

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 houses 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.

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.