DRAFT: Access

Goal Statement: Montana State University is committed to widening access to higher education and seeks to ensure equality of opportunity for all applicants.

Measurable Outcomes

1) Increase in undergraduate population of 15% and an increase in graduate population of 20%, by 2020.

2) Increase in number of students taking on-line courses of 40% by 2015.

3) Montana State University will attract a greater number and proportion of non-resident students. Approximately 30% of undergraduate students will be nonresidents by 2015.

4) The student body will be more diverse by 2020. For example, the number of Native American students enrolled will increase as will the number of international students.

5) The Fall-to-Fall retention rate of our incoming freshmen students will increase to 82% by 2017, which will ultimately lead to an increase in graduation rates.

6) Incoming freshmen will be better prepared than they are today. The number of freshmen with 3.60, and higher high school GPAs will increase to 715. The percentage of Montana University System Honors Scholarship recipients who choose MSU will increase to 55%.

Vision

- We are open and transparent, equitable and fair in our processes and procedures of admission
- We seek to admit applicants who have the potential to succeed regardless of background
- We minimize barriers to entry whilst protecting our academic standards
- We recognize that academic achievement should be one part of a wider contextual assessment of the individual.
- Maintain a comprehensive program of outreach of integrating learning, discovery, and engagement in order to increase opportunities and raise the aspirations and improve the quality of life of young people and adults for higher education
- Provide financial support to students from low-income backgrounds and students of merit to maximize opportunities for them to study and succeed at the University
- Ensure all students receive the interdisciplinary and pastoral support needed to help them thrive and succeed.

We believe access to a world-class education should be open to all based on talent, ability and potential.

Our over-riding principle for admissions is to ensure that we continue to admit the students with the academic potential to succeed at Montana State University.

Montana State University aims to provide fair and equal access to all prospective students who have the potential to benefit from and contribute to the academic life at a research-intensive university. Montana State University recognizes that, in order to provide fair and equal access to all prospective students, it may need to demonstrate a flexible approach and, where appropriate make adjustments for individual applicants’.