

Two minor changes to Grad School policy to come from Grad Faculty Council and ADAC

Revised language on duplicate MS degrees – based in input from FLSC and Senate, I share what I worked out with ADAC and the Grad Dean.

Second Master's Degree

NMSU discourages duplication of a master's degree. In instances where a program would like to admit students to earn a duplicate degree, a letter of support by the department involved must be submitted at the time of admission to the Graduate Dean. The applicant will need to follow standard admission requirements and graduate school policies including transfer of credits. Students wishing to earn the duplicate masters must satisfy all requirements for the degree, including completing a master's thesis if this is a formal requirement for the degree in question. Financial Aid may not be applicable for the duplicate degree.

As a friendly reminder, Student Records has indicated a hard deadline of Feb. 27 for changes to the catalog and hence the sense of urgency.

Revised language on TOEFL scores due to changes in TOEFL scoring

TOEFL score change is effective Jan. 21, 2026. Overall scores will be sent in the 1-6 banded score along with current 0-120 score. Please see: <https://www.ets.org/toefl/institutions/ibt/score-scale-update.html>. Changes to GS policy on in red.

For current policy, click [here](#):

Doctoral students must provide official proof of an English Proficiency minimum score as follows:

- TOEFL Internet-Based Test (iBT) 79 (For exams taken before Jan. 21, 2026) or 4 (For exams taken on or after Jan. 21, 2026)
- IELTS 6.5
- Duolingo 105

International students can be admitted into a master's degree program with lower English Proficiency scores, as follows:

- TOEFL 68 to 78 Internet-Based Test (iBT) (For exams taken before Jan. 21, 2026) or 3.5 (For exams taken on or after Jan. 21, 2026)
- IELTS 6.0
- Duolingo 95 to 104