For general university guidance on COVID-19 measures, please visit the [https://wellness.nmsu.edu/coronavirus-2019-ncov/](https://wellness.nmsu.edu/coronavirus-2019-ncov/) for a complete list of status updates from the NMSU system.

**GRADUATION**

What is the deadline to turn in the Final Exam Form for thesis, dissertation or professional doctorate exams?  
**Answer:** To turn in the Final Exam Form for thesis, dissertation or professional doctorate exams: NOW APRIL 6

What is the deadline to hold a thesis, dissertation, or doctoral final oral or written exam?  
**Answer:** To hold a thesis, dissertation, or doctoral final oral or written exam: NOW APRIL 20 *If these dates are not possible, communicate with the Graduate School and we will work with you and your adviser to make reasonable accommodations regarding Final Exam Forms, Final Oral and Written Exams.

What is the new deadline to submit a thesis or dissertation to ProQuest format review?  
**Answer:** To submit a thesis or dissertation to ProQuest format review: NOW APRIL 22

What is the deadline to turn in the Final Exam Form for Master’s non-thesis students and Educational Specialist students?  
**Answer:** To turn in the Final Exam Form for Master’s non-thesis students and Educational Specialist students: NOW MAY 1

What is the deadline to hold a non-thesis final oral or written exam?  
**Answer:** To hold a non-thesis final oral or written exam: REMAINS THE SAME MAY 15

Should I postpone my dissertation/thesis defense that is scheduled for this semester?  
**Answer:** If you are graduating it is still required to be completed this semester. We have extended deadlines and encourage you to work with your advisor to set a date that works best for yourself and your committee.

Can I get electronic signatures for my thesis/dissertation defense form and the signature page on the document?  
**Answer:** Yes, all of our forms can be electronically signed. Exam paperwork needs to be signed and submitted to grad-degrees@nmsu.edu. Program of studies need to be filled out, signed and sent to graddocs@nmsu.edu. Exam results need to be signed and submitted to graddocs@nmsu.edu.

Can I defend my dissertation or thesis virtually?  
**Answer:** As you know, we are in the midst of a very challenging and fluid situation as the University responds to the coronavirus pandemic. We are also mindful that it is “defense season,” and many students are planning both defenses and public presentations of their dissertation and thesis work. We are making every effort to have defenses and presentations be done remotely to accommodate student’s needs and safety.

How do I prepare my manuscript for submission?  
**Answer:** When submitting a page-based manuscript of your dissertation or thesis, it must be submitted to ProQuest Dissertation Publishing in Adobe PDF format. When preparing your PDF, follow the guidelines on the following link: [https://gradschool.nmsu.edu/masters-thesis-students/](https://gradschool.nmsu.edu/masters-thesis-students/)
I am feeling very overwhelmed by the COVID-19 situation. What resources are available to me as a graduate student?

**Answer:** COVID-19 has brought on new challenges and complexity into our lives. This is stressful. Stress can manifest differently in all of us: physically (e.g., upset stomach), psychologically (e.g., anxiety, depression), or behaviorally (e.g., substance abuse). Support and resources continue to be available at NMSU and in the community. The counseling staff and health providers on campus can help you cope and get on a healthy path. They can also give you referrals to other programs. The Health and Wellness Center remains open to support students and employees. It is advised that you telephone before visiting the Health and Wellness Center to schedule an appointment by calling 575-646-1512. When visiting the Health and Wellness Center expect to receive an initial screening before being able to enter the building. Counseling is available through tele-counseling services. Schedule an appointment by calling 575-646-1512 or emailing at campus_health@nmsu.edu. Please visit https://wellness.nmsu.edu/ for additional information.

I’m not sure I can afford or find adequate food/nutrition options during this time. What can I do?

**Answer:** Adequate nutrition is important to maintaining physical and mental health. If you are facing food insecurity, the Aggies Cupboard (located on 906 Gregg St) Food will be distributed Thursdays **ONLY** from 3pm – 6pm on the yard of the Aggie Cupboard. Clients should be ready to state their banner ID. All food boxes are pre-made with either chicken, tuna, or peanut butter. Clients waiting to collect should remain 6 feet from each other in the order they arrive. Red tape is on the ground to identify where to stand. A ‘drive-up’ area is also available. If you are sick or have come into contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 please stay at home. Please check the Aggie Cupboard website for updates on available supplies and hours of operation. Additionally, a Mobile Food Pantry has prepared special food packs with essentials. The next mobile food pantry is April 28th, 2020 and will take place the every 4th Tuesday of every month. Students must bring their NMSU ID and a box/rolling cart to carry up to 70lbs of perishable food. Registration takes place from 12:00-12:30 and distribution is from 12:30-2:30. The Mobile Food Pantry is located SW corner of Preciado Park (Gregg St. and Sweet Ave.) Please visit https://aggiecupboard.nmsu.edu/ for additional information.
TECHNOLOGY

What technology resources are available for students?

**Answer:** The following link will direct you to technology resources that are available for students. [https://studenttech.nmsu.edu/resources-for-students/](https://studenttech.nmsu.edu/resources-for-students/). You may also contact ICT Help Desk by calling 575-646-1840 or email help@nmsu.edu.

What are some technology resources for students working remotely from home?

**Answer:** The following link will direct you to technology resources that are available for students. [https://studenttech.nmsu.edu/remote-work-resources/](https://studenttech.nmsu.edu/remote-work-resources/). You may also contact ICT Help Desk by calling 575-646-1840 or email help@nmsu.edu.

I don’t have internet access at home. Will computer labs stay open?

**Answer:** Please visit [https://studenttech.nmsu.edu/labs/](https://studenttech.nmsu.edu/labs/) to get the most up to date information about the computer labs open and their hours.

You can also visit [https://studenttech.nmsu.edu/resources-for-students/](https://studenttech.nmsu.edu/resources-for-students/) for information about discounted internet services. Parking Lot #19, located on the East side of Rhodes Garret Hamiel, has outdoor wireless available for those who need internet and can study inside their cars.

How do I activate my NMSU Zoom account?

**Answer:** The following link will direct you on how to activate your Zoom account and best practices for Zoom meeting security: [https://learning.nmsu.edu/zoom-at-nmsu/](https://learning.nmsu.edu/zoom-at-nmsu/)

What is VPN?

VPN creates a secure and monitored connection to NMSU so that working from home is possible. VPN stands for "Virtual Private Network" and it allows users to connect to resources inside the University network from anywhere by logging in with their NMSU username and password. By using VPN, your home computer becomes a part of the NMSU network and acts just like it’s plugged into a jack in a university office or classroom.

ACES has a very good document on how to use VPN for NMSU: [https://aces.nmsu.edu/help/nmsu-vpn.html](https://aces.nmsu.edu/help/nmsu-vpn.html)
GRADES

To accommodate the extraordinary academic, social and economic conditions created by COVID-19 in Spring 2020, the NMSU system will ease designation deadlines for opting in to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading for all undergraduate and graduate courses. Students may choose to opt-in to S/U grading through May 5th, 2020, and normal limitations (see below) will be suspended, allowing students to opt for S/U in any number of enrolled courses. The deadline for students to Withdraw from a course has been extended to April 17th, 2020.

What grading options are available for students for Spring 2020?
The default grading scheme for students remains the same, e.g., traditional letter grades. For Spring Semester 2020 only, students may also opt to change their grading scheme to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) through May 5th, 2020. Students may also Withdraw (“W”) by April 17th, 2020.

How is an S/U different from a letter grade?
S-Satisfactory grades represent a student learned enough to satisfy the learning outcomes of your course. For undergraduates, this means a C- or better, for graduates it can vary by department so they should check first. The key difference for students who opt for S/U is the grade is not used to calculate their GPA (for better or worse.)

How will this be communicated to students?
NMSU will be sharing system-wide messages (via email, my.nmsu.edu) with students beginning March 30th, 2020. Given the extenuating circumstances of the Spring 2020 semester, and the need to modify your syllabus (to account for compressed schedules, switching to online, etc.) you may want to include this as a syllabus addendum. We hope that faculty will be communicating closely with students, and that you will share this option with students who may be facing extenuating circumstances like illness, childcare, technology and employment challenges.

What does an S/U mean for courses that are prerequisites for subsequent NMSU courses and graduation? “S” grades fulfill the prerequisite requirements for NMSU courses; “U” grades will not.

How will this effect admission to XXX (school, program, etc.)?
Programmatic and college admissions procedures vary widely. If a student mentions they are on a trajectory toward a competitive admission program (graduate or professional school, limited admission health program, etc.) please direct them to that program/college’s guidance on grade requirements.

Can I give my whole class S/U grades?
No, students opt-in to S/U grading on a course-by-course, student-by-student basis. S/U grades may not work for some students, so the default scheme for grading will remain letter grades.

Should I give a student an I Grade instead?
Incomplete (I) grades remain an option, but please note that I-grades do not meet Satisfactory Academic Progress for students (while letter grades and S/U do) and can adversely impact their Financial Aid eligibility.
PROGRESS TOWARDS DEGREE

Where can I find more information on my program of study?

Answer:
NMSU offers Associate, Baccalaureate, Master’s and Doctoral degrees. NMSU also offers Certificates at the associate and graduate levels. Requirements for specific degrees and other designations are set forth by this catalog for the NMSU-Las Cruces (main) campus and the corresponding catalogs for the NMSU Community Colleges (Alamogordo, Carlsbad, Dona Ana and Grants). The following link will direct you the Las Cruces Catalog that provides additional support on your program of study: https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/regulations-policies/

DON’T SEE WHAT YOU NEED?

NMSU has activated an Information Line at 575-646-7373 for students, faculty, staff and community members seeking details about university operations during the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation. The line will be active 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. https://nmsu.edu/coronavirus/