

MEMO

TO: MUS Chief Academic Officers

FROM: Joseph Thiel, Interim Deputy Commissioner, ARSA

DATE: XXXXX

RE: BOR 301.11 Compliance Guidelines and FAQ

The Montana Board of Regents revised BOR Policy 301.11 “Undergraduate Degree Requirements” at their November 21st, 2025 meeting. These revisions were the product of a system academic processes working group, which consulted faculty and academic leadership throughout the 2024-25 academic year to arrive at clearer shared definitions of the content requirements of a Montana University System baccalaureate degree.

The revised policy establishes clear requirements for baccalaureate programs:

1. All baccalaureate degrees must include
 - a. General Education
 - b. Major requirements
 - c. Electives
2. Major requirements can be no more than:
 - a. 40% of total credits for a B.A (48 credits in a 120 credit major)
 - b. 67% of total credits for a B.S. (80 credits in a 120 credit major)
 - c. 67% of total credits for a Bachelor of Practice (e.g. BFA, BSN) (80 credits in a 120 credit major)
3. Any course required on a plan of study for a major must be included in the maximum number of credits (e.g. a specific general education course is required for a major, the major requires a foreign language that is separate from a general education language requirement, a specific minor is required for the major)

New programs must be in compliance with this policy or receive an exception from the Board.

Existing programs must be in compliance with this policy when they complete their next BOR-required program review, but no later than 7-years after passage (November 2033).

FAQs

1. I can't bring my program into compliance because accreditation and licensing standards require specific courses

You may ask for an exception to this policy citing the specific rationale from the accreditation or licensing board.

2. I can't bring my program into compliance because employers require specific courses/skills

You may ask for an exception to this policy citing the specific rationale from your advisory board or other employment sources.

3. How soon do I have to bring programs into compliance?

Compliance will be phased in accordance with your institution's OCHE program review schedule.

4. I have a program up for review in November 2026 that needs significant curricular change. What should I do?

Your campus academic officer may request to delay the OCHE program review to accommodate programs that need more time to come into compliance (or to justify an exception). Work with OCHE staff to update your institution's review schedule. All programs must comply or have been granted an exception by November 2033.