

May 18-19, 2022

INFORMATION ITEM

Proposed Revisions to Admissions Policies 301 and 301.1

THAT

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education brings forward a proposal to revise BOR policies 301 and 301.1, which govern admissions, for review and comment by campuses and the Board.

EXPLANATION

The attached draft revisions would merge policies 301 and 301.1, which currently cross-reference each other extensively, to improve their overall clarity and flow. The draft revisions also:

1. Clarify that students with dual enrollment college credits, earned prior to high school graduation, should be admitted as regular applicants, not as transfer applicants.
2. Amend the existing admissions pathway for students who do not meet the math and writing admissions standards to attend four-year institutions. Currently, students who do not meet these proficiency standards may be admitted to four-year institutions provisionally but must pass a college level course in their area of deficiency before they reach 32 credits or three semesters of attendance or face expulsion. Campuses have not been fully complying with this requirement, nor does OCHE believe it is in the campus or student interest for them to comply. The proposed revisions remove the expulsion requirement, replacing it with standards describing services four-year campuses must provide should they admit students who do not meet math and writing proficiency standards. In parallel, OCHE is working with campuses to better track categories of admissions exemptions in the state student data warehouse, so the system can evaluate the performance of these students over time and assess the suitability of this admissions approach.

OCHE has consulted with MACRAO (the state registrar and admissions officer association), MUS chief academic officers, MUS enrollment management leadership, and Montana Associated Students leadership as these proposed revisions were developed.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Proposed revisions to Policy 301
- Attachment 2: Proposed revisions to Policy 301.1