

Request for Exception to BOR 301.12: AAS in Respiratory Care

MSU-Great Falls College of Technology

UM – Missoula College of Technology

Areas of Exception:

BOR 301.12 requires that an AAS degree program comprise no more than 72 credits and must be designed for completion in no more than two academic years, of which one intervening summer semester can be included.

MSU – Great Falls College of Technology was initially identified by the Academic Affairs Committee of the Two Year Education Council as being out of compliance on both requirements with respect to its AAS degree in Respiratory Care:

- The total credits in the degree totaled 83.
- The program required an additional prerequisite semester prior to the two-year sequence of course work, which includes an intervening summer session.

MSU – Great Falls College of Technology has dropped the requirement for Microbiology and changed the ratio of its credits for clinical course work from 1 credit: 3 clinical hours to 1 credit: 4 clinical hours, thereby eliminating 10 credits from the program and bringing it to 73 credits. Without significant revamping of the curriculum to embed components required by COARC, the total credits cannot be further reduced. The Academic Affairs Committee of the Two-Year Education Council recommended that the request for a 1-credit exception to BOR 301.12 be granted by the Board of Regents.

In addition, the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that the additional prerequisite semester be granted as an exception to the policy for both Respiratory Care programs, the one offered by MSU – Great Falls, as well as the one offered by UM – Missoula College of Technology. The COARC requirement for a two-course sequence in Anatomy and Physiology makes it impossible for the course work to be completed in one semester.