



LOS ALAMOS

Student Services Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2025

MEET LECTURER II DEREK MARTINEZ



Derek is a dedicated fan of Star Trek, particularly The Next Generation, and he plans to dress as Captain Picard for Halloween.

Derek is connected to the local film scene in two ways. First, he has worked as a background actor in several movies, such as Conspiracy with Val Kilmer, and Wild Hogs, in which you can see him rocking out in the dance scene. Second, his brother, Jaydin Martinez, is an actor and filmmaker.

We're thrilled to have Derek join our faculty—be sure to say hello and give him a warm welcome when you see him on campus!

UNM-Los Alamos Student Services is excited to welcome Derek Martinez as our new Lecturer II in Biology. Derek is a native of Santa Fe, and he earned his bachelor's degree and two master's degrees from UNM.

A multi-sport athlete at Santa Fe High School, Derek remains passionate about fitness—especially high-impact interval training. At UNM, he competed with the bowling team, and he was even selected as the captain.

Derek enjoys the outdoors of New Mexico, particularly skiing at Ski Santa Fe and fishing at Santa Cruz Lake. Now that he works here, he is hoping to try out our ski hill.

Derek listens to all sorts of music. Some of his favorite genres are smooth jazz, hip-hop, country, and rock. He has seen a lot of live music, but the best show he has seen was The Red Hot Chili Peppers.



CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Our career development workshops are your gateway to job search success, offering invaluable tips and best practices.

IN THE LIBRARY, BUILDING 7

QUESTIONS?

(505) 662-5919

losalamos.unm.edu/students/career-services/

Resumes
SEPT. 15, 11:30-12:30



Interviewing
SEPT. 22, 11:30-12:30



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH



Did you know that The University of New Mexico has its own crisis center? Agora Crisis Center features a helpline (6:00 am-midnight) and offers online support. Volunteers are trained to be non-judgmental, and anyone can use their services.

Call the helpline at (505)277-3013 or (877)505-4505. You can visit www.AgoraCares.org for more information.



IMPORTANT DATES

September 1: Labor Day. Campus closed. No classes.

September 5: Last day to drop with “W” grade and 100% tuition refund on LoboWEB (for full-term classes)

October 9-10: Fall Break. Campus open. No classes

November 7: Last day to DROP without Dean’s Permission on LoboWEB

November 27-29: Thanksgiving. Campus Closed. No classes.

December 5: Last day to drop with Dean’s Permission (talk to your advisor)

WELCOME BACK DAY SEPTEMBER 3

Welcome back to campus! On Wednesday, September 3, stop by our tent outside Building 1. There will also be a CIC Meet and Greet in Room 230 for students who are interested in paid internships.



Wednesday
September 3

10 AM - 2 PM
Look for the tent
outside Building 1!

Come for snacks,
UNM-LA swag, and
helpful resources!

Stop by the tent and vote for your new
Student Government representatives!

Be sure to also check out the
CIC MEET & GREET

Lecture Hall, Room 230
11:30AM - 12:30PM

Grab some pizza and meet with local
businesses offering Fall Internships!

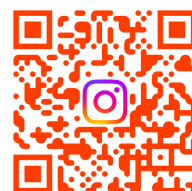


SKI PASS FOR NEW FRESHMEN



Hey freshmen! Pajarito Mountain is offering a free season pass to new full-time freshmen who graduated from high school in 2024 or earned their GED this year. Email Lori Tepley (ltepley@unm.edu) or stop by Student Services to learn more.

FOLLOW US



NAVARATRI: CELEBRATING DURGA



This article is part of our ongoing series celebrating the diverse cultures represented across our campus community.

Navaratri (“nine nights”) is an annual Hindu festival that commemorates the victory of goddess Durga over the buffalo demon Mahishashura.

Mahishashura had been granted a special boon by Brahma--only a woman would be able to kill him. His abuses of power became so great that the devas went to the great gods Vishnu, Shiva, and Brahma (the Trimurtri) to ask them to come up with a way to defeat him. They combined their power and created Durga, a fierce warrior who rode a lion (or tiger) into battle. Mahishashura had the power to change forms, and Durga had to defeat his shapes one by one over the course of nine days.

Navaratri is celebrated differently in various areas of India, and observations can include fasting, dancing, prayers, and public reenactments of the battle. In addition to commemorating a nine-day battle, Durga can take on nine forms, each of which is honored separately during the festival.

Although she is the fiercest fighter, Durga is often shown with a calm face, which represents her knowledge that good will always triumph over evil.



This year, Navaratri will begin on September 22 and end on September 29. On October 2 Hindus will celebrate the related festival, Vijayadashami, which commemorates the triumph of good throughout history.



Display of golu (small religious sculptures) for the holiday of Navaratri.



Some offer food to birds as part of the observance of Navaratri.

ADA STATEMENT

The University of New Mexico-Los Alamos is committed to the recognition and the proactive pursuit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The University makes reasonable accommodation for religious observances, national origin practices of a student and to the known physical or mental limitations of a qualified student, unless such accommodations have the end result of fundamentally altering a program or service or placing an undue hardship on the operation of the University. Qualified students with disabilities should contact Student Services for information regarding accommodations in the academic and/or employment setting. If you have a special need and require an auxiliary aide and/or service, please contact Student Services at (505) 662-5919.

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services is a central hub of information for prospective, current, and former students to find assistance and answers to questions about admissions, financial aid, registration, academic advising, career services, and other resources on campus.



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Admissions

The Office of Admissions can help if you have questions or are ready to apply to UNM-Los Alamos. The Office of Admissions can provide application instructions for degree-seeking, non-degree, dual credit/concurrent, international, senior, or transfer students. Complete details can be found on the Admissions page: losalamos.unm.edu/admissions.

Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid provides information on financial resources available to degree-seeking students. These resources may include scholarships, grants, and loans from the federal or state government, independent organizations, and/or UNM-LA itself. UNM-LA determines financial aid eligibility from the FAFSA, so please take time to file this document online every year. Don't assume you are ineligible—there are many opportunities to pursue.

Enrollment Services

The Office of Enrollment Services at UNM-LA processes high school and other college transcripts of current and former students. The registrar can also answer questions about dual credit and concurrent enrollment, VA benefits, and graduation requirements.

Academic Advising & Student Success

Academic advisors can provide guidance through the admission process, degree and course selection, and registration. Advisors also assist with changing a major, following up instructors' early alerts, filing graduation petitions, and planning for baccalaureate work. Advisors can also help resolve registration errors. Degree-seeking students must meet with an advisor before registering for each semester to check that their chosen classes will continue to make progress toward their degrees and to have their advising hold lifted. The Student Success Manager coordinates ADA accommodation services for students, and oversees academic advisement, student retention, and success initiatives.

Career Services

Student Services offers career services to assist students with self-exploration, selecting a major, and opportunities for gaining experience in their chosen fields. Career services also include resume reviews, internship connections, job fairs, quantifying or translating skills, sharing job postings, and building connections between employers and our students.