ITEM 137-104-R1107

Policy 301.17: Composition Placement

THAT:

The Board of Regents set a policy on placement into freshman composition courses throughout the Montana University System, consistent with the Writing Proficiency Policy on full and provisional admissions to four-year programs.

EXPLANATION:

Policy 301.16, Writing Proficiency, approved in November 2005, set threshold scores from a variety of assessment measures for full admissions to the four-year programs of the MUS. The policy also stated that by Fall 2007, the MUS would determine how 301.16 should apply to students exempted in its section H and how the policy should impact writing placement examinations on the campuses. The proposed policy fulfills those mandates.

The proposed policy was drafted with input from every campus of the MUS and the Writing Proficiency Steering Committee. This policy sets thresholds on writing assessments taken in high school for students 1) to be placed into college-level courses without further testing; 2) to challenge their placement; and 3) to be placed into remedial courses. It also recommends placement into advanced composition courses where they are available.

The proposed policy aligns placement practices for exempted students, as well as students in two-year, four-year, and dual enrollment programs.

As a result of the proposed policy, high-stakes placement decisions are applied consistently across the system and students in high school know if their demonstrated skill levels will place them into remedial, college-level, or advanced composition courses as freshmen in higher education.

Effective date: Fall 2008.

ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Policy 301.17

Policy 301.16

Score distributions for 2007 MUSWA and ACT