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High school seniors to take new college admissions test

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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With about a month remaining before high school seniors in 14 states take a new college admissions test, Leo Smith, Montana State University registrar, announced that all of the colleges and universities in Montana will participate in the program.

Smith, state coordinator of the program, said that all Montana institutions of higher education have joined the American College Testing (ACT) program, which will administer its first examination at 18 centers throughout the state November 7. Students in all 14 states will write the test that day.

Smith estimated that 2,500 Montana students would take the 36-page, three-hour ACT examination.

High school students will pay a $3 fee to take the test. As part of the fee, their scores may be sent to three colleges designated by them for enrollment in 1960.

Tests used in ACT are designed to assess general intellectual abilities in English, mathematics, social studies, and natural sciences. ACT tests are constructed by Science Research Associates of Chicago under the general direction of Dr. E. F. Lindquist of the State University of Iowa.

The test may be taken by students for counseling and guidance uses apart from college admission purposes, according to Smith.

ACT test scoring and reporting will be done by high-speed electronic computers designed by Dr. Lindquist at Measurement Research Center, Inc., a nonprofit corporation at the State University of Iowa. More than 2 1/2 million test answer sheets were scored last year on MRC equipment. The electronic scoring "brains" grade and report 6,000 answer sheets an hour with astonishing accuracy, Smith said.

(more)
Montana colleges and universities participating in the ACT program are Carroll College, College of Great Falls, Custer County Junior College, Dawson County Junior College, Montana State University, Northern Montana College, Rocky Mountain College, Western Montana College of Education, Eastern Montana College of Education, Montana School of Mines, and Montana State College.

The last three schools named will study and compare ACT tests with present programs before deciding what use to make of ACT test results, Smith said.