THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

A number of academic departments of the university have a long history of providing formal graduate study. The first master's degree from NMSU was awarded in 1896. In 1921, the president of NMSU appointed a committee to oversee graduate study. The Graduate School was formally established in 1956 with a full-time dean, and in the same year, 57 master’s degrees were awarded.

The Graduate School mission is to facilitate the exchange of ideas and the creation of knowledge, while fostering academic excellence. The Graduate School promotes a high-quality learning environment that embraces diversity. New Mexico State University is one of the few research extensive universities that reflect Hispanic, Native American, and other American cultures and the world. Our international students from Latin American, Asian, African and European countries add to the richness of our diversity. The quality of life for our students is of critical importance to the Graduate School and NMSU. We cultivate the collaboration of academic, professional and personal skills while helping students graduate in a timely manner.

Policies

Since graduate degrees are awarded for attainment in scholarship, the requirements stated in this catalog are to be considered as minimal. The major department or the dean of the graduate school may make additional requirements as deemed necessary for each candidate. Each student’s program is subject to the approval of the respective department head. Responsibility for securing approval of the proposed program of study rests with the student. Frequent consultation with the advisor is essential to satisfactory progress toward degree completion.

Graduate Degree Programs

For a full listing of the Graduate Programs offered at New Mexico State University; please see the Graduate Admissions webpage http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/graduate-programs/.

Admission for Graduate Students

A student seeking admission to graduate school at New Mexico State University must hold a minimum of a bachelor’s degree or an advanced degree from a regionally accredited institution. The program of preparation should be substantially equivalent in the distribution of academic subject matter to the requirements for a comparable degree at NMSU.

No student is officially admitted into a graduate program until a Certificate of Admission has been issued by the Graduate School. Although the Graduate School considers this certificate valid for a one year period, academic departments may require re-application if the admitted applicant does not enroll in the semester noted in the certificate.

Formal application is required of all prospective students, including graduates of NMSU, who seek admission to a graduate program.

• Students must submit: the Application for Admission as well as other supplemental documents required by the academic department.
• Supplemental documents may include, but are not limited to, unofficial college transcripts, test scores (TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, and GMAT), statement of purpose, writing samples, and letters of recommendation.

If a student is recommended for admission by the academic department, the student will be required to submit official transcripts, test scores, and the appropriate application fee directly to the Graduate School. Other official documents may be required. Official transcripts must be sent directly from the prior colleges or university directly to the Graduate School.

Categories of Graduate Students

A student seeking admission to a graduate program is assigned one of the following categories based upon previous academic performance:

Doctoral Student

To be considered for admission to a doctoral program, an applicant must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.0. Some doctoral degree programs also require a master’s degree or its equivalent.

Master's Regular

An applicant whose scholastic record is satisfactory will be admitted as a regular student. This classification includes:

1. an applicant whose grade-point average is greater than or equal to 3.0, or a grade-point average greater than or equal to 3.0 in the last half of undergraduate work,
2. an international applicant must hold at minimum a four year bachelor’s degree or its equivalent and whose grade-point average (or its equivalent) is greater than or equal to 3.0,
3. a continuing graduate student whose grade-point average is greater than or equal to 3.0, or
4. a student with prior graduate work at another institution whose minimum grade-point average is 3.0.

Master’s Provisional

An applicant whose scholastic record is not satisfactory can be admitted as a provisional student. Students admitted with this classification can be either:

1. transferring graduate students whose cumulative grade-point average is less than a 3.0
2. Students whose grade-point average the last half of undergraduate work is less than a 3.0, but who does have a minimum grade-point average of 2.5

A student admitted provisionally must complete his or her first three courses, a total of 9 credits of graduate work, with a minimum grade-point average of a 3.0. A provisional student who does not meet the 3.0 grade-point average after at least 9 credits of graduate work is subject to dismissal. A student admitted on a provisional basis is prohibited from working as a teaching assistant. However, he or she may work as a research assistant or a grader for one semester. A provisional student can be employed for one semester as a grader. To hire a provisional student, departments must submit an official letter to the Graduate School requesting permission.

Master's Undeclared

An applicant that has not decided on a specific graduate degree program and has an undergraduate minimum grade-point average of 2.5 may be considered for admission as an undeclared master student. International students with an F-1 visa are not eligible for undeclared master status.
Information regarding restrictions as an undeclared master student can be obtained from the Graduate School.

Only undeclared regular status students who meet all Title IV eligibility requirements are eligible to receive federal financial aid for one consecutive 12-month period beginning the first term of enrollment. Questions about financial aid and undeclared master’s should contact Financial Aid and Scholarship Services. An applicant admitted as an undeclared master is not eligible to receive a graduate teaching assistantship.

Undeclared Student Enrollment Restrictions

• Students in this standing are restricted to enrolling in a maximum of 9 graduate credit hours. To continue enrollment the student must apply and be admitted into a degree-seeking program.
• Course restrictions placed by the graduate department may constrain enrollment by an undeclared student.
• An undeclared master student is restricted to transferring 9 graduate credit hours to a degree program.

Change of Status from Undeclared to a Degree Program

Changing status from an undeclared master’s to a degree program requires acceptance to the department by completing a new application for admission.

• If the student has nine graded graduate credit hours, the cumulative minimum grade-point average (GPA) must be 3.0 for the request to be considered.
• Undeclared applicants admitted to a degree program which have fewer than nine graded graduate credits and the undergraduate GPA is between 2.5 to 2.9 the recommendation for admission will be provisional student status.
• If the undergraduate GPA is 3.0 or greater, the admission recommendation will be regular student status.

Admission to a Graduate Certificate Program

The graduate certificate program of study is designed to develop or enhance a focused area of expertise. The primary purpose of a graduate certificate program is to provide specific skill training to meet employment needs locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

A graduate certificate is a focused collection of courses, consisting of 12-18 credits, successfully completed by a student in a given discipline or a set of related disciplines. A graduate certificate is not an official graduate degree of NMSU. A student that successfully completes a certificate program at the graduate level will receive a certificate of completion statement on his or her official transcript and a formal certificate from the Graduate School. A student has three years to complete a graduate certificate program.

The graduate certificate program is offered to both currently enrolled, degree-seeking students and students who enroll solely to obtain a certificate. Currently enrolled degree-seeking students must apply separately to the graduate certificate program. Students wishing to enroll solely in the certificate program must still meet all admissions criteria. Successful completion of a certificate program does not guarantee admission into a graduate degree program.

A student enrolled in a graduate certificate program cannot transfer credits from another institution towards the completion of the program. However, transfer credits taken in a graduate certificate program may be applied towards a graduate degree program in the same area of focus. The number of transfer credits will be determined by the program of study or official degree audit. The time limit on transfer credits is 5 years after the completion of the certificate.

Students only enrolled in a graduate certificate program are not eligible for a graduate assistantship.

Graduate Certificate Student

A student enrolled in a certificate program is not automatically enrolled in a graduate degree seeking program at NMSU. The status will change if he or she applies and is accepted to a graduate degree program. A student enrolled in a graduate certificate program is not eligible for a graduate assistantship.

Application Dates and Deadlines

Contact the graduate degree program for published application deadlines. If the graduate program does not publish a deadline, the Graduate School encourages the applicant to apply by March 15th for fall enrollment and by October 15th for spring enrollment to be considered for financial support. The Graduate School will continue to accept applications 30 days prior to the first day of classes.

Transcripts

An applicant is required to arrange to have one official transcript from each institution attended sent directly to the Graduate School.

If the applicant’s undergraduate coursework is not complete at the time of application, she or he must submit a transcript showing the completion this course work directly after the degree has been granted. No application materials will be returned to the applicant.

Standardized Tests

Certain graduate programs may require standardized test scores for admission. An applicant may be required to take one or more of the following examinations as determined by the academic department:

• Graduate Record Examination,
• the Miller Analogies Test,
• the Graduate Management Admission Test.

(See academic department description for required testing.)

Readmission

An NMSU student who has been out of school for more than two consecutive terms is required to make formal application for readmission to the institution. The application will be reviewed by the academic department and the Graduate School. The application should be submitted at least 30 days prior to the start of the semester.

A student who has attended other institutions during the absence is required to submit official transcripts to the Graduate School prior to the date of registration and be eligible to return to the college or university last attended. Readmission status and academic standing will be determined by previous NMSU academic standing. Academic performance at other institutions attended during the applicant’s absence from NMSU will be taken into consideration in determining the student’s admission status.
Renewal of Application for Admission
The admission credentials for an applicant who does not register for the semester admitted are retained at the Graduate School for a period of one calendar year from the date of application. At the end of this period, credentials are discarded. A student wishing to renew his or her application after the one-year lapse must submit a new application.

Denied Admission
The Graduate School or the department may deny admission if the scholastic record or program of study is judged inadequate. If denied admission by a specific academic department, the applicant may be eligible to seek undeclared status as described in Categories of Graduate Students. If denied by the department, the student may wish to contact the department for additional information.

Admission may be denied to an otherwise qualified applicant when the desired program lacks resources to accommodate additional enrollment.

A student who is denied admission to one program and wishes to be considered for another program must complete a new application for the second program.

Application documents are retained by the Graduate School for one calendar year.

Non-Degree Admission
Non-degree admission is designed to meet the needs of an applicant who does not wish to pursue a degree or who has not yet completed the application process to a specific program. Academic advising for non-degree students is obtained from the academic department. No more than 9 graduate credits earned in non-degree status may be transferred to a graduate degree program. NMSU only recognizes graduate credit for non-degree work from the University of New Mexico (UNM). Transfer credit is restricted to 6 credits with the approval of the appropriate department, the college dean, and the graduate dean. A student classified as non-degree is not eligible to receive financial aid, student employment, or institutional tuition waivers; nor is he or she eligible to participate in student government or intercollegiate athletics; and is not eligible to receive benefits from veterans’ programs.

Visiting Student
A visiting student is a student taking graduate credit to transfer to his or her home institution. An Application for Admission to the Graduate School must be submitted 30 days prior to registration. The student is required to submit unofficial transcripts; however, the academic department must concur and admit a visiting student. Visiting students are not eligible for undeclared status or for graduate assistantships.

Out-of-State Students and Legal Jurisdiction
By applying for admission/enrollment, both the student and parents agree that New Mexico law prevails and all litigation will be held in New Mexico federal court or state court in Dona Ana County, New Mexico.

Contact Information
For more information, contact:
Graduate School, MSC 3-GS
New Mexico State University

International Graduate Students
English Proficiency for Admission
- TOEFL 79 IBT; 550 PBT
- 6.5 IELTS

International students admitted with TOEFL 68 to 78 IBT, 520 to 549 PBT or 6.0 IELTS are required to sit for the English Placement Exam prior to beginning academic coursework. (The International Student and Scholar Services Office arranges this test upon arrival). If the results of the English Placement Exam do not meet the requirements for academic coursework the student may be required to take additional academic English classes (ENGL 1105M Intermediate ESL Composition and Grammar Review and/or ENGL 471 M Scholarly Writing for International Graduate Students).

English Proficiency
All international students seeking a teaching assistantship must demonstrate proficiency in English and competency in pedagogy. Prior to the first semester in which the teaching assistantship is to be received, international students must undergo the NMSU International Teaching Assistant (ITA) screening administered by the Center for English Language Programs (CELP) on behalf of the Graduate School. Students who pass the screening exam are immediately eligible for assignment to a teaching assistantship.

The ITAS requires that a teaching assistant candidate deliver a short, ten minute teaching demonstration of a typical introductory undergraduate level course in a specific area relevant to the his or her area of studies. The demonstration is observed by CELP faculty and an actual undergraduate student.

Based on the results of this exercise, a full report by the CELP observers will be presented to the head of the department in which the graduate student wishes to be a teaching assistant. Those who do not pass the screening exam must enroll in and satisfactorily complete COMM 485 International Teaching Assistant Development before being eligible for a teaching assistantship.

International graduate students wishing to hold a teaching assistantship should check with their department to determine when they should arrive on campus to meet the screening requirement. International students who don't pass the screening exam may be eligible to serve as graders for their academic departments. The academic departments must receive approval from the Graduate School in order to hire these students.

The ITA can be waived for international students who hold a degree from an accredited university in the United States, or a country where English is the official language of instruction. Departments also have the discretion to allow waivers for special circumstances.

Graduate School, MSC 3-GS
New Mexico State University
Enrollment
All international graduate students on F-1 or J-1 visas are required to comply with Department of Homeland Security regulations governing maintenance of status related to full-time enrollment and making normal progress toward completing a degree. Therefore, all international graduate students are required to enroll in 9 or more credits (exclusive of audited work) during fall and spring semesters.

Transfer of Graduate Credits into a Degree Program
1. Graduate credits taken at NMSU as undergraduate electives may be transferred to the student’s graduate program at NMSU.
2. Graduate credits from another university may be transferred to NMSU, provided the credits were earned on the campus of an accredited institution.
3. Transferred course work (credit and hours) is maintained separately from NMSU course work.
4. Immediately after initial enrollment in the Graduate School, students must submit forms to obtain formal permission from their advisor, department head, and the dean of the Graduate School to transfer graduate-level course work. The department has the responsibility to accept or reject any number of transferred credits based on such elements as whether the work fits into a logical program for a degree, if grades of A or B have been earned in the courses proposed for transfer, and any other elements it deems relevant. Credit granted for work done at another institution is tentative until proven by satisfactory work in residence. The department may also require work to be validated by examination.
5. Transfer credits must meet the same time-limit requirements (seven years) as master level graduate classes at NMSU.
6. Course work taken at other institutions after initiation of Graduate School at NMSU must have prior approval of the department head and the dean of the Graduate School if such work is to be transferred. All requirements as to accreditation, level, grades and other elements described for initial transfer work will apply. Request for Transfer of Credit forms are available online at http://provost.nmsu.edu/gradschool/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2015/04/transfer_of_credit_form.pdf

Graduate Certificates
Students enrolled in certificate programs may not transfer credits from another institution towards the completion of the certificate program offered by NMSU. However, they can transfer credits taken in a graduate certificate program at NMSU into a graduate degree program at NMSU, provided that the courses will lead towards a graduate degree in the focused area of the certificate program. The number of transfer credits will be determined by the program of study. The time limit on course transfer is five years after the completion of the certificate.

Master’s Level
In order to meet residency requirements at the master’s degree level, students must take at least 50 percent of their required coursework at NMSU.

Masters of Fine Arts
Before consideration for candidacy, the department head and the graduate advisor will determine the number of transferable credits from a previous graduate program.

Specialist in Education Degree
A maximum of 6 graduate credits earned at another approved institution may apply to the Specialist in Education degree. Transfer credits must have been earned during the five-year period prior to completion of the specialist in education degree.

Doctorate Level
At the doctoral level, students may transfer course work that logically fits into the program of study.

Funding Opportunities for Graduate Students
The Graduate School offers awards, assistantships and fellowships to qualified graduate students. All awards require faculty nominations. Continuing and newly admitted students can request either a faculty member or the department head to nominate them for the awards of the Graduate School. In selecting individuals for any assistantship or fellowship and in the administration of appointments, New Mexico State University will not discriminate on grounds of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status. The University limits the number of years a student may be supported on funds from the state of New Mexico. Departments may place additional limitations on the years of support. The student must be admitted to the Graduate School before a request for an assistantship or fellowship will be considered by the department or the Graduate School. For detailed information, application process and deadlines please consult http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/ga-resources/.


Assistantships

Students with assistantships must ensure that they are enrolled in, as well as successfully complete, 9 graded credits for full-time status. Graduate assistants should take no more than 15 course credits per semester. Students must also maintain a 3.0 grade-point-average. Courses taken for audit may count for the total course load, but may not be counted in the minimum graduate assistant course load requirement. If course deficiencies are identified, the student can register for 3 undergraduate credits and a minimum of 6 graded graduate credits during their first semester at NMSU to be eligible for a graduate assistantship. The duties of a graduate assistantship normally require about 20 hours per week (full-time, fall and spring) of student's time.
Teaching Assistantships
A student seeking appointment as a teaching assistant will be required to demonstrate proficiency in communication skills necessary for satisfactory service in the classroom. All graduate students awarded an assistantship must complete the online mandatory orientation offered by the Graduate School. Departments may also require students to complete workshops/orientations in order to qualify for assistantships.

Eligibility for teaching assistantships includes:

• Acceptance by and subsequent registration in the Graduate School and academic department
• Classification as a “regular” graduate student
• All international students seeking a teaching assistantship must demonstrate proficiency in English and competency in Pedagogy.

Assistantships for Provisional Graduate Students
Graduate students accepted on a provisional basis cannot serve as teaching assistants. However, they can serve as research assistants. Eligibility includes:

• Acceptance by and subsequent registration in the Graduate School and academic department
• Classification as a provisional graduate student
• Enrolling in and successfully complete 9 graded credits with a minimum of 3.0 GPA.
• Funded on research projects of the faculty of NMSU

Provisional students can also be hired as graders for one semester. The department must hire the student as a Graduate other at the time of completing the hiring path, so that the student be allowed to work as a grader.

Diversity Graduate Assistantships
The diversity awards are awarded thru the nominations process and allocated to departments on a competitive basis to help increase the diversity and quality of the student body. Departments will commit matching funds to support these awards for the student. The diversity award can be used to recruit domestic students. Please note that the award is for an academic year. Departments will need to commit funds to the selected student for at least one additional semester or preferably a year. The selected student must be admitted to the department prior to being nominated for the diversity award.

Fellowships
The Graduate School maintains a Fellowship and Grant Information webpage http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/funding-opportunities/ providing a database of grants, fellowships and assistantships for graduate students. The university offers a number of fellowships available to both new and continuing students.

Graduate Assistant Tuition Fellowships
As an opportunity for departments to recruit and nominate outstanding graduate students to their programs, the Graduate School awards tuition fellowships to graduate assistants. Master’s degree students will receive up to two years of support and doctoral degree students will receive up to three years of support. In order for students to qualify for a second and third year of support, they must maintain their status as graduate assistants for the duration of the tuition fellowship period. These awards are for students receiving 10 hour or 20 hour graduate assistantships.

Students must be enrolled in and successfully complete 9 graded credits with a minimum of 3.0 GPA. The tuition fellowships do not include fees.

McNair Graduate Assistantships
The Graduate School wishes to support and recognize the success of the McNair program by offering several McNair Graduate Assistantships for one academic year with a match of one year from a department. Students must be nominated by the department for this award.

Merit-Based Enhancement Fellowships for Current Graduate Assistants
To help departments reward outstanding graduate assistants, the Graduate School offers Merit-Based Enhancement Fellowships to graduate assistants who are engaged in the teaching or research mission of New Mexico State University. The amount of the award is $4,000 for an academic year. Nominations must come from faculty.

Outstanding Graduate Assistantship Award
We also offer Outstanding Graduate Assistant awards of $2,000 to recognize the contributions of graduate assistants to the teaching and research mission of New Mexico State University. The awards allow faculty to show appreciation for the excellent work of graduate assistants. Current graduate assistants must be nominated by their faculty to be considered for the awards.

State of New Mexico Department of Higher Education (NMHED) Graduate Scholarship Programs
The State of New Mexico Higher Education Department Graduate Scholarship Program offers Graduate Fellowships/Assistantships for women and minority persons who are citizens or permanent U.S. residents and who are a first year student or a student that is beginning graduate studies in any graduate department at the master’s or doctoral level at NMSU. The selected student must be admitted to a graduate program prior to applying for this award.

NMHED fellowships carry stipends of $7,200 per annum and matched with half-time (10 hours per week) teaching assistantship provided by the student’s department for a total award of $15,800.

Eligibility:

• Priority will be given to New Mexico students from those groups with the most severe under-representation and students with the greatest financial need.
• A citizen of the United States or permanent resident.
• Agree to serve in an unpaid internship or assistantship at the eligible institutions, a government agency or private industry approved by his major department for ten hours per week during the academic year.
• Eligible according to a standard needs analysis or financial aid officer’s professional judgement.

The total amount of this award is based on the salary for a 20 hour graduate assistantship and usually increases from year to year, based on raises awarded by the State of New Mexico.

Fellowships are available for two years for master’s students and four years for doctoral students. One of the NMHED fellowships is, when possible, designated for a McNair Scholar. The nomination process can be found at: http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/funding-opportunities/.

In order for the student to establish financial need, students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form available online in the Financial Aid Office. This form is not to be returned.
to the Graduate School. The results will be sent to the student and the Financial Aid Office. Students must have a complete file and have been approved for financial aid to be considered for this fellowship.

Preference will be given to those students that have a current FAFSA form on file at the NMSU Financial Aid office.

Graduate Assistants Salaries and Tax Withholding Guidelines

Internal Revenue Service tax withholding guidelines require graduate students employed through New Mexico State University to maintain at least 6 credits of course work during the fall and spring semesters and 3 credits of course work for summer sessions to be eligible for the student FICA tax exemption. Student employees who do not meet this requirement during any given pay period will be subject to Social Security taxes at the rate of 6.2% and Medicare taxes at the rate of 1.45%. Salaries for graduate assistants in 2018-2019 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Salary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I- G1</td>
<td>$16,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II- G2</td>
<td>$17,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III- G3</td>
<td>$17,772</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Level I (G1) - Applies to regularly enrolled students pursuing a master’s degree. This level is also for a first year student seeking a doctoral degree who does not currently hold a master's degree. Once the doctoral student becomes a second year student and passes their qualifying exam, they can obtain support as a Level II (G2) student.

Level II (G2) - Applies to students pursuing the Education Specialist or Doctoral degree who have passed the qualifying exam or who have a master’s degree in the same or cognate field and the recommendation of the head of their major department.

Level III (G3) - Applies to a doctoral student who has passed the comprehensive examination and has advanced to candidacy.

Graduate assistants employed at least ten hours per week will be given in-state tuition during the first 12 months of tenure if Human Resources approve the hiring process prior to census date (stated by the University Student Records Office as the third Friday of the semester each spring and fall semester).

If New Mexico resident status has not been established by the time of any reappointment, the graduate assistant may be subject to non-resident tuition rates.

Applications for state residency may be obtained in the University Student Records Office located in the Educational Services building.

Social Security Numbers in Student Records

As required by law, social security numbers are collected from prospective and current students who

1. plan to seek employment on campus or
2. wish to receive financial aid.

In addition, the university is mandated by federal tax regulations to provide tuition and fee payment information to the student and the Internal Revenue Service, so that applicable educational tax credits may be computed. The social security number will be necessary to submit this tax reporting. The social security number is a confidential record and is maintained as such by the university in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

In order to be employed by New Mexico State University all students must have obtained a social security number within eight weeks of being hired or risk losing their assistantship.

When an official social security number is issued to an international student, it is the student’s responsibility to inform Human Resources or the University Student Records Office as soon as possible.

Hourly Work

Eligibility for student payroll requires that a graduate student

1. be admitted to the Graduate School as well as to a department,
2. maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, and
3. be enrolled for at least 9 graded credits.

A student may not work more than 20 hours per week during the academic year. Students looking for current job postings should check with Career Services, Garcia Annex, Room 204; or visit http://careerservices.nmsu.edu/.

Students not classified as residents of New Mexico but working at an hourly rate are not eligible to receive in-state tuition.

Contact Information

For more information, contact:

Graduate School, MSC 3-GS
New Mexico State University
PO Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
Phone: (575) 646-5746
http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Those individuals who are exemplary scholars, who have recently been awarded a doctoral degree, but who wish to continue their education and research experience under the direction of a professor at New Mexico State University are classified as postdoctoral. The postdoctoral fellowship is a regular professional appointment normally for one or two years. Under no circumstances will an individual remain in this classification for more than three years.

Postdoctoral fellowships are advertised and applications are submitted to the hiring department in compliance with the guidelines for hiring professional staff, but without the requirement for a position description questionnaire. An “E-Hire” staffing authorization request must be submitted to the office of Human Resources by the hiring department.

No offer of employment may be made until approval has been given by Human Resources.

A postdoctoral fellow has the following privileges:

• may take 6 credits in spring and fall semesters, 4 credits per summer session without tuition charge
• is eligible to purchase an employee parking permit
• is eligible for other employee benefits available to regular employees, including annual and sick leave, as well as health, dental, and life insurances
• may purchase athletic tickets, activity tickets, and gymnasium privileges
• is eligible for library privileges

Persons classified as postdoctoral fellows pay Social Security and New Mexico State Educational Retirement.

The University recognizes and supports the concept of off-campus study and research as a valuable experience for graduate students. These experiences may take the form of internships, intensive study of specialized techniques with personnel at other institutions, and conducting research at specialized research facilities. Arrangements for such off-campus activities should be made with the student’s committee and the graduate dean and should represent opportunities not normally available at this university. When the bulk of a student’s research is to be conducted off-campus, both on- and off-campus advisors should be appointed and periodic meetings with the student’s committee held to ensure timely progress. Such opportunities offer students considerable flexibility in their training and promote valuable contacts between the student, the university, industry, and research institutions. Students are encouraged to pursue these opportunities with their advisors and the graduate dean.

Agricultural Experiment Station

The Agricultural Experiment Station is the research division of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Faculty, professional personnel, and graduate students conduct basic and applied research concerned with biological, physical, and economic phases of food and fiber production, processing, and distribution; consumer health and nutrition; and the social and economic aspects of rural living. Energy, environmental, and natural resource conservation aspects of these broad disciplines offer many opportunities for the graduate student to undertake meaningful research investigations in both the laboratory and the field.

There are eight departments on the main campus with excellent laboratory facilities for research. In addition, the station maintains 13 field research centers including eight agricultural science centers, a forestry research center, a livestock research center, an animal insect lab, and two research ranches.

The station provides financial support to graduate research assistants and cooperates with research institutes at the university and with various state and federal agencies in providing opportunities for graduate research programs covering a wide scope of student interests. For further information, contact aesdean@nmsu.edu or visit http://aces.nmsu.edu/aes/.

Apache Point Observatory (APO-ARC)

Apache Point Observatory (APO) is located in the mountains of southwestern New Mexico and is operated by New Mexico State University. The observatory is a major astronomical research facility that is home to four telescopes. The largest is a fully equipped 3.5-meter telescope that can be used for optical and infrared imaging, photometry, and spectroscopy. Apache Point Observatory is also the site of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey 2.5-meter telescope, which is running several different wide-field surveys touching on many facets of astronomy. NMSU owns and operates a 1-meter telescope at APO for wide field imaging. There is also a 0.5-meter telescope at the site.

Apache Point Observatory is owned by the Astrophysical Research Consortium (ARC). The consortium members include: New Mexico State University, the University of Colorado, the University of Virginia, the University of Washington, Georgia State University and Johns Hopkins University. NMSU manages and operates the observatory for the ARC consortium. Astronomy faculty and graduate students use the facility for various research projects. For further information, e-mail astro@nmsu.edu.

Arts and Sciences Research Center

The research center is the coordinating office for all scholarly activities within the College of Arts and Sciences. The primary functions are service to departments and faculty members, and the administration of grants and contracts. The center encourages and stimulates individual research and creative efforts in all areas of the college, and it facilitates the development of potential research programs within the college, and with other colleges, institutes, the Physical Science Laboratory, and external organizations. The center assists individual faculty members by providing small grants of “seed” money. Typically, support services fall within, but are not limited to, the following areas:

• Location of funding sources
• Administration of grants and contracts
• Financial management of grants and contracts
• Liaison with the Office of the Vice President for Research

Contact: Lorenza Sanchez at lorenzas@nmsu.edu ()
https://arts.nmsu.edu/as-research-center/

Bioinformatics Research Lab

The bioinformatics research lab develops efficient computational and statistical methods to model mechanisms of complex biological systems. The lab’s work rigorously evaluates both the theoretical and practical effectiveness of computational methods for characterizing molecular interactions from high-throughput measurements such as next generation sequencing data. The lab’s long term goal is to invent advanced computational technology to expedite quantitative understanding of the complexity of life processes.

Director: Joe Song
https://www.cs.nmsu.edu/~joemsong/group.shtml

Biology Research Facilities

The Department of Biology houses multiple core facilities and individually faculty-maintained research laboratories that have been successful in the acquisition of millions of dollars in research grants from the NIH and NSF, as well as other agencies. The facilities and equipment include a cell culture facility, insect and invertebrate rearing and microbiology culturing facilities, diverse microscopy laboratories, as well as a well-maintained herbarium and vertebrate museum holding more than 100,000 specimens from our region and beyond. Individual research laboratories are equipped to investigate organismal genomics, transcriptomics, and microbiome analysis; organismal and microbial evolutionary mechanisms and physiology; vaccine development; host-symbiont interactions; cell mitosis and cytokinesis; plant pathology; neuronal and muscular tissues; animal vocalization and behavior; computational modeling of biological phenomena; and molecular systematics.

Contact: Dr. Ralph Preszler (rpreszle@nmsu.edu)
**Bureau of Business Research and Services**

Founded in 1969, the bureau has two basic objectives. The first is to provide business and economic research services to both public and private sectors of the state, the region and the nation. Research capabilities in the behavioral and managerial sciences, business systems, economic and social sciences, marketing, statistical design and analysis and regional planning can be applied to problems relating to economic growth, business development and community needs in New Mexico.

The second objective of the bureau is to provide management training services to business organizations and associations, to government agencies, and to the public as well. Management development seminars, training programs, and analytical services are designed to meet specific organizational needs.

The Bureau of Business Research and Services is a member of the Association for University Business and Economic Research.

Contact: Dr. William Gould (wgould@nmsu.edu)

**Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center**

Created in 1991 with a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring & Research Center (CEMRC), a department of the College of Engineering, conducts environmental research, provides special analytical services, assists with technology development, and disseminates information for federal, state, and private sponsors. CEMRC is housed at Light Hall, a 26,000-square-foot facility located in Carlsbad, in southeast New Mexico. The facility's laboratories include radiochemistry and associated nuclear spectroscopy, environmental organic and inorganic chemistry, in vivo bioassay, and field sampling. A primary activity of CEMRC is long-term environmental monitoring for contaminants in the region of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), located near Carlsbad. The data produced from this project are summarized in periodic reports and are presented on the CEMRC web site at www.cemrc.org. Primary research areas of the CEMRC include studies of atmospheric dust and inorganic contaminants, human and ecological risk assessment, and development of radioanalytical and spectroscopic methods for measurement of naturally occurring and human-produced radioactive elements. Results of CEMRC research projects appear in peer-reviewed scientific journals and are presented at national and international meetings.

Contact: Dr. Russell Hardy at (575) 234-5555

**The Center for Animal Health and Food Safety**

The Center was founded in 2007 and is comprised of three primary functional research units:

1. Chemical Analysis and Instrumentation Laboratory maintains high-end analytical instrumentation which is available to support collaborative research within NMSU, the State of New Mexico and other educational or industrial partners.
2. Food Safety Microbiology Laboratory specializes in research and development of foodborne pathogen detection and control; food product testing, including microbiological analyses, pH, aw; process evaluation of acidified foods, inoculation studies, shelf-life testing, and contracting to establish food safety plans (e.g. HACCP plans, Listeria control programs).
3. Veterinary Entomology Research Laboratory provides a state-of-the-art large animal research facility located on 45 acres, with a 5000 sq. ft. large animal laboratory, capable of housing 24 animals individually in environmentally controlled rooms. The laboratory maintains multiple insect rearing facilities for major ectoparasites including: house flies, stable flies, horn flies, face flies, mosquitoes, lice, mites and ticks. The facility has outdoor housing for 60 large animals in covered, individual outdoor stanchions, in addition to housing for wildlife species including: deer, elk, bighorn sheep and rabbits.

Contact: Instrumentation Facilities Manager: Jaime Rodriguez (jarodrig@nmsu.edu)

**Cooperative Extension Service**

As a land-grant institution, New Mexico State University has a tripartite mission—instruction, research, and extension. The three parts of this mission are closely interrelated and mutually reinforcing. New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service serves a unique role in New Mexico. As the state's land-grant university, and as mandated by its charter, it is the "leading object" for agriculture, home economics, engineering, business, health sciences, as well as educational programs in the liberal arts and natural sciences. NMSU's uniqueness arises from its vision of teaching/learning, research, and extension/outreach functions—interdependent, mutually supportive and central to its land-grant mission.

Contact: Dr. Tanner Schaub (tschaub@nmsu.edu, (575) 646-5156)

**Center for Latin American and Border Studies**

The Center for Latin American and Border Studies (CLABS) was established in 1979 by the College of Arts and Sciences and is located at the Nason House. CLABS supports Frontera NorteSur, an on-line journal about the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition, CLABS supports the collection at the NMSU library, travel for faculty to conferences, language training in Spanish and Portuguese, lectures by visiting speakers, curriculum development for teachers, the student Latin American organization, and other outreach activities. It has a faculty governance organization and helps administer the Nason foundation fund. In recent years the center has pursued an active program of research on U.S.-Mexico border policy issues, in cooperation with several universities in the United States and Mexico.

Contact: Center for Latin American and Border Studies 575-646-7041.

**Chemistry and Biochemistry Research Facilities**

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry has a comprehensive equipment base that supports research in nearly all phases of chemistry. It also has instrumentation dedicated to the department's teaching mission. Major instruments supporting both missions include five nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometers ranging from low field (200 MHz) to high field (500MHz), two atomic absorption spectrometers, several UV-Vis spectrometers, two mass spectrometers (LS/MS) and four gas chromatograph instruments. Details about all instruments located in the department’s facilities can be accessed at https://chemistry.nmsu.edu/research/.

Instrumentation Facilities Manager: Jaime Rodriguez (jarodrig@nmsu.edu)
The extension aspect of the university’s mission is the process of extending the intellectual expertise and resources of the university through teaching and applied research to address the social, civic, economic and environmental challenges and opportunities facing our state, region, nation, and global community. Extension entails an organized and planned program of activities; these activities bring the resources of the university to bear in a coherent and strategic fashion for the benefit of the citizens of New Mexico and the nation. Many faculty have split appointments with the Agricultural Experiment Station and serve as graduate advisors for students interested in extension as a career. For more information see http://extension.nmsu.edu/.

Core University Research Resources Laboratory

The Core University Research Resources Laboratory (CURRL) is a campus-wide, core facility providing all levels of technical support and consultation for investigators needing analytical and routine transmission, scanning electron microscopy, and light microscopy services. The integrated imaging facility is administered through the Office of the Vice President for Research and is considered a core research facility. The facility was established to furnish state-of-the-art microscopy instrumentation and techniques to investigators and their students for research and training. The laboratory is located in Sken Hall, RM W152, and W160.

Director: Dr. Huiyao Wang (huiyao@nmsu.edu)

Data Management and Data Analysis (DATA) Research Lab

The Data Management and Data Analysis (DATA) research lab aims at advancing techniques for the effective management and analysis of complex data (e.g., sequence data, graph data, semi-structured data). The laboratory conducts research in modeling, storing, querying and mining large amount of complex data at both theory and application levels. The laboratory keeps active collaborations with scientists from other Computer Science areas and scientific disciplines to broaden the usage of data management and data mining techniques. The laboratory is located in Science Hall, Rm. 153.

Director: Huiping Cao
https://kddlab.nmsu.edu/

Dissect Laboratory

DISSECT (Discovering Science through Computational Thinking) is a laboratory established by a joint team of researchers from the Department of Computer Science and the College of Education. The lab is housed in Computer Science on the second floor of the Science Hall. DISSECT provides physical space and facilities to nurture interactions between computational scientists and educational researchers in order to develop innovative technologies that will expose K-12 students to fundamental principles of computing. The laboratory provides workspaces and high performance workstations for graduate students as well as a dedicated network and offices for researchers and visitors.

Director: Dr. Enrico Pontelli (epontell@cs.nmsu.edu).

Educational Research Center (EDRC)

The Educational Research Center (EdRC) in the College of Education is the administrative office which supports faculty in obtaining and managing external funding. The academic which supports faculty in obtaining and managing external funding. The academic component of the ERC, under the direction of the Associate Dean for Research, facilitates faculty involvement in research, publishing and outreach initiatives with the goal of building a strong research agenda for the college. The business component of the ERC is the Education Research and Budgeting Office (ERB) which assists in proposal submission, account setup and monitoring and provides oversight for the College’s unrestricted, restricted and legislative funds.

ERB Director: Juanita Hannan (juamendo@nmsu.edu)

Engineering Research Center

The mission of the College of Engineering’s Engineering Research Center (ERC) is to support the faculty and staff of the college in building research programs of nationally and internationally recognized excellence. The ERC assist faculty and staff in their pursuit of research funding, management of their research, and in ensuring research activities are in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

The ERC disseminates information to the college regarding state, national and international research trends, programs and policies. The ERC identifies potential funding opportunities and calls for proposals that may be a fit for college faculty and staff. The ERC works with the Office of the Vice President for Research and the other NMSU colleges to bring together multi-disciplinary teams.

Engineering Research Center for Bio-Mediated and Bio-Inspired Geotechnics (CBBG), Engineering Research Center for Re-inventing the Nation’s Urban Water Infrastructure (ReNUWIt), and Tran-Set: Transportation Consortium of South-Central States.

For proposal preparation, the ERC pre-award team assists the faculty with interpretation of sponsor guidelines, development of the proposal budget, completion of standardized forms, review of the proposal for adherence to sponsor requirements, and submission to the NMSU Office of Grants and Contracts for their review and final submission. The post-award staff assist the faculty and staff with award management, including working with the NMSU Sponsored Projects Accounting office. The ERC is responsible for financial management of college grants and contracts.

Contact: Dr. Phillip DeLeon (pdeleon@nmsu.edu)

Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold Water Quality Laboratory

The Water Quality Laboratory in the College of Engineering was established by a gift from Freeport-McMoRan. It is located in ECIIII rooms 106 and 110. Current capabilities of the lab include:

- Dionex ICS-2100 Ion Chromatographic System (ICS) with an AS-DV autosampler, the ICS-2100 is configurable for either anions or cations;
- PerkinElmer Elan DRC-e Inductively Coupled Plasma for Mass Spectrometry (ICP/MS) with dynamic reaction cell (DRC) capability;
- Perkin Elmer Series 200 High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) with UV/Vis Detection;
- Gas Chromatography (Agilent model 7890) using a mass spectrometer detector (Agilent model 5975C) (GC/MS) using an Agilent 7693 autosampler;
- A 16-vessel Multiwave 3000 Microwave Reaction System by Anton Paar;
Micromeritics ASAP 2050 High Pressure Sorption Analyser that uses a dewar with liquid nitrogen or antifreeze for temperature control. The antifreeze temperature is controlled from -20° to +75° Celsius using a PolyScience PD15R-30 recirculator bath;

- Shimadzu TOC-Vcsh Total Organic Carbon Analyser (TOC) with a Total Nitrogen Measurement Unit (T NM-1) option;
- Malvern Zetasizer Nano ZS for zeta potential and size measurement of suspended particles;
- Anton Paar Surpass for zeta potential measurement of membranes, granules, or fiber particles; and
- a Millipore Direct Q3 water purification system.

Analyses may be performed by a researcher after receiving training on the device.

Contact: Dr. Phillip DeLeon, epontell@cs.nmsu.edu

**Geochemistry Research Laboratory**

The Department of Geological Sciences houses a number of analytical instruments, all of which are available for use by graduate students, undergraduate researchers, and faculty. The department houses a Laser-Ablation Multi-Collector Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (LA-MC-ICPMS) for analysis of isotopic ratios of microsamples, an X-ray fluorescence spectrometer for geochemical analysis of rocks and other solid materials, a thermal ionization mass spectrometer for analysis of isotopic ratios of solids and liquids, and a laser-induced breakdown spectrometer for the analysis of solid materials. Sample preparation equipment is available to support research on these instruments. In addition, mineral separation equipment including a jaw crusher, Gemini shaker table, Franz magnetic separator, and heavy liquids, is available for geochronologic or other mineralogic research projects.

Contact: Dr. Nancy McMillan (nmcmilla@nmsu.edu)

**ICredits: Interdisciplinary Center of Research Excellence in Design of Intelligent Smartgrids Technologies**

The Center, funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation, is focused on the development of novel hardware/software technologies and methodologies to enable the design, development, deployment and evaluation of microgrids and smartgrids. The Center is housed in Science Hall; it supports research activities at the boundaries between power systems and computer science. The Center also promotes the development of educational and outreach activities aimed at enhancing the awareness and training in all areas relevant to the smartgrids vision.

Contact: Dr. Enrico Pontelli (epontell@nmsu.edu)

**Institute for Energy and the Environment**

The Institute for Energy & the Environment (IEE) is a unit within the Engineering Research Center IEE’s programmatic efforts focus on interdisciplinary research, education, and outreach to develop comprehensive solutions for environmental, energy and water challenges in the southwestern United States and worldwide. IEE offers opportunity for conducting research to the graduate and undergraduate students at NMSU. IEE’s major objectives include renewable energy, biofuel, advanced water treatment and desalination, and advancing education, training and outreach in areas of environment, energy and water.

Director: Dr. Phillip DeLeon (ppdeleon@nmsu.edu)

**Knowledge Representation, Logic and Advanced Programming Laboratory (KLAP)**

The KLAP lab was established in 1994 through an RMI grant from the National Science Foundation and has developed into a focal research laboratory of international reputation. It is housed in the Department of Computer Science. KLAP’s research focus is to advance state-of-the-art knowledge in Artificial Intelligence and High Performance Computing and its application in diverse interdisciplinary domains such as bioinformatics and assistive technologies.

The lab provides a full meeting space (with multimedia projection capabilities), access to eight high performance work stations, a dedicated high performance computing server and a 40-core Infiniband Beowulf cluster. The lab has hosted international researchers and has graduated approximately 100 graduate students with MS and Ph.D. degrees. It has attracted almost $10,000,000 in external funding.

Director: Dr. Enrico Pontelli (epontell@cs.nmsu.edu)

**Networks and Systems Optimization Lab (NSOL)**

The Networks and Systems Optimization Laboratory (NSOL) supports research in networking and communication including, but not limited to: wireless networks, the Internet, supercomputing networks, and online social networks. This research includes optimization problems, protocol design and development, hardware design and development, and mechanisms for improving security and privacy of communications (including cybersecurity). The lab has a 24 core blade server (RAID-10) that is used for extended simulations and back-up, five desktops, five laptops, and four smartphones, which form a networking testbed.

Director: Satyajayant “Jay” Misra
http://nsol.nmsu.edu/

**New Mexico Department of Agriculture**

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA), under the control of the NMSU Board of Regents, is responsible for administering laws and regulations that daily affect the lives of every citizen of the state. These laws and regulations (concerning the production, preparation, processing, sale, and use of agricultural products; weights and measures; and petroleum products) are designed to assist producers, processors, and consumers. NMDAs marketing program provides guidance to commodity groups in the promotion of agricultural products. A broad consumer service in many areas other than agriculture is provided by the department. NMDAs director is New Mexico’s secretary of state government and the agricultural industry. For further information, e-mail: pio@nmda.nmsu.edu (pio@nmda.nmsu.edu). NMDAs web site is at http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu

**New Mexico State University Library**

The New Mexico State University Library is a Destination for Discovery that offers access to rich content and research-level collections in two library facilities located in the heart of the campus. Zuhl and Branson libraries house over 1.8 million items and provide electronic access to scholarly journals and databases for both general academic and
discipline-specific research. View the large geological collection and artworks on display at Zuhl Library and explore historical collections within the Archives and Special Collections Department at Branson Library. Reference assistance and research support are provided by a team of faculty and staff dedicated to student learning and success. There are a variety of study areas available including quiet and group spaces, some of which can be reserved. Over 100 PCs, scanners, laptops, and other resources are available for students to use. More detailed information may be found at http://lib.nmsu.edu.

New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute

The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) at NMSU, established in 1963, was one of the first of 54 water institutes in the United States. The WRRI program encompasses all state universities in New Mexico and public agencies sponsoring water research. The institute serves as a coordinator, assisting researchers in obtaining funds, working with granting agencies, and serving as the administrator for projects. The annual budget of approximately $1.5 million is made available from federal, state, and/or private sources through a variety of grants and contracts. All research projects administered by the institute encourage graduate student participation. As a result, about 30 students a year receive scientific training through institute-sponsored projects. WRRI also sponsors the Annual New Mexico Water Conference, which has provided a public forum for state water issues since 1956. Public participation helps the institute focus its research program on areas of greatest need. The WRRI publishes research results of every project it administers and other miscellaneous reports. The WRRI also maintains a water resources reference room with 2,000 books and documents and the ability to link to 10,000 water-related documents on water issues facing the state and the nation. E-mail may be sent to nmwrri@nmsu.edu. The WRRI's homepage address is http://nmwrri.nmsu.edu.

Oak Ridge Associated Universities Program (ORAU)

Since 1991, students and faculty of New Mexico State University benefited from its membership in Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). ORAU is a consortium of 98 colleges and universities and a contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. ORAU works with its member institutions to help their students and faculty gain access to federal research facilities throughout the country; to keep its members informed about opportunities for fellowship, scholarship, and research appointments; and to organize research alliances among its members.

Through the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), the DOA facility that ORAU operates, undergraduates, graduates, postgraduates, as well as faculty enjoy access to a multitude of opportunities for study and research. Students can participate in programs covering a wide variety of disciplines including business, earth sciences, epidemiology, engineering, physics, geological sciences, pharmacology, ocean sciences, biomedical sciences, nuclear chemistry, and mathematics. Appointment and program length range from one month to four years. Many of these programs are especially designed to increase the numbers of underrepresented minority students pursuing degrees in science- and engineering-related disciplines. A comprehensive listing of these programs and other opportunities, their disciplines, and details on locations and benefits can be found in the ORISE Catalog of Education and Training Programs, which is available at http://www.orau.org, or by calling either of the contacts below.

ORAU's Office of Partnership Development seeks opportunities for partnerships and alliances among ORAU's members, private industry, and major federal facilities. Activities include faculty development programs, such as the Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Awards, the Visiting Industrial Scholars Program, consortium research funding initiatives, faculty research and support programs as well as services to chief research officers.

For more information about ORAU and its programs, contact:
Dr. Luis Cifuentes - Vice President for Research (575) 646-2481
ORAU Corporate Secretary (865) 576-3306; or Visit the ORAU Home Page (http://www.orau.org)

Physics Research Facilities

The Department of Physics operates a PANalytical Empyrean x-ray diffractometer for low-resolution powder diffraction, high-resolution diffraction, reciprocal space mapping with a triple-axis crystal, and x-ray reflectance. It also operates a J.A. Woollam variable angle of incidence ellipsometer (VASE) with a computer-controlled Berek waveplate compensator for measurements from 190 to 2500 nm, at room temperature and from 80 to 800 K. Both instruments are integrated into CURRL and available to the campus community and off-campus users for a fee. See http://xrd.research.nmsu.edu and http://ellipsometry.nmsu.edu for more information and to book time on the instruments.

Contact Dr. Stefan Zollner (zollner@nmsu.edu).

Play and Interactive Experiences for Learning Lab (PIXL)

The Play and Interactive Experiences for Learning (PixL) Lab works at the intersection of games, human-computer interaction, and mixed reality, developing game experiences that educate and function as scientific experiments in HCI. Projects center around the best means of interfacing with games, including keyboard and mouse and controllers all the way to gesture-based input, wearable systems and mixed reality. Prior research has investigated the use of games for training firefighters, and ongoing research applies this to disaster response in general and military projects. The lab provides space for students, as well as access to workstations, a modular wearable computer, tracking sensors and games.

Director: Zachary O. Dugas Toups (ztoups@nmsu.edu)

Programming Languages Environments and Software Engineering (PLEASE) Laboratory

The PLEASE lab pursues research in the practical aspects of software development, including programming languages, programming environments, and software engineering. The lab is housed in Science Hall 167 and includes workstations and work space for graduate students pursuing research in relevant areas.

Director: Jonathan Cook
http://www.cs.nmsu.edu/please
Psychology Research Facilities

The Department of Psychology emphasizes research in social psychology, engineering psychology, and cognitive psychology. Faculty investigate such issues as mother-infant interactions and the impact of cortisol responses to stress upon development; visual search; human factors research; auditory perception; prospective memory; emotion and social decision-making; evolutionary psychology; skill acquisition; social cognition; perception and action; embodied cognition; cognitive neuroscience (control of attention, neural dynamics; and brain-computer interfaces); and research and statistical analysis methods.

All faculty have designated labs with a large central area and 3-4 smaller adjacent rooms. This facilitates data collection from small groups or individuals. Research using the department’s subject pool is managed with an online system.

The department has specialist facilities that include an EyeLink 1000 eye tracking system with experiment builder software; two 128 channel Biosemi ActiView-2 EEG systems and two shielded rooms; eight analysis workstations; and a Neuroconn DC Stimulator Plus tDCS stimulator.

The lab collaborates with the Mind Research Network that has access to a Siemens 3T Trio research MR scanner, a Magvis 132 channel MEG system, and Biosemi and Geodynamics EEG systems. The Auditory Perception Lab has a remote-controlled robot with binocular vision and stereo audition that is used to assess auditory performances in applied settings; another remote controlled robot to test perceptual interfaces for remotely-operated vehicles; a 30-element speaker array to simulate real-world auditory environments; and two portable eye trackers housed in the PACMANE (Perception, Action and Cognition in Mediated, Artificial and Naturalistic Environments) lab.

Contact: Dr. Dominic Simon (domsimon@nmsu.edu)

Research Initiatives in the College of Education

The College of Education has research initiatives and labs in the following areas:

- The Kinesiology and Dance Department offers lab space for the study of biomechanics, sport psychology & motor learning, applie and basic physiology, healthy aging, physical education curriculum and kinesthetic learning.
- The Speech and Hearing Center’s Benfer for voice and speech science research.
- The Special Education/Communication Disorders Department’s Autism Research Initiative.
- Alliance for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning in collaboration with the Southwest Regional Educational Lab REL (Institute for Educational Services, IES) provides research for partner school district practitioners on accountability, special education/ response to intervention, literacy, leadership development, math and science achievement, and program evaluation.
- The Institute for Mathematics and Science Education oversees multiple mathematics and science grants as well as serving as the STEM Outreach Center for K-12 education.
- The Counseling and School Psychology Training and Research Center provides counseling services for students, training for graduate students in counseling, school psychology and counseling psychology, and conducts research on counseling outcomes and processes.

- A Reading Research Center is housed in the NMSU Children’s Village and provides reading diagnostic services including analysis of reading using eye-tracking software.

Southwest Institute for Health Disparities Research

To address the substantial health disparities that exist in Southern New Mexico and the U.S./Mexican Border Region, New Mexico State University has recently established the Southwest Institute for Health Disparities Research within the College of Health and Social Services. The purpose of the Institute is to assist faculty to secure external funding and conduct research which has the potential to reduce health disparities and improve minority health, provide health related community outreach programming, provide training for researchers, lay groundwork for additional funded research, and attract highly qualified minority faculty and graduate students to NMSU. Additionally, the Institute serves as the coordinating office for all scholarly activities within the College of Health and Social Services http://swihdr.research.nmsu.edu/.

Dr. Jill McDonald (jillmcd@nmsu.edu)

Southwest Technology Development Institute (SWTD)

SWTDI, formally the SouthWest Regional Experimental Station or SWRES, was established in 1977 under DOE funding as a Photovoltaic research center. Over the last 30 years SWTDI has conducted extensive long term panel, inverter, and systems testing providing significant contribution to the field. One substantial consequence of the system testing has been the accumulation of knowledge related to the safety, installation methodology, design, and development industry standards in PV. Today SWTDI continues to be a leader in education and development of article 690 of the National Electric Code (NEC), Solar Photovoltaic Systems and continues its research in long term panel and inverter testing. However in 2012 SWTDI integrated with the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department of NMSU to broaden the research focus and has developed a microgrid for expanded research into renewable integration into the electric grid and demonstration of ongoing collaborative research with the ECE department on industry partners.

http://ece.nmsu.edu/research/swtdi

Spatial Applications and Research Center (SPARC)

The SpARC laboratory was established in 1982 as an applied contract research laboratory for the NMSU Geography Department. SpARC provides a variety of services including planning and research, GIS, image processing, modeling and training. The original purpose of the laboratory was to undertake externally funded projects under the direction of geography faculty and employ students within the department. Thirty-four years later, the laboratory continues to do project related work. It has employed more than 150 students, and provided assistance to more than 35 faculty members inside and outside Geography. The primary clients of the lab have been federal state and local government agencies, with an emphasis on applied transportation, water resource, and environmental research projects. The lab houses 11 high performance workstations, a range of mapping grade GPS units, and a large scanner/plotter. Software available for use includes database software, ENVI image processing software, TransCAD, and the entire suite of Esri GIS software.
Survey Research and Program Evaluation Center

The Survey Research and Program Evaluation Center (SRPEC) is designed to assist researchers, agency directors, business leaders, and policy makers in all aspects of survey research and program evaluation. Housed in the College of Health and Social Services, the Center has state-of-the-art hardware and software for conducting phone and internet surveys of any type and length as well as facilities for conducting face-to-face interviews and focus groups. SRPEC provides a wide array of services: questionnaire design, sampling, data collection, and statistical analysis for telephone, mail, and internet surveys. Center staff are also able to assist and conduct all forms of program evaluation from formative to summative approaches, including process, outcome and impact evaluations. Bilingual (Spanish/English) questionnaire translation and interviewing are also available.

University Museum

Established in 1959, the New Mexico State University Museum has provided 50 years of service to the university and community. The University Museum assists NMSU in providing quality education, advancing knowledge through research, and celebrating the culture and history of the southwest and the University. The Museum serves the community as a repository and exhibitor of local and regional history and culture. Through its care and maintenance of donated ethnographic, historic and prehistoric objects, it preserves an important part of Southwestern and Border region culture and history. The Museum encourages faculty and student research using our diverse cultural materials.

The Museum’s collections are primarily anthropological (archaeological and ethnographic) with secondary collections in history and the natural sciences. Anthropological collections document the cultural diversity of the border in the Greater Southwest and northern Mexico. The Museum preserves and catalogs collections to promote research and access to cultural materials. Exhibits are developed by students and staff as well as brought in from other institutions.

Director: Dr. Fumi Arakawa (farakawa@nmsu.edu)
Curator: Anna Strankman (amstrank@nmsu.edu)