



LOS ALAMOS

Student Services Newsletter

AUGUST 2024

WELCOME BACK FROM DEAN ALLEN



Greetings from the Dean and Faculty! If you're new here, we're so glad to see you, and if you're returning, it's our great pleasure to have you back.

This fall we are pleased to be launching a brand-new Elementary Education credit-bearing certificate program to supplement our mini-certificate program on the continuing education side, and relaunching our Certified Nurse Assistant program in addition to all the other stellar programming we offer. If you're interested in careers in education or health care, this is a great opportunity to get started!

We will also have three brand new, full-time faculty starting in Physics, English, and Math that will mean more support and more classes for you to take in these core areas.

It's also an exciting time as we move most of our classes back into our newly renovated Building 6, our main academic building. We have updated the hallways, the common spaces, the bathrooms and almost all the classrooms with new flooring & carpets, ceiling tiles, lighting, furnishings and more, all designed to make your learning environment more inviting. Please be sure to check out the new study area in the foyer, with individual study carrels as well as group seating. And the bathrooms positively gleam! We think you'll love the result!

Other changes that you'll see around campus are construction beginning on Building 5, where we're revamping the bathrooms and installing a greatly expanded welding shop! Building 4, which saw a flood this summer, will also be getting some work done, including new flooring.

We hope all this will add to the vibrancy of the community. We look forward to seeing you all on campus!

PAJARITO 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. Stop by Student Services to learn more.

FOLLOW US



MEET DANIELLE GONZALES

Student Services invites you to welcome the new Director of Student Affairs, Danielle Gonzales.



Danielle has deep New Mexican roots, and she speaks passionately about the beauty of our state. She was born in Taos, and her Peñasco family goes back farther than anybody can remember. She hikes most weekends and says, “The mountains of New Mexico are

where I feel the most alive and at home.” Santa Fe is home, but she recently bought some land in Lamy, and she looks forward to the day that she can ride her horses across her own land.

Danielle earned her BA in Educational Psychology from the College of Santa Fe, and her MA in Education with an emphasis on Community College Administration from NMSU. Danielle is an inspiration to non-traditional students, as she earned her bachelor’s degree in her late 20s, and her master’s degree in her mid 30s.

Before coming to UNM-LA, Danielle’s professional career was all at Santa Fe Community College. Starting out as an advisor, she eventually worked her way up to the Director of TRIO Student Services. While she has spent several years in administration, Danielle’s heart is in making connections and serving students. Her goals at UNM-LA include “making sure that we have systems in place for students to reach their goals.” She wants to help build our community so that students feel that UNM-LA is not just where they take their classes, but a place where they feel welcome.

Danielle also prioritizes reaching out to the community to let them know what we offer. She explains that “UNM offers so much for people at our little campus here. Wherever you are in life, we can find some way to enrich your life.” She particularly wants prospective students to know that college is not as expensive as people have been led to believe, and New Mexico-sponsored programs like the Lottery Scholarship or the Opportunity Scholarship can greatly reduce the cost of an education for most people.

Student Services is thrilled to welcome such a talented leader. We invite you to stop by Building 1 and introduce yourself whenever you have the opportunity.

INTERESTED IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT?

Student Government is involved in developing activities for students. Check out the Student Lounge in Building 2 to see our major project from last year. Student Government members earn \$100 for each semester served, form relationships with other students, staff and faculty, build leadership experience, and collaborate on important decisions. Elections will be held early in September, during the week of Labor Day. Students who have at least a 2.5 GPA and are enrolled in six credit hours (two classes) are qualified to run. Fill out a candidate declaration in Student Services or by visiting the [Student Government webpage](#). They are due August 29. Email UNMLAStudentGov@unm.edu with questions.

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.

HAPPINESS HAPPENS MONTH



August is Happiness Happens Month. The first Happiness Happens Month was declared in 2000 by the Secret Society of Happy People (Welcome To The Society Of Happy People 2024 | SOHP.com). While not a national holiday, Happiness Happens Day is recognized by the official proclamation of 16 states, while the monthly observation has been proclaimed by seven.

This year, we would like to honor the research of UNM Professor Bruce W. Smith, who has written about resilience, mindfulness, and steps to leading a happier life. He was so dedicated to positive psychology that he made his 2020 book *From Surviving to Thriving* available for free. [Click here](#) to download a pdf or find out about ordering it on Amazon. Dr. Smith writes, "Positive psychology is not just about surviving, it is thriving even during the most challenging and stressful times of our lives."

Even if you've grown jaded by looking at life as something that should be endured instead of something that should be savored, take a minute to read the preface of Dr. Smith's book and consider the possibility that you can be happier.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

New students need to attend New Student Orientation live or online. In-person dates are Thursday, August 8, 12:00-4:00 pm, or Thursday, August 15, 10:00-2:00 pm. Sign up for New Student Orientation [here](#). If you have already done online orientation, you can still register to attend in person.

The deadline to register for in-person orientation is Friday, August 2. If you miss that deadline, you will have to register for online orientation.

IMPORTANT FALL DATES

April 8: Registration opens

August 19: Classes begin

August 30: Enrollment cancellation, pay your previous semester's balance and accept financial responsibility or be cancelled

August 30: Late registration closes

September 2: Labor Day, campus closed/no classes

September 6: Last day to drop without a "W" grade and 100% tuition refund. See an advisor.

September 6: Last day to change grading options

October 10-11: Fall Break, campus open/no classes

November 8: Last day to withdraw without approval of Student Services. See and advisor.

November 28-30: Thanksgiving Holiday, campus closed/no classes

December 5: Last day to withdraw with approval of Student Services. Contact an advisor.

December 9-14: Final exams

CIC MEET AND GREET

Where will a CIC Internship take you? Find out by applying for one of our many different internships available to UNM-LA students this fall. Not sure which one is the best fit for you? Attend the Business Mentor Meet and Greet on September 5th, 11:30 am-12:30 pm, and speak with the mentors themselves to learn more about the job. Don't forget to apply by September 9th! You can find the application [here](#). Check out the [CIC website](#) or email Brittany Carpenter with questions.



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 Director of Student Affairs 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.

