

March 5 – 7, 2008

ITEM 138-104-R0308

Exception to Policy 301.1, Undergraduate Degree Requirements, AAS degrees in Respiratory Therapy

THAT:

The Board of Regents of Higher Education approves an exception to Policy 301.12, Undergraduate Degree Requirements: Associate Degrees and Certificates of Applied Science, for the following programs:

- the Associate of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Therapy at Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology.
- the Associate of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Therapy at The University of Montana-Missoula College of Technology.

EXPLANATION:

Policy 301.12 establishes guidelines and characteristics for two-year degree programs. The Policy also establishes an exception procedure for programs that do not comply with those guidelines. That procedure has been followed with these exception requests.

The Respiratory Therapy program at MSU-Great Falls College of Technology exceeds the credit limit of 72 credits established in Policy 301.12 by one credit. The programs at both MSU-Great Falls College of Technology and UM-Missoula College of Technology also take more than two academic years and a summer session to complete, as required by Policy 301.12. The reasons for the exception are based primarily on requirements established by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (COARC), as evidenced by the supporting document that accompanies this request. Both the Great Falls and Missoula programs are accredited by that entity.

The Two-Year Education Council, at a meeting on February 4, 2008, approved a recommendation to grant this exception. That recommendation is now before the Montana Board of Regents for approval, as required by Policy 301.12.