

Proposition: 04-16/17

Title: Proposed Changes to Crimson Scholar designation

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Sponsor(s): Rolfe Sassenfeld (Engineering); Miriam Chaiken (Honors); Tim Ketelaar (A&S)

Proposed Committee:

Assigned Committee:

Prior Approvals:

Proposal: Changing Catalog Language about Eligibility for Crimson Scholar Designation

Rationale:

The current university catalog requires that to earn the designation at graduation of a Crimson Scholar, a student must have completed 75 earned credits as a Crimson Scholar (GPA 3.5 or higher) by the conclusion of the semester before they graduate, and 90 credits upon graduation. These thresholds reflect 75% of the earned credits for a degree that requires 120 hours to complete.

This policy means that students who transfer to NMSU from other institutions typically cannot earn this honorary designation, even if they have a perfect grade point average, because they don't complete enough credits here prior to graduation. The proposed changes to the policy result in the Crimson designation based on a proportion of earned credits, thus not disadvantaging transfer students. This will improve student morale, as it will permit those who have worked hard, but transferred from another university, to earn the recognition they deserved.

Additionally, this change will make it easier to generate the lists of students each semester who qualify for the Crimson Scholar recognition at graduation.

CURRENT CATALOG:

Crimson Scholars Program

The Crimson Scholars Program is a benefits and recognition program for academically superior students who have a cumulative 3.5 GPA and are taking three or more credits per semester. Crimson Scholars receive a number of benefits, including:

- Automatic eligibility for all Honors courses
- Early registration

- Extended library check-out privileges
- Special advising
- Students who have maintained Crimson Scholar status for 90 Crimson hours* from New Mexico State University at the time of graduation receive a "Crimson Scholar Graduate" notation on their transcript
- Students who accumulated 75 Crimson hours* from New Mexico State University at the time of applying for their degree receive recognition in the commencement program and are eligible to purchase a Crimson Scholar cord for graduation.
- Students who have maintained Crimson Scholars status for 24 Crimson hours* from New Mexico State University earn a Crimson scholar pin

To maintain Crimson Scholar status:

- Freshmen entering on an ACT score must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 and complete three or more credits per semester to continue in the program.
- Sophomores, juniors, and seniors must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 and be currently enrolled in a total of 3 or more credits* per semester at NMSU or any NMSU community college to retain their Crimson Scholars status.
- Crimson Scholars whose GPA drops below the required cumulative 3.5 or drop below the three credit minimum will be dropped from the program. If in the following semester, the student's cumulative GPA and credits again meet the minimum requirement, the student will *automatically* be reinstated.

In recognition of the student's academic achievement, a statement designating "Crimson Scholar Graduate" is placed on the student's transcript after completion of 90 Crimson hours* from New Mexico State University at the time of graduation and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5. To be designated in the commencement program as a Crimson Scholar graduate, a student must complete a minimum of 75 Crimson hours* from New Mexico State University at the time of applying for their degree receive recognition in the commencement program and are eligible to purchase a Crimson Scholar cord for graduation as a Crimson Scholar and must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5. Students who complete 24 Crimson hours* from New Mexico State University earn a Crimson Scholar pin. Crimson Scholars are entitled to early registration and library privileges. Additional information is available from the Crimson Scholars Office, located in the Conroy Honors Center.

PROPOSED CHANGES:

Crimson Scholars Program

The Crimson Scholars Program is a benefits and recognition program for academically superior students who have a cumulative 3.5 GPA and are taking three or more credits per semester. Crimson Scholars receive a number of benefits, including:

- Automatic eligibility for all Honors courses

- Early registration
- Extended library check-out privileges
- Special advising
- Students who have maintained Crimson Scholar status for 75% of the credits they have earned at NMSU at the time of graduation receive a "Crimson Scholar Graduate" notation on their transcript.
- Students who have maintained Crimson Scholar status for 75% of the credits they have earned at NMSU at the time they apply for graduation receive recognition in the commencement program and are eligible to purchase a Crimson Scholar cord for graduation.
- Students who have maintained Crimson Scholars status for 24 Crimson hours* from New Mexico State University earn a Crimson scholar pin

(unchanged text deleted)

In recognition of the student's academic achievement, a statement designating "Crimson Scholar Graduate" is placed on the student's transcript after completion of 75% of credits earned* at New Mexico State University with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5. To be designated in the commencement program as a Crimson Scholar graduate, a student must complete a minimum of 75% of earned credits at NMSU with a Crimson designation* at the time they apply for their degree. Crimson Scholars receive recognition in the commencement program and are eligible to purchase a Crimson Scholar cord for graduation. Students who complete 24 Crimson hours* from New Mexico State University earn a Crimson Scholar pin. Crimson Scholars are entitled to early registration and library privileges. Additional information is available from the Crimson Scholars Office, located in the Conroy Honors Center.