Recognition of Academic Achievement

Degrees and Certificates earned are recorded on the student’s academic record.

**Attendance at Commencement**

The Vice President for Student Services ("VPSS") will confirm eligibility to participate in commencement exercises held at the close of the spring semester. Eligible candidates (registered for final degree requirements, as certified by the VPSS) and degree recipients from the previous summer and fall sessions will participate in the spring ceremony.

Commencement is a symbolic ceremony. Participation in commencement does not, in itself, mean that a student is considered a NMSU graduate. In order to be awarded a degree, a student must fulfill university requirements as determined by academic colleges. The degree will reflect the graduation date from the application for degree in which all degree requirements were determined by the academic colleges.

**Applying for One-Year Certificate or Two-Year Associate Degree**

Eligible students are required to submit an application for a certificate or associate degree by the deadline and pay applicable fees as published in the Schedule of Classes for the semester. The certificate application forms are available in the Student Services Office and information regarding the online degree application process is available at [http://registrar.nmsu.edu/registrar-services-online/](http://registrar.nmsu.edu/registrar-services-online/). It is recommended that students print a certificate or degree audit through their my.nmsu.edu (http://my.nmsu.edu) account and have it reviewed by an academic advisor in Counseling and Student Development Center at least one semester prior to registration for their last semester and also give a copy of the audit to Student Services Office staff for the student file. If certificate or degree requirements are not completed during the semester for which the student applied, the student must reapply and pay applicable fees.

The earliest catalog you may select is the catalog in effect the first semester you attended college, or any subsequent catalog, provided it is not more than six years old when requirements are met.

**Recognition of Academic Achievement**

NMSU has a number of university-wide programs that recognize academic achievement. These include the Honors College, the Crimson Scholars Program, the dean’s report of academic achievement and graduation with honors. In addition, many colleges and departments have their own programs and awards that recognize the academic achievement of their students.

**Crimson Scholar Programs**

Crimson Scholars is a recognition program for academically superior students. You do not need to apply to be Crimson Scholar. At the beginning of each semester that you qualify as a Crimson Scholar, you will receive an email message confirming your status. Crimson Scholars receive a number of benefits, including:

**Privileges**

- You become automatically eligible for all Honors classes;
- Early Registration allows you to have the first choice of classes;
- Library Privileges include being able to check books out for an extended period;
- You may have the opportunity for independent study, research projects and other meaningful work, guided by NMSU faculty;
- Eligible Crimson Scholars receive a lapel pin (Crimson Status for 24 credits), recognition on the commencement program (Crimson Scholar status for 75 credits) and notation on their transcript as a Crimson Scholar Graduate (Crimson Scholar status for 90 credits).

**Qualifications**

- **Degree seeking undergraduates**, enrolled for three or more credits per semester at NMSU (main campus or one of the branch campuses);
- **New Freshman** (27 credits or less) with an ACT composite score of 26 or better (or an equivalent SAT score), or an ACT score of 24-25 (or an equivalent SAT score) and a 3.75 or higher High School GPA are eligible. These students must maintain a 3.5 minimum cumulative GPA to continue in the program;
- **Transfer Students** must have a 3.5 minimum cumulative GPA at their previous institution(s) to be eligible and must maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA to continue in the program;
- **Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors** must have a 3.5 minimum cumulative GPA to continue in the program;
- **Currently enrolled** Crimson Scholars whose cumulative GPA drops below the required 3.5 will be dropped from the program. If the student’s cumulative GPA again meets minimum requirements the following semester, the student will automatically be reinstated.

**Dean’s Report of Academic Achievement**

Following the close of the semester, the Carlsbad Office of Student Services publishes a list of students who have achieved honor standing in grades for the previous semester. To be eligible, a student must have been enrolled in 12 or more semester credits with a computable grade in each. The top 15 percent of eligible students by college for that semester will be named to the Dean’s Honor list.

**Graduation with Honors**

To be eligible for a four-year degree with honors, a student must have earned at least 60 semester credits in computable grades while in residence at New Mexico State. The number of students at graduation receiving degrees with honors in any one year shall not exceed 15 percent. To receive high honors, a student must be in the top 1.5 percent of the graduating class by college. One person from each college will receive highest honors. In case of a tie, the student with the greatest numbers of credits earned at NMSU with computable grades will be awarded highest honors for each college. Of the students receiving highest honors from the fall and spring commencements, the student with the highest grade-point average and the greatest number of credits earned at NMSU with computable grades will be awarded the Class of 1919 Scholarship Plaque.