

NEEDS GRADUATE SCHOOL HEADER

TO: Faculty Senate Leadership Committee
FROM: Graduate Faculty Council
DATE: March 2026
RE: Doctoral Accelerated Pathway (DAP) Policy

The Graduate Faculty Council voted in spring 2026 to adopt a policy establishing the potential for Doctoral Accelerated Pathway (DAP) programs to be developed at the program levels across the colleges at New Mexico State University. This memo is submitted to the Faculty Senate for review and consideration. Below are some edits in response to excellent questions raised by the Registrar and ADAC.

Background and Rationale

The DAP is modeled on the existing Master's Accelerated Pathway (MAP) program and is designed to provide an additional pipeline for undergraduate students who are interested in continuing graduate studies as part of the doctoral programs at NMSU. By providing a pathway for students to continue from a Master's or MAP program into beginning doctoral-level coursework, the DAP allows a potential for more student success, can add to graduate enrollment, and enhance the university's commitment to graduate education.

Policy: Doctoral Accelerated Pathway (DAP)

The Doctoral Accelerated Pathway (DAP) provides the opportunity for academically qualified undergraduate and Master's students to begin working on a doctoral degree. A graduate program has the discretion to use up to 12 credits of NMSU coursework (600/6000 or higher) towards the completion of a doctoral degree. The student must apply to DAP before enrolling in 600/6000 level courses. Upon admission to DAP, the 12 credits can count towards the undergraduate and doctorate degrees only.

Eligibility Requirements

- Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5. Graduate programs may require a higher GPA at their discretion.
- DAP students must have completed 60 credit hours of undergraduate coursework, of which 30 credit hours must have been completed at NMSU. Upon conferral of the Bachelors degree, students will be directly admitted into DAP.
- To receive graduate credit for the 12 credit hours, students must earn a grade of B or higher in each qualifying course.

Credit Application

Credits earned through the DAP will first be counted towards the student's bachelor's degree. Upon graduation and eventual matriculation as a graduate student, these credits will also be counted towards the doctoral degree.

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The Graduate Faculty Council respectfully requests the Faculty Senate Leadership Committee's review and support of this policy. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or requests for additional information.