JUMPSTARTING YOUR PROPOSAL
WITH A LOGIC MODEL

WHAT IS A LOGIC MODEL?
A logic model is a snapshot of the resources available for your program, the activities you plan, and the results you aim to achieve.

WHY USE ONE?
A logic model is an excellent tool for program planning, communication with team members and/or partners, and evaluation.

HOW DO I START?
Draw some boxes on a sheet of paper (like the example below) and start filling in the blanks. Jot down what you know and let it evolve.

PROBLEM STATEMENT
Describe the current situation. Note that the PROBLEM is not simply a “lack of.”

LONG TERM GOAL
As yourself, “What’s the point?” Describe the project’s long term impact.

INPUTS
Start with a wish list. Imagine a perfect scenario where you accomplish your goal. Then ask yourself what human, financial, and organizational resources you would have at your fingertips. Time? Supplies? A student? Equipment? Transportation? Sort the list by needs, wants, and existing resources.

EXAMPLES: Two full-time staff members. Relationships with partner sites.

TIP: This will translate to your proposal’s budget. Use it in correlation with UM Templates to seed a first draft of your budget & budget narrative.

PROGRAMMING
Describe the work that you will do to address the PROBLEM STATEMENT. This is where you’ll highlight objectives and activities to be undertaken. As you work on this, think back to the INPUTS to check whether the resources you’ve listed will enable you to achieve the activities here.

EXAMPLE: Student training: place students at sites in interdisciplinary pairs.

TIP: This section will feed into your proposal’s Methodologies section and help form a scope of work.

OUTPUTS
Describe your short-term, measurable outputs. The OUTPUTS are products that represent a sign of progress toward achieving your goals. Look at the PROGRAMMING section. For each activity that you listed, what are your measurable implementation or service delivery targets?

EXAMPLES: ≥ 20 students placed in masters internships. 48 of 64 students will graduate by year 4.

TIP: This piece will help you develop your proposal’s evaluation section.

OUTCOMES
OUTCOMES represent a change in conditions. Jot down what your program will achieve. Think about this in terms of the short–mid–and long-range. Note that your long-term outcome should mirror the LONG TERM GOAL.

EXAMPLE: Expanded behavioral health workforce trained in integrated behavioral health practices. Improved access to integrate behavioral health for medically-underserved communities.

TIP: This will help form the basis for your proposal’s Significance section.

LEARN MORE
Want samples or to learn more in person? Contact Katherine Swan at 406-243-5752 or katherine.swan@umontana.edu. Or access helpful guides via UM’s proposal development office at https://www.umt.edu/research/ORSP/propdev/resources.php.