

Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education
Policies and Procedures Manual

SUBJECT: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Policy 301.2 - Admission Requirements; Out-Of-State Undergraduates

I. Board Policy:

- A. The campuses of the Montana University System are authorized to control the number of out-of-state first-time and transfer students.
- B. An out-of-state graduate of an out-of-state high school which is accredited by the state accrediting agency may enter any four-year campus of the Montana University System as a first-time, full-time undergraduate student, provided the graduate meets the College Preparatory Program outlined in Board [Policy 301.7](#) and at least one of the following requirements:
1. (a) has obtained a score of at least 20 on the Enhanced (Composite) American College Testing (ACT) test or a score of at least 1440 on the total mathematics/critical reading/writing exam of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), for admission to Montana State University-Northern and The University of Montana-Western,
 - (b) has obtained a score of at least 22 on the Enhanced (Composite) American College Testing (ACT) test or a score of at least 1540 on the total mathematics/critical reading/writing exam of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), for admission to Montana State University-Billings, Montana Tech of The University of Montana, Montana State University-Bozeman, and The University of Montana-Missoula. The campuses identified in B.1(a) above may request permission from the Board of Regents to raise the Enhanced (Composite) American College Testing (ACT) test score or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) total mathematics/critical reading/writing exam score to those specified for The University of Montana-Missoula, Montana State University-Bozeman, Montana Tech of The University of Montana, and Montana State University-Billings; or
2. has obtained at least a 2.5 high school grade point average (GPA); or
 3. ranks in the upper half of the school's graduating class.
- C. In addition to the admissions requirements set out in paragraph B above, any student seeking admission to a four-year program at one of the four-year institutions of the Montana University System must also satisfy the mathematics proficiency standard set out in Board [Policy 301.15](#).
- C. Some students may meet the admissions requirements set out in Sections I.B. and C., above, and still be at risk of not succeeding in their post-secondary educational career. The four-year institutions may adopt criteria to identify those at-risk students and
1. admit them to a two-year institution and the educational services available at that institution; or
 2. direct them to a two-year institution and the educational services available at that institution while they continue their enrollment at the four-year institution; or
 3. admit them to a two-year degree program.

The criteria for identifying at-risk students, and the rationale for those criteria, must be filed with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

- ~~D~~E. The following categories of students are exempt from the requirements in paragraph B and C above:

1. non-traditional students (those who do not enter college for a period of at least three years from the date of high school graduation or from the date when they would have graduated from high school),
2. summer only students, and
3. part-time students taking seven or fewer college-level semester credits.

~~EE~~. Institutions are authorized to exempt up to 15% of first-time, full-time undergraduates from the requirements of paragraphs B and C above for students with special talents, minorities and others who demonstrate special needs.

~~EG~~. After an out-of-state student has been admitted to a campus of the Montana University System, there shall be no differentiation between in-state and out-of-state students as far as enrollment in courses and programs is concerned.

~~EH~~. Out-of-state transfer applicants must present at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (i.e., equivalent to a "C" on a 4.0 scale), based on transferable credits carried from all colleges or universities previously attended to be eligible for consideration.

~~HI~~. In addition to satisfying the above requirements, campuses shall require applicants from foreign countries (excluding Canadian citizens) to present evidence of proficiency in the use of the English language. Campuses may impose additional requirements on applicants from foreign countries.

II. Definitions:

- A. An out-of-state transfer applicant is one who has completed 12 or more GPA or Pass credits in college-level courses at another college or university, who is entering a new institution for the first time, and whose credits at the previous institution have been accepted by the receiving institution.
- B. For the purpose of this section, *GPA* and *Pass credits* mean those college-level credits for which grade points apply toward graduation.
- C. For the purpose of this section, *college-level work* means those courses that are applicable toward an associate of arts, associate of science or baccalaureate degree at their respective institution. Such courses shall include neither remedial nor developmental courses.

III. Cross Reference:

See Board [Policy 301.7](#), College Preparatory Program, Board [Policy 301.15](#), Mathematics Proficiency Admissions Standards.

IV. History:

Item 183-004, State Board of Education ex officio Regents of University of Montana, August 13, 1963 (Rescinded); Item 18-004-R1077, Admission Requirements: Out-of-State Undergraduates; Montana University System, October 28, 1977; (Board of Regents Minutes) May 5-6, 1988, as amended May 5, 1989, September 14, 1989, March 22, 1990, May 3, 1993, May 4, 1995, and November 18, 1999 ([Item 104-103-R0999](#)); [Item 109-1602-R1100](#), Authorization for Institutional Name Change from Western Montana College of The University of Montana to The University of Montana-Western, approved by the Board of Regents January 18, 2001, with an effective date of July 1, 2001; editorial changes made July 14, 2004. Revised May 20, 2005 ([Item 127-113-R0505](#)), adjusted SAT scores, format change.

[Table of Contents](#) or [Section 300 Contents](#)