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Examination of SAP Enterprise Systems in US College and University Education and its Application to Montana Tech

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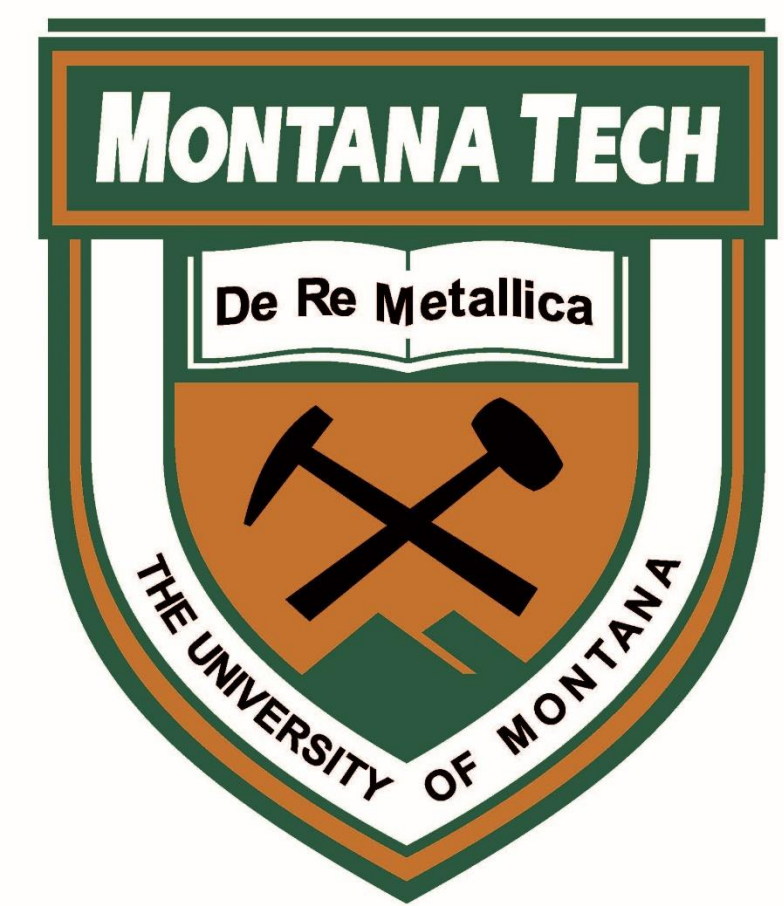
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Examination of SAP Enterprise Systems in US College and University Education and its Application to Montana Tech



Sebastian Perduss (Business and Information Technology), and Dr. Lance Revenaugh (Business and Information Technology Department, Montana Tech)

Introduction

SAP, (Systems, Applications and Products in Data Processing) is the world-leading provider of business software.

SAP serves about 290,000 customers in 190 countries including 98 percent of the 100 most valued companies in the world.

The SAP University Alliance allows universities to integrate SAP technology into their curriculums and give students hands-on experience in Enterprise Resource System software.

Montana Tech is the first university in Montana to be a member of the SAP University Alliance.

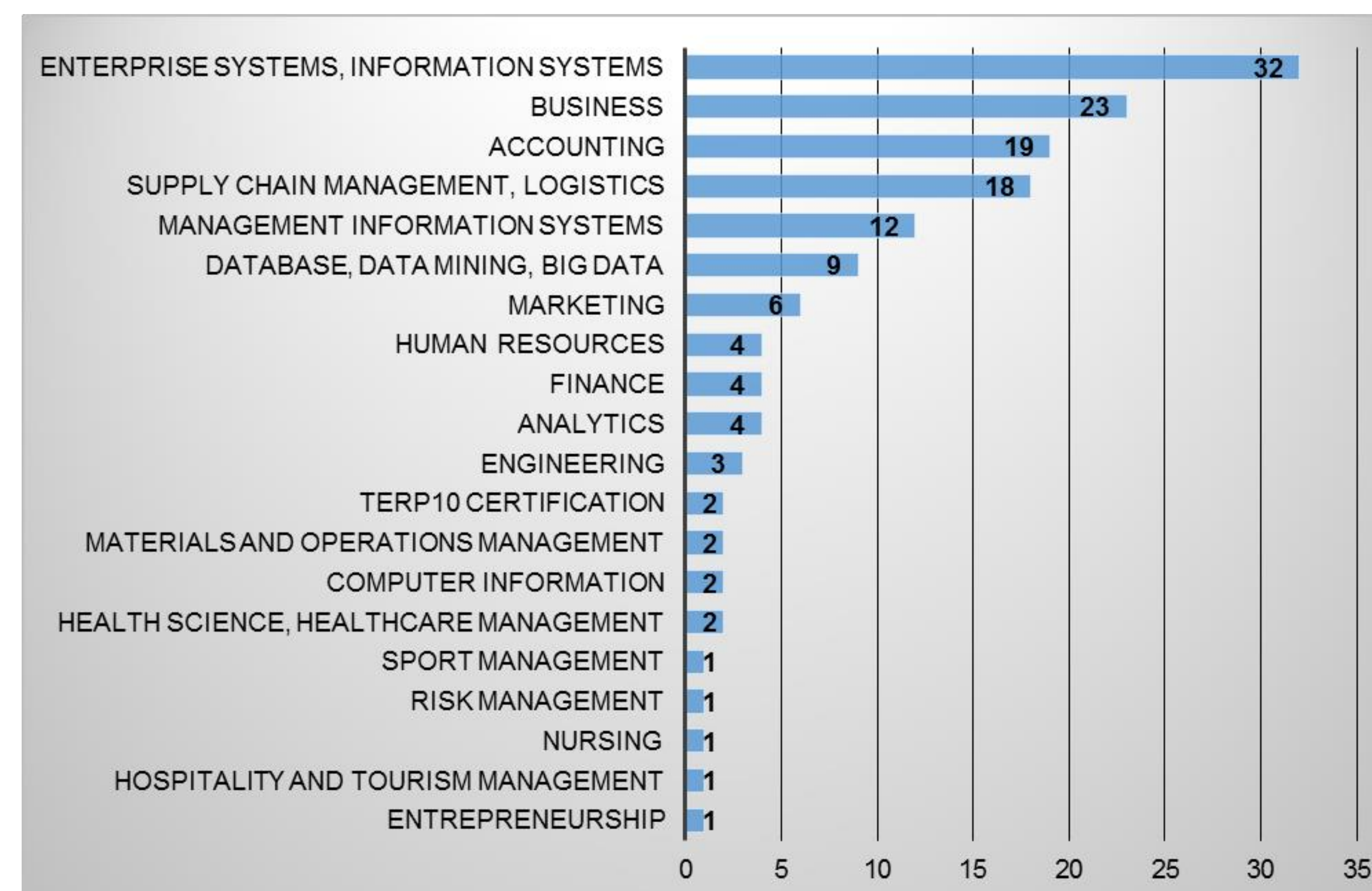
Our research focused on the 348 member universities of the SAP University Alliance in America and Canada to help identify effective processes of SAP curriculum integration, their pros and cons, successes and failures and its application to Montana Tech.

Methods

- Identified all SAP University Alliance members in the Americas with focus on the United States.
- Developed a research questionnaire to be used in future research within project.
- Analyzed 140 universities that are members of the SAP University Alliance (membership of 5 years or less)
- Reviewed curriculum proposals from multiple universities to identify processes of effective SAP curriculum integration.
- Reviewed more than 50 university publications publicizing SAP University Alliance membership to isolate testimonials.

Results

- Of the 140 universities analyzed, 80 (57%) don't have online information about integrated SAP courses available.
- 60 (43%) have online information about integrated SAP courses available.
- We specify the 80 universities as non-active members of the SAP University Alliance program.
- The active 60 universities are using SAP in 147 different courses/classes.
- The Top 5 course areas are Enterprise Systems and Information Systems (32 courses), Business (23 courses), Accounting (19 courses), Supply Chain Management and Logistics (18 courses), and Management Information Systems (12 courses).



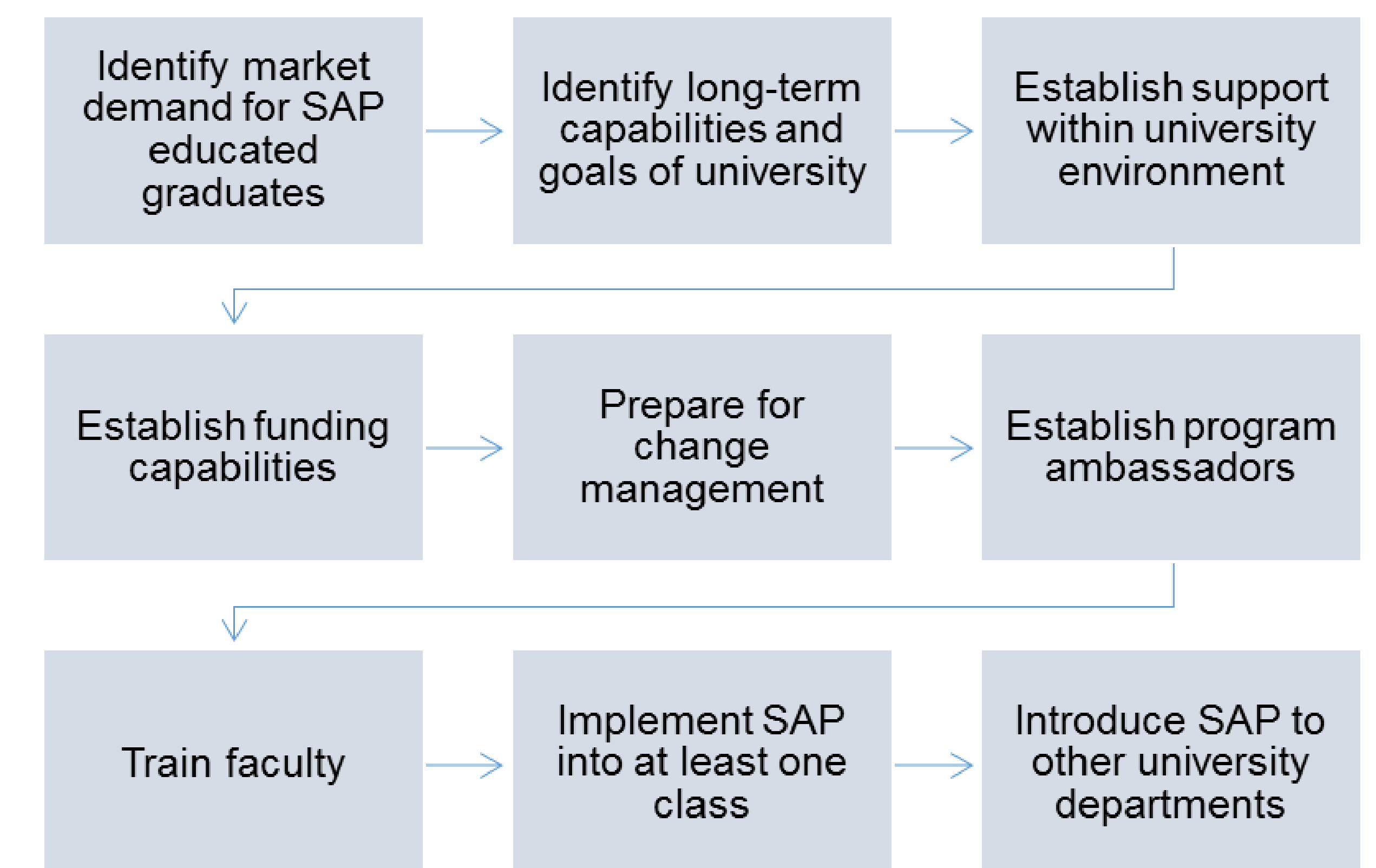
Types and amount of SAP integrated courses available in 60 universities

- The other course areas include Data Mining, Marketing, Human Resources, Analytics, Engineering, Materials and Operations Management, Computer Information, Health Science and Healthcare Management, Nursing, Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Entrepreneurship.

Acknowledgments

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- The reviewed proposals for the integration of SAP into curriculums indicate that success arises from careful planning and clear identification of responsibilities and goals.
- A step by step process should include and is not limited to:



Conclusions

The small number of active SAP University Alliance members (5 years membership or less) was unexpectedly low but the amount of course topics/areas in which SAP is taught remarkably high.

This points toward the extended capabilities of SAP and other available curriculum material within the University Alliance.

This is particularly interesting for plans regarding further expansion to other departments at Montana Tech.

Future work

- Expand study with survey of all 348 SAP University Alliance members.
- Develop best practices guidelines
- Present data to SAP University Alliance