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Anticipated 'action' grant to aid college, U. students throughout state

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ANTICIPATED 'ACTION' GRANT
TO AID COLLEGE, U STUDENTS
THROUGHOUT STATE

MISSOULA--

The University of Montana, Missoula, through the UM Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR), is in the process of applying for a federal grant to finance a program which will enable approximately 40 college and university students in the state to receive a full academic year's credit for giving 12 months of full-time service to a sponsoring agency under the federal program, "University Year for ACTION" (UYA).

The proposed UYA program in Montana will enable students in all academic fields to work in at least two different areas--drug abuse and corrections, the latter including adult probation and parole and juvenile probation. Additional areas are being considered. The UYA program is scheduled to be in operation for three years, although any student would be allowed to participate for only a single year.

Dr. Arnold S. Brown, an ISSR research associate, said participants will work under the direct supervision of sponsoring agencies in the field, obtaining first-hand, on-the-job experience in their chosen fields and earning 16 credits per academic quarter, up to a total of 48 credits.

"Each volunteer must be supervised by one or more faculty members, who are responsible for determining academic requirements," Brown said. "Students will be encouraged to have at least one adviser from an academic discipline other than their own."

Individuals not already enrolled at UM or one of the other participating schools in the state must be duly admitted to one of the schools to be eligible to apply for the first year of the program, which will begin March 26, 1973. Following notification of acceptance as a volunteer by March 1, an applicant registers each quarter for a full 16-credit load.

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At UM, students will receive credit through the University's omnibus and departmental programs. Other schools will make appropriate arrangements.

Brown said the amount of a year's credit which may be applied to one's major under the UYA program is a matter to be determined by individual departments. He suggested that potential volunteers examine their major department's requirements for graduation and consider the possible academic scheduling conflicts before applying for admission to the UYA program.

"Students in academic programs which require courses offered only at certain times and who cannot obtain waivers or make other compensatory arrangements may find that participating in UYA would necessitate additional university enrollment over and above the normal four years in order to obtain the required credits for graduation," Brown explained.

Beginning with job orientation and training, which last three weeks, each volunteer will receive \$185 per month for living expenses. In addition, a \$50 per month stipend accrues and is normally paid only upon completion of service. Volunteers receive full medical coverage and are entitled to two weeks of vacation during the year.

For drug abuse, placements will be in Butte, Bozeman, the Anaconda-Deer Lodge area, and Helena. Placements in corrections may be anywhere in the state, with specific locations yet to be determined. Students' preferences for location will be taken into account in placement whenever possible.

Applications, available from the Institute for Social Science Research at UM, must be completed by Feb. 12. Applicants will be screened by committees made up of faculty, students and agency personnel, which together will select a total of 60 students. Final selection of volunteers will be done by the Office of Citizen's Placement, Washington, D.C. Acceptance notification will then be sent to volunteers by March 1.

"Factors influencing selection include evidence of interest in community service, and skills and strengths pertinent to job assignments," Brown said.

Persons wishing further information should contact Dr. Brown; Dr. Raymond Gold, ISSR planning project director, or Ms. Katherine McGlynn, ISSR research associate, Institute for Social Science Research, 724 Eddy Ave., Missoula, Mont. 59801, or phone the ISSR, 243-5411.