



Montana University System

Admission Standards

Rigorous Core

The *rigorous core* is an alternative to the math proficiency standards and an eligibility requirement for receiving the MUS Honors Scholarship.

In addition to college prep courses required for entrance to 4-year universities, the rigorous core adds one additional year of math (4 years total), science (3 yrs.), and electives (3 yrs.) - including languages, computer science, arts, or vocational education.

Provisional Admission

Students who don't meet the writing and math proficiency standards are admitted to 4-year universities on a provisional basis.

Students who are provisionally admitted can gain full admittance by:

- earning a "C" or better in developmental courses preparing students for college-level course work (must be done within the first three semesters); or
- earning satisfactory scores on individual campus math placement exams; or
- completion of an associate of arts or associate of science degree.

Entrance Requirements

In order to be fully admitted to a 4-year university in the MUS, entering high school graduates are required to meet the following standards:

- **Complete the college preparatory program:** mathematics (3 years), English (4 years), science (2 years), social studies (3 years), and electives (2 years) – includes languages, computer science, visual/performing arts, speech, or vocational education.
- **Demonstrate Mathematics Proficiency:** earn an ACT math score of 22, SAT score of 520, or complete the Rigorous Core.
- **Demonstrate Writing Proficiency:** earn an ACT writing/English score of 18, SAT score of 440; or score 7 or higher on the ACT/SAT essays, or 3.5 or higher on the MUS writing assessment test.
- **Achieve one of the following requirements:**
 1. Earn at least a 2.5 high school GPA; or
 2. Rank in the top half of the school's graduating class; or
 3. Score composite ACT of 22 or higher, or SAT of 1540 or higher (except MSU-Northern requires ACT score of 20, SAT score of 1440).

Provisional Admission

Provisional admission is granted to students scoring 18-21 on ACT and 440-510 on SAT mathematics tests or 2.5-3.0 on the MUSWA or 5-6 on ACT or SAT essays.

Exemptions

Entrance requirements do NOT apply to the following groups:

- Non-traditional students (those who do not enter college for a period of at least three years following high school graduation);
- Summer-only students; and
- Part-time students taking seven or fewer credits per semester.

In addition, institutions may exempt up to 15% of first-time, full-time undergraduates from the entrance requirements listed above. This exemption is reserved for students with special talents, minorities, and others who demonstrate special needs.

Open Admission

Two-year colleges in the MUS offer open admissions that do not require the academic standards listed above. However, certain programs (such as nursing) have admission standards.

A high school degree or GED is required for admission to all degree programs.