

# MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

## Policy and Procedures Manual

SUBJECT: STUDENT AFFAIRS

Policy 501.2 – 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarship

*Adopted October 28, 1977; Revised November 20, 2015*

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### I. Board policy:

A. The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes the Commissioner of Higher Education to offer 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarships annually. To qualify, students must graduate with an associate degree from one of the following schools: Dawson Community College; Flathead Valley Community College; Miles Community College; City College at Montana State University Billings; Montana State University - Northern; Great Falls College Montana State University; Gallatin College Montana State University; Missoula College University of Montana; Helena College University of Montana; Highlands College of Montana Tech; The University of Montana Western. Scholarships will be awarded in accordance with the following criteria and procedures.

B. The scholarship consists of a waiver of undergraduate tuition at any 4-year unit of the Montana University System. The waiver only applies to the student's home campus (defined as the school at which the student matriculates until such time as the student formally transfers to another eligible campus). No fees, mandatory or miscellaneous, including additional fees for on-line classes, program fees or other charges, are waived by this policy.<sup>1</sup>

C. The scholarship may be received for a total of four continuous (fall/spring) undergraduate semesters and is transferable between eligible campuses provided the student maintains a 3.4 GPA at the home campus at the end of the academic year and demonstrates progress toward a degree by completing at least 30 credit hours per year. If the student is not able to obtain the credits or the GPA requirements due to circumstances beyond his or her control, the student may appeal to the financial aid office at his or her home campus. Summer tuition may be waived for an eligible student at the discretion of the home campus.

D. A recipient must utilize the scholarship beginning with the next chronological semester after receiving his or her associate degree, excluding summer semester.

E. To waive tuition or receive credit for classes taken on-line at MUS qualifying campuses other than the home campus, recipients must first contact and make appropriate arrangements with the home campus.

F. Students lose eligibility by non-enrollment, obtaining lower than 3.4 GPA at the end of each academic year, not completing at least 30 credit hours by the end of the academic year, or by violating the campus student conduct code.

G. This waiver may not be used in conjunction with any other MUS tuition waiver or with a Governor's Post-Secondary Scholarship.

### II. Eligibility

A. The number of scholarships awarded to graduates from each of the schools listed in I.A above is determined at the end of the academic year by the number of associate degree graduates from each respective school per the following table:

Less than 40 graduates	no scholarships
40 to 139 graduates	1 scholarship
140 to 239 graduates	2 scholarships

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<sup>1</sup> See Section 940.13 of the Policy and Procedures Manual concerning administration of fee waivers.

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240 to 339 graduates	3 scholarships
340 to 439 graduates	4 scholarships
More than 440 graduates	5 scholarships

- B. A student is eligible to receive a 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarship providing the student:
1. Has earned an associate's degree from one of the schools listed under Board Policy (I.A), with a minimum of 3.4 cumulative GPA;
  2. Has been enrolled and in attendance at one of the schools listed under Board Policy (I.A) for a minimum of two semesters prior to graduating;
  3. Has been accepted by or is enrolled at an eligible 4-year Montana campus; and
  4. Is a United States citizen.

### III. Procedures:

A. Eligible students must apply for the scholarship. An eligible student may only apply for a 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarship from the school from which the student received his or her associate degree. Before the student may submit an application, the student must apply to and be accepted by one of the eligible 4-year campuses. A completed scholarship application, along with any required supplemental materials, must be submitted to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) by June 30 of the award year. Any student who does not submit the application and materials by the deadline will not be eligible for the scholarship.

B. Each school listed under Board Policy (I.A) shall provide a graduating class ranking list that includes students' grade point averages to the OCHE no later than June 30 of the award year.

C. The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education will award scholarships based upon the applicant's cumulative Grade Point Average;

1. In the event of ties, the student(s) with the greatest financial need will be awarded the scholarship(s), where need is defined as the lowest Expected Family Contribution as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This information will be based on the student's FAFSA the year the student graduates with his or her associate degree. If the student does not file a FAFSA, the student will be deemed to have no financial need. If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by OCHE's evaluation of the applicants' responses to a standard essay question, included with the application. In the event the student does not include a response to the essay question, the student will not be considered in this final step of the process.
2. If the recipient of a 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarship decides not to attend an eligible campus, the student should relinquish the scholarship at once. In such cases, the scholarship may be awarded to the next eligible student.

### IV. Implementation

This policy is effective the date it is approved by the Board of Regents. All requirements of this revised policy shall apply immediately.

#### History:

Item 5-006-R0774, Policy regarding Fee Waivers, Montana University System, amended June 7, 1976 (rescinded); Item 18-006-R1077, Honor Scholarships, Montana University System, October 28, 1977 as revised November 20, 1997 and November 18, 1999 (Item 104-103-R0999); as revised by the Task Force on Fees Report approved by the Board of Regents on March 24, 2000

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with an effective date of Academic Year 2002; Item #149-104-R1110 revised November 19, 2011. Item 169-101-1115 revised November 20, 2015.