Please attach/submit additional documents as needed to fully complete each section of the form. See information about Level 1 Proposals.

I. DEPARTMENT / PROGRAM

Health and Human Performance Department – Exercise Science Pre-Professional B.S. Option

II. SUMMARY

This proposal is to change the name of the option from Exercise Science-Pre Professional to Health Science.

Additionally we are requesting minor adjustments to the curriculum to better serve the student population enrolling in this option. These are detailed in the program change form attached.

IV. ENDORSEMENTS AND APPROVALS

Requestor: Steven Gaskill, Ph.D. Professor, HHP

Phone/Email: 406-243-4268, steven.gaskill@umontana.edu

Program Chair: Scott Richter

*Other Affected Programs: The name change will not affect other programs. We have discussed this change with the Division of Biology (DBS) and College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences and worked with them on an acceptable option name.

Dean: Roberta Evans, PJWCOEHS

Provost’s Office:

* Are affected because of: (a) required courses including prerequisites or corequisites, (b) perceived overlap in content areas, or (c) cross-listing of coursework.

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.

V. TYPE OF LEVEL 1 PROPOSAL

☐ Retitling existing majors, minors, options, or certificates
☐ Eliminating existing majors, minors, or options. (submit with BOR program termination checklist)
☐ Adding new minors or certificates where there is a major or an option in a major*
☐ Campus Certificates: Adding, retitling, terminating or revising a certificate of 29 or fewer credits
☐ Revising a program* (for minor modifications use the program modification form)
☐ Distance or online delivery of previously authorized degree or certificate program
Adding option within an existing major or degree *
Consolidating existing programs and/or degrees *
Placing a program into moratorium
Withdrawing a program from moratorium
Adding BAS/AA/AS Area of Study

*Must submit with BOR Curriculum Proposal Form

IV. CATALOG LANGUAGE

Attach the current or proposed catalog language with any changes clearly identified.

III. JUSTIFICATION

Summary:

The name change better reflects the program and curriculum of this option which is designed to prepare students for graduate clinical professions including medical, physical therapy, physician's assistant, occupational therapy and other profession clinical programs. The majority of students in this option are working towards continuing education programs in health science.

The program changes are discussed on the attached Program Modification Form.

Specific Justifications:

The justification for the name change of our undergraduate option from Exercise Science – Pre professional to Health Science includes a multitude of factors. First, the name change better represents the areas of science that our students will study throughout the completion of their degree. Within Health and Human Performance our most popular major, currently Exercise Science-Pre Professional, has accounted for the substantial growth in student enrollment that the department has experienced. At present, the nearly 500 HHP students pursue the second most popular degree on the UM Campus. The majority of these students are declaring our undergraduate degree in preparation for their graduate and post-baccalaureate education as physical therapists, physician’s assistants, occupational therapists, physicians and other disciplines within the larger field of Medicine and Health Science. Because of this variety of post undergraduate education, we are modifying our curriculum to allow greater flexibility within the required courses so that students may more easily meet the varied prerequisites necessary for their advanced degrees in the field of Health Sciences. Second, despite our recent enrollment growth we and others within UM Academic Affairs have found the name Exercise Science-Pre professional requires considerable explanation to accurately convey the area of study that we offer. We expect the new name, Health Science, to require far less explanation and more accurately encompass the growing student interest in our disciplines. The more immediate recognition within the public sphere of this major’s focus is supported by a simple net search in reference to an ‘outline of health sciences’ or ‘health sciences’ includes branches in physical therapy, occupational therapy, nutrition, medicine, and many other of the current interests of our students. Finally, this name change supports the campus wide initiative to generate increased active recruitment and retention of students with interests in the varied health fields. Within the next 6 yrs the healthcare fields are expected to represent one fifth of the entire US economy. Thus allowing increased placement of our students in the
professional workforce, and further supporting the University’s enrollment challenge as evidenced by our recent growth despite campus-wide enrollment reductions.

Therefore, we feel this name change better reflects our departmental mission, what we currently offer students, and our present curriculum. Moreover, the proposed name change compliments increased recruiting efforts set forth by the administration by offering a clearly defined undergraduate program to attract more students to the diverse field of Health Science.

VI SUBMISSION

Submit the complete Level I proposal to the Provost’s Office for initial review. After all signatures have been obtained, submit original, and an electronic file to the Faculty Senate Office, UH 221, camie.foos@msg.umt.edu

Level 1 proposals also require Board of Regents approval. The appropriate BOR forms must be submitted with this form.