Montana State University Law School has lowest dropout rate of all state-related law school in Rocky Mountain states

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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The Montana State University Law School has the lowest dropout rate of 11 state-related law schools in the Rocky Mountain states and the plains area, it was reported to the Law School Board of Visitors at its annual fall meeting on campus Thursday.

A major factor in the low attrition rate is the selective admissions policy adopted by the Law School in 1958, the board was told.

Under the policy, the school reviews the applicant's undergraduate academic record and his score on a national legal aptitude test and interviews him personally. If these criteria indicate the applicant is not suited to the study of law, his application is denied. This screening process, or selective admissions, has all but eliminated dropouts for academic deficiencies, according to Dean Robert E. Sullivan.

As a rule, only applicants who have earned an undergraduate degree are admitted, but exceptional students are sometimes accepted with only three years of undergraduate work, the dean said. In 1960, one such student was admitted and in 1961 there were three.

Of 80 applicants for the 1961-62 term, 48 were accepted and 32 freshmen and one junior actually enrolled, the dean reported. Of the 15 accepted who did not enroll, five indicated they would enter the MSU Law School in 1962, four are attending other law schools and one is doing graduate work in another field.

The 33 students who entered this year took their pre-legal training at 14 colleges and universities. Fifteen of them did their undergraduate work at MSU, four at Montana State College and the rest at schools in other states.

The MSU Law School's current enrollment of 76 includes 20 seniors, 24 juniors and 32 freshmen, the dean said.

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