

### I. Purpose

To recognize the distinct and unique missions and roles of the institutions in the Montana University System; to configure a system of colleges and universities to meet the educational needs of the citizens of the State of Montana; and to maintain system integrity by defining institutional categories.

### II. Institutional Classifications

- A. Two-year Colleges: [Great Falls College, Helena College, Gallatin College, City College, Missoula College, Highlands College] The Two-year Colleges in the MUS possess a comprehensive community college mission, committed to providing transfer education through the associates degree, workforce development including certificates and applied science degrees, developmental and adult basic education, lifelong learning opportunities, and community development. These institutions provide affordable, open access admissions that will allow opportunities for all Montanan's to access higher education.
- B. Four-year Regional Universities: [MSU Billings, MSU Northern, UM Western] The Four-year Regional Universities in the MUS offer comprehensive education primarily at the baccalaureate level in specific, regional niches that connect with economic development and industry demands within the state. These institutions are embedded with Two-year Colleges and programs that work to enhance the breadth of opportunity for students. When approved by the regents, these institutions may also offer select graduate-level programs. Admissions policies define minimum levels of preparation that match the academic focus of the institution.
- C. Special Focus Four-year Universities: [Montana Tech] Special Focus Four-year Universities possess a high concentration of degrees, typically 75% or more, granted in a single field or set of related fields. Admissions policies define specific preparation levels necessary for student success.
- D. Research Doctoral Universities: [University of Montana, Montana State University] Research Doctoral Universities are comprehensive research institutions offering education from the baccalaureate through the master and doctoral levels. These institutions provide select graduate and professional programs. Doctoral programs correlate with defined research and academic strengths. These institutions make significant contributions to new knowledge, economic development, and the culture of the state. These institutions are embedded with Two-year Colleges that work to enhance the breadth of opportunity for students. Admissions policies define specific preparation levels necessary for student success.

### III. Definitions

- A. Classifications - the general category within which an institution fits as approved by the Regents and based in part upon the Carnegie Center for the Advancement of Teaching classification system.