



The Conroy Honors College Report



| William B. Conroy Honors College |

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2024 - 2025

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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 our diverse body of students 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,

Phame Camarena, PhD
Dean, Conroy Honors College



DEMYSTIFYING HONORS

What it means to be an Honors Student

CRIMSON SCHOLARS

High School students entering NMSU with a 3.75 GPA (or high academic index) and college transfer students entering with a 3.5 GPA are automatically enrolled as Crimson Scholars. It is the equivalent of being on the Honors College Dean's List and entitles students to automatic eligibility to take Honors courses, receive priority registration authorization, and receive 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!

CONROY HONORS & PA LEADER SCHOLARSHIPS

These competitive scholarship programs are designed to identify and recruit a small cohort of top new high school graduates ready to model our core honors values. Whether featuring academic excellence or leadership development, these Honors students will be working, in and out of the classroom, to be fully engaged with the life of the university developing their unique potentials. With Honors coursework and hands-on experiences, these students will be challenged and supported to do more with their NMSU educations! All Honors students can participate in the same enrichment activities but, because the Honors Scholarship Program members receive extra financial support, they are committing to doing more from the start!

UNIVERSITY HONORS

University Honors is the academic program of the Honors College with designated courses and special credit-bearing opportunities that lead to designation as a University Honors Graduate. Most of the 18 credits required for University Honors Distinction are coordinated with the other work students do as part of their regular university curriculum. The structure of this program, beginning with the Honors First Year Seminar and ending with an Honors Capstone Project, is designed to provide enriched educational opportunities and not just harder and faster work! Students that begin with a single Honors class their first semester will almost certainly be able to complete their program before graduation. Consistent with our inclusive philosophy, no competitive application is required. All Crimson Scholars are eligible to enroll in Honors classes and to meet with the Honors guidance team to work out an Honors academic plan. The best Honors courses are discussion oriented, experientially focused, with close faculty interaction. Students also earn Honors credits with study abroad, directed research, independent projects and more – with a focus on high impact and hands-on learning!



EARNING HONORS CREDIT

DR. ANNE HUBBELL



HELLO! I am Dr. Anne Hubbell, the Associate Dean with responsibilities for helping Honors students make a course plan to graduate with Honors. Students wanting to know more about graduating with Honors can set up a time to meet with me to develop that plan.

What I love most about our Honors classes is that they are smaller and more engaging than most classes at NMSU. A Honors class at NMSU is not made to be “harder,” they are developed by top faculty at NMSU to be innovative and transformative. We also create one-of-a kind offerings that cross disciplines and engage students with hands-on learning out of the classroom, into the community, and even around the world.

There are exciting and amazing developments each semester in Honors at NMSU and more information will be shared through our website, social media, and on email. Students who want to start making a plan to graduate with Honors can email me at: ahubbell@nmsu.edu. For more information on Honors visit: honors.nmsu.edu



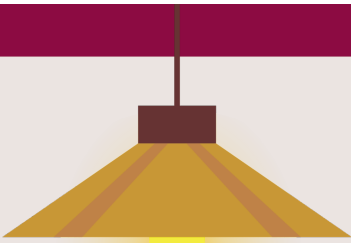
The experiential Sundt Seminar resumed in Spring 2024 under the leadership of Dr. Mark Waltermire. Students explored the languages of New Mexico, while exploring themes of power, shift and loss, sociocultural identity, and preservation, through in-class instruction and travel excursions. The Honors college sponsored the students’ and Dr. Waltermire’s travel and exploration of Sante Fe, Chamayó, Cochiti, Acoma, and Mescalero, NM. The course will be available again to students in Spring 2025.

“The Sundt Seminar provides students with opportunities to learn more about their world through direct experience. It goes beyond traditional in-class instruction by including travel experiences and guest lectures from influential scholars.” Dr. Mark Waltermire, Professor, Department of Languages and Linguistics, NMSU.

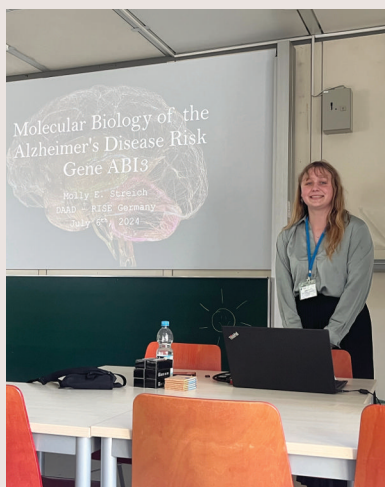
HONORS CREDIT OPTIONS

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, and more!)
- Leadership Opportunities (Honors Ambassadors, First Year Seminar Mentors, and more!)



Cole Vetter studied abroad for one year in Jordan on a Boren Fellowship, facing his fears and plunging into new experiences. As a result, he has had life-changing opportunities that have helped build his confidence in many ways his next step will be completing his Master's degree at the American University of Cairo.



Molly Streich studied the molecular biology of Alzheimer's risk gene ABI3 at LMU München, in Germany. She's had the opportunity to explore a new field of research, and to present at the DAAD-RISE scholars annual meeting in Heidelberg.

FELLOWSHIPS

Hello! I am Dr. Lori Keleher, the new Director of the Fellowships Office.



Although I am new to the Fellowships Office, I have been on faculty in the department of Philosophy for 17 years and have enjoyed teaching in the Honors College for almost as long. My education and research focus of international development ethics has allowed me to work, and live in more than two dozen countries across six continents. But, like many reading this newsletter, I was born and raised in New Mexico and was an Honors student at NMSU too! I have personally walked the path from the Honors College to my own ambitious dream. Now, I want to help other NMSU students journey toward their dreams. You can get there from here.

SELECT FULLY-FUNDED PROGRAMS:



DAAD-RISE Program

PPIA Summer Institute

Fulbright/Marshall Scholarship

Rangel Summer Enrichment Program

Boren and Critical Language Scholarships

The purpose of Fellowships Office is to work with undergraduate students of all majors to apply for prestigious, externally-funded, fellowships. These fellowships not only look great on resumes, but also transform students.

If you are a current NMSU student who has always dreamed of exploring the world, learning a foreign language, or working with diplomats, scholars, and policy makers on global issue in Washington DC or abroad, then I want to hear from you. If you have never dreamed that you might do these things, but now think it sounds worth investigating, then I want to hear from you. If you have a research passion or are serious about doing the work required to contribute toward solving the local, national, and global problems of our time, then I want to hear from you. If you want to apply for a prestigious fellowship, but you wonder how your life situation or degree plan can accommodate such an opportunity, then I want to hear from you.

I want to learn about your talents, skills, and goals and to help you navigate the path of identifying a fellowship opportunity, writing a personal essay, identifying and establishing a relationship with a faculty mentor, requesting letters of recommendation, and submitting your application.

You can get there from here, and you do not have to do it alone. The Fellowships Office in the Honors College has resources to help you on your journey. I look forward to hearing from you.

Want to talk through possibilities? Please complete the intake form located on our site so I can be prepared: <https://honors.nmsu.edu/fellowship-office/fellowship-office.html>.

HONORS GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

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

"The cultural activities have really given me the opportunity to immerse myself in all the complexities of Seoul." - Brooke's summer in South Korea



"Studying in Barcelona has made me discover things I didn't know about myself." - Leo's semester in Spain



COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT

You're not alone in this journey! From the moment you decide to explore internationally, Honors and the Education Abroad Office are with you every step of the way: Services include:

- Passport & Visa Acquisition: Guidance through the necessary paperwork.
- Financial Aid: Helping you understand and utilize financial aid options.
- Insurance: Providing specific international health insurance for your peace of mind.

SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Your safety is NMSU's priority. We adhere to the US State Department's directives, ensuring that we do not send students to unsafe regions. Our team is prepared to act swiftly in the event of an emergency.

BREAKING DOWN FINANCIAL BARRIERS

We understand that the initial cost of studying abroad can seem intimidating. However, when you compare it to your regular semester expenses, the difference is less daunting. Think about how much you spend on housing, food, and other activities each semester studying abroad is a comparable investment in your future.

**Top Destinations:
Spain, Italy, Japan,
the United Kingdom,
Costa Rica, and
South Korea**



In Summer 2024, Dean Camarena took 14 students who were first-time overseas travelers to explore the meaning of global citizenship while visiting three of Europe's great world cities. The group started in London, then explored Amsterdam, and ended their trip in Berlin. Students learned to see themselves and their place in the world differently while developing stronger intercultural competence and confidence. Students reported that they will never see the world the same after this experience and they have also learned how to navigate successfully in another country.

CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVITY

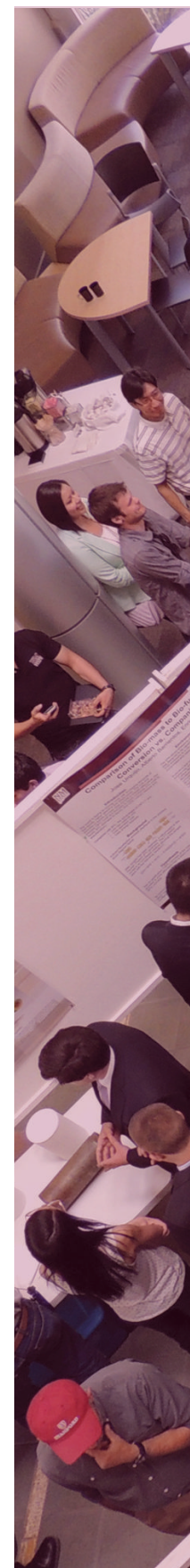


CURCA

Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity



Hello from Tracey Miller-Tomlinson! As a scholar of Shakespeare and Renaissance culture, I work to recover lost voices and works of literature from the past. As an Honors faculty fellow, I direct the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, which helps undergraduate students find their own paths into mentored research and creative experiences. Each year, hundreds of students attend workshops and panels hosted by the Center, tour faculty labs and studios at our Research & Creativity Open House, and participate in the NMSU Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts Symposium, now in its 30th year. Students from across the university exhibit artwork in the peer-curated Honors Art Collective, which turns Conroy Honors Center into an art gallery, and poets read their work at a bilingual Poetry Reading in a community courtyard. The student-edited online journal, *The Agora*, publishes faculty-reviewed undergraduate research and artwork. 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.



HONORS SCHOLARS MAKING THEIR MARK

Vanessa Loera Biomedical Researcher

Biology major Vanessa Loera is adding to our understanding of Glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer, and its prevalence and treatment in New Mexico communities. Working with faculty mentor Dr. Elba Serrano, she examined open access articles and data sets to research the common causes, treatments, and mortality rates of Glioblastomas in our region. Her review identified the highest rates of new cases and deaths from brain cancer in eastern New Mexico, where access to hospitals and cancer centers is often limited. After completing a neuroscience research internship, Vanessa will be applying to medical school.



Flora Saenz Animator and Visual Effects Artist

For her Honors Capstone project, creative media major Flora created *Dancing Borders*, a multimedia compilation that weaves together a memoir of her journey as a rookie animator on a real feature film with two digital drawing series: "Folklor" and "Life at the Border." *Dancing Borders* illustrates how the life of a professional artist is intertwined with the culture and beauty of Mexico and inspired by the art and history of Juarez. Dr. Judith Flores Carmona advised her project..



Devynne Hadley Editor-in-Chief for *The Agora*

A Nevada native, Devynne came to NMSU in 2020 to pursue her degree in English and graduated with a specialization in Rhetoric and Professional Communication. For her capstone project, Devynne served as founding editor-in-chief for *The Agora*, an interdisciplinary journal of undergraduate research and creative activity. Devynne worked with faculty mentors to build *The Agora* from an idea to an open access, faculty-reviewed publication on track to last for years to come. Her vision was to celebrate and uplift undergraduates' unique contributions to intellectual life on campus. To view *The Agora*, please visit: <https://agora.scholasticahq.com/>.



THE MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

TAKING A STEP TOWARD YOUR FUTURE

THE EXPERIENCE

The McNair Scholars Program prepares students for graduate school and the PhD. By conducting a paid research project, McNair students learn more about their academic potentials through firsthand experience. Their work is guided and supported by an experienced Faculty Mentor who already has their PhD. Additionally, students in the program are enrolled in exclusive seminars for their Junior and Senior years that allow them to further explore their academic interests and prepare them step-by-step for competitive application to PhD programs. McNair Scholars also receive mentoring, assistance with their graduate school application materials, and graduate school advising. Students participate in workshops and other activities that enhance their research skills and further prepare them for earning their doctoral degree. They also learn about ways to fund their graduate education, showing them how to earn their PhD at the lowest possible cost. Finally, McNair Scholars earn an honors certificate when completing the program and can use these credits to graduate with University Honors. Later in the program, scholars travel across the country to present their research at one or more research conferences with other McNair students.

Karyme Gomez-Sanchez had already presented her NMSU research at the National Association of School Psychologists' 2024 annual conference but got to explore new research on addictions this past summer at the University of Arizona's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Consortium.



Conroy Honors College
McNair Scholars Program



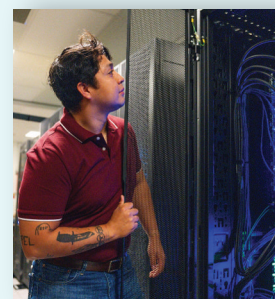
Haylee Viramontes took part in the ANCHOR Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program at the University of Connecticut, and is currently working with two professors on a project within the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

McNair Scholars have been working on their research projects and gaining professional experience visiting other university campuses to present their research. This last year, students visited and presented work at the University of New Mexico, Baylor University, the University of Maryland, the University of Washington, and more!

With McNair as their springboard, students are also being admitted to competitive scholar programs across the country gaining new research experiences and building their resume of academic accomplishment.

Saul Angel Hernandez completed research this past summer with Dr. Susan Atlas at the Quantum Undergraduate Research Experience at the University of New Mexico's Center for High Technology Materials. Saul's work explored the molecular dynamics of Kinesins.



THE OPPORTUNITY

Director Marko Mohlenhoff states, "Many of our students qualify for McNair but don't know about the program because it has only been here at NMSU for a year and a half. There are so many talented first-generation underrepresented students at NMSU – from majors in the humanities, social sciences, and life and physical sciences – that would be eligible for this program, but they're either unaware of this opportunity, or don't see how talented and capable they are of getting a PhD. For those students – who are doing well in their classes, love learning, are intensely curious, and want to study beyond the bachelor's degree level – this is their program!"





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CELEBRATING THE CONROY HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The 2024-2025 edition of the *Conroy Honors College Report* is a joint production of the Conroy Honors College staff with extra contributions from Katlynne Britosalas and Valentina Paige.

Special recognition to Jennell Juarez, Art major, and Senior Honors Student Assistant, for the design and production of this edition.

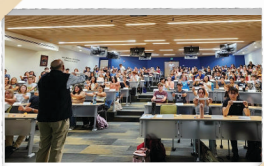


HONORS AMBASSADORS

Supporting new student recruiting, hosting community building events, and representing Honors across all of our Academic Colleges, these Honors students are essential to the Honors community as they serve the campus and the community together.



HONORS FIRST YEAR SEMINAR MENTORS



Welcoming 200 new Honors First Year Seminar students to NMSU, our seasoned Honors mentors lead small group activities in class, and provide guidance on completing the semester long Personal Development Project. We could not do this important class without them!



THE CONROY HONORS COLLEGE HAS A PLACE FOR YOU

No application for the University Honors Program is required. We offer services to all NMSU students. 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 and we will reach right back out to you! Visits, zoom chats, and personal meetings are all welcome.

PRESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATES LEADER SCHOLARS

A high prestige NMSU tradition since the 1970s, the PA Leader Scholar Program is set to grow in Honors beginning with our Fall 2024 cohort. This competitive award recognizes NM high school graduates with a history of both academic achievement and leadership. These students will lead during their time at NMSU and make a difference in NM and beyond after graduation!

Dec. 1 Priority Deadline for all NMSU Scholarships!

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 both in and out of class – research with faculty, campus engagement, active citizenship, study abroad, and more.

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