AGGIE LINGO

Your A-Z guide to understanding your student’s new vocabulary and helping them to be familiar with common used words in the Aggie community.

NMSU LINGO

- **Academic advisor**: Staff member who helps students develop a plan to achieve their educational goals.

- **Academic calendar**: Important dates for the academic year, such as the start and end of a semester.

- **Activity Center (the AC)**: Fitness and recreation center for students, employees, and other members of the NMSU community.

- **Add/drop**: Administrative action to add or drop a class.

- **Aggie Ca$h**: NMSU ID card connected to an Aggie Ca$h account for use at campus food vendors, some vending machines, Pan American Center, and other outlets.

- **Aggie ID**: Student identification number coded into NMSU ID cards that is required to check out books and for access to services such as the Activity Center, athletic events, and Campus Health.

- **Aggie Memorial Stadium**: Athletics stadium where the Aggie football team plays, dedicated to students who have served in the military.

- **Alumni**: A graduate or former student of NMSU.

- **ASNMSU**: NMSU’s student government.

- **Barnes and Noble Bookstore**: The Bookstore is located inside the Auxiliary Services Building at University Avenue and Jordan Street. Sells course textbooks, general books, school supplies, and Aggie merchandise.

- **Branson Library**: Located near the east end of the Frenger Mall, Branson is the older of NMSU’s two libraries.

- **Canvas**: Interactive web-based, learning management system that provides tools to support learning, such as grade books, assignments, and syllabus.
- **Academic Catalog**: A book published each year that provides information on courses, majors, minors, and academic policies.

- **Challenge Coin**: A coin presented to incoming students from the NMSU President as a symbol to achieve success and graduate in four years.

- **Chancellor**: Head of the NMSU system.

- **College**: A collection of related departments headed by a Dean.

- **Commencement**: Ceremony celebrating the completion of academic degrees.

- **Community colleges**: Colleges that offer associate’s degrees, community education, and developmental coursework. The NMSU system includes four community colleges: NMSU-Alamogordo, NMSU-Carlsbad, Doña Ana Community College, and NMSU-Grants.

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- **Cooperative employment (Co-op)**: Employment that provides practical work experience that complements a student’s education.

- **Corbett Center Student Union (Corbett, CCSU)**: Building on the International Mall and home to student services, food vendors, and gathering areas.

- **Credit hours**: A unit of academic credit roughly equal to the amount of time spent in a class during a week.

- **Crimson Kick-off**: A series of academic and social events that welcome students and help them learn about campus life and resources.

- **Crimson Scholar**: Recognition program for top students; benefits include early registration, extended library check-out, work-study opportunities, and transcript recognition.

- **CRN (course reference number)**: Identification number for a course that changes each semester and is required for registration.

- **Dean**: Academic official, in charge of a college.

- **Degree requirements**: Courses that must be completed to earn a degree.
**Department**: The office for a specific academic discipline (such as Art, Anthropology, Music) that offers degree programs.

**Developmental courses**: Courses offered by a community college that could be required prior to enrollment in other courses.

**Distance education**: Courses delivered via web-based technologies, interactive television (ITV), faculty exchanges, and off-site classes.

**Educational Services Building**: Near the Pan American Center at the east end of the International Mall, this building house Financial Aid, University Admissions, Family Outreach, University Accounts Receivable, and University Registrar.

**EFC (expected family contribution)**: Amount calculated by the FAFSA that a family is expected to contribute to a student’s education costs.

**Elective**: A course that is required for a degree but that a student can choose.

**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**: Federal form that calculates eligibility for financial aid.

**Fees**: Portion of your university expenses that pay for services like the Health Center and Aggie Transit.

**Finals**: Typically, comprehensive exams given during the last week of the semester that cover material from the entire semester.

**Financial aid**: Money from various sources (grants, loans, scholarships) that can help students pay for school; might require repayment.

**Frenger Food Court**: The collection of independent food vendors near the east end of the Frenger Mall.

**Frenger Mall**: Walkway that extends from Espina Street to Zuhl Library.

**GPA (grade point average)**: A calculation of the total number of grade points earned in courses divided by the total number of credits awarded.

**Greek Life**: Fraternities and sororities providing social interaction and community services.

**Hadley Hall**: Located at the top of the Horseshoe, the President, Provost, and other administrators have offices there.
- **Hold**: Administrative block that prevents registration. Action by the student is required to clear the hold.

- **Honors College**: The academic home of courses that emphasize personal growth, critical thinking, leadership, independence, curiosity, and social responsibility.

- **Horseshoe (Pride Field)**: The large grassy area west of Hadley Hall.

- **Inter-collegiate sports**: Athletic teams that represent NMSU in NCAA sports.

- **International Mall (I-Mall)**: Walkway that runs from Hadley Hall to the Pan American Center.

- **Intramural sports**: Athletic teams that play for fun in a league where all players are NMSU students.

- **Keystone**: Pistol Pete’s one and only sidekick. What cowboy is complete without his horse?

- **Land-grant Institution**: University designation related to the Morrill Act. Land-grants were initially charged with teaching agriculture, military tactics, the mechanical arts, and classical studies to members of the working classes.

- **LLC (Living Learning Community)**: Community of students who live together in a residence hall based upon common academic interests.

- **Lottery Scholarship**: Scholarship for some New Mexico residents created by the New Mexico Legislature and funded by proceeds from New Mexico Lottery Tickets.

- **Major**: Primary course of study for undergraduate students.

- **Memorial Tower**: Part of an earlier Aggie Memorial Stadium, built to remember students who died serving our country. The Tower was incorporated into the Health and Social Services Building.

- **Midterms**: Exams given during the semester (see Finals).

- **Mini-semester**: Accelerated courses offered in half the time of a typical semester.

- **Minor**: Secondary course of study for undergraduate students.

- **myNMSU**: Online access to registration, grades, Banner, email, time sheets, online learning, and other services.
- **Online course**: Course in which content is delivered online.

- **Pan American Center**: Location of Commencement, sports, concerts, and other large events.

- **Pistol Pete**: NMSU’s mascot, Pete is a mustachioed cowboy who loves his ranch and cheering on his Aggies.

- **Pre-requisite**: Course required before enrollment in a subsequent course.

- **President**: Senior NMSU administrator and head of the NMSU-Las Cruces campus.

- **Promissory note**: A written agreement to pay back a loan.

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**GUIDANCE AND GOOD PRACTICE**

- **Provost**: Senior academic administrator, second to the NMSU President.

- **Required course**: Course that is required for a degree.

- **Resident Assistant**: Trained student leader who assists in overseeing students living in a residence hall

- **Resident Director**: Staff member that lives within a residence hall and oversees RAs and other residents

- **Residence Hall**: NMSU’s term for a dormitory.

- **Scholar Dollar$**: NMSU’s online application for scholarships.

- **Scholarship**: Money that can help pay for school, usually requires an application, and does not have to be paid back.

- **STAR Degree audit**: System that compares courses students have taken against degree requirements.

- **Striking the Wonder Dog**: An NMSU icon at football games who retrieves the kicking tee and steals the hearts of game attendees

- **Syllabus**: Course document typically containing assignments, schedule, grading, and class policies.
- **Taos**: All-you-care-to eat buffet-style dining area located on the first floor of Corbett Center Student Union, open seven days a week while school is in session.

- **Transcript**: Official academic record of courses and grades.

- **Tuition**: Portion of your university expenses that goes toward the cost of your courses.

- **Withdraw**: Administrative process to drop a class after the drop date or to leave the university for the semester.

- **Work-study**: Financial aid resource that provides funds that may be earned by eligible students for work.

- **Zuhl Library**: The second of two libraries on campus, located at the east end of Frenger Mall.