

Master's Accelerated Program (MAP) Process

New Mexico State University master's accelerated program (MAP) 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. MAP allows students 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 degree. 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 for NMSU Undergraduate student MAP participation:

1. Must complete 60 semester hours of undergraduate coursework of which a minimum of 25 semester credit hours must be completed at NMSU and apply towards the undergraduate major.
2. The grade point average (GPA) must be at a minimum of 2.75 to participate in MAP (Departments can require a higher GPA).
3. The student must be classified as a Junior or Senior.
4. A student completing a second bachelor's degree can be eligible for MAP.
5. Graduate level courses included in MAP are those courses numbered 450 and above or those chosen by the graduate academic departments. 600 and 700 level courses are NOT part of MAP.
6. Meet the department requirements for participating in MAP. *Some departments may have requirements that exceed these minimum standards.*

MAP students are encouraged to submit their graduate admissions applications to the department of their choice. Graduate School final admissions and acceptance depends on the student's academic performance at the undergraduate level and the need of the graduate department.

Those students participating in a dual degree program must receive tentative admissions to a Graduate program before the 12 graduate credits will be coded as both undergraduate and graduate credit. Students participating in the graduate-only program will need to have their graduate level grades 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 University Student Records Office with a list of MAP participants who are eligible for Graduate Credit. The University Student Records Office 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 MAP at the junior or senior year, students 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 have to be adjusted by the Financial Aid Office, depending on coursework selected and undergraduate degree requirements.

Credit for MAP courses will only be granted for the courses listed on the approved MAP form and identified in the Degree Audit. Courses not completed upon graduating with their bachelor's degree will lead to students being charged the Graduate Tuition course rate should the student apply for and be accepted into the Graduate Degree program. Courses not meeting the required grade will not be transcribed as MAP.

Withdrawal

A student may withdraw their participation in MAP by informing, in writing, the respective department-head with a copy sent to the Dean of the Graduate School.

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

1. The student is required to have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 and must be classified as a junior or senior (Some department requirements may exceed these GPA standards).
2. Undergraduate students interested in MAP should consult with their anticipated Master's program department head or MAP advisor to determine what undergraduate or graduate-level courses are part of the MAP. Students can contact the Graduate School for information about MAP programs outside of their current Department.
3. Departments accept students based on the MAP requirements as set by the department.
4. The student must meet with their financial aid advisor, if they receive financial aid, as financial aid awards may have to be adjusted based on course registration.
5. The students are responsible for course registration and must obtain the appropriate signatures if the course is closed or requires instructor approval. Students accepted into MAP must participate in the Developing New Scholars Program (DNSP), offered by the Graduate School and Honor's College.
6. Before submitting the MAP form to the Graduate School, the following signatures must be obtained: the anticipated MAP advisor or Department Head and Financial Aid Advisor, if applicable.
7. 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.
8. The referral form will become part of the graduate school final admissions into the master's program.
9. 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.