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Extension courses are self-sustaining

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EXTENSION COURSES
ARE SELF-SUSTAINING

MISSOULA---

Recent figures compiled by the Division of Extension and Continuing Education at the University of Montana indicated that the State of Montana, in the amount it charges for extension courses, ranks vary favorably with surrounding states.

The rate of \$16 per credit hour in all institutions of higher learning in the state, the chart shows, is lower than almost all rates in the other Northwestern states.

The cost per credit hour in Montana was raised this year from \$8 to \$16 to enable the University system to provide an adequate stipend and cover costs for those instructors involved in providing further education to adults not actively involved in university life, according to Dr. James F. Hall, director of the extension division.

The extension services, Dr. Hall explained, are on a "self-sustaining basis and are not part of the budgetary provision of any institutions in the state," and, thus, receive no state funds.

Encompassed in the cost of \$16 per credit hour throughout the state, the director said, are the cost of the instructor's salary, which is less than his regular teaching salary, and his per diem and transportation costs for traveling to and from the point of instruction.

For example, Dr. Hall said, an instructor is asked to teach a 10-week, three-credit course at a location in northwestern Montana. For the 10-week period, teacher salary costs would total \$345, and transportation and per diem would amount to an additional expense of \$150-\$180. In addition, the University must cover administrative costs of the program including office overhead and personnel salaries.

Dr. Hall points out that extension classes must total between 10 and 17 students, depending on distances and teaching ranks, in order that the University may meet expenses.

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The amount paid per week to the instructor, rising administrative costs and the complete financial relief given veterans have made it necessary to raise the rates, Dr. Hall said.

Dr. Hall said the figure of \$16 per credit hour for the courses is very much in line with other states. For example, he said, Wyoming charges \$18 per credit hour; Oregon \$15.50 per credit hour, and North Dakota \$15 per credit hour.

The state of Washington, he continued, charges \$50 for three credit hours and \$85 for four to six credit hours, and Utah charges \$30 for one or two credit hours.

"We also find in addition to the costs per credit hour," he concluded, "many of these institutions require a \$5 late registration fee."

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