

The PAE Leader Scholar Program

BE BOLD with Your Education!

*Are you a strong academic NM high school senior with a history of leadership experience?
Are you an achiever looking for something more out of your University experience?
Are you ready to commit to leadership development, in and of the classroom, while preparing
yourself to become a change agent for good at the state, national, or global level?*

The Honors College at New Mexico State University, in partnership with the NMSU Foundation, and Office of the President, is seeking a cohort of top academic NM high school seniors to join our diverse and vibrant Honors community in Fall 2026. **The Presidents Associates Excellence Leader Scholar Program** (PAE Leader Scholars) will be offering a limited number of four-year awards to new, first year students, with a desire to develop their leadership capacity while serving the university community at NMSU.

The Award

- A \$6,000 annual stipend for up four years of undergraduate training on top of tuition and required fees;
- A first-year residence award in the Honors Living Learning Community; (funds only for on campus residence)
- The PAE and Hadley Merit Awards are stacked together for the \$6000 award.

The Program:

To ensure that these scholars receive personalized support from the Honors College staff and faculty across their full academic career at NMSU, all PAE Leader Scholars will:

- Participate in the 1888 Leadership Initiative Camp before the start of the fall term;
- live in the Honors Living Learning Community for their first year;
- participate in the Fall Honors First Year Seminar (with the Honors College Dean);
- complete at least one Honors approved leadership development course;
- complete required service hours or a capstone leadership project approved by the Honors College.

All PAE Leader Scholars will graduate with an Honors Certificate but are also encouraged to complete the University Honors Program (graduate with University Honors Distinction) in coordination with their PAE Leader Scholar training.

Selection:

Applicants should be 2025-26 graduating NM high school seniors with a 3.9 HS GPA OR 159 Academic Index. PAE Leader Scholars will be selected competitively for the program based on evidence that they will be:

- strong academic performers;
- actively engage in leadership experiences, both in and out of the classroom, at NMSU;
- use their leadership capacities as a citizen or professional for the good of New Mexico or the world at large.

For consideration, applicants must be admitted to NMSU and complete Scholar Dollar\$ application within the NMSU financial aid system. Additional details on the application process are included on the following page.

***It is our job to ensure Honors students succeed and maximize their potentials and talents.
We expect the PAE Leader Scholars to model the best of leadership development at NMSU!***

For more information about the Conroy Honors College, please explore at:

<https://honors.nmsu.edu/>

We are New Mexico's land-grant institution and a comprehensive research university dedicated to teaching, research and service at all levels. Recognized as a top-tier university by U.S. News & World Report, NMSU is a welcoming community of talented faculty, staff and students who are working together to make a difference. As a NASA Space Grant College, a Hispanic-serving institution and home to the first Honors College in New Mexico, NMSU offers an accessible education that shapes bright futures.

Eligibility and Application Guidance

All high school graduates entering NMSU with a 3.75 GPA are Crimson Scholars and are invited to participate in Honors College activities and complete the University Honors Program. All students with these academic credentials are already eligible for significant academic merit scholarships. However, the PAE Leader Scholar Program is a competitive opportunity designed to provide a higher level of funding along with extra challenges and supports for a smaller group of students who meet the criteria listed below:

Eligibility and Application Requirements:

- Limited to 2025-26 NM High School graduates (including students that are simultaneously completing an early college degree).
- Admitted to NMSU with a 3.9 GPA or 159 Academic Index (see NMSU scholarship page for calculation).
- **For consideration, applicants must be admitted to NMSU and complete the NMSU Scholar Dollar\$ application online by December 1.**
 - **In addition to comprehensive questions across the Scholar Dollar\$ application, applicants for the PAE Leader Scholar Program will address prompts specific to their leadership experiences and goals.**
 - Answers to prompts will be blind reviewed by a team looking for students that are the “best fit” for the goals of the PAE Leader Scholar Program.
 - Because this award is designed to recognize students from across New Mexico, the final selection will be made to ensure geographic representation across the state.

Renewal Requirements:

PAE Leader Scholars are expected to maintain academic standards (consistent with all high academic merit awards) while making progress in completing the PAE Leader Scholar Program requirements:

- Participate in the 1888 Leadership Initiative Camp before the start of the Fall 2026 semester
- Complete the first semester of college with a 3.25 GPA and pass 15 new main campus credit hours
- Maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA and pass 15 new Las Cruces campus credits per semester
- Complete the required First-Year Honors Seminar with a grade of B or better
- Complete one Honors approved leadership development course
- Complete documented service hours or a capstone leadership project approved by the Honors College

The Honors Office will offer guidance and advise if there are concerns about the student’s success in the program. A one-semester probationary period may be offered for students that miss a requirement to ensure they receive the assistance needed for positive progress.

Program Expectations:

All PAE Leader Scholars are encouraged to distinguish themselves in their program, personal goals, and should participate in some of the following high-impact learning activities:

- Engage with campus activities and assume a leadership role in at least one student organization or NMSU office;
- Serve with the NMSU Foundation and Honors College to help develop the PAE Leader Scholar Program for future cohorts of students;
- Work with NMSU faculty or staff on research, scholarly, or creative work;
- Identify a cause that matters and participate in NMSU sponsored activities to support outreach or serve a broader need;
- Complete a study-abroad or domestic travel experience to promote global citizenship and intercultural competence.

Strategies and opportunities to succeed in each of these areas, for students across all Colleges and majors within the university, will be introduced in the Honors First-Year Seminar.

Although the PAE Leader Scholar Program has a limited number of awards to offer, all highly motivated students that fit this profile are welcome to participate in the same coursework and activities as members of the University Honors Program. We are committed to supporting all students that are willing to be BOLD with their University education! Developing leaders ready to change the New Mexico and world for good is a priority of the Honors College.