

Frequently Asked Questions and Important Information

The Department of Sociology offers two Graduate degree programs. For more information, visit the [Graduate Degree Page](#).

We hope to see you soon!

[Apply to NMSU](#)

Questions Related to the Application Submission

1. How can I contact you?

A. If you have any questions when you apply for our graduate program (Master's or PhD), please send emails to sociology@nmsu.edu.

2. What is the deadline to apply for the Master's programs?

A. There is no specific deadline for the applications. We have a rolling admittance policy. The department generally processes applications within about 1-2 weeks after we receive your complete application package and submit the recommendation to the Graduate School. The graduate school may take some time to issue the formal admission letter. The graduate school can be reached through email gradinfo@nmsu.edu. The deadline for applications for departmental funding is February 1 for the following school year.

3. What materials are required if I want to apply for the Master's programs?

A. Please have the following documents ready before you apply.

- Your transcripts (undergraduate or graduate (if available))
- Personal statement/writing sample
- English test results (TOEFL/IELTS) for international students
- Names of three reference providers (recommended for those seeking Assistantships).

Then, please go to the application website (<https://gradschool.nmsu.edu>) and use the "Apply to Graduate School" button.

Please note that the Department of Sociology does not require a hardcopy of your documents. Thus, please do NOT submit a hardcopy of the materials to the Department

of Sociology. If you are requested to submit a hardcopy of any documents, please make sure to ask for the right address and the right person to send your documents.

4. Do you require official transcripts and official English test score? Or are the unofficial documents sufficient?

A. At the application stage, we do not require official transcripts and English test scores. After you are admitted, you need to provide the official documents to the Graduate School.

5. Can you waive the application fee?

A. No.

6. How can my referees send their recommendation letters?

A. When you submit your applications online, you need to submit the names and email addresses of three referees. Once you provide your referees' information, your referees will automatically receive an email from the Graduate School. They will use the link in the email to upload their recommendation letter. Please do NOT send any hardcopy of the recommendation letters (if not requested).

7. What is the **GPA** requirement?

A. Please find the GPA requirements from [here](#).

8. Is **GRE** required?

A. No.

9. (International student) What is the requirement on my **English (e.g., TOEFL/IELTS) scores**? Can I waive my TOEFL/IELTS exams?

A. Please find the requirement on English exams from <https://gradschool.nmsu.edu/future-students/International.html>. Note that students from some countries can have their TOEFL/IELTS exams waived. You can find the list of such countries from the previous link.

10. (English waiver) I am a US citizen now. However, I got my Bachelor's and Master's degrees from a foreign country. Am I required to take the TOEFL/IELTS test?

A. If you are an American citizen, there is no English language test requirement.

11. Am I eligible to apply if I do not have a Bachelor's degree in Sociology?

A. Yes. Though you may be advised to take foundational courses.

12. What are the starting dates of the Spring, Summer, and Fall semesters?

A. Please find the university calendar from <https://academiccalendar.nmsu.edu>.

13. I was admitted to your graduate program. However, I need to change my enrollment semester. What should I do?

A. There is a Change of Admission Semester form which can be found [here](#). You need to complete the form and send it to sociology@nmsu.edu. The Department of Sociology will process it and forward it to the Graduate School. The Graduate School will update your enrollment semester. When it has gone through, you will receive an updated admission letter indicating the new semester.

14. How many years/semesters are needed to finish my degree?

A. For students taking nine hours per semester, they will be finished in two years.

Questions Related to Financial Support, Tuition, and Graduate Assistantship Salaries

15. What is the tuition?

A. The tuition and fee information can be found from <https://uar.nmsu.edu/tuition-fees/>.

16. How much will I be paid if I get graduate assistantship (GA)?

A. Please go to <https://hr.nmsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Grad-Assistant-Salary-Table-7-1-2021.pdf>.

17. What are the GA opportunities?

A. The department selects excellent applicants to give them teaching assistantships (TA). Typically, funding begins with the Fall semester. Therefore, decisions are made for assistantships in March. There may be other opportunities for funding available in any given year depending upon research conducted by the faculty. The deadline for applications for departmental funding is February 1 for the following school year.

18. I am not sure whether I am eligible for in-state tuition. Who should I ask?

A. Please contact University Student Records for information about whether you would be eligible for in-state tuition. Their email is records@nmsu.edu or phone (575) 646-3411.

For International students, please reach out to International Students and Scholars Services at iss@nmsu.edu.

19. I would be categorized as a spouse of an active-duty military. Are there any funding opportunity for me?

A. For information about what is available to you as a military spouse, please contact the Military and Veteran's Programs at mvp@nmsu.edu or (575) 646-4524.

Questions Related to the Visa Application

20. How can I get my visa application materials?

A. The Office of International Student and Scholar Services (iss@nmsu.edu or <https://iss.nmsu.edu>) will process your I-20 form for Visa application. Please contact the ISSS office if you have any questions related to this.

21. I may need to be late to come to the university because I may not get my visa on time. What should I do?

A. If you will be no more than two weeks later than the starting date of the semester, you can request a letter from the graduate advisor to support your late arrival by sending an email to sociology@nmsu.edu. If you will be much later, you are suggested to defer your admission semester because you may not be able to catch up your courses.

What to do After You Arrive at NMSU

22. What do I need to do after I arrive at NMSU?

A. Attend graduate students' orientation organized by the Graduate School.

B. Talk with the Department of Sociology Graduate Director, Dr. David G. LoConto. Please make an appointment through the department at sociology@nmsu.edu.

C. Read the [FAQ](#) page with further financial questions.

23. I just got my admission letter, what are my next steps?

A. If you are an international student, you need to first get your I20 form. Then, using the I20 form and other related documents, you can apply for a visa. Contact International Students and Scholars Services at iss@nmsu.edu.

B. Get an NMSU account using this link <https://myaccount.nmsu.edu/activation>. Use your NMSU email, you can register for courses. The details for registering for a course can be Q1 found from Q4 of [this link](#).

24. In my first semester, when should I arrive campus as an international student?

A. You are encouraged to arrive at the campus one week before the "First Day of Classes". This is to give you reasonable time to arrange your non-academic life. The important days of NMSU can be found from <https://records.nmsu.edu/important-dates-faculty-staff/>.

25. When do classes start?

A. Please check the school important dates (e.g., the first day of classes) at <https://records.nmsu.edu/important-dates-faculty-staff/>.

26. How many credits/courses should I take each semester?

A. If you are a full-time student, you need to register for at least 9 credits (three courses in general).

B. If you are a part-time student, you can register for the desired number of credits.

We do not encourage students to register for more than 9 credits in the first semester if you are new to NMSU.

In addition:

The NMSU Graduate School:

The Graduate School is located in the Educational Services Building. The Graduate School is your central location for graduate administration, admission, funding, resources, and graduation occurs. Make sure you have their website handy, as you will often refer to them for general graduate issues, including access to university requirements:

<https://gradschool.nmsu.edu>

The NMSU/Las Cruces Experience:

Las Cruces Community Particulars:

Moving to a different city, state or even country in order to begin graduate school can be overwhelming! Familiarize yourself with the Las Cruces area by accessing the following website:

<http://www.lascrucescvb.org/>

Airport:

El Paso International Airport (ELP) is the closest commercial airport and is approximately a 45 to 60 minute drive on I-10 from Las Cruces. Long-term parking is relatively inexpensive, and shuttle information can be found at the following website:

<https://www.lascrucesshuttle.com/shuttle>

You can also make arrangements ahead of time to take you to or bring you from El Paso Airport. This service is free for students.

Apartments in Las Cruces:

There are several rental opportunities in the Las Cruces area. Students have found success using websites like apartmentfinder.com. Students are also often looking for roommates or subleases right before the semester begins. If you do get an apartment here in Las Cruces, here are some helpful contacts:

El Paso Electric Company: 575-526-5551 or <http://www.epelectric.com/>

Utilities for Las Cruces: 575-541-2111 or <https://www.las-cruces.org/1260/Utility-Services>

Comcast Cable: <https://www.xfinity.com/>

Living and Dining On Campus:

Living on campus can be a convenient, inexpensive solution for graduate students. For more information on campus housing opportunities, please click on the following:

<https://housing.nmsu.edu>

Campus meal plans are also available for resident and nonresident students.

<https://idcard.nmsu.edu/student-meal-plans/>

International Students:

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) coordinates most of the services for international students. International students should become familiar with their webpage:

<https://iss.nmsu.edu/>

All international students need to attend the international new student orientation before registering. In addition students who were required to submit TOEFL scores will need to take the NMSU Language Proficiency Examination, and based on performance may be required to take one or more English as a foreign language course(s).

NMSU Campus:

Although NMSU is a large campus, most Sociology classes are held in Science Hall or O'Donnell Hall. Most graduate classes are held in the Sociology Seminar Room which is in Science Hall, Room 286A. Three other useful buildings are the Corbett Center, which is the student union; Frenger which is the closest food court to Science Hall; and the campus bookstore. There are two libraries at NMSU, Brandon Library and Zuhl Library. Most of the Sociology resources can be found at Zuhl Library.

A map of NMSU can be found at: <https://map.nmsu.edu/?id=1888#!s/?ct/62763>

NMSU Phone Numbers:

NMSU uses a campus-wide prefix of 575 646. Therefore, when on campus, one may dial 6-xxxx in order to reach NMSU offices. Here are some useful phone numbers to keep in mind:

Sociology Department: 575-646-3448
Bookstore: 575-646-4431
Financial Aid: 575-646-4105
Graduate School: 575- 646-5746
Campus Housing: 575- 646-3202
Human Resources: 575- 646-8000
ICT Help Desk: Zoom MeetingID: [icthelpdesk](#)
Student Government: 575-646-4415
Student Health Center: 575- 646-1512

Finances:

Tuition Information can be found at <https://uar.nmsu.edu/tuition-fees/tuition-rates/>. If you have questions regarding Financial Aid eligibility or Tuition/Fee payments. Please contact Financial Aid or Accounts Receivable.

Financial Aid: <https://fa.nmsu.edu/>
Accounts Receivable: <https://uar.nmsu.edu/>

Parking:

Although there are several parking meters located around campus (the majority of which are located off of Jordan Street, near Corbett Center) and there are a few free lots, you will probably need to purchase a parking permit. You can obtain more information, locate a parking map, and buy your permit online from the parking office: <https://park.nmsu.edu/permits/>

Student ID:

You will need to obtain a student ID at the ID Services Office in Corbett Center. It is important to have a student ID in order to check out books from the library and get into NMSU sponsored events. Your ID card also has your student ID number on it and can be used as a money card. You can find more information on student id cards at: <https://idcard.nmsu.edu>

Computer Labs:

There are several computer labs on campus. A list of labs can be found at <https://studenttech.nmsu.edu/labs/>. The computer lab which most Sociologists use is located in Breland Hall room 175. This lab has SPSS, SASS, and ENVIVO.

ICT Help Desk:

The ICT Help Desk is designed to help students who are having technical difficulties with CANVAS or their NMSU account. They can also help with some general computer and software questions. To reach ICT access through Zoom: [icthelpdesk](#). The ICT webpage is <https://ict.nmsu.edu>. Also, there is an equipment rental for \$20 for a laptop for the semester. Web cameras as well. <https://studenttech.nmsu.edu/equiprental/>.

Books:

You can obtain information and purchase the books for your courses from the Barnes & Noble campus bookstore website: <https://www.bkstr.com/nmsustore>. You can also purchase the books at their physical location on the NMSU campus.

Activity Center:

Life as a graduate student can be stressful; exercise can be a useful way to deal with such stress! NMSU has an activity center, which has a weight room, elevated indoor jogging track, racquetball courts, and basketball-volleyball play areas. The activity fee is automatically paid as part of your tuition; therefore you have already technically paid to use it. For a fee, non-NMSU friends and family can also come and use the activity center. To find out more information along with intramural opportunities access the Activity Center's website: <https://recsports.nmsu.edu>.

Money Card and Meal Plans:

NMSU offers a money card that operates in conjunction with your NMSU ID card. There are several options and opportunities to use your money card, such as for vending machines and at the food courts around campus. You can also apply for a money card at the NMSU bookstore if you would like to buy your books and pay for them interest free throughout the semester.

<https://idcard.nmsu.edu/student-meal-plans/>

Campus Health Center:

The NMSU Campus Health Center is located on campus and provides outpatient health care for students. For more information go to <https://wellness.nmsu.edu>. NMSU does not provide health insurance for students.

In addition:

You can sign up for Aggie Hotline for news around campus: <https://newsroom.nmsu.edu/>
Subscribe is at the bottom.

NMSU Roundup Newspaper: <https://nmsuroundup.com/>

NMSU Aggie Cupboard & Pete's Pantry: <https://aggiecupboard.nmsu.edu/>

What Next:

Activate your NMSU ID; get used to checking your email; and make sure you are registered for your classes. Start off the semester great and be a wonderful graduate student!

We look forward to working with you in our Graduate Program!