

Proposed Projects of Incoming Cohort

DISCOVERY SCHOLARS PROGRAM | [HEST.NMSU.EDU](https://hest.nmsu.edu) | [ARTSCI.NMSU.EDU](https://artsci.nmsu.edu)



Program Overview

The Discovery Scholars Program (DSP) provides undergraduate students with intensive research and mentorship opportunities. The present summary includes six DSP applicants and their proposed research projects, as well as estimated timelines and planned professional development activities.

Timeframes

Five applicants anticipate their projects lasting approximately one academic year and one project is estimated to span three semesters. During the project period, applicants plan to meet with faculty advisors weekly (n=3) or biweekly (n=3).

Academic Disciplines Represented

Applicants' areas of interest and brief project descriptions are listed below:

- **History**
 - How the Emberá-Chamí people of Caldas, Colombia maintain, pass down, and change their traditional medical practices to fit into modern healthcare systems
- **Kinesiology**
 - Suitability of VR and similar technologies for potential pain management applications
- **Counseling and Community Psychology**
 - Understanding the development of emotional self-regulation in deaf hard-of-hearing children
- **Psychology**
 - Effect of tradeoff between encoding and retrieval on long face-name association within intra and extra experimental context
- **Geography**
 - A field-based case study of a City of Las Cruces "Lift Up" neighborhood improvement initiative
- **Anthropology**
 - Health implications of food insecurity on college campuses

Methodological Training and Skills Development

Scholars will gain proficiency in:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| • Qualitative research methods | • Coding |
| • Experimental design | • Scientific writing and communication |
| • Laboratory techniques | • Project management |
| • Statistical analysis | • Collaborative research |



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Professional Development Goals

Three main goals were discussed by applicants regarding professional development: graduate program admissions, preparing conference presentations, and preparing manuscripts for peer-reviewed publications. See **Table 1** for more information about the number of applications listing each goal.

Table 1: Professional Development Goals

	N
Graduate Program Admissions	6
Conference Presentations	4
Publications	2

Of the four students who plan to present their research at conferences, all plan to present at NMSU’s Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts Symposium (URCAS), and one student intends to additionally present their work at the Spring 2027 Society for Applied Anthropology conference.

Key Takeaways

The projects proposed by this cohort of DSP applicants are varied, but all are expected to result in meaningful contributions to their respective fields, NMSU, and the community. Discovery Scholars will receive mentorship, training, and experience that will prepare them for graduate school and industry jobs.

