

Proposed Projects of Incoming Cohort

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Academic Disciplines Represented

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

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.

Program Overview

Four of the six applicants anticipate their projects lasting approximately one academic year. One project is expected to take two years to complete, and one is part of a larger project lasting four years. During the project period, applicants intend to meet with faculty advisors weekly (n=5) or biweekly (n=1).

Timeframes

- **Geology (x2)**
 - The nature and abundance of ferromagnetic minerals in garnet-facies mantle xenoliths and other deep-seated rocks from ultra-high-pressure settings
 - Serpentinization of mantle rocks and implications for hydrogen production
- **Biology and Computer Science**
 - Evolutionary history of mimosine production in mimosoid plants
- **Psychology**
 - The time course of attentional processing
- **Social Work**
 - The impact of cultural and familial stigma on the willingness of Hispanic/Latinx college students in New Mexico to seek mental health support
- **Anthropology**
 - Tribal communities' perceptions of Controlled Environment Agriculture systems and the potential socio-environmental-economic benefits for these populations

Methodological Training and Skills Development

Scholars will gain proficiency in:

- Qualitative research methods
- Experimental design
- Laboratory techniques
- Statistical analysis
- Scientific communication
- Project management
- 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.

	N
Graduate Program Admissions	3
Conference Presentations	5
Publications	4

Table 1: Professional Development Goals

Of the five students who plan to present their research at conferences, three plan to present at NMSU’s Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts Symposium (URCAS), and another intends to present their work at the Geological Sciences Colloquium. Regional and national meetings identified by applicants are listed below:

Regional

- *Rocky Mountain Psychological Association*
- *National Association of Social Workers – New Mexico Chapter*
- *New Mexico Geological Society*

National

- *Great Minds in Science Conference*
- *Object Perception, Attention, & Memory conference*
- *Society for Applied Anthropology*

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.

