

## **MEMORADUM**

To: Faculty Senate

From: Lakshmi N. Reddi, Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Date: September 12, 2025

RE: GPA Requirement for Admissions

This memo provides data on student retention in relation to the GPA requirement for NMSU admissions, in consideration of a possible change to that requirement.

The attached spreadsheet presents three-year and eight-year trend analyses of one-year retention rates for first-time, full-time freshmen at both UNM and NMSU. UNM has consistently required a minimum 2.5 GPA for admission, while NMSU increased its requirement to 2.75 in 2016 in an effort to improve retention.

However, the data show that NMSU's 2.75 GPA requirement did not result in higher retention gains when compared with UNM. With the exception of the Fall 2020 and Fall 2022 cohorts, the improvements in overall retention at NMSU were minimal relative to UNM. Over the full eight-year period, the average one-year retention rate was 74.2% for UNM and 73.8% for NMSU.

A total of 776 applicants were within 2.50 – 2.74 GPA range for Fall 2025 admission cycle. Of these, 284 were admitted via the Holistic Admissions process for Fall 2025. Thus, 492 were not admitted because of the GPA requirement. Based on the data from the attached spreadsheet, and given that we now have several student success initiatives in place, I am confident that majority of these 492 students would have done well if given admission, and would have realized their academic goals.

I recommend that the appropriate Senate committee debate this admission requirement as soon as possible so we can change this admission requirement going forward.