At the University of New Mexico School of Law, practical experience forms the core of our students’ legal education. Our faculty are committed to providing top quality, hands-on legal education to ensure that students are client-ready upon graduation. Our law school has always been recognized for having one of the best clinical law programs in the nation. Our curriculum, clinical program, and a very active relationship with the Bench and Bar offer students countless opportunities for collaboration, training, and employment.

QUICK VIEW
- 2014 Enrollment: 343
- Full-time Faculty: 42
- Small class sizes encourage one-to-one faculty-student contact
- One of the best and most competitive tuition rates in the country
- State-of-the-art hands-on clinic enables students to hit the ground running
- Highly ranked for popularity, diversity, and value
Small School.

One of the values we emphasize most at the UNM School of Law is community. We keep our classes small to encourage that sense of community and to create more engaging, meaningful interactions between students and faculty. You’ll receive a top-quality education from faculty who share their love of the law and devote themselves to helping all of our students succeed.

Experiential learning ensures you’re client-ready.

Our faculty are committed to experiential learning. Hands-on experiences in seminars, hybrid classroom/fieldwork classes, lecture classes with drafting assignments, as well as our mandatory clinical program will ensure that you are client-ready upon graduation.

“I worked as a paralegal for years and decided to go to law school at age 43. I chose the UNM School of Law because of its diverse student body. I couldn’t have made a better decision. I enjoy collegial relationships with engaged, intelligent, and creative classmates. The faculty and staff know me by name and are always ready to help. I have found a place where I fit in.”

—Philip Hunteman, Class of 2016

“For over four decades, the University of New Mexico School of Law has had a mandatory clinical program. We continue to expand experiential learning opportunities across the law school curriculum and are moving toward creating a truly integrative model of legal education.”

—Aliza Organick
Professor of Law
UNM Teaching Fellow

| Student-to-faculty ratio:               | 9:1   |
| Research/writing first year class size: | 14-20 students |
| Upper division median class size:      | 12 students |
| Clinic class size:                     | 8 students or less |
Big Value.

Superior practical skills training, renowned faculty, and reasonable tuition rates make the UNM Law School one of the best educational values in the country.

UNM also offers the advantages of a large research university located in a metropolitan area: a dynamic environment, a wide range of resources, a diverse student body, abundant extra-curricular activities, Division I inter-collegiate athletics, and much more.

Our students rate their law school highly.

In 2013, Above the Law asked current law school students to rate their schools in academics, financial aid advising, career services, practical/clinical training, and social life on a scale from 1 (“very unsatisfied”) to 4 (“very satisfied”).

The rating by our law school students made UNM Law fourth nationwide. UNM Law tied for fourth-place with Vanderbilt University and came in right behind the Stanford University School of Law.

David J. Herrin, Dean of the UNM School of Law, says he’s pleased and impressed that this rating comes directly from our students. “The UNM School of Law belongs in the company of the best law schools in the country. It provides a special educational environment that our students fully appreciate.”

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UNM Law School 2014 Class Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incoming Class Size</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSAT Median</td>
<td>153</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPA Median</td>
<td>3.43</td>
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<td>Minority Students</td>
<td>51.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>48.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Get Involved

Student organizations offer valuable support, as well as social, educational and professional opportunities. Choose from 23 student organizations at UNM Law and hundreds at UNM.
Law Students Propose Animal Welfare Court for Albuquerque

Recent research shows a strong connection between animal abuse and domestic violence, and Laura Castillo (left) and Amber Macias-Mayo (right) worked for months to develop a proposed response to the problem in New Mexico. Their research was conducted as part of the Animal Law Writing Seminar taught by Professor Marsha Baum.

In May, the team gave a presentation to the State Bar of New Mexico, proposing an animal welfare court that provides counseling for perpetrators rather than generating fines and fees, similar to one in Pima County, AZ. Now they are working with Judge Cosgrove-Aguilar of Metropolitan Court on implementation and have organized an Animal Welfare Court Task Force, comprised of members of the legal community, along with those interested in child abuse and domestic violence.

Recent Grad Spotlight

Tracy Goodluck
Class of 2014
Presidential Management Fellow

Goodluck, a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and Mvskoke Creek, secured a position as Attorney-Adviser assigned to Indian Affairs issues in the Department of the Interior, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. “The analytical thinking and communication skills I developed at the UNM Law School are an asset in this position,” she says. “UNM’s culture and diverse community prepared me to work with diverse groups to solve issues through the legislative process.”

Byron “Craig” Williams, Jr
Class of 2014
Udall Congressional Intern

Williams, a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, received the opportunity of a lifetime last summer with the prestigious Udall Congressional Internship. “It was an unparalleled opportunity to learn more about the federal government and issues affecting Indian Country,” says Williams. Now he is supporting the work of another UNM Law graduate, U.S. Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham (Class of 1987), as a member of her staff in Washington, D.C.
Associate Dean Nathalie Martin Battles Against Predatory Lending

Associate Dean Nathalie Martin has studied payday, title, and high-cost installment loans, as well as predatory mortgage loans.

Recently, the New Mexico Supreme Court relied on Martin's empirical research in finding a high-cost installment loan to be unconscionable. Her work has been cited by various state courts as well as by the United States Supreme Court.

Martin is a regular blogger at Credit Slips, the nation's leading blog on debt and credit issues.

Professor Dave Sidhu: Distinguished Public Service

From 2013-2014, Professor Dave Sidhu served as a fellow at the Supreme Court of the United States. As a Supreme Court Fellow, Sidhu was assigned to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, an independent agency within the federal judiciary, and was the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award.

At UNM Law, Sidhu founded a constitutional literacy program. He has been a legal observer of military commissions at Guantanamo, an opportunity now available to UNM law students through Sidhu's efforts.

Professor James Ellis Transforms Legal Landscape for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Distinguished Professor James Ellis (center) has changed the legal landscape for people with intellectual disabilities in far-reaching, profound, and enduring ways. In addition to his scholarship, Ellis has filed briefs in over 20 cases in the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities.

Last year, Jason Kerkmans (right) participated in a student-faculty team tasked with helping to write an amicus brief for the U.S. Supreme Court. “We learned every facet of constructing a brief—from the painstaking process of writing and editing a brief that will be scrutinized at the highest level, to conducting an oral argument, to managing a case with different amici,” says Kerkmans. “We’ll be able to apply what we learned to any case or project.”
Academic Overview

The UNM School of Law is known for its small class size, close student-faculty interaction, and our programs in Clinical Law, Indian Law, and Natural Resources and Environmental Law. New Mexico's only law school offers you the opportunity to become an active member of the Bar from day one. Throughout your experience at the UNM Law School, you will interface with the judges and attorneys who guest lecture in classes, judge moot competitions, and enrich our learning environment.

Our J.D. program is a full-time day program requiring completion of 86 credit hours in order to earn the J.D. over three years. As a first year student, you will take courses that address the fundamental aspects of the law and develop skills in advocacy, legal writing, oral argument, litigation, counseling, and negotiation.

After the first year, you will have the flexibility to tailor your coursework to your individual interests. As a second and third year student, you may choose to complete a certificate in Indian Law or Natural Resources and Environmental Law; or you can focus in specialty areas such as business law, child advocacy and family law, constitutional law, criminal law, and international law.
Certificate Programs

Indian Law

Since 1967, the UNM School of Law has led the way in educating lawyers among American Indian and Alaska Native populations. The Indian Law certificate includes 21 credit hours of academic study, practical experience, and Indian Law-specific courses such as tax law, gaming, and water law. This comprehensive program prepares students to assist in the legal protection and representation of Native American individuals, communities, and nations on tribal, state, and federal levels.

lawschool.unm.edu/indianlaw

Natural Resources and Environmental Law

Students gain a more comprehensive understanding of legal issues relating to water quality, wildlife protection, sustainable land development, renewable energy, oil and gas, and climate change. The 21 credit hour program prepares students to participate in making key decisions that affect the environment, either as attorneys/advisors within various local, tribal, state, and federal agencies who have regulatory authority over natural resources and the environment, or with private entities and nonprofit organizations.

lawschool.unm.edu/nrelaw

Top 50 Law Schools - Public
Above the Law, 2013
8th

Clinical Training
US News & World Report, 2014
9th

Top 20 Best Value Law Schools
PreLaw Magazine, 2014
11th

Top 50 Law Schools
Above the Law, 2014
22nd
One of the Nation’s Best Clinical Law Programs

**PIONEERING** Founded in 1971, UNM’s Clinical Law Program was one of the first in-house, live-client clinical programs. It continues to be recognized as one of the top programs in the nation. In clinic, you’ll be on the front lines of public service, representing real clients with supervision by tenured and tenure-track faculty. You’ll work in multidisciplinary teams to enhance your analytical and problem-solving skills, develop counseling skills, and acquire familiarity with the legal system in advance of your graduation.

**INCLUSIVE** You’ll work with core clinical faculty as well as traditional course, visiting, and emeriti faculty. Clinic collaborations include the Court, the Bar, New Mexico communities, and legal educators nationwide.

**REQUIRED** Unlike many other law schools, all students at UNM complete a six credit hour clinical course as part of the J.D. requirements. Our students have appeared in Metropolitan Court, District Courts, Tribal Courts, the New Mexico Court of Appeals, and the New Mexico Supreme Court as part of their clinical education training. Our goal is that with this experience, you will be client-ready upon graduation.

lawschool.unm.edu/clinic

—I love teaching and mentoring students, watching them grow over the course of the clinic and seeing their transformation. There is no substitution for interacting with a real client and advocating directly for someone with real and important needs.”

—Yael Cannon
Professor of Law

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**Clinical Sections**

**Business and Tax**
Students provide legal services to businesses and individuals in areas such as taxation, supporting community-based efforts to promote economic development, and dispute resolution.

**Community Lawyering**
Students work closely with physicians, social workers, community planners, community activists, and nonprofits at sites across Albuquerque.

**Law Practice**
In an experiential learning rotation typical of a general law practice, students represent clients in a variety of both civil and criminal cases.

**Southwest Indian Law**
Students represent individual clients, tribal groups, and/or Indian communities, and learn how to approach legal solutions premised on tribal sovereignty, cultural rights, and more.
Beyond the Classroom

A variety of academic competitions allow UNM Law School students to sharpen their advocacy skills.

- Students interested in becoming trial lawyers are encouraged to try out for the National Mock Trial competition.
- Moot court competitions expose participants to the appeals process.

The law school publishes three student-edited journals, each embodying a key area of expertise within the school. Students in their second or third year may join these academic journals:

- New Mexico Law Review
- Tribal Law Journal
- Natural Resources Journal

Summer Programs and Exchange Programs

Guanajuato Summer Law Institute
In a four-week, six credit introduction to Mexican law and subjects such as immigration law, human rights, and international law, students are immersed in Mexican life and culture. Some students choose to extend the program by two weeks and enroll in an externship to work alongside a Mexican judge or lawyer.

Madrid Summer Law Institute
A four-week, five credit summer law program in Madrid, Spain offers classes on European Union law and international and comparative law subjects. The program is open to law students, graduate students, and legal professionals from around the world. Classes meet only half-days Mondays through Thursdays, giving students ample opportunity to experience life in Europe.

Exchange Program, University of New Hampshire
Up to two UNM Law students every semester can take advantage of the student exchange program at the University of New Hampshire School of Law, consistently ranked in the top five law schools in Patent Law and Intellectual Property Law. Patent law is important to the economy of New Mexico with its national laboratories and its burgeoning high-tech start-up corporations.

Exchange Program, Howard University School of Law
Up to two UNM Law students every semester can experience a unique exposure to Howard’s legal programs and take advantage of opportunities in Washington, D.C. Students will also benefit from a strong and supportive UNM alumni community.

The UNM Law Semester in D.C.
This program sends six UNM Law students to Washington, D.C. in the fall semester to work full-time for credit at a governmental agency or non-profit organization. Students also take a seminar, allowing them to learn from and interact with judges, practitioners, and national political leaders.

Institutes and Research Centers

The American Indian Law Center, Inc.
The American Indian Law Center (AILC) has been instrumental in forming federal and state policy responsive to tribes. AILC and UNM collaborate on projects related to these policies, often incorporating law student contributions. It also operates the Pre-Law Summer Institute, a two-month pre-professional program taught by law professors from around the United States. Many of the preeminent Native American attorneys working in the field of Indian law are alumni of the Institute.

The Institute of Public Law
The Institute of Public Law (IPL) promotes justice and community engagement by providing high quality law-related education to New Mexico’s judicial systems and communities. IPL primarily focuses its activities through its Judicial Education Center, Children’s Law Center, and Wild Friends program.

The Utton Transboundary Resource Center
The Utton Transboundary Resources Center researches and provides information to the public about water, natural resources, and environmental issues, with a particular focus on New Mexico and the Southwest. It also supports collaborative natural resource management using multidisciplinary expertise and inclusive, diverse stakeholder involvement.
Nestled in the Sandia Mountains, Albuquerque has an extensive network of biking/hiking trails along the Bosque of the Rio Grande.
Living in Albuquerque

The UNM School of Law is situated in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a dynamic metropolitan city with a unique multicultural heritage set against a backdrop of spectacular mountains and southwestern cultures.

Downtown Albuquerque, the economic center of New Mexico, is home to many of the city’s law firms and courts, as well as contemporary art, shopping, and gourmet dining.

Located just west of downtown, Old Town is a historic district, dating back to the founding of the city by the Spanish in 1706. Today it features charming streets and courtyards just waiting to be discovered.

Near UNM, Nob Hill is a college favorite, with a variety of restaurants, eclectic specialty shops, vintage boutiques, and thriving nightlife.

With over 300 days of sunshine each year and a mild climate, Albuquerque is perfect for hiking in the Sandia Mountains, biking along the Rio Grande River, taking a ride on the tram, and strolling through the plazas.
Strong Employment Outcomes for Graduates

UNM School of Law students outpace the national rate for securing long-term jobs that require bar passage by 15%, according to the data released by the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar in April 2014.

UNM School of Law Office of Career Services
Career Services helps you become your own best advocate for your legal career. Effective professional development is an evolving process of gathering information, developing skills, obtaining experience, establishing professional connections, and self-reflection. We provide guidance, a large number of resources, and skills workshops every step of the way.

The small size of our student body allows us to provide all of our students and graduates with individualized comprehensive professional development assistance. We will also help connect you with a broad range of law practices and legal markets throughout the country.

We will connect you to fieldwork in your desired area of interest through the school’s robust externship program, the Washington, D.C. Experiential Enrichment Program, and “in-practice” courses that involve actual client matters. You will develop valuable skills, experience, connections, and confidence, all of which will increase your post-graduate marketability and career satisfaction.

An Employment-Focused Community
The UNM School of Law is led by administrators and faculty deeply involved in a critical dialogue about students’ skill sets and employability upon graduation. We believe it is not enough to help students simply obtain a law degree. Our law school community is working hard to develop classroom tools and teaching innovations that measure our success and that help to maintain strong employment rates.

Bar Passage

- **87%** July 2013
- **89%** July 2014

[lawschool.unm.edu/careers](http://lawschool.unm.edu/careers)
Admissions & Financial Aid

The UNM School of Law requires that all applicants apply through the Law School Admissions Council (www.lsac.org) in order to be considered for admission.

Application/Deadlines
First year applicants: February 15th
Transfer and Visitor Applicants: July 1st

Application Requirements
- Completed application form
- Nonrefundable $50 application fee
- Personal Statement
- Résumé
- Letter(s) of Recommendation
- Register with LSAC’s Credential Assembly Service (CAS)
- Law School Admission Test (LSAT)
- Proof of English Language Proficiency (international applicants only)

Financial Aid
File the FAFSA between January 1st and March 1st to apply for the federal loan program. File the Need Access application by March 1st to be considered for law school need-based scholarships. The law school offers several merit-based, need-based, and named scholarships. Descriptions of award opportunities can be found online.

Residency
The State of New Mexico Higher Education Department has a generous definition for in-state residents. All applicants are classified according to their residency for tuition purposes. Nonresident students may be eligible for resident tuition after their first year if they fulfill the requirements for residency and petition for residency reclassification. The State has made provisions for several groups who qualify as in-state residents for tuition purposes.

Not sure if you’re a resident? To find out, visit lawschool.unm.edu/residency.

Visit Us
Experience the informal, supportive atmosphere of the UNM School of Law. Explore the ways the UNM School of Law focuses on education, community, diversity, and life-long learning.

lawschool.unm.edu/admissions
505.277.0958 (phone)
505.277.9958 (fax)
admissions@law.unm.edu

Accredited by the American Bar Association; member of the Association of American Law Schools.
The University of New Mexico is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this material is available in alternate formats upon request.
"UNM Law afforded me the most incredible opportunities as a student, such as working closely with UNM's faculty on various research projects, representing real clients through the clinical law program, and taking classes taught by respected attorneys actively working in their fields, as well as by district and appellate judges from across New Mexico."

—Julio C. Romero, Class of 2014