

**MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**Policy and Procedures Manual**

SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION  
Policy 219.1 – Institutional Mission Parameters; Montana University System

***Effective:***

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**I. Board policy**

A. Recognizing the distinct and unique missions of the institutions in the Montana University System (MUS) that exist to meet the educational needs of the citizens of the State of Montana, the Board of Regents hereby establish the following institutional classifications to serve as mission parameters to guide the MUS.

**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 embody 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 Montanans to access higher education.

B. Regional Comprehensive Universities: [MSU Billings, MSU Northern, UM Western] The Regional Comprehensive Universities in the MUS offer comprehensive education across the certificate, associate, and baccalaureate level in academic and professional program areas of need within the state and across their region. They may also offer select graduate-level programs. Basic and applied research may occur at these institutions. These institutions contribute to economic development, social and cultural enhancement, and civic engagement within their communities and regions. Admissions policies at these institutions define minimum levels of preparation matching the academic focus of the institution.

C. Special Focus Universities: [Montana Tech] Special Focus Universities possess a high concentration of degrees granted, typically 75% or more, in a single field or set of related fields. These institutions offer education primarily at the baccalaureate level. These institutions may also offer select graduate-level programs. These institutions engage in research within the defined area of focus. Admissions policies at these institutions define specific preparation levels necessary for student success at the institution.

D. Research Doctoral Universities: [University of Montana, Montana State University] Research Doctoral Universities are comprehensive research institutions offering education from the certificate, associate, and baccalaureate levels through the master and doctoral levels. These institutions provide select graduate and professional programs correlating with defined research and academic strengths. These institutions are characterized by a high level of research activity and make significant contributions to new knowledge, economic development, and the culture of the state. Admissions policies define specific preparation levels necessary for student success.

History: