

A photograph of three people, two women and one man, looking at a sea urchin held in a hand. The woman on the left is wearing a blue cap with 'CAMP' on it and a blue lace top. The woman in the middle is wearing glasses and a yellow top. The man on the right is wearing a blue cap, sunglasses, and a blue t-shirt. The background is bright and outdoors.

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STATE

THE WILLIAM CONROY HONORS COLLEGE

Where Excellence Meets Opportunity

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WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

New Mexico State University's Honors College, the first such college in the state, provides broad access to exciting and challenging opportunities. Here, students get the same support and mentoring and quality education that they might receive at an elite college like Oberlin, Swarthmore or Dartmouth, but without the extra expense. Students enjoy the advantages of being part of a large institution – nearly 100 majors and many hands-on research opportunities – while receiving the nurturing liberal arts college experience. We are proud to serve our diverse student population who come from all over the world, providing unique perspectives during lively class discussions.

What makes us unique?

We do not have a separate admissions process, nor do we charge differential tuition to students who participate in the Honors program. As part of a land-grant and Hispanic-serving institution, our mission is to create opportunities for as many students as possible. Any student who achieves a GPA of 3.5 or better is automatically invited to be a member of our Honors community.

Why should you take Honors classes?

Students can fulfill some of their general education requirements by taking classes through the Honors College. These courses are taught by master teachers that emphasize interactive learning, challenging readings, enhanced analytical abilities and superior communication abilities. Once general education requirements are met, students will continue with their honors designated courses in their academic

major and complete a degree with a senior capstone project.

Pathways in Honors

Students continue their honors education in upper division courses by completing courses by contract and their senior capstone course. Courses taught as a course by contract include additional assignments to make the course equivalent to a graduate-level course. Senior capstone experiences can range from a traditional thesis, to community engagement projects and service learning, to internships, to performances and creative arts productions.

What makes us better?

Once students finish their education through the Honors program, they graduate with special distinctions, but more importantly, they graduate with additional skills, knowledge and abilities that will make them competitive in the global work force.



HONORS OPPORTUNITIES



Master's Accelerated Program

Through a collaboration with the Graduate School, we have been working with departments across the university to develop opportunities for students to begin accumulating graduate credits while still being an undergraduate. Select students can enroll in up to 12 graduate credits before they complete their undergraduate degree. These credits will count toward their undergraduate requirements, as honors credits, and they can roll these over into a graduate degree here at NMSU, if they are accepted into the graduate program. Although this program is only in its third semester, we already have more than 200 students enrolled in graduate classes through the MAP.

Honors Faculty and Classes

Approximately 50 members of the NMSU faculty teach in the Honors College. Our professors are distinguished teachers, leaders in their respective fields of study. They have earned many university and national teaching awards.

With class sizes of about 15 students, Honors students receive a more personalized learning experience.

We offer courses that fulfill general education requirements as well as innovative courses that explore fascinating topics. Students can study renditions of the legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table or examine the history of popular music conventions. The demand for Honors courses has increased in recent years, in part reflecting the reputation that these courses have earned for being interesting, and in part as more students have come to realize the advantages of graduating with the honors designation.

Sundt Professor

Every two years, a Sundt Professor is selected through a competitive proposal-driven process. Each Sundt professor teaches a course in the spring that examines a compelling global question, and typically involves travel with the class over spring break. Recent Sundt professors have lead their students to Hawaii to examine the effects of climate change on tropical reefs and to Mexico to examine tropical ecosystems in change.

The University Speakers Series

Since 1992, the Honors College has sponsored the University Speakers Series, one of the most distin-

guished lecture series in the region. Speakers have included Nobel Prize laureates along with distinguished authors and scientists, including Elie Wiesel, Alice Walker, Jane Goodall, Oliver Sacks, E. O. Wilson, Sir Salman Rushdie, Steven Pinker, Sherman Alexie, Mar-



Led by biology department head Michele Nishiguchi (center in pink), NMSU students visited the Hawaiian Fish Auction in Honolulu during their Sundt Honors College trip to Hawaii to study the effects of climate change on coral reefs.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“ My professors at NMSU were 100 percent the reason I pursued science as a career. They helped guide my passion toward tangible goals and provided me with experience and counsel along the way.

KELLIE ANN JURADO '11
Major: Biology
2017 L'Oréal For Women in Science Fellowship recipient
Postdoctoral Yale University Researcher



Luis Alberto Urrea (center) is the author of “Into the Beautiful North” and 16 other books. The 2018 featured speaker for the University Speakers Series event is a critically acclaimed and best-selling author.



got Lee Shetterly, and most recently author Luis Urrea. In recent years, this event has been tied to broader programming, such as introducing a common reading project to foster cross-campus discussions about a book, and in 2018 funding from the National Endowment for the Arts allowed us to have a month-long series of events that involved more than 2,000 people from the campus and broader Las Cruces community.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“ My time at NMSU has been an absolutely transformative experience. From completing a policy white paper on mental health with the Domenici Institute, to being a finalist for the Truman Scholarship, to spending a semester as a congressional intern in Washington, D.C., NMSU has trained me and helped me obtain the skills I will need to serve my community.

MICAELA DE LA ROSA '18
Majors: Government, Spanish
Pursuing two master's programs at the
University of Arizona





VALUE ADDED OPPORTUNITIES

Crimson Scholars Program

Students who qualify as **Crimson Scholars** (GPA 3.5) receive all of the benefits that the Honors College offers. They may elect to live in the Honors College Living Learning Community, where there is substantial programming for building community and fostering collaboration. We hold regular events in our building to help students compete for prestigious funding and scholarships, prepare for careers, graduate school and internships, and to be a more effective and engaged global citizen. Our building is home to our Commons Room, where students routinely spend time studying and meeting with their peers, and it serves as a home away from home for many. Crimson Scholars enjoy additional benefits such as priority registration, enhanced library services, and additional advising and mentoring from the Honors College. Recent analyses have demonstrated that participating in Honors curricular offerings has a positive impact on student retention.

Undergraduate Research and Professional Development

Students have professional development opportunities including research collaborations with faculty, and



Computer science major Elena Davidson was a Google intern for the summer of 2017. She spent 12 weeks in the engineering practicum program.

through internships, outreach activities and mentoring programs. Students can work within the university or in the private sector. Recent internship locations include Google, Los Alamos National Lab, Qualcomm and White Sands Missile Range, just to name a few. We also have strong working relationships with other programs on campus that support undergraduate research such, as the Discovery Scholars program, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute program, the NIH-supported Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program, and the Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP). We encourage students to participate in professional conferences in their disciplines, to present papers, posters, or performances while they are undergraduates.

For more than two decades, our spring semester is capped off with our **Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts Symposium (URCAS)**. Typically, about 125 students present at this annual event; this helps foster professionalism in those students and makes them more competitive for opportunities after graduation.

The **Office of National Scholarships and International Education (ONSIE)** mentors students applying for national and international scholarships. Students supported by ONSIE have won dozens of scholarships, including many Fulbrights, Gates Cambridge Scholarships, Truman Scholarships, British Marshall



The Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts Symposium is the longest-running student symposium at NMSU. More than 2,000 students have presented their work at the symposium, with many going on to graduate school, law school and medical school, and a few have returned to NMSU as professors. URCAS is an annual celebration of undergraduate creativity in all fields, representing some of the most advanced and creative projects presently being undertaken at NMSU.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“As a student, I was a President’s Associates Scholar, an opportunity that grounded me in our community and made college possible for me. Now, as the Dean of Students at Arrowhead Park Early College High School, I have the opportunity to guide new Aggies to the opportunities that await them at NMSU and the Honors College.

JOSHUA SILVER '03 '07 '18

**Majors: Secondary Education Language Arts,
Curriculum and Instruction
Master’s Program: Business Administration –
(Woodrow Wilson Fellowship)**



Scholarships, Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholarships, Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships, Goldwater Scholarships (STEM disciplines), National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships, and Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society scholarships.

We have also built an endowment that permits us to award the [Honors College Scholarship](#) for International Research. Each year, the college awards multiple scholarships up to \$5,000 to support students who are undertaking an original research project abroad. Since 2005, scholarship winners have traveled to Rwanda, the Czech Republic, Chile, Germany, Mexico, Bolivia, Malaysia, Peru, Korea, France, Uruguay and the UK. Students who receive these scholarships are typically far more competitive for post-baccalaureate opportunities. Upile Chisala, a 2013 recipient, conducted research on women’s health care in Malawi and used this data for her senior thesis; she went on to graduate school at Oxford. Clara Hansen conducted research in Uruguay on bird vocalizations allowing her to gain admission to the top school of veterinary medicine at Colorado State University.

Building Community in the Honors College

We know that students succeed when they feel that they are part of a community, and we foster many opportunities to build our community of scholars.

Many students choose to live in our Honors Living Learning Community (LLC) as new freshmen on campus, and we greet all of our students and their families on move-in day to welcome them to campus. Our Honors LLC has frequent programming to bring members of the group together – whether it is a study skills workshop taught by experienced students, or a “Pizza with a Prof” discussion, or a lesson on Chinese calligraphy to celebrate the Chinese New Year – students in our LLC form life-long friendships.

We have a team of Honors Ambassadors, who work with the Honors faculty and staff to host events, plan activities and engage in outreach beyond the campus; sophomores are invited to apply to become part of this fun group.

We hold frequent activities in our building, and especially in the Commons Room, to help students



Honors students have many opportunities to sit and discuss a variety of topics with special guests. Above NMSU students visited with William B. Conroy (far right), NMSU former president from 1997-2000.

succeed and learn about opportunities beyond just their classes. Events range from our annual Crimson Picnic during Homecoming week, to workshops about study abroad opportunities, to poetry readings,

to trainings to enhance your professional profile, to stress-busting visits from four legged friends during finals week – there is always something going on to support our honors students.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“ Because of the motivated friends I made and the passionate professors who teach, the Honors College experience inspired my calling. Now, I am a policy and fiscal analyst for the Legislative Finance Committee for the state of New Mexico.

ISMAEL TORRES '17
Major: Government, Economics
and International Business



— William Conroy Honors College — **BY THE NUMBERS**

Eligibility for the Honors College

3.75 HS GPA

or 3.5 college GPA or
26 ACT (1170 SAT)

3.5 cumulative GPA for ongoing eligibility
to take Honors courses after matriculating
at NMSU which earns the designation of

CRIMSON SCHOLAR

3,000

**APPROXIMATE
NUMBER OF
UNDERGRADUATES
WHO ARE ELIGIBLE
TO TAKE HONORS
CLASSES**

Opportunities for Crimson Scholars



250+

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS
PARTICIPATING
IN THE MASTER'S
ACCELERATED
PROGRAM**

number of credits
a student must
earn to graduate
with the highest
designation,
University Honors



the number of opportunities
available to a
student if they graduate with
University Honors

18



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Honors College**

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