THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

New Mexico State University (NMSU) was founded in 1888 as the state’s land-grant university. Through serving the educational needs of New Mexico’s diverse population, NMSU has provided comprehensive programs of education, research, extension education and public service. Upon its founding, NMSU was known as Las Cruces College and later renamed New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. In 1960, the constitution of New Mexico formally recognized the institution as NMSU. Today, NMSU is a major institution of higher education. Throughout its history, the university has preserved many traditions of its land-grant origin while also increasing emphasis on the fine arts, humanities, social and natural sciences.

Mission

New Mexico State University is the state’s land-grant university, serving the educational needs of New Mexico’s diverse population through comprehensive programs of education, research, extension education, and public service.

Vision

New Mexico State University will be a premier university as evidenced by demonstrated and quantifiable excellence in teaching, research, extension, outreach, service, economic development, and community engagement relative to its peer institutions.

Values

- Diversity and Inclusion
- Accountability
- Excellence
- Discovery
- Engagement

NMSU’s Values began as a project completed by the first class of the Aggie Leadership Training Academy (https://training.nmsu.edu/alta/2015aggie-leadership-training-academy). In the fall of 2016, the University Administrative Council started with that work, and members contributed their top five values (http://provost.nmsu.edu/plan/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2012/07/Values-12_12_16.pdf). This list was compiled from those contributions.

Accreditation

New Mexico State University has been accredited by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) since 1926. The HLC may be contacted at:

The Higher Learning Commission
230 North LaSalle St.
Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411
Phone: (800) 621-7440

In addition, the university maintains various specialized and professional accreditations, as listed at the beginning of each college section in the catalog, and as found at https://accreditation.nmsu.edu/specialized-accreditation/.