



Honors College
New Mexico State University

A photograph of a multi-story building with a terracotta-tiled roof and light-colored stucco walls. The building features several windows with dark green frames and decorative architectural elements like arched windows and circular openings. A maroon horizontal band is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

the
Honors College Report

2025 - 2026

ELEVATING STUDENT SUCCESS

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



From our academic Honors Program to the diverse array of academic service offices, all of our Honors team is committed to elevating student success, both in and out of the classroom. Providing students with extra opportunities to bring their talents and passions together ensures that students are able to discover new possibilities and to aim higher in ways they never imagined possible!

From unique enriched coursework (not harder and faster), and research and creative projects with top NMSU faculty, to guided travel explorations across the state and world, the Conroy Honors College challenges students from across campus to do more with their NMSU education and prepares them to become leaders and change agents in their disciplines, professions, and communities.

Beyond GPAs, majors, and degrees, we really do believe that if we help transform students' lives for the better, they will be better prepared to transform our world for good!

Whether you are a prospective student, a new NMSU student, or a member of our extended NMSU community, if the spirit of enriched education reflected in this newsletter resonates with you, we invite you to reach out to us so we can welcome you into our NMSU Honors community!

Sincerely,

Dr. Phame Camarena

Dean, Honors College

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DEMYSTIFYING HONORS:

Crimson Scholars

High School students entering NMSU with a 3.75 GPA (or high academic index) and college transfers with a 3.5 GPA are automatically enrolled as Crimson Scholars - members of the Honors College Dean's List. This designation automatically entitles students to take Honors courses, receive priority registration authorization, and get regular notices of special opportunities designed for academically strong students. Recognizing that not all strong academic students meet these traditional standards, students are also encouraged to petition the Dean for designation as a Crimson Scholar!

University Honors

The structure of this flexible 18-credit academic program is designed to coordinate with student requirements across all majors. The best Honors courses are discussion oriented, experientially focused, with close faculty interaction. Honors values enriched learning and not harder and faster work! Students also earn Honors credits with study abroad, directed research, independent projects and more. Starting with the Honors First Year Seminar and ending with the Honors Capstone, students will be engaged with active learning activities, building their resumes of experience and elevating their academic success beyond the Honors Distinction earned for their transcript.

Conroy Honors & Presidential Leader Scholars

These two highly competitive scholarship programs are designed to recruit a small cohort of new high school graduates ready to model core honors values. Whether featuring academic excellence or leadership development, these Honors students will be engaging with the full life of the university while developing their scholarly and leadership potentials. With both Honors coursework and hands-on experiences, these students will be challenged and supported to do more with their NMSU education! All Honors students can participate in the same activities but because the Honors Scholar Program members receive extra financial support, they are committing to doing more from the start! (See more information on pg. 12)



EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS:

YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Dr. Anne Hubbell

Hello! I am Dr. Anne Hubbell, Associate Dean of the Honors College, and frankly, I have the best job on campus. I help students to graduate with an Honors Certificate or Honors Distinction. In my office, we assist students in achieving this Distinction through Honors course options in General Education, Viewing a Wider World, and Contract Classes that align with their majors or minors.

You may be thinking, Honors classes are harder! I am happy to say that at NMSU we focus on

developing classes that are more enriched, transformative, and experiential than other classes on campus. They are also usually much smaller than other classes. You may take a course, for example, that has a field trip component and/or meaningful discussions about your life and how you are a citizen of the world, not just Las Cruces. Or you may take a class where you become involved in outreach or service here in New Mexico or other places in the country. We even have a study abroad class! Our classes and the faculty who teach them are the ones you will remember when you leave NMSU.

For any questions, please feel free to email me at: ahubbell@nmsu.edu.

HONORS CREDIT OPTIONS

Most Honors course credits double-count with other university requirements and the program is flexible enough to coordinate with all majors and academic programs on campus. Honors courses are not designed to just be harder, faster, and more work. They are enriched opportunities to do more with your education both in and outside of the traditional classroom. Some Honors credit options include:

- General Education
- Viewing a Wider World
- Select Introductory Major Courses
- Special One-of-a-Kind Elective Courses
- Honors Contracts in Major Courses
- Study Abroad
- Graduate Courses as an Undergraduate
- Service Projects
- Directed Research or Independent Studies
- Capstone projects (Research, Creative Activity, Internship, etc.)
- Leadership Opportunities (Honors Ambassadors, First Year Seminar Mentors, etc.)

... *AND MORE!*



EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY

A group of outstanding NMSU faculty members lead Honors classes, supervise undergraduate projects, and guide students' academic and professional development. Dr. JFC and Dr. Sabine Hirschauer are determined to transform the lives of our students both in and out of the classroom. Thank you to them, and to all of Honors Faculty, for your exceptional service!

Dr. Judith Flores Carmona

Dr. Judith Flores Carmona ("Dr. JFC") works with the Honors Deans to advise on the curriculum and to recruit students to the Honors Program.



Dr. Flores Carmona is a first-generation college student and McNair Scholar Alum who went on to earn her PhD and complete a Post-Doctoral Fellowship before joining the NMSU faculty with a joint appointment in both Honors and the College of Health Education and Social Transformation. Now a full professor and the lead editor for

an international journal, Dr. Flores Carmona continues to touch the lives of Honors students in the classroom with her Testimonios class (meeting a Viewing a Wider World requirement), supervision of Honors Capstone Projects, and mentoring McNair Scholars.

Dr. Sabine Hirschauer

Dr. Sabine Hirschauer, from the Government Department, has been a campus leader advocating for justice, global perspectives, and democracy in her work with students. A leader for NMSU's exceptional Model United Nations Program, Dr. Hirschauer has been named the M. Eugene Sundt Professor in the Conroy Honors College and will be leading a special Honors seminar this Spring on Democracy in the World with special guests and field trips. Student projects will include Zoom meetings with students in Germany and the development of podcasts to share lessons outside the classroom. For an even more immersive experience, keep an eye out for Dr. Hirschauer's Faculty Led International Program to Munich coming this summer!



THE STUDENT *EXPERIENCE*



Annual Events

Welcoming new first year students at the Crimson Scholar Picnic and congratulating graduating seniors at the Honors Graduation Celebration, the year is full of Honors traditions. The third Annual Honors Art Exhibition had over a hundred submissions and several hundred people came out to the Conroy Honors Center for the opening night reception!

Honors students serve and lead across campus but many step forward to develop their leadership skills here in the Honors College. Honors First Year Mentors run small groups in the Honors First Year Seminar, Honors Ambassadors support outreach and help build community through a range of social activities, and the Honors Student Council represents all Honors student groups with ASNMSU and the Honors Dean.

Honors Student Leadership

Honors Community

From trivia nights, tie-dye afternoons, and workshops in the Honors Center Commons, there is always something bringing students together in the Conroy Honors Center. Combined with co-sponsored activities across campus and off campus field trips, Honors students have plenty of choices to explore their broader community together with peers.



The HFYS and LLC

Working in small groups within the larger class, the Honors First Year Seminar has become a tradition welcoming new Honors students to the life of the mind, life of NMSU, and life of Honors. With the support of the Honors Living Learning Community (LLC), hundreds of new first year students get a head start on their Honors education with the support of their peers.

Honors has a place for **you**



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

In partnership with the NMSU Education Abroad Office, The Honors College is committed to promoting international experiences that will transform our students' lives. More than any textbook can provide, these experience open eyes, develop intercultural capacities, build personal confidence, and prepare our students to change the world for good!

TOP DESTINATIONS

Over the past year, our Honors students have been engaged learners and NMSU cultural ambassadors in over a dozen countries:

- Argentina
- Belize
- Canada
- Costa Rica
- Denmark
- England
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Netherlands
- South Korea
- Spain
- Wales

Although not a requirement, over one-third of our 2024-25 University Honors Program graduates had participated in a NMSU sponsored education abroad program. Our goal is to reach 50% in the next couple of years so start making plans for your international experience!



Jackson Williams in The Hague, Netherlands

"As a student continuously fascinated with law and politics, 'The Hague University of Applied Sciences' in The Netherlands proved an obvious choice through wise advisement from our NMSU faculty and staff. Upon arrival and enrollment in the university, I can confidently state I correctly chose to study here, as the city has immersed me in the politics of the European Union and International Law. While studying under talented professors, I have learned more about international systems of law, Dutch culture, and solutions for global hunger through various branches of the United Nations. However, the most important lesson from this trip was the self-confidence I gained and the realization of how accessible the world is to NMSU students!"



THE FELLOWSHIPS OFFICE

The NMSU Honors College is home to the Fellowship Office serving all NMSU students across all majors and fields. Fellowships are FUNDED opportunities for life-changing, educational experiences in the United States or abroad. Students seeking to learn a new language, work with researchers on the other side of the world, or join a network of national or international leaders in their field are all encouraged to explore fellowship opportunities by visiting the NMSU Fellowships page on the Honors College website.

From learning about fellowship opportunities to sending off final submissions, we guide students through the application processes with informational sessions, writing workshops, one-on-one fellowship advising, mock interviews, and more.

SELECT FUNDED PROGRAMS

- DAAD-RISE Program
- PPIA Summer Institute
- Fulbright Scholarship
- Marshall Scholarship
- Rangel Summer Enrichment Program
- Boren and Language Scholarships
- Project Horseshoe Farm
- Honors International Research Award
- Udall Scholarship

In 2025, NMSU students on fellowships are teaching English in Japan, researching biomedical technology in Finland, researching linguistics in New Zealand, and studying concepts of the Self in India.

Desirae Price in New Zealand's Major Cities

Desirae Price is a senior McNair Scholar majoring in Anthropology and Linguistics, with a minor in International Relations. She traveled to Christchurch, Auckland, and Wellington, New Zealand to research the linguistic landscape in these major cities. Desirae has already presented her initial findings and continues to analyze the data for future presentations. This experience was made possible by one of three Honors College International Research Scholarships this year. This scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students annually by the Honors College to support research and help students bolster their applications for future academic fellowship opportunities.



THE MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Director Marko Mohlenhoff

Like every Honors College program, the McNair Scholars Program is a cornerstone of academic excellence and opportunity. Named in memory of Dr. Ronald E. McNair, an accomplished physicist, NASA astronaut, and trailblazer in the world of higher education, this program empowers first-generation college students with financial need, to pursue advanced degrees; most notably, the highest level of education that can be attained - the doctoral degree.

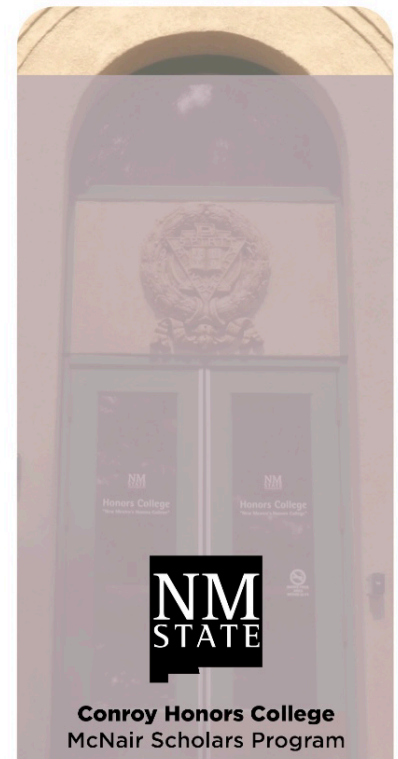
Through rigorous academic preparation, mentorship, and research opportunities, the McNair Scholars Program equips students with the knowledge and experiences to reach new heights, supporting them as they transform their aspirations into achievements. The accomplishments of NMSU's McNair Scholars include presenting their research at national conferences in their field of study, having their research published in scholarly journals, receiving offers from multiple graduate programs across the country, and even winning the

prestigious Boren Award and the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship.

Do you LOVE learning? Have you ever thought about taking your education beyond your bachelor's degree? Would you like to find the answers to the questions in your favorite subject area that haven't been answered yet? Ever think about becoming a college professor? Are you willing to work hard to achieve your goals?

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, you may want think about applying to the McNair Scholars Program. It will prepare you for graduate school/PhD programs by getting you the information and experiences you'll need to succeed. AND you'll get an Honors Certificate and Conroy Honors status - this means early registration every semester!

Applications are now being accepted. I invite you to email me to meet and talk more about what this could mean for you (markom@nmsu.edu).



THE CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY



Dr. Tracey Miller-Tomlinson

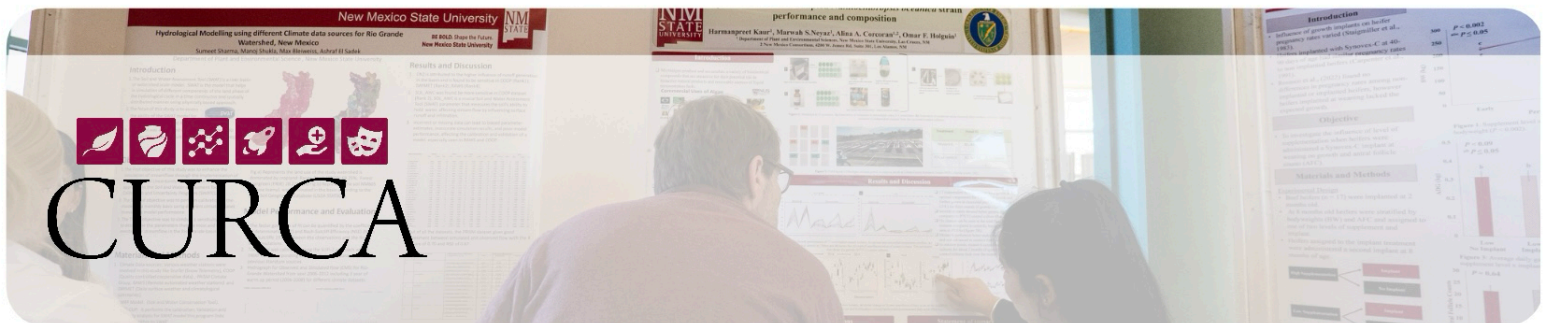
The Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (CURCA) helps you find your path into faculty-mentored research and creative experiences.

Join us at CURCA events year-round! This spring, 250 students presented their work at our 30th annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts Symposium, where twenty presenters earned top awards for their talks, performances, and posters.

Other highlights of the year include a fall open house for faculty labs and studios, the student-curated Honors Art Exhibition, workshops and panels, a downtown undergraduate poetry reading, and open mic night. Our student-edited journal, *The Agora*,

disseminates top undergraduate research and artwork and also gives the board hands-on experience with peer-reviewed academic publishing.

CURCA's biweekly CrimsonOpps emails and website share upcoming opportunities to get involved in research and creative scholarship. We collaborate with many campus programs that provide professional and/or financial support for undergraduate researchers. **All students can pursue independent research with the guidance of a faculty mentor through the Honors Capstone.** The Honors First-Year Seminar introduces you to these opportunities and much more. Contact the CURCA director, Dr. Tracey Miller-Tomlinson, to talk about your interests and how to get started (tomlin@nmsu.edu).



HONORS SCHOLARS MAKING THEIR MARK

Vanessa Loera

Biomedical Researcher

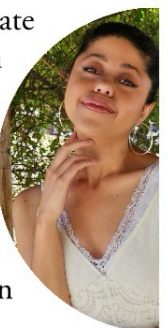
Biology major Vanessa Loera's capstone is adding to our understanding of Glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer, and its prevalence and treatment in New Mexico communities. Vanessa's review of open access articles and data sets identified the highest rates of cases and deaths from brain cancer in eastern New Mexico, where access to hospitals and cancer centers is often limited. Vanessa plans to attend medical school and serve her community in New Mexico as an MD.



Devyenne Hadley

Editor-in-Chief for *The Agora*

For her capstone project in English, Devynne served as founding editor-in-chief for *The Agora*, our online, interdisciplinary journal of undergraduate research and creative activity. Devynne's vision was to celebrate and uplift undergraduates' unique contributions to intellectual life on campus: "NMSU is full of immensely talented students each with something different to say, and I began *The Agora* to help amplify their voices and solidify their space in academia."





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Find Your Place at The Honors College

We offer academic services to all NMSU students and no application is required to participate in the University Honors Program. All Crimson Scholars are automatically eligible to enroll in Honors courses. If NMSU Honors looks like a good fit for you, please reach out to us. Campus visits, Zoom chats, and personal meetings are all welcome.

SCHOLAR PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES FOR TOP ACADEMIC STUDENTS - NMSU'S TOP INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

PAE Leader Scholars

A high prestige NMSU tradition since the 1970s, the PAE (Presidential) Leader Scholar Program is a competitive award that recognizes NM High School graduates with a history of both academic excellence and leadership experience. In addition to extra funds, these students will lead during their time at NMSU and will make a difference in NM and beyond after graduation.

Conroy Honors Scholars

Selected competitively from high school graduates across the state, region, and country, our Conroy Honors Scholars are academic leaders and are challenged to model the best of what all good Honors students should be doing at NMSU both in and out of the classroom: research/creative work with faculty, campus engagement, active citizenship, study abroad, and more.

Special recognition to Jennell Juarez, Honors Student Alum, for the design and production of this edition.



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College**

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