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:

Graduate School / Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs

II. SUMMARY:

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs at the University of Montana requests to change its master degree to Master of Art or Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies to better reflect the existing programs; to better serve the students; and to follow national trends in graduate interdisciplinary degree titles. This re-title is the result of a survey of all interdisciplinary doctoral degree titles in the United States.

212 Universities are categorized as having Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies from College Navigator at the National Center for Education Statistics (database generated on 1/11/2016). 132 of those did not have a graduate program or Interdisciplinary program like UM's Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs where students either self-designed (IIP) or combine of disciplines in a hybrid program (Master of Interdisciplinary Studies). 80 institutions (including UM) have interdisciplinary programs at the graduate level. Of those, 45 out of 66 (68%) of master degrees have the major as Interdisciplinary studies while the degrees are either Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master of Education, etc. There are only five other institutions (UM excluded) offer degrees titled Master of Interdisciplinary Studies. The degree titles of Master of Art or Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies will more accurately convey the nature of the degree complete by the students.

Therefore, the Graduate School requests that its current Master of Interdisciplinary Studies degree be retitled to a Master of Art in Interdisciplinary Studies, and a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. The Master of Science will require that half of the coursework credits be from a discipline that confers Master of Science degree at the University of Montana. The retitling of the degree will align the program with the national trend.

III. PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

Requestor: Raquel Arouca
Phone / Email: 243-6695/ raquel.arouca@msou.montana.edu
Program Chair: Scott Whittenburg

Dean: Scott Whittenburg

Signature [Signature] Date 4/22/16
Signature [Signature] Date 5/3/16
Signature [Signature] Date __________________
Signature [Signature] Date __________________
Signature [Signature] Date __________________
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@mso.umt.edu
B. Level II:

1. Establishing a new postsecondary educational program *(Curriculum Proposal and Completed Intent to Plan Form)*

2. Exceeding the 120 credit maximum for baccalaureate degrees *(Exception to policy 301.11)*

3. Forming, eliminating or consolidating a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit *(Curriculum or Center/Institute Proposal and Completed Intent to Plan Form, except when eliminating or consolidating)*

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

Specify Request:

Request for Authorization to retitle the Master of Interdisciplinary Studies to Master of Arts or Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. The Graduate School of the University of Montana currently offers a Master of Interdisciplinary Studies (MIS). This is a degree that allows students to create a hybrid program by combining at least two disciplines offered by the university. The strength of the degree is to provide opportunities for students to tailor their academic degree to their personal and professional needs through innovation and interdisciplinarity, engaging in collaboration with two or more departments.

The degree, however, provides a challenge for students regarding the name of the degree, which means that students need to carefully plan their career path and actively promote their degree with prospective employers. It also doesn’t provide accurate description of the nature of the course of study as it can rely heavily in the sciences or the arts disciplines.

Upon research on current Interdisciplinary graduate programs nationwide, the findings are: **212** Universities are categorized as having Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies from College Navigator at the National Center for Education Statistics (database generated on 1/11/2016). **132** of those did not have a graduate program or Interdisciplinary program like UM’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs where students either self-designed (IIP) or combine of disciplines in a hybrid program (Master of Interdisciplinary Studies). **80** institutions (including UM) have interdisciplinary programs at the graduate level. Of those,

- **58** institutions offer masters degrees:
  - **18** have Master of Art. The degree titles are:
    - 2 Interdisciplinary Master of Art;
    - 15 MA Interdisciplinary Studies;
    - 1 MA Multidisciplinary Studies.
  - **5** have Master of Science. The degree titles are:
    - 1 MS Interdisciplinary Sciences;
    - 1 MS Cross-disciplinary;
    - 3 MS Interdisciplinary Studies.
  - **6** have Master of Interdisciplinary Studies.
  - **2** have Master of Education in Interdisciplinary Studies.
  - **26** offer either a Master of Art or Master of Science. The titles are:
    - **21** MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies;
    - **1** MA/MS Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies;
    - **1** MA/MS Special Studies <title approved by Graduate School>.
Montana Board of Regents
ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

ITEM XXX-XXXX-XXXX
Meeting Date September 14-15, 2016

Institution: University of Montana-Missoula

CIP Code: 30.0000

Program Title: Master Interdisciplinary Studies

Includes (please specify below): Online Offering Options

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 http://mus.edu/che/arsa/preparingacademicproposals.asp.

A. Level I:

Campus Approvals

1a. Placing a program into moratorium (Program Termination and Moratorium Form)

1b. Withdrawing a program from moratorium

2. Adding, re-titling, terminating or revising a campus Certificate of 29 credits or less

3. Adding a BAS/AA/AS Area of Study

4. Offering an existing program via distance or online delivery

OCHE Approvals

5. Re-titling an existing postsecondary educational program

6. Terminating an existing postsecondary educational program (Program Termination and Moratorium Form)

7. Consolidating existing postsecondary educational programs (Curriculum Proposal Form)

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

9. Revising a program (Curriculum Proposal Form)

10. Adding a temporary Certificate or AAS Degree Program Approval limited to 2 years
Montana Board of Regents

ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

- 1 MA/MS Individualized Studies;
- 1 MA/MS Interdisciplinary (emphasis of study);
- 1 MA/MS Multidisciplinary Studies.
  - 1 offers choices for Master of Art, Master of Science, Master of Natural Science, or Master of Education in Interdisciplinary Studies.
- 8 offer both Master and Doctoral degrees:
  - 1 offers choices for MA, MS, Med, and PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies.
  - 1 offers MIS and PhD (University of Montana).
    - PhD title Individual Interdisciplinary.
  - 3 offer MA, MS and PhD
    - Degree titles:
      - Individual Interdisciplinary;
      - <title approved by Graduate School>, interdisciplinary;
      - Interdisciplinary Studies.
  - 1 offers MS and PhD Multidisciplinary Sciences.
  - 1 offers MA, MS, MFA, PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies <Theme/focus>.
  - 1 offers MA and PhD. The PhD degree title used to be PhD interdisciplinary in <student specialization>. It will change to just say in the diploma Doctor of Philosophy (no major).

Hence **45 out of 66 (68%)** of master degrees have the major as Interdisciplinary studies while the degrees are either Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master of Education, etc. There are only five other institutions (UM excluded) offer degrees titled Master of Interdisciplinary Studies. The degree titles of Master of Art or Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies will more accurately convey the nature of the degree complete by the students.

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