GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must meet General Education requirements by successfully completing at least 20 credits of course work in the fine arts, humanities, biological and physical sciences, social sciences, and physical education, as specified by the program. In addition to completing the General Education requirements, all students seeking an associate degree must meet the graduation requirements specific to their degree program. Credit hours and course requirements vary among the degree and certificate programs offered by NMC. Degree programs include course work in the following areas: core course requirements, General Education requirements, program requirements, and electives. See department offerings for specific credit and course requirements.

Minimum Grade Point Average  A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 is required in order to be considered for graduation. Courses below the 100 level will not meet graduation requirements. Nonpayment of financial obligations may cause diplomas and/or certificates to be withheld.

Required Core Courses
Degree candidates must complete the following core courses with a “C” grade or better:
1. English Composition (EN 101)
2. Mathematics (MA 132 or higher)
3. Fundamentals of Speech Communication (CO 210)
4. Health (HE 150 or higher)
5. Current Issues in the CNMI (SO 297)

Minimum Residency Requirement  Associate degree or certificate candidates must complete at least the final 12 semester hours of credit at NMC. This residency requirement may be waived with cause.

Filing Petitions for Graduation  Candidates for certificates or degrees must file a Petition to Graduate with the Office of Admissions and Records. The deadline to petition to graduate and to participate in the Spring Commencement Exercises is the last workday of the previous December. The deadline to petition to graduate and to participate in the Fall Commencement Exercises, if any, is the last workday of the previous May.

Graduation Clearance  Candidates must obtain clearances from the Library, Bookstore, and Finance Office relative to the status of their accounts during the term when all the academic requirements for certificates and degrees are to be completed.

Graduation Honors and Awards  Honors are awarded to graduating students in a degree program with cumulative GPAs as follows:
- Cum Laude  3.50 - 3.74 cumulative grade-point average
- Magna Cum Laude  3.75 - 3.95 cumulative grade-point average
- Summa Cum Laude  3.96 - 4.00 cumulative grade-point average

A student’s GPA at NMC will, at any point in time, be based solely on courses taken at NMC. The graduating student in a degree program with the highest cumulative GPA will receive an Academic Achievement Award.
**Student Leadership Award** The Student Leadership Award is given to a graduating student in a degree program who has demonstrated leadership on campus and has manifested the potential to become a leader in the local community and in the CNMI. To be eligible for the Student Leadership Award, a student must have earned at NMC at least half the total number of credit hours required for graduation.

Graduating students submit the names of proposed candidates for the Student Leadership Award. A committee chaired by the Dean of Student Services selects the recipient of the Student Leadership Award.

**Commencement Exercises** After applying and being accepted as candidates for graduation, it is expected that students will attend the Commencement Exercises. Should candidates be unable to participate in the Commencement Exercises for reasons beyond their control, they may indicate on the Petition to Graduate their request to receive their certificates or diplomas in absentia.

Please note that after application and acceptance as a candidate for graduation, the notation of certificate or degree will appear on the transcript for that term when all requirements have been met.

Diplomas, however, are distributed only at the time of the Commencement Exercises. Only those candidates who have completed all applicable requirements are permitted to participate in the Commencement Exercises.

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

**The Associate in Arts degree** is designed to provide a balanced educational foundation in academic areas, and to prepare students for transfer to a four-year college or university. The College currently offers the Associate in Arts degrees in Liberal Arts and Business.

Candidates for the Associate in Arts degree must:

1. Meet all general graduation requirements;
2. Successfully complete all core courses;
3. Meet General Education requirements by successfully completing at least 24 credits of course work in the fine arts, humanities, biological and physical sciences, social sciences, and physical education, as specified by the program;
4. Meet the resident course load requirement of at least the final 12 semester hours of credit completed at NMC; and
5. Successfully complete a specified minimum number of elective credits selected in consultation with an academic advisor.

**The Associate in Science Degree** is designed to provide a balanced educational foundation in academic areas with additional emphasis in scientific fields, and to prepare students for transfer to a four-year college or university. The College currently offers the Associate in Science degree in Nursing and in Natural Resources Management.

Candidates for the Associate in Science degree must:

1. Meet all general graduation requirements;
2. Successfully complete all core courses;
3. Successfully complete the General Education course requirements of their specific program;
4. Meet the resident course load requirement of at least the final 12 semester hours of credit completed at NMC; and
5. Meet all other requirements of their specific program.

**The Associate in Applied Science Degree** requires concentrated course work in an occupational field. The College currently offers the Associate in Applied Science degree in three program fields and three subfields: Business Administration (Accounting, Business Management, and Computer Applications), Criminal Justice, and Hospitality Management. Candidates for the Associate in Applied Science degree in any of the above programs must:

1. Meet all general graduation requirements;
2. Successfully complete the core course and General Education course requirements of their specific program;
3. Complete a program of approved course work in the relevant field of applied science;
4. Meet the resident course load requirement of at least the final 12 semester hours of credit completed at NMC.

See Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education Degree for further information.

**Certificate Requirements** Some programs award certificates of Completion, Achievement, and/or Endorsement to students who completed a prescribed course of study in an occupational field, and maintained a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0.

Students seeking a Certificate of Completion, Achievement, or Endorsement must:
Successfully complete the required course work;
Meet the resident course load requirement of at least the final 12 semester hours of credit completed at NMC; and
File the appropriate Petition to Graduate form with the Office of Admissions and Records no later than the announced deadline date prior to Commencement.

**Determining Applicable Catalog** Students maintaining continuous enrollment at Northern Marianas College may graduate according to the requirements in the catalog in effect at the time of initial enrollment or according to the requirements in any single catalog in effect during subsequent terms of continuous enrollment.

A semester in which a student earns course credit will be counted toward continuous enrollment. Non-credit courses, audited courses, failed courses, or courses from which the student withdraws do not count toward the determination of continuous enrollment for catalog purposes.

Students who do not enroll for two consecutive semesters are no longer considered continuously enrolled, and must meet the requirements in the catalog in effect at the time they return, or in any single catalog in effect during subsequent terms of continuous enrollment thereafter.

To meet the requirements of continuous enrollment, students are not obligated to enroll and earn course credit during summer terms, but summer enrollment may be used to maintain continuous enrollment status. Students admitted or who return after an absence during a summer term must follow the requirements in the catalog in effect in the following semester or in any single catalog in effect during the subsequent terms of continuous enrollment.