

## Master's Accelerated Program Process

New Mexico State University master's accelerated program provides the opportunity for academically qualified undergraduate students to begin working on a master's degree during their junior and senior years while completing a bachelor's degree. Typically, a bachelor's degree requires four years to complete, and a master's degree requires an additional two years. The master's accelerated programs allow students the opportunity to complete a graduate program in an accelerated manner.

Per the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), CRRT.B.10.020.B1c, an institution may allow well-prepared advanced students to **substitute its graduate courses for required or elective courses in an undergraduate degree program and then subsequently count those same courses as fulfilling graduation requirements in a related graduate program that the institution offers**. A graduate program has the discretion to use up to 12 credits of NMSU coursework (450 level or higher) towards the completion of a master's program of study. To receive graduate credit for the 12 credit hours, students must receive a grade of B or higher. MAP courses completed with a grade of B- or lower are not eligible for graduate credit.

### Eligibility Requirements

Undergraduate students may petition to participate in the Master's Accelerated Program available at New Mexico State University after:

1. Completing 60 semester hours of undergraduate coursework of which a minimum of 25 semester credit hours must be completed at New Mexico State University and apply towards the undergraduate major;
2. The grade point average must be at a minimum of 3.0;
3. May not have previously earned a Bachelor's Degree; and
4. Meet the department requirements for participating in the master's accelerated program. Some departments may have requirements that exceed these minimum standards.

Students participating in the Master's Accelerated Program are encouraged to submit their graduate application for admissions to the department of their choice. For Graduate School final admissions and acceptance a review of the student's academic performance at the undergraduate level and the need of the graduate department. Participants in the master's accelerated programs must meet all other requirements as specified by either the Master's Accelerated Program or the department.

Those students participating in a dual degree program must receive tentative admissions to a Graduate program prior to the 12 graduate credits being coded as both undergraduate and graduate credit. Students participating in the graduate only program grades will need be verified prior to the moving of credits from undergraduate to graduate level.

Once the Graduate School verifies grades for the semester, the Graduate School will provide The Office of University Student Records with a list of MAP participants who are eligible for Graduate Credit. The Office of University Student Records will then process the transcript notation and code the approved courses with the undergraduate/graduate credit if applicable.

### **Tuition and Financial Aid/Scholarships**

Once approved to participate in the Master's Accelerated Program at the junior or senior year, student's will continue to be charged tuition and fees based on the undergraduate rate and retain eligibility for undergraduate scholarships. It is the student's responsibility to meet with their financial aid advisor as financial aid awards may be adjusted by the Financial Aid Office.

### **Ineligibility**

Students may be ineligible to participate in the Master's Accelerated Program:

1. If the grade point average in either the undergraduate or graduate coursework drops below a 3.0 or;
2. If they fail to demonstrate adequate progress as defined by the graduate academic program or;
3. Have previously earned a Bachelor's degree.

### **Withdrawal**

A student may withdraw their participation at any point from an approved Master's Accelerated Program by informing, in writing, the respective department-head with a copy sent to the Dean of the Graduate School.

## **Program Guidelines**

- Students accepted into the master's accelerated program, must participate in the Online Developing New Scholars Program (DNSP), offered by the Graduate School. The purpose of DNSP is to create access for success in graduate education by providing formal mentoring.
- Graduate level courses included in the master's accelerated program, are those courses numbered 450 and above or those chosen by the graduate academic departments.
- Student advising each semester is required to participate in MAP. The advising requirement is accomplished by meeting with their potential graduate level advisor or their designee.
- Credit for MAP course will only be granted for the courses listed on the approved MAP form with the associated terms and all required signatures. Courses not completed within the noted term, are not permitted. Courses not meeting the required graded will not be transcribed as MAP
- Exceptions to these guidelines will be handled through an appeal process established by the participating graduate program and approved by the Dean of Graduate School.

## **How to participate in the Master's Accelerated Program (MAP)**

1. A student must meet with their graduate department of interest or the department may invite a student to participate in the master's accelerated program.
2. Departments accept students based on the Master's Accelerated Program requirements as set by the department.
3. The Academic Dean of the College will forward to the graduate school the original completed Master's Accelerated Program referral form.
4. Graduate School will document the MAP participation and course allowance in Banner. The Graduate School will retain original referral form until the student has met the requirements as stated above.
5. The referral form will become part of the graduate school final admissions into the master's program.