

1 Proposition 11-13/14: Changes in undergraduate admissions requirements.

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3 Sponsors: Clason (Business), Munson-McGee (ACES), DeMers (A&S), Lakey (A&S)

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5 Committee Assignment: Scholastic Affairs (proposed)

6 Committee Assigned: Faculty Affairs

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8 **Proposal**

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10 The New Mexico State University Faculty Senate recommends changing the University's
11 Undergraduate Catalog to reflect new admissions requirements for first-time Freshmen
12 effective with the Academic Year 2016-17. The new language for domestic students
13 appears as Appendix 1 of this document; the new language for international students
14 appears as Appendix 2.

15
16 The major changes include the following:

- 17 • Increased Mathematics requirements by 1 credit;
- 18 • Math requirement is now Algebra II;
- 19 • The English requirement is now two writing-intensive courses, changed from "2
20 units of composition";
- 21 • Required High School GPA is now 2.75; or an ACT score of 21 or higher; or an
22 SAT score of 990 or higher; or who graduated in the top 20% of their high school
23 graduating class. The previous requirements were , changed a from High School
24 GPA of 2.00 and ACT score of 20; or High School 2.50 GPA (with no required
25 ACT score); or an ACT score of 21 (with no GPA minimum). There was no
26 prior requirement related to class standing.
- 27 • ; or who graduate in the top 20% of their high school graduating class.
- 28 • The Provisional Admission section is deleted in its entirety;
- 29 • A new section on the "Guaranteed Admission Path" is added;
- 30 • Transfer students who are not in the Guaranteed Admission Path will now have to
31 meet first-time freshman requirements until they have earned at least 36 credit
32 hours;
- 33 • Students in the Guaranteed Admissions Path with at least 24 transferable credits
34 may transition to the main campus with a GPA of 2.50 or higher; and
- 35 • The new language ensures that any students who does not meet these
36 requirements will have their application reviewed.; and
- 37 • Raises the GPA for transfer students with at least 24 transferable credits from 2.0
38 to 2.5.

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40 Because this represents a major change in the University's admissions policies, the
41 University Administration will report to the Faculty Senate on a biennial basis on
42 University Admissions and student success. This report will include retention, four- and
43 six-year graduation rates and success of students in the Guaranteed Admissions Pathway.

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45 **Rationale**

46 Student preparation is key to success in higher education. Students who are not ready to
47 perform at the University cannot benefit from the opportunities offered at the Las Cruces
48 campus. Institutional research has shown (see attached tables) that at NMSU:

49

- 50 • Graduation rates are strongly correlated with high school grade point average.
- 51 • High School grade point averages are not strongly associated with ethnic
52 backgrounds *in our applicant pool*.

53

54 Whether one regards the relationship between graduation from NMSU and high school
55 grade point average as causal or attributable to a lurking variable isn't relevant to the
56 discussion. The fact of the association is enough to make it useful for our purposes. We
57 can improve student success and increase graduation rates overall by raising our
58 admissions requirements and providing students who do not meet those requirements
59 with an alternative pathway to an NMSU degree.

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61 Community College tuition is much less than that of the Las Cruces campus, and students
62 on the NMSU Guaranteed Admission Path will go into less debt as they test the waters of
63 higher education.

64

65 New Mexico State University is the state's Land Grant University. We value our history
66 as an open access institution, and there is no intention to exclude students from our
67 campus. The purpose of this proposal is to place students in settings that maximize their
68 chances of success. For those whose preparation is deficient in some respect and for
69 those whose record indicates that the Las Cruces campus will be a struggle academically
70 a community college campus is a better placement.

71

72 Because we value our history as an open access institution, this proposal creates a
73 mechanism for an expedited pathway onto the Las Cruces campus. It requires students to
74 demonstrate their ability to perform work at this level. They need to earn 24 hours of
75 transferable credit on a community college campus (excluding developmental courses)
76 with a 2.50 GPA or higher. They would then be eligible for immediate transfer to the Las
77 Cruces campus. These students will be awarded the Common Core Transfer Certificate
78 of Completion upon completion of the required courses. These students would be
79 encouraged to complete the requirements for an Associate's degree on the Las Cruces
80 campus. This degree would be credited to their originating community college campus
81 for formula purposes.

82

83 In order to treat all students fairly and to create an incentive to enter the Guaranteed
84 Admission Path, the minimum hours required to transfer to NMSU are increased to 36
85 hours (from 30 currently) with at least a 2.00 GPA. When Guaranteed Path students
86 reach this criterion, they may also move transition to the Las Cruces campus.

87

88 The changes to the course distribution requirements keep the requirements consistent
89 with New Mexico State's Public Education Department requirements for high school
90 graduation.

91 **Appendix 1**

92

93 **Effective Fall 2016**

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95 **ADMISSIONS**

96 A student may be accepted for undergraduate admission to NMSU as

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1. a degree-seeking student or

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2. a non-degree student under the policies and conditions as set forth in this section.

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100 **REGULAR ADMISSION DOMESTIC STUDENTS (FIRST TIME**
101 **ANY COLLEGE)**

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Requirements for admission as a regular student include the following:

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- Formal application for admission, accompanied by a \$20 nonrefundable application fee.

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- An official transcript of the student's high school credits is to be sent directly from the high school to the Office of University Admissions.

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- Official results of the American College Testing Program (ACT) or Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) are to be sent directly from the Testing Centers to the Office of University Admissions.

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All freshman applicants are required to take either the ACT or SAT before final admission is granted.

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Qualifications for undergraduate admission to NMSU are as follows:

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- Graduation from any high school or academy in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting association or approved by a state department of education, and

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- Meet the minimum high school unit requirements listed below, and

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- Have a high school grade-point average of at least 2.75; or ranked in the top 20% of the graduating class; or ACT standard composite score of at least 21; or SAT of at least 990.

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118

Students must meet high school curricular requirements for the year they graduated high school. The following curriculum requirements are effective in New Mexico starting with the class of 2016:

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English	4 units*
Science	2 units beyond general science
Mathematics	4 units**
Foreign languages or fine arts	1 unit

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* Must include at least 2 units of writing-intensive courses, one of which must be a junior or senior-level course.

121

122

** Completion of Mathematics sequence through Algebra II or higher.

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Applicants who meet all the requirements listed above will be offered admission to NMSU. An applicant who does not meet all the requirements may also be offered admission if a review of their application indicates that the student would be successful at NMSU. We encourage all students to apply for admission to NMSU. We individually review each application before an offer of admission is made. We consider many factors, including: high school GPA, ACT or SAT scores, dual credit coursework, leadership experience, community involvement, and accomplishments. Applicants may be asked for additional information, including academic letters of recommendation, in support of their application. Students who are denied admission may request the Admission Appeals Committee review their application.

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134 **Guaranteed Admission Path**

135 For students who do not have an academic record that meets NMSU admissions requirements, the
136 Guaranteed Admission Path presents another way to become an Aggie. Students who do not meet the
137 minimum admission requirements may apply to the Guaranteed Admission Path, which begins at one
138 of NMSU’s community colleges.
139

140 There, Guaranteed Admission Path students will follow an academic plan designed to provide them
141 with the skills and experience necessary to successfully transition to the University’s Las Cruces
142 campus. This program begins with an orientation experience in which students register for classes.
143 These will primarily be general education courses that meet requirements for most bachelor degree
144 programs at the University. Any necessary developmental courses will also be taken at the community
145 college. Developmental course credits do not count towards the hours required to move transition to
146 the Las Cruces campus.
147

148 Guaranteed Admission Path students with at least a 2.50 GPA after earning at least 24 credit hours
149 will be eligible for enrollment on the University’s Las Cruces campus. Students who have completed
150 at least 36 credit hours with at least a 2.00 GPA may enroll in the University’s Las Cruces campus.
151 All developmental and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses will not count toward overall
152 credits completed.
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154 Guaranteed Admission Path students will be advised by University Campus advisors. Students at
155 NMSU–Doña Ana can live in the university residence halls, use the services of the Campus Health
156 Center and the Activity Center (these services require a fee), and have access to other NMSU
157 resources, activities, and events.
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159 The subsection “Provisional Admission” is struck in its entirety.
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161 **Home-Schooled Students**

162 Students enrolled in a home school program may be accepted to NMSU if they meet the requirements
163 for regular or Guaranteed Admission Path. In addition, the home school educator must submit a
164 transcript or document that lists the courses completed and grades earned by the student as well as
165 indicate the date the student completed or graduated from the home school program. Home school
166 students who are New Mexico residents and wish to participate in the Lottery Success Scholarship
167 program are required to submit official New Mexico GED test results.
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169 The following subsections remain unchanged:
170 “Basic Academic Skills and Admission”
171 “Application Deadlines”
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173 **Admission by GED**

174 Any student who has successfully completed the GED with a minimum score of 450 and has either a
175 composite ACT of 21 or an SAT of 990 or greater may apply for admission. Students must complete
176 the GED in English. Students are encouraged to submit an official high school transcript of the work
177 they completed in addition to their GED scores. Admission will depend upon satisfactory review of
178 transcripts, test scores, and curriculum requirements.
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180 The following subsections remain unchanged:
181 “Dual Credit and Early Admission Programs for High School Students”
182 “Readmission (Degree Seeking)”
183 “NMSU Graduation and Retention Rates”
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185 **REGULAR ADMISSION TRANSFER STUDENTS (DOMESTIC)**

186 Transfer students from other colleges or universities may be accepted for undergraduate studies if they
187 have completed at least 36 credit hours with a GPA of at least 2.00. Transfer course work must have
188 been completed at regionally accredited colleges or universities. All developmental and English as a
189 Second Language (ESL) courses will not count toward overall credits completed. Students must also
190 be in good standing and eligible to return to the university or college last attended (i.e., an applicant
191 cannot be on academic or behavioral suspension).

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193 Students who have earned 35 or fewer college credits must fulfill the freshman admission
194 requirements and have at least a 2.50 overall grade point average in their college credits.

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196 The following subsections remain unchanged:

- 197 "Transcripts"
- 198 "Transfer of Credits at NMSU"
- 199 "Community/Junior College Transfers"
- 200 "Evaluation of Transfer Credits"
- 201 "Religious Center Courses in Religion"
- 202 "Transferring Courses to Fulfill the New Mexico General Education Common Core"
- 203 "Transferring Courses within Degree Programs"
- 204 "Student Responsibility"
- 205 "Transfer Credit Appeal Process"
- 206 "National Student Exchange (NSE)"
- 207 "Out-of-State Students and Legal Jurisdiction"

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209 The section "NONDEGREE ADMISSION" remains unchanged in its entirety.

210 **Appendix 2**

211 **UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES FOR INTERNATIONAL**
212 **STUDENTS**

213 **Scholastic Ability**

- 214 1. Prospective undergraduates must have completed a minimum of 12 years' schooling
215 and/or submit official diploma or completion certificate.
- 216 2. Official transcripts showing the classes taken and grades earned for the school years 10,
217 11, and 12 must be submitted. No hand-carried documents will be accepted unless
218 received in a sealed envelope.
- 219 3. The scholastic average for the last three years of high school must be equivalent to 2.75
220 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- 221 4. Graduation from a high school in the United States does not automatically qualify an
222 international student for admission to NMSU. The student must also submit official
223 transcripts from his or her foreign secondary school.

224 **Appendix 3**

225 See separate document, "Analysis of First-time Entering Students less than 2_75.pdf"