

May 26-27, 2021

ITEM 194-110-R0521

Request for Approval to Revised BOR Policies 301 and 301.1 – OCHE/MUS

THAT

The Board of Regents authorizes a permanent change to BOR policy 301, section 1, part B, which requires first-time undergraduate students to submit ACT or SAT scores for admission to 4-year institutions within the MUS. Further, the Board of Regents permanently authorizes additional methods for students to demonstrate proficiency in mathematics and writing as set forth in proposed revisions to BOR Policy 301.1.

EXPLANATION

In April 2020, the Board authorized a one-year pause in the requirement that applicants to four-year MUS programs submit SAT or ACT exam results (Item 187-101-C0420). This pause recognized that the cost of SAT or ACT exams can be a barrier to some students seeking to enroll in college, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, when test opportunities were also disrupted due to the need for social distancing. During the pause, students were provided alternative avenues, apart from SAT and ACT scores, to demonstrate their proficiency in math and writing, as required in BOR policy 301.1.

The proposed revisions would make the current 12-month temporary changes permanent. Students applying to four-year programs would no longer be required to submit SAT or ACT exam results for purposes of admission. MUS campuses would continue to require ACT scores for MUS Honors Scholarship applications. The voluntary submission of ACT or SAT scores would continue to be acceptable means of demonstrating math and writing proficiency under the guidelines presented in BOR policy 301.1.

Recognizing that completing a college entrance exam can still be beneficial for students seeking scholarships or exploring non-MUS institutions, the MUS will continue its strong partnership with the OPI to offer the ACT at no cost to Montana high school students through 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Proposed revisions to policy 301

Attachment 2: Proposed revisions to policy 301.1