

**Montana University System**  
**PROGRAM REVIEW**

**Institution:** The University of Montana Western

**Program Years:** 2011-12

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**List of the programs reviewed:**

Biology

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**Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:**

The department and its degree programs should be maintained.

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**Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.**

- The department separated from Environmental Sciences in 2010 and began offering a Bachelor of Science degree (replacing the previous Bachelor of Arts degree) in 2010-11. Its clearer identity and active recruiting and retention activities have made Biology the third-largest and fastest-growing university program.
- Biology contributes a significant number of courses to the General Education program and supports the BS Secondary Education degree programs in Biology, General Science, and Earth Science, enhancing the availability of STEM discipline teachers in Montana.
- Many majors continue their educations at graduate school.
- Faculty are active grant seekers (gaining over \$800,000 from the National Institutes of Health)
- Faculty created and support the spring Undergraduate Research Symposium and routinely support professional, experiential research with their undergraduate students.
- Faculty contribute to the active student Biology Club and especially its community service and service-learning activities.
- Faculty contribute extensively to important university committees such as Faculty Senate, Curriculum Committee, and Budget Committee
- Professor Mike Morrow is 2011-12 CASE Montana of the Year.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Majors</b>	<b>Graduates</b>
<b>2010-11</b>	135	12
<b>2009-10</b>	112	14
<b>2008-09</b>	91	7
<b>2007-08</b>	85	7
<b>2006-07</b>	72	6
<b>2005-06</b>	55	10
<b>2004-05</b>	59	5

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**PROGRAM REVIEW**

**Institution:** The University of Montana Western

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**List of the programs reviewed:**

Environmental Science

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**Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:**

The department and its degree programs should be maintained.

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**Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.**

- The Biology program withdrew from the Environmental Science department to establish its own department and identity in 2010.
- Environmental Science began offering two Bachelor of Science degrees (replacing previous Bachelor of Arts degrees) in 2010-11. The degrees are in Environmental Science and Environmental Interpretation.
- Environmental Science contributes a significant number of courses to the General Education program and supports the BS Secondary Education degree programs in Biology, General Science, and Earth Science, enhancing the availability of STEM discipline teachers in Montana.
- Many majors continue their educations at graduate school.
- Faculty are active, expert proponents of experiential learning and the majority of courses take place in the field in fall and spring, often carrying out professional research for agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the National Forest Service.
- Faculty support the spring Undergraduate Research Symposium and routinely support professional experiential research with their undergraduate students.
- Professor Rob Thomas was CASE US Baccalaureate Professor of the Year in 2008-09.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Majors</b>	<b>Graduates</b>
<b>2011-12</b>	82	
<b>2010-11</b>	54	6
<b>2009-10</b>	56	21
<b>2008-09</b>	63	12
<b>2007-08</b>	55	11
<b>2006-07</b>	67	14
<b>2005-06</b>	71	10
<b>2004-05</b>	72	10

**Montana University System**  
**PROGRAM REVIEW**

**Institution:** The University of Montana Western

**Program Years:** 2011-12

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**List of the programs reviewed:**

Equine Studies

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**Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:**

The department and its degree programs should be maintained.

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**Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.**

- Established in 2002-03 in collaboration with the LaCense Natural Horsemanship program and, more recently, the Montana Equestrian Center (proper name?), Equine Studies supports the university's two-year programs by offering AAS degrees in Equine Studies and Natural Horsemanship, as well as four-year degrees.
- The program draws the largest number of out-of-state, full-pay students of any university program.
- The program supports the university rodeo and equestrian teams, both highly successful in regional competition, thus combining academics and athletics seamlessly.
- The program is almost entirely experiential in nature and a superb demonstration of the virtues of Experience One.
- Graduates are successful in veterinary and graduate school applications, and are sought after in the equine industry.
- The program is a model of town-gown collaboration and enhances relationships with local business people and community members through community events, as well as through participation in college rodeo and equestrian events.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Majors</b>	<b>Graduates</b>
<b>2011-12</b>	74	12
<b>2010-11</b>	63	25
<b>2009-10</b>	68	12
<b>2008-09</b>	78	14
<b>2007-08</b>	77	1
<b>2006-07</b>	67	2
<b>2005-06</b>	51	4
<b>2004-05</b>	32	2