## Level I Program Form

### I Summary of Proposed Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department/program</th>
<th>Applied Computing &amp; Electronics – Information Technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Certificate in Health Information Technology</td>
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### II Endorsements and Approvals

Please obtain the Program Chair/Director’s approval, the Dean and the Associate Provost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requestor: Thomas Gallagher</th>
<th>Phone: 7814</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>9/13/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dean’s Signature</td>
<td>9/15/2012</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Requestor: Anne Delaney</th>
<th>Phone: 7808</th>
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<td>Signature</td>
<td>9/13/12</td>
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<tr>
<th>Program Chair/Director:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>9/13/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Gallagher, Chair</td>
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<th>Other affected programs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Nielson, Chair</td>
<td>9/13/2012</td>
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<tr>
<th>Provost</th>
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<td>Signature</td>
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Are other departments/programs affected by this modification because of:
(a) required courses incl. prerequisites or corequisites,
(b) perceived overlap in content areas
(c) cross-listing of coursework

Please obtain signature(s) from the Chair/Director of any such department/program (above) before submission.
### III Type of Level I Proposal (please check the appropriate space)

(a) Re-titling existing majors, minors, or options

(b) Eliminating existing majors, minors, or options via a program termination checklist

(c) Adding new minors or certificates where there is a major

(d) Adding new minors or certificates where there is an option in a major

(e) Departmental mergers and name changes

(f) Program revisions –for minor modifications use the program modification form

(g) Distance delivery of previously authorized degree program.

(h) Adding option within an existing major or degree *

(i) Eliminating organizational units such as departments, divisions and colleges or schools *

(j) Consolidating existing program and/or degree *

*Requires level II BOR documentation submitted to the Provost’s Office (refer to http://www.umt.edu/provost/curriculum.htm)

### IV Catalog Language

If you are proposing a change to an existing program or major, please cut and paste the requirements as they appear in the current catalog below. [www.umt.edu/catalog](http://www.umt.edu/catalog)

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**Certificate in Health Information Technology**

Health IT is the application of information technology in the clinical setting to enhance the quality, accessibility, and cost effectiveness of healthcare. The certificate in Health IT provides a cross-disciplinary educational experience intended to complement individuals with a previous background from either a health professions or computing-related discipline. The certificate contains two distinct tracks: one for professionals with a computing-related background and one for professionals with a health professions-related background.

**Requirements**

The certificate requires completion of one of the following tracks:

**I. Computing Track**

1. Successful completion of a degree in a computing-related field (i.e. Information Technology).

2. Successful completion of the following courses: AHMS 144 Medical Terminology, AHMS 156 Medical Billing Fundamentals, HIT 101 Introduction to Health IT, HIT 265 Electronic Health Records in Medical Practice, NRGS 101 Introduction to Nursing (Total - 13 credits)

or

**II. Health Professions Track**

1. Successful completion of a degree in a clinical health professions-related field (i.e. Nursing) and completion of CSCI 172 Introduction to Computer Modeling or equivalent.

2. Successful completion of the following courses with a minimum grade of a C-: CSCI 240 Databases & SQL, HIT 101 Introduction to Health IT, HIT 265 Electronic Health Records in Medical Practice, ITS 150 Cisco Networking I, and ITS 210 Network Operating Systems: Desktop. (Total - 15 credits)
Please explain/justify the new proposal or change.

Health Information Technology (IT) seeks to improve the quality, access, and cost effectiveness of healthcare. The 2009 HITECH Act requires all medical facilities to transition to the electronic medical record (EMR) by the year 2015. The consequence of this legislation brings enormous challenges to hospitals and medical facilities, but also provides a new segment of career opportunities for individuals with cross-curricular skills in clinical healthcare and information technology. Limited education and training are available for students in this curricular area.

The Certificate in Health IT is an interdisciplinary educational program proposed by Associate Professors Anne Delaney (Department of Health Professions) and Thomas Gallagher (Department of Applied Computing & Electronics). Development of curriculum for the program has been a collaborative process involving Professors Delaney, Professor Gallagher, Nursing Clinical Informatics Analyst Kari McLeaan (Community Medical Center), and an advisory committee of local stakeholders. The interdisciplinary approach involves coursework from Allied Health Medical Support, Computer Science/Programming, Health Information Technology, Information Technology Systems, and Nursing. Two distinct tracks of study are available to fulfill the unique characteristics for supporting IT in the clinical health environment. Although the program has common courses in Health IT and Electronic Health Records, the novelty in its dual-track approach provides individuals in the health professions needed computing and IT skills, while the traditional IT professionals obtain additional education in clinical health practices.

The program is built to serve the needs of new graduates and practicing professionals. In addition to the traditional classroom, program courses will be available via distance learning thanks to collaboration with SELL and UMONline. Accessibility is a key component in delivering education to the incumbent workforce currently staffing clinical health facilities. High wage, high demand employment opportunities are available for graduates evidenced by anecdotal response from advisory committee members and Department of Labor (DOL) employment statistics.

What other programs are affected by your proposal? Obtain signatures as requested below.

V Department Summary Required if several proposals are submitted. In a separate document list program title and proposed change for all proposals.

VI Copies and Electronic Submission After all signatures have been obtained submit the original, a paper copy and electronic file to the Faculty Senate Office, UH 221.

11/09 Revised
September 13, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

Recent industry job projections for Montana reflect the general profile of employment in the US: the healthcare services sector is and will be the largest employer (MDLI data and estimates 2011). In Montana alone, it is predicted that “health care and social assistance” will grow to more than 78,000 jobs in Montana by 2020, accounting for over 16% of all jobs” (Swanson, 2012, p. 19). Key to the ongoing provision of effective healthcare services are individuals who possess the knowledge and skills to work at the interface of healthcare and information technology. In Montana, health care practitioner and technician jobs are “projected to grow from 26,835 jobs in 2010 to 32,622 in 2020, an increase of 5,787 jobs or 22%” (Swanson, 2012, p. 22).

The proposed Certificate in Health Information Technology at Missoula College UM is precisely the kind of educational experience needed for individuals to perform effectively in this sector. The program demonstrates a valuable cross-curricular approach that combines IT skills and clinical healthcare knowledge, ensuring broad-based and nuanced understanding of complex health care service issues. The distinct curricular tracks for individuals from both the health professions and information technology fields also provides alternative pathways for clinical practitioners and IT professionals to bridge understandings of organizational needs and provide more effective solutions.

We believe that graduates from the program will be entering a growth market and will be well-qualified for a variety of professional positions in the healthcare and IT service fields. We strongly endorse this proposal as a means to meet the increasing demand of a growing market and provide employment opportunities for our college graduates.

Sincerely,

Roger Maclean
Dean,
School of Extended and Lifelong Learning
The University of Montana

Robert Squires
Director, Instructional Design and Technical Support
School of Extended and Lifelong Learning
The University of Montana

Reference:

An Equal Opportunity University
Excellence in Lifelong Learning
September 12, 2012

Missoula College University of Montana
909 South Ave. W.
Missoula, MT 59801

To Whom It May Concern,

Our organization and the entire healthcare industry are undergoing extensive changes in the implementation of standardized electronic medical records. As our nation continues its efforts to improve healthcare quality and access, individuals with knowledge and training in clinical healthcare information technology and administrative healthcare information technology will remain in high demand.

Following review of the curriculum for the Certificate in Health Information Technology, I’d like to extend my support for this proposed program of study at Missoula College UM. The program’s cross-curricular approach provides the right combination of IT skills and clinical healthcare knowledge. The unique characteristic of distinct curricular tracks for individuals from both the health professions and information technology fields will be advantageous for professionals practicing in the field. It will also provide another avenue for new graduates from IT/CS and health professions programs to develop skills valued by the healthcare industry.

We feel that graduates from the program will be well-prepared for professional positions involving the information technology used to support the electronic medical record in the clinical environment within our organization. Additionally, a program of study in Health IT at Missoula College UM, will likely lead to other partnerships for healthcare IT training and education within our local community. We encourage your support for the proposed Certificate in Health Information Technology.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Andy Gardner, IT Director
St. Patrick Hospital
Missoula, MT 59802
September 1, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

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We think that graduates from the program will be well-qualified for professional positions involving the information technology used to support the electronic medical record in the clinical environment within our organization. Additionally, a program of study in Health IT at Missoula College UM, will likely lead to other partnerships for healthcare IT training and education within our local community. We encourage your support for the proposed Certificate in Health Information Technology.

Sincerely,

Devin Huntley
Vice President of Operations
September 1, 2012

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Sincerely,

Kari Lynn McLean, BSN, RN-BC
Clinical Informatics Analyst
Community Medical Center, Information Services