LEVEL II FORM (4/15)

Please attach/submit additional documents as needed to fully complete each section of the form. See information about Level II proposals.

I. DEPARTMENT / PROGRAM:

Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education: P-3

II. SUMMARY:

The B.A. in Early Childhood Education: P-3 will be administered in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. This 120 credit undergraduate degree program is specifically developed to prepare highly qualified education professionals for Montana’s new Early Childhood Education Preschool – Grade 3 (P-3) licensure area.

The major in Early Childhood Education effectively blends existing courses in the Elementary Education (K-8) major and the minor in Early Childhood Education to meet required state standards with the addition of just four new courses.

III. PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

Requestor: Julie Bullard  
Phone/Email: 243-2563  Julie.Bullard@msou.montana.edu
Program Chair: Georgia Cobbs  
Other affected Programs:
Department of Mathematical Sciences  
School of Music  
School of Art  
School of Theatre & Dance  
Division of Biological Sciences  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Professional Education Council  
Dean: Roberta Evans

Dean of the Library:

☐ Resources included in the proposal are sufficient to adequately support the new program’s library needs.

Initial Review in Provost’s Office:  
Signature  
Date 9/24/15

After the Faculty Senate approves the proposal on a consent agenda; the Provost’s Office forwards the item for Board of Regents approval at the next possible meeting.
IV. TYPE OF PROGRAM CHANGE

- Establish a new degree; add new major to existing degree
- Adding a minor or certificate where there is no major or option in a major
- Retitling a degree (e.g. from B.A. to B.F.A.)
- Forming, eliminating or consolidating a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory, or similar unit.*

V. PROPOSAL

See Level II Instructions

Attach the following completed forms:
Board of Regents Item Template Form
Board of Regents Curriculum Proposal Form (For a new Center, Institute, Bureau, Station, Laboratory or similar unit, submit Center Proposal Form instead.)Board of Regents Academic Request Form

*Eliminating or consolidating does not require Curriculum Proposal or Center Proposal Form.

V. SUBMISSION

Submit the complete Level II proposal to the Provost’s Office for preliminary approval. After all signatures have been obtained, submit original, and an electronic file to the Faculty Senate Office, UH 221, camie.foos@msoumt.edu
Montana Board of Regents
CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM

1. Overview

Bachelors of Arts in Early Childhood Education: P-3 The B.A. in Early Childhood Education: P-3 will be administered in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. This undergraduate program is specifically developed in response to Montana’s leadership through the Office of Public Instruction to expand licensure in elementary education to include a new Early Childhood Education Preschool – Grade 3 (P-3) licensure area.

The major in Early Childhood Education: P-3 effectively blends existing courses in the Elementary Education (K-8) major and the minor in Early Childhood Education to meet required state standards with the addition of four new courses. Students declare the Early Childhood Education major as entering freshmen and apply for admission to the Teacher Education Program at the beginning of their sophomore year. Upon entrance to the Teacher Education Program, students will progress through the program as a cohort. Each semester, coursework will be linked to clinical experiences in UM’s LAB Preschool and in the primary grades in area schools to engage students in real world experiences that support their connection of coursework to classroom teaching practices.

2. Provide a one paragraph description of the proposed program. Be specific about what degree, major, minor or option is sought.

This proposal constitutes a request for approval of a new major at the University of Montana-Missoula leading to a Bachelors of Arts in Early Childhood Education: P-3. The campus-based program will be housed in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. It will operate in concert with the K-8 elementary program, utilizing existing resources including dedicated teacher education advisors and field experience coordinators, as well as accreditation supports including an assigned Director of Accreditation, and an Assessment and Licensure Manager. The Early Childhood Education: P-3 program effectively organizes existing course offerings in the Early Childhood minor, the Elementary Education program, and four additional courses to meet state and national standards for the initial preparation of early childhood teachers for preschool through grade 3. The program capitalizes on the state of the art early childhood clinical teaching and research facility located in the Phyllis J. Washington Education Center which makes UM an ideal setting for the preparation of highly qualified early childhood professionals.

3. Need

A. To what specific need is the institution responding in developing the proposed program?

Focused attention on the significance of early learning at both state and national levels has led to multiple initiatives for new public pre-kindergarten programs and renewed early intervention efforts in the primary grades designed to prevent later school and life challenges that will demand a highly qualified workforce in early education. Through the establishment of the new Early Childhood Education: P-3 licensure area (in addition to the existing K-8 teaching license), the state of Montana and the Office of Public Instruction have called upon Montana’s higher education institutions to respond with degree programs that address this growing workforce need. The B.A. in Early Childhood Education: P-3 degree is designed to support this critical workforce need. To support the preparation of highly qualified early childhood teachers, this degree meets Montana’s new early childhood teacher preparation standards as established in the state Early Childhood Education: P-3 Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS). Further, the program is aligned with the national accreditation standards through the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

B. How will students and any other affected constituencies be served by the proposed program?
Montana Board of Regents
CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM

A critically important window of opportunity for development and learning exists in the early years, which includes children in preschool through grade 3. State and national efforts are underway to address inequities in the availability of high-quality early education for our youngest and most vulnerable population. The Early Childhood Education: P-3 licensure program will support UM teacher education candidates in developing highly marketable knowledge and skills for employment upon graduation as well as supporting Montana and our nation in the development of a highly qualified workforce to meet the growing demand for early childhood teachers. Additionally, the investment in the preparation of highly qualified early childhood professionals is proven to be effective in supporting the optimal development of young children; leading to tangible benefits for Montana’s children across the lifespan including fewer referrals to special education and higher rates of high school completion.

Due to the significant demand for highly qualified early childhood professionals in our state and nation, students enrolled in Early Childhood Education: P-3 programs who also work in a qualifying early childhood program for at least 15 hours per week are eligible for financial support administered through the Montana Early Childhood Project. These Early Professional Development Incentive awards provide noncompetitive funding of $1,000 each semester for students enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits per semester in Early Childhood Education: P-3 programs. In addition, Montana’s Preschool Development Grant is providing $500,000 annually to provide full scholarships to qualifying students pursuing the Early Childhood Education: P-3 teaching license.

C. What is the anticipated demand for the program? How was this determined?

With the implementation of the new Montana early childhood education standards, current teachers in public school preschool programs will be required to hold the new P-3 license within 3 years. Moreover, early childhood education is a highly employable field across the nation. Nationally, 41 states offer early childhood education licensure covering the Pre-K to early elementary grades. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the employment of preschool teachers will grow faster than the average for all occupations (17 percent from 2012 to 2022) and the employment of kindergarten and elementary school teachers is projected to grow 12 percent during that same period.

In addition to the preparation of P-3 teachers, the B.A. in Early Childhood Education meets requirements for employment in existing Head Start and Early Head Start programs and meets the Montana Early Childhood Practitioner Registry guidelines for working in community-based early childhood programs.

Finally, UM student interest in the Early Childhood Education: P-3 endorsement is high. Our current pre-education students have long expressed interest in pursuing Early Childhood Education due to their focused interest in working with our youngest school-age population. Now that Early Childhood Education: P-3 is a licensure option in Montana, our students are expecting UM to align our programs with this new licensure area.

4. Institutional and System Fit

A. What is the connection between the proposed program and existing programs at the institution?

The Early Childhood Education: P-3 degree is specifically aligned with the elementary education (K-8) program to expand degree and teacher licensure opportunities available to UM students. The Early Childhood Education: P-3 degree shares the elementary education program’s commitment to blend clinical experiences with each course to support students in the translation of theory to practice in preschool and K-3 classrooms. Integral to this field component is the early childhood clinical teaching facility located in the Phyllis J. Washington Education Center. Students will complete real-world experiences in this nationally accredited preschool program under the guidance of highly qualified clinical supervisors. The clinical supervisors provide carefully structured support that is needed
Montana Board of Regents
CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM

in the preparation of future teachers who will effectively promote student learning in their early childhood classrooms. Currently, the Department of Curriculum and Instruction also offers a minor and an M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education. Courses already in place for the undergraduate minor in Early Childhood and the Elementary Education degree form the foundation for the new B.A. degree in Early Childhood Education: P-3.

B. Will approval of the proposed program require changes to any existing programs at the institution? If so, please describe.

The proposal requires the development of four additional courses in early childhood education. Funding through the Preschool Development Grant is available to support the development of coursework needed to implement new P-3 licensure programs.

C. Describe what differentiates this program from other, closely related programs at the institution (if appropriate).

Currently, UM students can complete the four-year elementary education program (K-8) and add a minor in early childhood education to seek an additional P-3 teacher licensure. While this is a viable option for some students, the four-year B.A. in Early Childhood Education: P-3 provides a more focused and cohesive program for students who are committed to teaching in the primary grades. Students completing the Early Childhood Education: P-3 degree will take additional coursework focused on the early years as well as extended clinical opportunities to work specifically with children in preschool through grade 3.

D. How does the proposed program serve to advance the strategic goals of the institution?

The development of the B.A. in Early Childhood Education: P-3 includes a focus on advancing strategic issues in the UM 2020 strategic plan. In particular, program design highlights student engagement by embedding real-world clinical experiences within each course to help students connect what they learn with actual practice in early childhood programs. In addition, the program targets retention of our education majors through this engagement in clinical experiences. Finally, the degree capitalizes on the exemplary programming and services that are part of the University of Montana campus in the early childhood wing of the Phyllis J. Washington Education Center. This state-of-art clinical and research facility includes the nationally accredited Learning and Belonging Preschool, an observation room equipped with high-tech video and sound systems to supports teaching, learning, and research opportunities, and the Doyle-McWhinney Language, Counseling, and Parent Meeting Room for facilitating wrap-around family services including speech therapy, counseling, and parenting support.

E. Describe the relationship between the proposed program and any similar programs within the Montana University System. In cases of substantial duplication, explain the need for the proposed program at an additional institution. Describe any efforts that were made to collaborate with these similar programs; and if no efforts were made, explain why. If articulation or transfer agreements have been developed for the substantially duplicated programs, please include the agreement(s) as part of the documentation.

Prior to July 1, 2015, Montana offered just one option for the licensure of elementary education teachers at the K-8 level. To meet the demand for elementary education teachers, Montana currently has five state accredited K-8 teacher education programs in the Montana University System. As required for state and national accreditation, each of these programs maintains a unique conceptual framework that guides their practice.

With the addition of Montana’s new Early Childhood Education: P-3 licensure area, these teacher preparation programs are called upon to adapt to new workforce demands and teacher licensure needs. Essentially, campuses that opt to add an Early Childhood Education: P-3 degree are likely to see the self-selection of existing and future prospective elementary degree candidates to enter the elementary education (K-8) or Early Childhood Education:
Montana Board of Regents  
CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM

P-3 program. It is our responsibility to these students and our education constituents across the state that we offer the full range of degree options in PK-8 education.

Focused attention on the significance of early learning at both state and national levels has led to multiple initiatives for new public pre-kindergarten programs and renewed early intervention efforts in the primary grades designed to prevent later school and life challenges that will demand a highly qualified workforce in early education. With the implementation of the new Montana early childhood education standards, current teachers in public school preschool programs will be required to hold the new P-3 license within 3 years. Moreover, early childhood education is a highly employable field across the nation. Nationally, 41 states offer early childhood education licensure covering the Pre-K to early elementary grades. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the employment of preschool teachers will grow faster than the average for all occupations (17 percent from 2012 to 2022) and the employment of kindergarten and elementary school teachers is projected to grow 12 percent during that same period. This demand will require the engagement of multiple teacher education programs in the MUS system.

The demand for programs that prepare Early Childhood Education: P-3 professionals was discussed at the 2014-15 Montana Early Childhood Higher Education Consortium meetings, which are attended by representatives from all state campuses offering early childhood coursework. It was the group’s consensus that adding the Early Childhood Education: P-3 degree to multiple teacher preparation programs would help address the interests and needs of campus-based students as well as building capacity to meet the steadily increasing workforce demands in early education.

The Montana Early Childhood Higher Education Consortium (MECHEC) has a 20-year history of collaboration and advocacy for the preparation of highly qualified early childhood education professionals including creating and co-teaching courses. Our faculty members have been in discussions with consortium members regarding this proposal and these final documents will be shared and presented at the October MECHEC meeting. We will continue to work closely together to share coursework whenever it is feasible.

One program in the Montana University System initiated a bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education: P-3 fall semester 2015 - the University of Montana-Western. This degree was developed to meet the needs of students attending UM-Western and represents the specific conceptual framework, pedagogy, and strengths of the campus – much like the diverse K-8 licensure programs currently offered at MUS campuses across the state. UM’s Early Childhood Education: P-3 degree will provide this important option for students opting to complete their teacher education program on the UM-Missoula campus.

5. Program Details

A. Provide a detailed description of the proposed curriculum. Where possible, present the information in the form intended to appear in the catalog or other publications. NOTE: In the case of two-year degree programs and certificates of applied science, the curriculum should include enough detail to determine if the characteristics set out in Regents’ Policy 301.12 have been met.

The B.A. in Early Childhood Education: P-3 is an undergraduate program that provides teacher education candidates with focused expertise in effective, evidence-based teaching practices for young children in preschool through grade 3. The degree requires 120 credits of coursework that collectively meets the Montana standards for Early Childhood Education. Each course will require clinical components that engage students in real world experiences working with young children and their families. Catalog language regarding admission to the Teacher Education Program and eligibility for student teaching will remain the same with the inclusion of references to the Early Childhood Education: P-3 degree.
# Montana Board of Regents
## CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>General Education/Content/Specialty Courses</th>
<th>GER</th>
<th>Prerequisite</th>
<th>CR</th>
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<td>LIT 110L</td>
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<td>LIT 120L</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
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<td>LSH 151L</td>
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<td>LSH 152L</td>
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<td>NASX 235X</td>
<td>Oral and Written Traditions of Native Americans</td>
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<td>M 132</td>
<td>Numbers &amp; Operations for K-8 Teachers</td>
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<td>M 133</td>
<td>Geometry &amp; Measurement for K-8 Teachers</td>
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<td>Symbolic System</td>
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<td>ANTY 122S</td>
<td>Race and Minorities</td>
<td>S &amp; Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPHY 121S</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Geography or World Regional Geography</td>
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<td>GPHY 141S</td>
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<td>NASX 105</td>
<td>Native American Studies</td>
<td>H &amp; X</td>
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<td>BJOB 226N</td>
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<td>M 095 or equivalent</td>
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<td>HEE 233</td>
<td>Health Issues of Children and Adolescents</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEE 302</td>
<td>Methods of Instructional Strategies in Elem. Physical Ed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTZ 302A</td>
<td>Elementary School Art</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>THTR 239A</td>
<td>Creative Drama/Dance K-8</td>
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<td>MUSE 397</td>
<td>Methods: K-8 Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDU 331</td>
<td>Literature and Literacy for Children</td>
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Current First Aid Card w/ CPR (Must complete at least one semester prior to student teaching.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>General Education/Content/Specialty Courses</th>
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<td>EDU 395</td>
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<td>EDU 222</td>
<td>Educational Psychology and Child Development</td>
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<td>EDU 338</td>
<td>Academic Interventions</td>
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<td>EDU 397</td>
<td>Methods: PK-4: Early Numeracy</td>
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<td>EDU 397</td>
<td>Methods: PK-3: Early Literacy</td>
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### LEVEL 1 Learning and Instruction*

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<td>EDU 395</td>
<td>Clinical Experience: Level 2</td>
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<td>EDU 346</td>
<td>Exceptionalities</td>
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<td>EDU 410</td>
<td>Integrating Technology into Education</td>
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<td>ENS 472</td>
<td>General Science: Conservation Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDEC 408</td>
<td>Early Childhood Principles and Practices</td>
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### LEVEL 2 Critical Thinking and Problem Solving*

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<td>EDEC 495</td>
<td>Practicum: Integrated Curriculum</td>
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<td>EDEC 420</td>
<td>Meeting Standards through Play-Based Environments</td>
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<td>EDEC 405</td>
<td>Assessment in Early Childhood</td>
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<td>EDEC 230</td>
<td>Positive Child Guidance and Management</td>
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### LEVEL 3 Pedagogy and Content Knowledge*

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<td>EDU 453</td>
<td>Early Childhood STEM</td>
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<td>EDU 430</td>
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<td>EDU 427E</td>
<td>Ethics and Policy Issues</td>
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<td>PK-3 Language Arts and Reading Methods (needs to be a writing intensive course)</td>
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### LEVEL 4 Pedagogy and Content Knowledge

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<td>EDU 495</td>
<td>Student Teaching K-3</td>
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<td>EDU 491</td>
<td>Reflective Practice and Applied Research</td>
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### LEVEL 5 Student Teaching*

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<th>GER</th>
<th>Prerequisite</th>
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</table>

B. Describe the planned implementation of the proposed program, including estimates of numbers of students at each stage.

The program is intended to be launched Fall 2016. Marketing and student advising will begin Spring 2016 upon approval by the Montana Board of Regents. It is anticipated that 20 students will enroll the first year with enrollment reaching 30 students per semester by the end of a three-year period (60 students annually).

6. Resources

A. Will additional faculty resources be required to implement this program? If yes, please describe the need and indicate the plan for meeting this need.

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction added and filled a tenure-track line in Early Childhood Education with Professor Julie Bullard beginning in the 2015-16 academic year. One additional faculty line will be needed by AY 2017-18 to implement the B.A. in Early Childhood Education: P-3. This will be facilitated through prioritization of a new faculty line or the reallocation of resources in the College. In conjunction with existing faculty expertise in early childhood (Professors Ann Garfinkle, Matthew Schertz, Trent Atkins and Kate Brayko) and program resources including the affiliated PJWEC early childhood facility and staff, all other teaching and management needs of the program will be met.

B. Are other, additional resources required to ensure the success of the proposed program? If yes, please describe the need and indicate the plan for meeting this need.

NA

7. Assessment

How will the success of the program be measured?

Program success will be documented initially by student enrollment numbers and growth in enrollment on an annual basis. Additionally, quality of instruction will be measured by course evaluations each semester as well as through student surveys completed upon graduation and employer surveys that will be conducted to track the success of program graduates. Finally, the program is designed to align with state and national accreditation requirements which include the identification of 6-8 key assessments that will track student progress during the program as well as providing a measure for their impact on children’s learning upon completion of the program. Data regarding student progress in the early childhood degree will be reported in annual accreditation reviews as well as through the next on-site state and national accreditation visit in 2020.

8. Process Leading to Submission

Describe the process of developing and approving the proposed program. Indicate, where appropriate, involvement by faculty, students, community members, potential employers, accrediting agencies, etc.

The University of Montana’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction has existing program options in the field of early childhood education. The B.A. in Early Childhood Education: P-3 builds upon these existing P-3 teacher licensure options including the Early Childhood Education: P-3 minor and the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education.

This proposal was developed in collaboration with C&I faculty in social studies, science, math, and literacy who have strong existing partnerships with faculty in the College of Performing and Visual Arts and the College of Humanities and Sciences. We have had conversations with faculty in Art, Music, Theatre and Dance, Math, Biology, and Physics who teach courses directly in support of teacher education programs and all have expressed support for this B.A. in
Early Childhood Education: P-3 degree proposal.

Faculty and administrators in the College have been highly engaged at the state level in the development of Montana’s new early childhood teacher licensure area including participation in writing the new standards and working collaboratively with the Office of Public Instruction to support implementation. Conversations about P-3 teacher licensure and bachelor’s degree option have been held with Missoula campus partners, state education organizations, University students, and other constituents.

Additionally, faculty members have worked closely with the Montana Early Childhood Higher Education Consortium which includes deans, faculty, and instructors who have affiliations with other agencies and organizations including Head Start and non-profit agencies supporting young children and families. The development of new programs to meet the demand for P-3 licensure was a focus of the MECHEC meeting on January 30, 2015 meeting. At this meeting and in a follow-up letter to OCHE, the MECHEC advocated for the development of Early Childhood Education: P-3 programs at multiple campuses across the state in order to meet state and national workforce demands.

The final program was reviewed and approved unanimously by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction on September 18, 2015. All documentation will be submitted to ASCRC and Faculty Senate to meet UM’s October 2 deadline.
Montana Board of Regents
ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

Item Number: XXX-XXXX-XXXXX  Meeting Date: ________________________________
Institution: University of Montana  CIP Code: 13.1210
Program Title: Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education: P-3

Please mark the appropriate type of request and submit with an Item Template and any additional materials, including those listed in parentheses following the type of request. For more information pertaining to the types of requests listed below, how to complete an item request, or additional forms please visit the Academic Affairs Handbook.

A. Notifications:

Notifications are announcements conveyed to the Board of Regents at the next regular meeting.

1a. Placing a program into moratorium (Document steps taken to notify students, faculty, and other constituents and include this information on checklist at time of termination if not reinstated)

1b. Withdrawing a program from moratorium

2. Intent to terminate an existing major, minor, option or certificate – Step 1 (Phase I Program Termination Checklist)

3. Campus Certificates- Adding, re-titling, terminating or revising a campus certificate of 29 credits or less

4. BAS/AA/AS Area of Study

B. Level I:

Level I proposals are those that may be approved by the Commissioner of Higher Education. The approval of such proposals will be conveyed to the Board of Regents at the next regular meeting of the Board.

1. Re-titling an existing major, minor, option or certificate

2. Adding a new minor or certificate where there is a major or an option in a major (Curriculum Proposal Form)

3. Revising a program (Curriculum Proposal Form)

4. Distance or online delivery of an existing degree or certificate program

5. Terminating an existing major, minor, option or certificate – Step 2 (Completed Program Termination Checklist)

Temporary Certificate or AAS Degree Program

Approval for programs under this provision will be limited to two years. Continuation of a program beyond the two years will require the proposal to go through the normal Level II Proposal approval process.
C. Level I with Level II Documentation:

This type of proposal may go to the Board as a Level I item if all Chief Academic Officers are in agreement. If consensus among the Chief Academic Officers is not reached, however, the item will go to the Board as a Level II request.

1. Consolidating existing programs and/or degrees (Curriculum Proposal Form)

D. Level II:

Level II proposals require approval of the Board of Regents. These requests will go to the Board in a two-meeting format, the first being as informational and the second as action.

1. Re-titling a degree (ex. From B.A. to B.F.A)

2. Adding a new minor or certificate where there is no major or option in a major (Curriculum Proposal Form)

X 3. Establishing a new degree or adding a major or option to an existing degree (Curriculum Proposal Form)

4. Forming, eliminating or consolidating a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit (Curriculum Proposal Form or Center Proposal Form, except when eliminating or consolidating)

5. Re-titling a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit

Specify Request: The University of Montana-Missoula seeks BOR approval to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education: P-3 in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences.