

Dual Degree and Senior Petitioner Policy 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. A student who has previously earned a Bachelor's degree may not apply to this program.

Undergraduate students may apply for acceptance to a Master's Accelerated Program available at New Mexico State University after 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. The grade point average must be at a minimum of 3.0; departments participating in the master's accelerated program may have requirements that exceed these minimum standards.

Final admissions and acceptance into the graduate program is based on academic performance at the undergraduate level and completion of the eligible undergraduate degree. In addition, applicants to the master's accelerated programs must meet all other requirements as specified by the accelerated program.

In accordance with 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 graduate 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) that can logically be applied towards the completion of master's program of study. Students must receive a grade of B or higher in this coursework to be counted for graduate credit. If a grade of B- or lower is earned, it will not count toward the graduate degree.

When the student graduates with the Bachelor's degree and receives final admissions into the master's program, the approved 12 graduate credit hours will be transferred from undergraduate to graduate transcript. These approved graduate credit hours will be used in calculating the graduate GPA.

For tuition purposes student's accepted into the master's accelerated program, will be assessed tuition based on the on the level of the student at time of enrollment. It is the student's responsibility to contact financial aid as awards may be adjusted by the Financial Aid Office.

The remaining work required for the master's degree program is strongly encouraged to be completed within two years from the time of completion of the bachelor's degree requirements.

Tuition and Financial Aid/Scholarships

For tuition purposes, students will be considered undergraduates until they complete their undergraduate requirements, with an expected awarded degree by the end of the fourth year.

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

In the final semester of the undergraduate degree, students must submit the application for degree. Upon the designated undergraduate college review for degree completion, the undergraduate degree will be awarded and documented on NMSU official transcripts. Once the degree is posted and grades have been verified for final admission, students will be considered in full graduate status and become eligible for Graduate Assistantships and other graduate financial awards.

Withdrawal/Ineligibility

Students may be ineligible to participate in the Master's Accelerated Program if the grade point average in either the undergraduate or graduate coursework drops below a 3.0 or if they fail to demonstrate adequate progress as defined by the academic program.

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

Program Guidelines

- Students accepted into the master's accelerated program, must participate in the 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.
- Students must be advised each semester at the department level by the undergraduate advisor and cleared for registration in graduate courses by the Graduate School.
- 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 Apply to the Master's Accelerated Program (MAP)

1. A student must apply to the department 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. Department will forward to the graduate school the Master's Accelerated Program referral form.
4. Graduate School will hold the referral form until the student has completed their undergraduate degree.
5. The referral form will be used as part of the graduate school final admissions into the master's program.