrition	BS	Dietetics	FNDS	92	110	102	99	72	68	67
Food and Nutrition	BS	Nutrition Science	FNSC	33	29	26	28	27	28	24
Kinesiology (Health & Human Performance)	BS	Health & Fitness	HEKI / KINH	115	119	119	133	101	78	73
Kinesiology (Health & Human Performance)	BS	Exercise Science	HEHE / KINE	351	323	318	310	345	387	417
Health Enhancement K-12	BS		HEEN	54	41	32	34	24	32	43
Hospitality Management	BS	Food Enterprise, Lodging and Facilities Management, and Restaurant Management: Farm-to-Table	HSPM	27	50	63	55	54	57	63
Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems	BS	Food Systems	SFHD	20	22	22	22	29	30	33
TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT:				692	694	682	681	652	680	720
DEGREE	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Exercise Science & Nutrition Sciences	PhD	Exercise Nutrition, Metabolism, & Physiology and	EXNU	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	6	7	8

Montana University System
FOOD SYSTEMS, NUTRITION, AND KINESIOLOGY - PROGRAM REVIEW

		Biomechanics/Motor Control								
Exercise Science & Nutrition Sciences	MS	Sport & Coaching Sciences and Exercise Physiology and Nutrition	EXNS	26	19	15	26	27	28	35
Sustainable Food Systems	MS		SUFS	9	9	7	11	8	2	10
Master of Science and Dietetic Internship	MS		MDIO	-	-	20	43	51	46	32
TOTAL GRADUATE ENROLLMENT:				35	28	42	85	92	83	85
TOTAL ENROLLED:				727	722	724	766	744	763	805
	MINOR DESCRIPTION		CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	Coaching		CCHG	82	67	45	38	34	43	41
TOTAL MINOR ENROLLED:				82	67	45	38	34	43	41
AWARDED DEGREES										
DEGREE	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Food and Nutrition	BS	Dietetics	FNDS	17	9	31	25	23	20	10
Food and Nutrition	BS	Nutrition Science	FNSC	8	6	8	9	5	7	2
Kinesiology (Health & Human Performance)	BS	Health & Fitness	HEKI / KINH	33	27	30	29	26	27	22
Kinesiology (Health & Human Performance)	BS	Exercise Science	HEHE / KINE	59	63	68	64	61	53	57

Montana University System
FOOD SYSTEMS, NUTRITION, AND KINESIOLOGY - PROGRAM REVIEW

<i>Human Performance)</i>										
Health Enhancement K-12	BS		HEEN	8	13	11	9	6	3	6
Hospitality Management	BS	Food Enterprise, Lodging and Facilities Management, and Restaurant Management: Farm-to-Table	HSPM	-	2	4	10	7	16	10
Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems	BS	Food Systems	SFHD	8	8	3	12	3	6	6
Exercise Science & Nutrition Sciences	PhD	Exercise Nutrition, Metabolism, & Physiology and Biomechanics/Motor Control	EXNU	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2
Exercise Science & Nutrition Sciences	MS	Sport & Coaching Sciences and Exercise Physiology and Nutrition	EXNS	6	11	9	4	8	13	10
Sustainable Food Systems	MS		SUFS	-	-	-	-	4	7	2
Master of Science and Dietetic Internship	MS		MDIO	-	-	0	0	24	24	24
TOTAL DEGREES AWARDED:				139	139	164	162	167	176	151
AWARDED MINORS										
	MINOR DESCRIPTION		CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024

Montana University System
FOOD SYSTEMS, NUTRITION, AND KINESIOLOGY - PROGRAM REVIEW

	Coaching		CCHG	13	21	22	18	12	8	8
<i>TOTAL MINORS AWARDED:</i>				13	21	22	18	12	8	8

Montana University System
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH - PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Montana State University – Human Development and Community Health**

Program Years: **AY2018-AY2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

Bachelor of Science in Community Health
Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education Preschool-Age Three (P-3)
Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Science

- Child Development
- Family and Consumer Sciences Education Option
- Human Development and Family Science Option

Human Development Minor (Non-Teaching)
Personal and Consumer Finance Minor (Non-Teaching)
Gerontology Certificate
Life Scholars Program Certificate
Master of Science in Community Health
Master of Science in Family & Consumer Science
Master of Science in Family Financial Planning
Master of Science in Health Sciences
Doctor of Philosophy in Indigenous & Rural Health

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

All programs will be retained.

To improve future outcomes and retention, HDCH will establish programmatic advisory boards of local and regional professionals and community partners and market programs more widely.

HDCH will retitle the MS in Family & Consumer Science to Human Development and Family Science. Within this MS degree, HDCH terminated the early childhood option and will develop a Family & Consumer Science Teaching option.

MSU moved the MS in Health Science – Community Health option to the HDCH department.

HDCH will evaluate resources needed for the growing PhD in Indigenous and Rural Health on balance with the other graduate programs.

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.

A program peer review site visit was conducted April 14 & 15, 2025. Documents informing this analysis include departmental self-study, peer review team report, and dean's recommendation report.

Montana University System
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH - PROGRAM REVIEW

The Department of Human Development and Community Health was created since the last seven-year program review. As one of the three resulting departments from the original Department of Health and Human Development, its degree and auxiliary programs focus on promoting the well-being of individuals, families and communities. The external evaluation team identified that the re-organization has yielded a more cohesive department with a strong collective identity. The department worked on streamlining curricula over the past 2 years, enabling easier movement into HDCH majors. This and other innovative efforts to promote the degree programs have resulted in recent enrollment increases, addressing the decline experienced by some programs during the period under review.

To continue to strengthen HDCH's high quality experiential learning opportunities and improve retention and outcomes, HDCH will establish programmatic advisory boards of local and regional professionals and community partners. The advisory boards are expected to provide feedback on curricular content and sequencing to meet the needs of diverse communities, bolster support for degree programs, and assist with recruitment of prospective students and program alumni to serve as internship supervisors and career mentors.

An MS Family and Consumer Science program retitle will be requested in the coming year. The MS-FCS programs serves more than just FCS teacher training. Montana faces a childcare shortage and persistent job openings for FCS/Youth Development Extension Agents. The Montana Extension Needs Assessment (<https://www.montana.edu/extension/NeedsAssessment.html>) highlights the need for youth life skills development, career readiness, and mentorship opportunities. The FCS program addresses these needs by preparing leaders in Cooperative Extension, Child and Family Services, youth and child programming, childcare management, nonprofits, government agencies, and other Human Services fields. The title 'Family and Consumer Sciences' no longer reflects the full scope of career preparation the MS degree provides.

As there continues to be a shortage of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) educators in Montana and nation-wide, HDCH continues to provide and open pathways for training of FCS educators. The BS-FCS program enrollment remains low but continues to graduate students. Along with the retitling of the MS-FCS, the department is creating a path-clarifying FCS education option within the MS degree. Currently the MS-FCS program uses electives and equivalent course substitutions. For licensed teachers, the program currently meets the Office of Public Instructions expectations for added endorsement in Family and Consumer Sciences. Several students have added the FCS endorsement under this hidden program. The new MS-FCS option will clarify the pathway. Offsetting the low enrollment, the support that MSU FCS faculty provide to the State of Montana FCS educators is invaluable for professional development and retention of teachers.

The fledgling PhD in Indigenous and Rural Health is growing at the rate expected in the initial program proposal. However, the program's resources required may extend beyond the original estimation. The external review team recommended further examination of the resource needs (i.e., administrative and faculty mentoring effort) to balance faculty effort and resources across all HDCH graduate programs.

The MS Health Sciences program has been in decline due to low visibility of the program within the interdisciplinary Health Professions Advising program. To focus efforts on enrollment in the MS in Health Sciences, the various options were moved from the Health Professions Advising program to the relevant departments. HDCH now houses the MS in Health Sciences – Community Health option.

Montana University System
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH - PROGRAM REVIEW

Table 1. HDCH Student Enrollment and Awarded Degrees, by Major, 2018-2024

ENROLLMENT									
DEGREE	MAJOR 1, 2, 2nd DEGREE	CONCENTRATION	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BS	COMH-BS	Community Health	130	112	90	84	88	84	70
BS	ECEP	Early Childhood Education Preschool – Grade 3	32	27	37	40	29	33	41
BS	HDFS	Human Development and Family Science	66	69	75	77	68	70	75
BS	HDFS/HDFT	Family & Consumer Science	15	10	9	8	7	8	7
BS	HDFS/HDFC	Child Development	43	37	32	35	19	19	30
CER	CGER-CER	Gerontology	-	1	9	6	5	10	5
COC	LIFE*	Life Scholars	4	8	8	15	18	18	17
TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT:			286	256	252	250	216	224	245
DEGREE	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CERT	FCEO-CERT	Family and Consumer Sciences Education	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
MS	CMHS-MS	Community Health	7	11	13	9	12	10	8
MS	FCSO-MS	Family & Consumer Sci online	-	-	1	4	7	7	5
MS	FFPO-MS	Family & Financial Planning	11	17	19	28	19	13	8
MS	FMCS-MS	Family & Consumer Sci	5	9	13	13	12	10	6
MS	HHDO-MS	Health & Human Development online	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
MS	HLTH-MS	Health Sciences	-	-	-	-	-	9	8
PHD	IRH-PHD	Indigenous & Rural Health	-	-	-	-	10	21	34
TOTAL GRADUATE ENROLLMENT:			27	37	46	54	60	72	74
TOTAL ENROLLED:			313	293	298	304	276	296	319
	MINOR DESCRIPTION		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
HHD	HHD		3	1	-	-	-	-	-
HUMD	Human Dev.		55	72	67	76	77	72	86
PCFN	Pers. Con. Fin.		5	12	11	5	3	8	6
TOTAL MINOR ENROLLED:			63	85	78	81	80	80	92
AWARDED DEGREES									
DEGREE	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BS	COMH	Community Health	40	46	47	32	26	32	28
BS	ECEP	Early Childhood Education Preschool – Grade 3	-	3	3	7	7	5	4
BS	HDFS	Human Development and Family Science	22	20	23	24	21	22	19
BS	HDFS/HDFT	Family & Consumer	-	-	-	-	2	1	2

Montana University System
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH - PROGRAM REVIEW

		Science							
BS	HDFS/HDFC	Child Development	16	14	10	10	14	7	3
CER	CGER-CER	Gerontology	-	-	1	1	2	3	2
CERT	FCEO-CERT	Family and Consumer Sciences Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	
MS	CMHS-MS	Community Health	2	3	3	8	2	3	4
MS	FCSO-MS	Family & Consumer Sci online	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
MS	FFPO-MS	Family & Financial Planning	3	4	1	3	11	6	6
MS	FMCS-MS	Family & Consumer Sci	-	1	1	3	5	3	6
MS	HLTH-MS	Health Sciences	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
PHD	IRH-PHD	Indigenous & Rural Health	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
TOTAL DEGREES AWARDED:			83	91	89	88	90	83	90
AWARDED MINORS									
	MINOR DESCRIPTION		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
HUMD	Human Dev.		20	31	29	25	34	34	36
PCFN	Personal & Consumer Finance		-	3	3	6	6	1	2
TOTAL MINORS AWARDED:			20	34	32	31	40	35	38

Montana University System
HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING - PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Montana State University – Health Professions Advising**

Program Years: **AY2018-AY2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

Health Professions Advising (undergraduate and post-baccalaureate)
Pre-Medical Certificate – post-baccalaureate
Masters of Science in Health Sciences

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

All programs will be retained.

The MS in Health Sciences program was moved to the Departments of Human Development & Community Health and Microbiology & Cell Biology.

The Health Professions Advising program will be moved to University Studies in the coming year.

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.

A program peer review site visit was conducted April 3, 2025. Documents informing this analysis include program self-study, peer review team report, and dean's recommendation report.

During the 7-year review period, the MS in Health Sciences program was moved to the Departments of Human Development & Community Health and Microbiology & Cell Biology. Since Health Professions Advising does not instruct the courses in MS in Health Sciences program, these programs were moved to the departments that assess the curriculum and instruct the courses. Health Professions Advising provides services to students on a path toward advanced medical degrees and programs. Services include a pre-med advising block for undergraduates, a post-baccalaureate pre-med certificate, and workshops and trainings for preparation for the health professions exams and applications. Due to reorganization of MSU's Advising Commons and Student Success, the HPA program will now be housed in University Studies under the direction of the Vice Provost and Academic Affairs.

Health Professions Advising (HPA) has increased visibility of the pre-medicine advising block for undergraduate students. Shifts in our general advising processes helped direct students to the HPA staff creating a concomitant increase in undergraduate students identifying their interest in pre-med to advisors. Numbers for the post-baccalaureate certificate have been declining as enrollment in the BS-level advising program increases (Figure 1). The post-baccalaureate certificate is not necessary to complete applications for medical schools, but the coursework taken during enrollment bolsters the student's application for health profession schools. Students receiving HPA support correlates with an increased acceptance rate to medical programs over the national acceptance rate and acceptance rates of students not utilizing HPA support (Figure 2).

Montana University System
HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING - PROGRAM REVIEW

Figure 1 - Pre-medicine program enrollment numbers over the review period 2018-2024

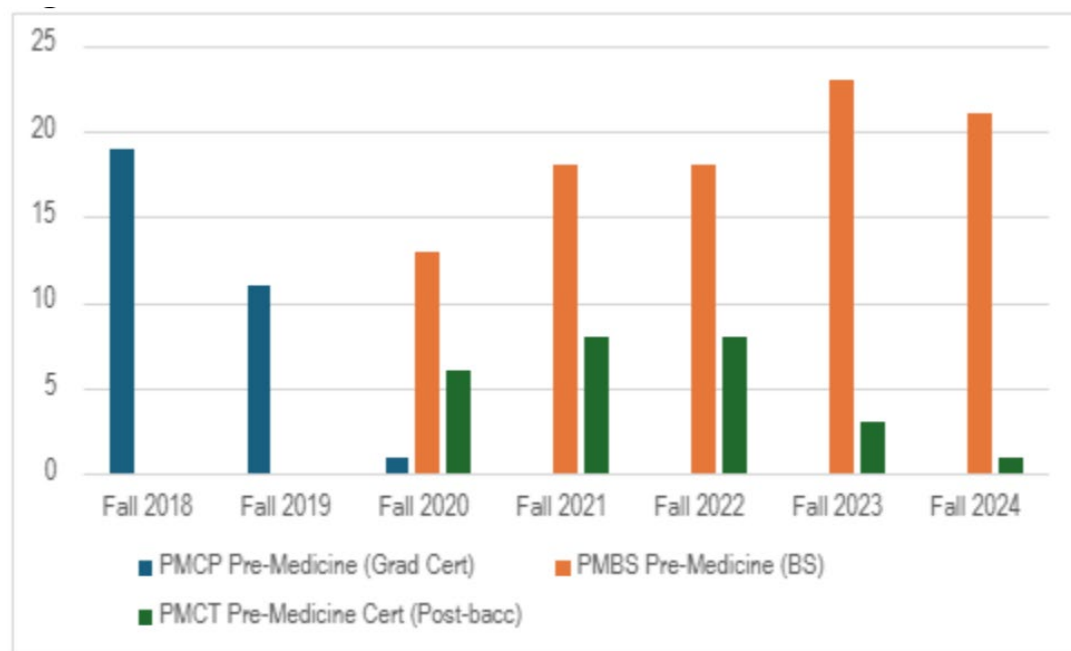
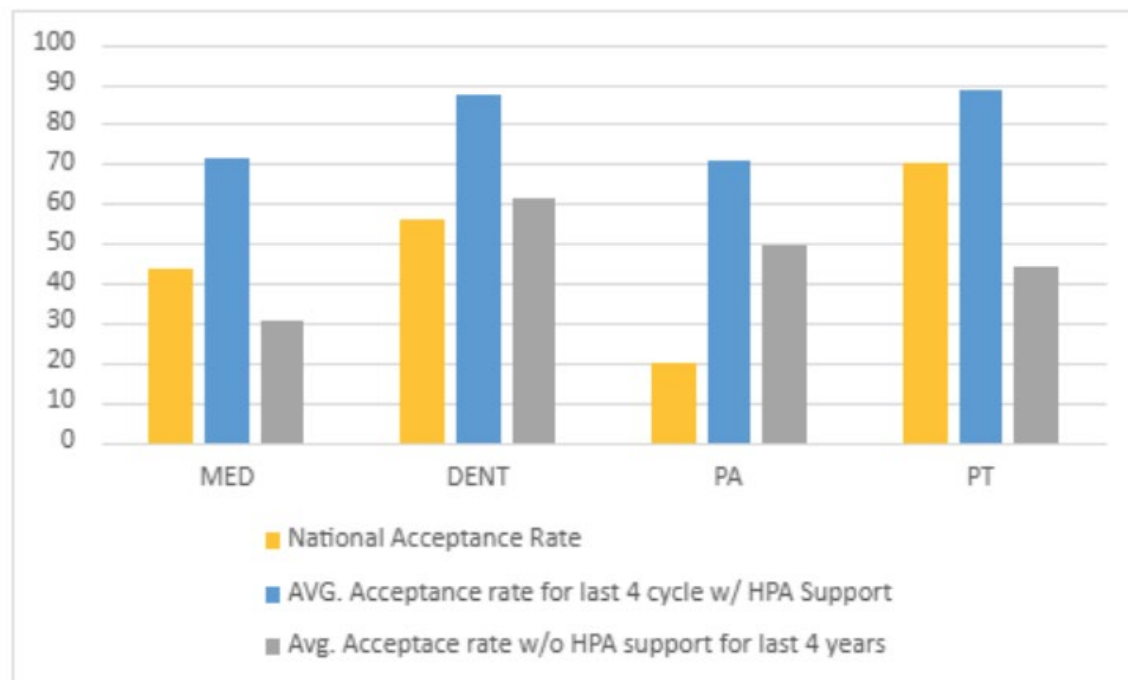


Figure 2 – Comparison of acceptance rates over the last 4 cycles, 2021-2024



Montana University System
MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN SCIENCE EDUCATION - PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Montana State University – Masters of Science in Science Education**

Program Years: **AY2018-AY2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

Masters of Science in Science Education (MSSE)
Graduate Certificate in Chemistry Teaching
Graduate Certificate in Climate Science
Graduate Certificate in Earth Science
Graduate Certificate in Elementary Science Teaching
Graduate Certificate in Life Science Teaching
Graduate Certificate in Physics Teaching
Graduate Certificate in STEM Teaching

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

All programs will be retained.

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.

A program peer review site visit was conducted April 29, 2025. Documents informing this analysis include program self-study, peer review team report, and dean's recommendation report.

The strengths of the MSSE program include relatively steady student enrollment, the high number of degrees conferred, the large number of MSU science faculty teaching in the program, and the signal success of the annual symposium, now in its 27th year. The program trains and inspires teachers across the U.S. and the world and improves science education across Montana and beyond by providing a signature experience for graduates. The program is fulfilling a national need for teacher educator advanced training to promote professional development in an effort to create career advancement. Twenty percent of program participants are Montanans, while nearly 80% of students in the programs classify as non-resident students.

The admission rates for MSSE remained steady in 2018-2019. The rates decreased from 2019 to 2021, remained relatively steady from 2021-2022 and fell again from 2022-2023, effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. From 2023-2024, there was a nearly 24% increase in admission, attributable to several factors, including but not limited to, the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, staff's focus as the full-time Academic Advisor, and the program's intentionality on recruitment through web-based advertising, social media outlets, and presence at regional and national conferences.

The graduation rate for MSSE also fluctuated during the past seven years, due in part to the Covid-19 pandemic. Prior to 2020, most students completed their degree program in approximately 2-3 years. During Covid, students were delaying their graduation. It is now taking many students an average of four years to complete the MSSE program, and some are now requiring the maximum of six years. Some students elected

Montana University System
MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN SCIENCE EDUCATION - PROGRAM REVIEW

to utilize coursework to complete the alternative Graduate Certificate programs rather than the MS program, causing a concomitant increase in certificate completion.

ENROLLMENT										
TOTAL GRADUATE ENROLLMENT:										
	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
MS (MSSE)	MOSE	Science Education		129	130	126	120	104	110	108
AWARDED DEGREES										
DEGREE	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
MS (MSSE)	MOSE	Science Education		81	57	60	43	44	51	31

Certificate Completion

ENROLLMENT										
TOTAL GRADUATE ENROLLMENT:										
	MAJOR	CONCENTRATION	CONC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CSTO CTO CTCO		Graduate Certificate in Chemistry Teaching		4	1	2	3	5	5	6
CSTC CLSO CSTO		Graduate Certificate in Climate Science					1			3
ESTO ESO ESTC		Graduate Certificate in Earth Science		2	2	4	4	7	4	4
ELO ELTO ELTC		Graduate Certificate in Elementary Science Teaching		1	1		1	2	1	4
LSTO LSTC LSO		Graduate Certificate in Life Science Teaching		4	7	4	7	9	8	9
PTCO PTCC PTO		Graduate Certificate in Physics Teaching		6	1	5	4	6	4	4
STEO STEC		Graduate Certificate in STEM Teaching								2

Montana University System
NURSING - PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Montana State University – Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing**

Program Years: **AY2018-AY2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Master of Nursing (MN) (BSN to MN)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree (Options: Family, Psych/Mental Health, Midwifery, MSN to DNP)
- Nursing Education Certificate

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

All programs will be retained.

The curriculum of the Masters of Nursing will be revised.

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.

External accreditation of the various programs were conducted over the last seven years. Documents informing this analysis include departmental self-study, accreditation team reports, and dean's recommendation report.

The Mark and Robin Jones College of Nursing (MRJCON) has experienced solid enrollment growth over the past four years coupled with a steady increase in retention.

MRJCON Enrollment Update

ENROLLMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Increase in pre-nursing enrollment: important to feed the pipeline into the BSN.
- Traditional BSN: variability in enrollment (but not # of graduates) with full transition to the 4-semester curriculum versus former 5-semester.
- Decrease in DNP-FNP and DNP-PMHNP enrollment: due to shortage of clinical sites and preceptors.
- Start of DNP-NM program: intentionally slow growth.
- Certificate programs: students fill in available slots but do not displace full-time students.

MRJCON Enrollment	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
Pre-Nursing	519	557	623	641
Traditional BSN program	523	492	392	430
Accelerated BSN program	73	67	69	72
Master in Nursing	16	20	28	24
DNP FNP option	84	75	67	72
DNP PMHNP option	37	37	36	30
DNP Nurse-Midwifery option	0	0	8	10
Graduate Nursing Education Certificate	1	2	3	0
Post-Graduate PMHNP Certificate	0	3	5	3
Post-Masters DNP	2	5	3	3
Total	1,255	1,258	1,234	1,285

Montana University System
NURSING - PROGRAM REVIEW

- Post-Masters DNP program: students fill in available slots but do not displace full-time students.

Future Directions for Enrollment:

- Continue to grow the Montana Direct Entry Program: A 10% increase in pre-nursing students participating in this program over the first two years of the program warrants continuation of the program.
- Increased marketing of BSN and Accelerated BSN: New marketing/recruitment targeting Montana High School students, Male students, and potential ABSN population in each campus location.
- Planned growth in BSN/ABSN program with new buildings: MSU plans to strategically grow our BSN/ABSN from the current 300 graduates annually to 400 graduates annually by 2030. To date we are on track for that growth; however there are pressures coming from another MUS campus to create a competing program in ABSN which could negatively impact enrollment.

RETENTION HIGHLIGHTS:

- Retention in all programs is strong (Figure 1).
- Masters retention appears lower because a significant number of Master's students matriculate into the DNP program.

Future Directions for Retention:

- A Student Success Manager was hired. This new position was funded through a Strategic Reinvestment proposal. The Student Success Manager responds to transfer student inquiries in a timely manner and advises transfer students.

MRJCON Student Retention

PROGRAM	RETENTION RATES
Traditional BSN three-year average	95.1%
Accelerated BSN three-year average	98.6%
Master's three-year average	76.5%
DNP FNP three-year average	92.9%
DNP PMHNP three-year average	92.0%

Figure 1- Student retention for all nursing programs.

IMPACT OF NEW BSN/ABSN CURRICULA ON TIME-TO-DEGREE:

The MRJCON embarked upon a complete revision of the traditional bachelors and accelerated bachelors in AY2019-2020. In spite of the Covid pandemic, faculty continued to work on a revision of every course in the curricula. The new BSN and ABSN curricula were implemented in AY21-22. One goal of the curricular revision was to shorten the nursing coursework portion from five semesters for the traditional BSN to four semesters, thereby allowing students to obtain their required pre-requisite courses in four semesters. Likewise, the ABSN curriculum was shortened from four semesters to three semesters. Data indicate the program has been able to decrease the BSN time-to-degree from 4.86 years to 4.08 years in the ensuing four years (Figure 2). This has led to significant tuition savings for students (Table 1).

Refreshed Curriculum: Impact on Time-to-Degree

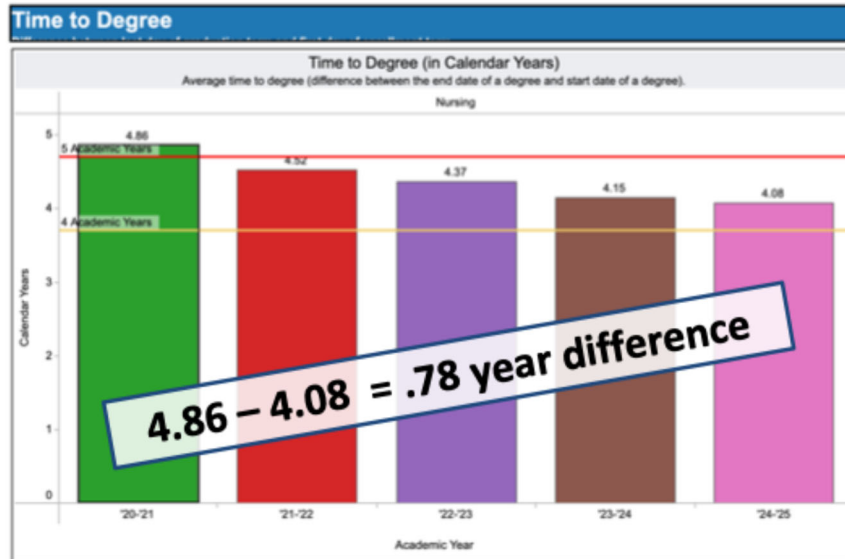


Figure 2 - Impact of curriculum refresh on time to degree.

Cost savings with shorter time-to-degree

	AY25-26 Tuition and Fees Per Semester	Total Cost of Program BEFORE (cost for 2 semesters X 4.86)	Total Cost of Program AFTER (cost for 2 semesters X 4.08)	SAVINGS PER STUDENT
Resident TBSN	\$ 4,474	\$ 21,743	\$ 18,254	\$ 3,489
Non-resident TBSN	\$ 16,892	\$ 82,093	\$ 68,918	\$ 13,175

Table 1- Tuition cost savings due to shorter time to degree.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS:

The MRJCON has initiated changes in the past three years to better serve students.

1. Established a dedicated Graduate Student Placement Manager position. This person identifies clinical learning opportunities for graduate students, secures contracts with the clinical sites, identifies preceptors, helps to foster positive relationships with sites and preceptors, maintains paperwork on clinical site placements for accreditation, etc. This position has been successful for streamlining our

Montana University System

NURSING - PROGRAM REVIEW

clinical placement procedures—a request from clinical sites—and increasing student satisfaction with timeliness and quality of clinical placements.

2. Exploring opportunities to incentivize preceptor engagement. Many programs outside the MUS pay the preceptors for nurse practitioner, physician, and physician assistant students. MSU, and most public institutions do not pay preceptors. However, MSU is facing increasing competition for clinical placements for DNP students. Hence, MRJCON is exploring ways to incentivize preceptors.
3. Master's program. The master's degree in nursing is in a time of change nationally. MSU is embarking on a revision of the nursing master's degree. This has included an assessment of the employer market, a survey of all nurses in Montana regarding their intentions to pursue a Master's degree and the competencies they hope to gain, and an examination of our competitor nursing schools and leading institutions nationally. The goal is to revise the curriculum in AY25-26, seek approvals in AY26-27, and to implement a revised curriculum in AY27-28.
4. Launched the DNP-Nurse Midwifery option. Two cohorts have been admitted to date. Faculty have been recruited and hired from existing nurse-midwives in Montana. Pre-accreditation approval was granted. The first graduates will occur in Spring 2027. At that time, MRJCON will seek full accreditation and will carefully assess the program for quality improvement.