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

I. DEPARTMENT / PROGRAM

Bitterroot College

II. SUMMARY

We propose to offer a new Certificate of Technical Skills titled Advanced Commercial Driver’s License. The associated career has been deemed to be in high demand through Department of Labor analysis of the Montana Manufacturing and Energy sectors.

This new CTS will meet a mandate by the Department of Labor Rev Up Montana grant requiring two-year colleges engaged in each strategy to create stackable credentials. In this case, students will earn their Commercial Driver’s License during the course of training, after which they will continue training ultimately earning a CTS. By embedding the CDL in a CTS, Bitterroot College students will receive valuable training after successfully passing their state administered exam.

IV. ENDORSEMENTS AND APPROVALS

Requestor: Roch Turner

Phone/ Email: 406.375.0100/roch.turner@umontana.edu

Program Chair:

*Other Affected Programs:

Dean:

 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 I 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

As a consortium member of the current $25 million Trade Adjustment Act Community College Career Training (TAACCT) RevUp Montana grant, Bitterroot College is engaged in the Commercial Driver's License Strategy. In-depth Department of Labor and Montana Department of Labor & Industry studies highlight the increasing demand for over the road commercial drivers. The shortfall of workers in the energy and manufacturing industries, which CDL falls, is expected to grow for years to come. To date, Bitterroot College has a 100% completion rate among our continuing education CDL students. Not only have 100% passed the state administered exam, they have also all been successfully placed in permanent employment. However, the majority of these students have been forced to leave the area based on the more rigorous hiring requirements of local employers. Throughout the TAACCT grant, Bitterroot College personnel have interacted with a number of industry partners. Throughout those interactions, it has become apparent that our students are more likely to be placed in well-paid, permanent positions locally if they receive enhanced training. At present, non-credit CDL students take 48 hours of classroom training and 112 hours of field training, at which point they are eligible to take the CDL exam. Prior to receiving the exam, students are forbidden by law from driving under a load. The proposed Advanced CDL CTS will offer our students the opportunity to gain valuable training on highways and mountain passes while under load. Training will range from how to properly load and unload, secure loads, and driving while under load. The increased experience and driving time will make them much more competitive to our local Montanan employers.