

May 29 – 30, 2008

ITEM 139-104-R0508

**Exception to Policy 301.12, Undergraduate Degree Requirements, AAS degree in Physical Therapist Assistant, MSU-Great Falls College of Technology**

**THAT:**

The Board of Regents of Higher Education for the State of Montana approves an exception to Policy 301.12, Undergraduate Degree Requirements: Associate Degrees and Certificates of Applied Science, for the Associate of Applied Science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant at Montana State University-Great Falls 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 this exception request.

The above-referenced program in Physical Therapist Assistant exceeds the credit limit of 72 credits established in Policy 301.12. The program also takes more than two academic years and an intervening summer to complete. The bases for the exception request are:

- the accreditation expectations established by the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The Great Falls program is the only accredited physical therapist assistant program in the Montana University System.
- the credit total of 77 credits, which is similar to other accredited programs throughout the United States.
- the capstone clinical rotation required at the end of the program. That capstone experience utilizes knowledge and skills acquired throughout the entire program, and cannot be completed during the intervening summer between academic years.

The Two-Year Education Council, at a meeting on April 14, 2008, approved a recommendation to grant this exception. That recommendation is now before the

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Montana Board of Regents for approval, as required by  
Policy 301.12.