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UM offering designated WICHE regional graduate programs

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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IMMEDIATELY

UM OFFERING DESIGNATED WICHE
REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAMS

MISSOULA--

Two master's degree programs offered by the University of Montana have been identified as Regional Graduate Programs of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

Students from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington enrolled in WICHE Regional Graduate Programs are treated by member schools as resident students for tuition purposes.

The UM programs designated are the M.A. in interpersonal communication and the M.S. in rural, town and regional planning.

They were approved by an eight-member WICHE review committee consisting of educators from the Universities of Idaho, Oregon and California at Berkeley; the Oregon System of Higher Education; the Council for Postsecondary Education; the Montana Board of Regents; the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education; and the Idaho State Board of Education.

Eldon Baker, chairman of the UM Interpersonal communication department, defines the discipline as "the branch of the social and behavioral sciences concerned with human message systems. It deals with the theoretical conception of the nature, use and role of messages in life and society and the application of these conceptions to communication actions, interactions and transactions."

(over)

WICHE-- add one

He said recipients of the graduate degree are qualified for careers in public relations, management, marketing, organizational consulting and academic administration. They are also prepared for teaching interpersonal communication.

Baker noted that in the last eight years, 100 percent of the M.A. recipients who applied for doctoral programs were accepted, in each case with an assistantship, and 100 percent who sought professional positions were suitably placed.

The M.S. program in rural, town and regional planning is offered by the UM geography department but, according to department chairman Evan Denny, it involves more than 30 faculty in several disciplines, including geography, forestry, sociology, social work, business administration, economics, political science and law. He pointed out that the program covers the spectrum of planning needs for sparsely populated areas.

He said a six-month internship is a requirement for the M.S. degree and noted that 100 percent of the students in the UM program who have applied for professional internships have been accepted each year since its inception. Professional job placement of those who have completed the program stands at 94 percent.

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