DRAFT: Montana State University Mission and Core Themes

The following items have been drafted over several months and much iteration by the MSU Planning Committee with participation from many individuals via an open forum, and on-line comments. We appreciate all of the input. This DRAFT is still in the comment phase, and we invite additional comments. The Mission and Core Themes will form an integral part of the University’s Year One Self-Study report which we hope to have completed by September 1, 2011.  

Montana State University Mission Statement

Montana State University, the State’s land-grant institution, educates students, creates knowledge and art, and serves communities, by integrating learning, discovery, and engagement.

Core Theme 1: Educate students

Objective: Our students graduates will have achieved mastery in their major disciplines.

Indicators:
- Performance on standardized exams, such as professional exams, GRE scores.
- Performance on end of program assessments.
- Number of students completing degree requirements.

Objective: Our students graduates will be ready to become active citizens and leaders who are effective critical thinkers and make informed ethical judgments and decisions.

Indicators:
- Performance on embedded assessments in selected courses.
- Number of students completing campus leadership programs.
- Number of student hours on service activities.
- Number of students completing ethics training (or courses) for research.
- Change in score on select NSSE items between first year and senior student respondents.

Objective: Our graduates will have a global perspective and demonstrate cultural attunement and an understanding of the benefits of diversity.

Indicators:
- Performance on embedded assessments in selected courses.
- Number of students participating in international learning experiences.
- Number of students earning International certifications.
- Change in score on select NSSE items between first year and senior student respondents.

Objective: Our graduates will understand the ways that knowledge and art are created and applied in a variety of disciplines.
Indicators:

- Performance on embedded assessments in selected courses.
- Number of courses taken outside student’s major discipline (transcript analysis).
- Scores on select NSSE items.

**Core Theme 2: Create Knowledge and Art**

*Objective: Students, faculty, and staff create knowledge and art that is communicated widely.*

Indicators – Faculty and Staff (e.g., research and extension staff):

- Number of peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations.
- Number of juried exhibitions, performances, creative readings, or other shows.
- Magnitude of externally funded research expenditures.
- Number of Extension publications and workshops.

Indicators - Students:

- **Number of student research and/or creative experiences** (e.g., enrollments in Undergraduate Research or Guided Research courses, participation in Undergraduate Scholars Program, number of paid undergraduate laboratory workers.)
- Number of undergraduate and graduate student publications and presentations.
- Number of graduate theses and dissertations produced.
- Self-reported participation in research as reported in NSSE.

**Core Theme 3: Serve Communities**

*Objective: Make our education is available to all qualified students.*

Indicators:

- Number of students who receive need-based financial aid.
- Growth in Gallatin College program enrollments.
- Increase in on-line educational opportunities offered.
- The percentage of students with financial need that have 90% or more of the need met through grants and loans.
- Enrollment of resident students.
- Enrollment of veterans.
- Number of transfer students.

*Objective: Provide educational opportunities to Educational opportunities are widely available in underserved Montana communities/populations.*

Indicators – Formal Education:

- Number of enrolled students from underserved populations.
- Number of graduates from underserved populations.
• Enrollment in distance education courses.

Indicators – Informal Education:
• Number of programs offered in underserved communities.
• Number of extension programs offered.
• Number of participants in extension programs.
• Number of outreach activities to Montana communities reported by faculty.

Core Theme 4: Integrate Learning, Discovery and Engagement

Objective: Each student will have experiences that integrate learning, discovery and engagement.

Indicators:
• Number of Core 2.0 courses that are updated to include engagement activities.
• Number of programs requiring Core 2.0 courses that include engagement activities.
• Number of majors requiring integrative capstone courses.

Objective: Outreach activities will educate students and address the needs of the communities we serve.

Indicators – Students:
• Number of students completing service learning courses.
• Number of identified Core courses offering engagement opportunities.
• Number of students taking Core courses identified as offering engagement opportunities.
• Number of identified student groups focused on meeting societal needs.
• Number of students participating in identified groups focused on meeting societal needs.

Indicators – Faculty and Staff (e.g., research and extension staff):
• Number of faculty serving as conference session chairs (as reported in Faculty Activity Data)
• Number of extension programs offered.
• Number of outreach activities to Montana communities reported by faculty.
• Number of faculty offering service learning courses.
• Number of faculty assisting student groups focused on meeting societal needs.

Objective: Students, faculty, and staff create knowledge and art that addresses societal needs.

Indicators – Faculty and Staff (e.g., research and extension staff):
• Number of community partnerships.
• Number of Extension publications and workshops.

Indicators - Students:
• Number of students completing identified courses that offer engagement opportunities.
• Number of identified student groups focused on meeting societal needs.
• Number of students participating in identified groups focused on meeting societal needs.
Objective: Develop the MSU (faculty/staff/student) community. MSU faculty, staff, and students create an active environment that creates synergistic relationships within and across disciplines, roles and functions.

Indicators
- Number of opportunities for faculty/student interaction and engagement.
- Number of undergraduate research projects reported in Faculty Activity Data.
- Number of undergraduate student publications and presentations
- Number of Core courses enhanced to include engagement activities.
- Number of faculty and staff participating in move-in day activities.

Core Theme 5: Ensure sustainability

Objective: Cultivate the public’s trust. The public trusts the institution to operate openly and use resources wisely.

Indicators:
- Number of University committees and councils with one or more members from the community.
- Number of faculty engaged in public outreach (communications) programs about the University.
- Number of Annual Fund donors.
- Number of University committees and councils with publicly posted agendas and minutes.
- Number of University-sponsored town hall meetings.

Objective: Use our Our publicly provided resources are used efficiently and effectively.

Indicators:
- Degree of alignment of budget and planning.
- Faculty productivity indicators (e.g., comparison with Delaware data set).
- Student performance measures such as time to degree, retention rate, and graduation rate.

Objective: Sustain The faculty and staff are well-qualified and engaged faculty and staff.

Indicators:
- Percent of faculty with the terminal degree appropriate to their field.
- Number of participants in faculty/staff development programs.
- Number of faculty awards reported in Faculty Activity Data.

Objective: Improve energy efficiency and sustainability. Energy is used more efficiently and sustainably.

Indicators:
- Annual energy savings estimates due to energy conservation projects.
- Number of energy conversation projects.
- Number of students, faculty, and staff participating in campus sustainability programs (e.g. ASMSU Sustainability Center)