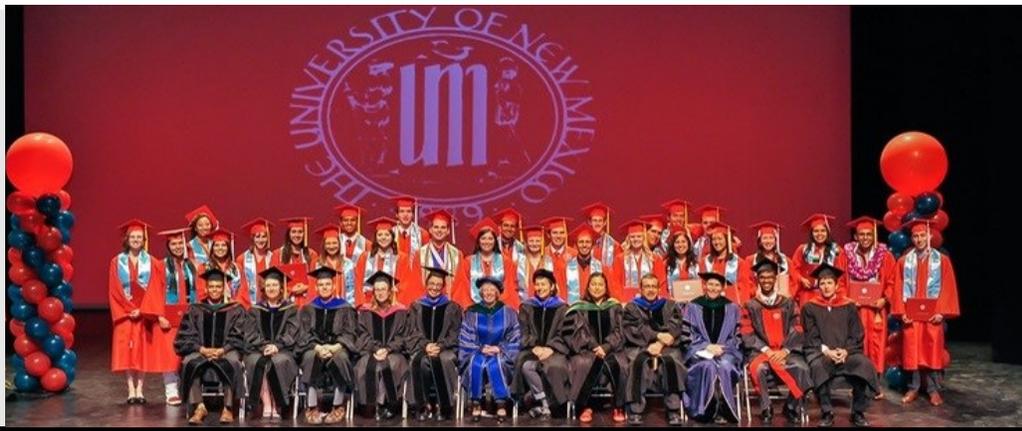


FALL 2015

Medicine in Rural New Mexico
Summer Practicum
Making an Impact in India
College of Arts & Sciences Graduation
School of Medicine Graduation Brunch
Traditional Mexican Medicine
A Summer in Spain
Admission Requirements



Class of 2015 Undergraduates

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO COMBINED BA/MD DEGREE PROGRAM



The Combined BA/MD Application

Begin working on the
online application today!

The Combined BA/MD Degree Program application will open online on August 1st, 2015. The application is open to all New Mexico high school seniors who meet the minimum requirements. See back page for details.

Application Timeline

- Application available: August 1, 2015
- Application deadline: November 13, 2015
- Interviews: Nov. 2015 – Feb. 2016
- Final decision notification: April 1, 2016
- Applicant commitment: May 1, 2016

The application can be found online at:
<https://bamdadmissions.health.unm.edu/>

ADDRESSING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF NEW MEXICO

This newsletter serves to provide information to current as well as prospective students, staff, and faculty who are interested in the Program.

The Combined BA/MD Degree Program is an eight year partnership degree program between the UNM School of Medicine and the College of Arts & Sciences. This program aims to alleviate the physician shortage in the state of New Mexico by assembling a cohort of 28

diverse students who are committed to serving New Mexico communities with the greatest need.

Students in the Program earn a baccalaureate degree through the College of Arts & Sciences in a challenging four-year curriculum. Upon successfully completing the undergraduate portion of the Program, students will then enter the UNM School of Medicine to complete their doctor of medicine (MD) degree.

In their four years of undergraduate study, the students engage in the fields of academics, research, community involvement, and other areas of interest.

The Program offers a reserved seat at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine

The Combined BA/MD Degree Program offers a unique curriculum that addresses the healthcare needs in New Mexico. Students are offered courses in community health where they learn about the opportunities and challenges around healthcare in New

Mexico especially the rural and underserved communities in our state.

The Program not only offers a strong foundation for practicing medicine in New Mexico, but also offers a reserved seat at the UNM School of Medicine. In addition, the Program offers a Kaplan MCAT preparatory course to its students as well as scholarship and financial aid packages funded by the state legislature for 8 consecutive semesters.



COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES
and SCHOOL of MEDICINE

Combined BA/MD Program

MEDICINE IN RURAL NEW MEXICO

During the summer after the second year of their undergraduate education, the BA/MD students are sent to Summer Practicum in rural communities of New Mexico. Students work together on a community engagement project while shadowing local physicians in the area.



• FARMINGTON



• TAOS

• GALLUP

• LAS VEGAS



• SILVER CITY

• HOBBS



• LAS CRUCES



SUMMER PRACTICUM

DEANNA GONZALES—ALBUQUERQUE, 2013 COHORT

The BA/MD Degree Program offers its undergraduate students the opportunity to participate in what's called Summer Practicum. Summer Practicum is a service learning course that takes place in rural communities throughout New Mexico. This past summer I worked alongside Farmington's local physicians. I was able to shadow a few physicians while I was there including an obstetrician/gynecologist, an orthopedic surgeon, an ophthalmologist, and a local family physician. However, shadowing local physicians and gaining clinical experience is not

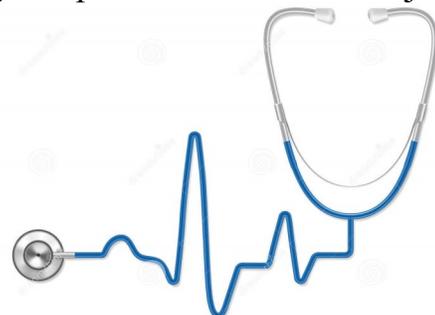


Nichole McGuire (left)- Hot Springs High, Truth or Consequences
Deanna Gonzales (right)- Early College Academy, Albuquerque

the only aspect offered through Summer Practicum. My group and I also participated in learning about cultural and community health-related issues. We worked closely with a local intervention program called Totah Behavioral Health. Through this we learned that there are many aspects to health disparities. Organizations throughout the region showed us the importance of a physician's role not only in the clinical setting, but also as citizens in a community. I have witnessed the physician shortage in New Mexico and this experience has strengthened my passion to practice medicine in the state of New Mexico. At times it's hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel to this long path of becoming of physician, but Summer Practicum has reminded me why the path is well worth the journey.



Deanna Gonzales and Dr. Joseph Szekely



MAKING AN IMPACT IN INDIA

PARISA MORTAJI—ALBUQUERQUE, 2011 COHORT

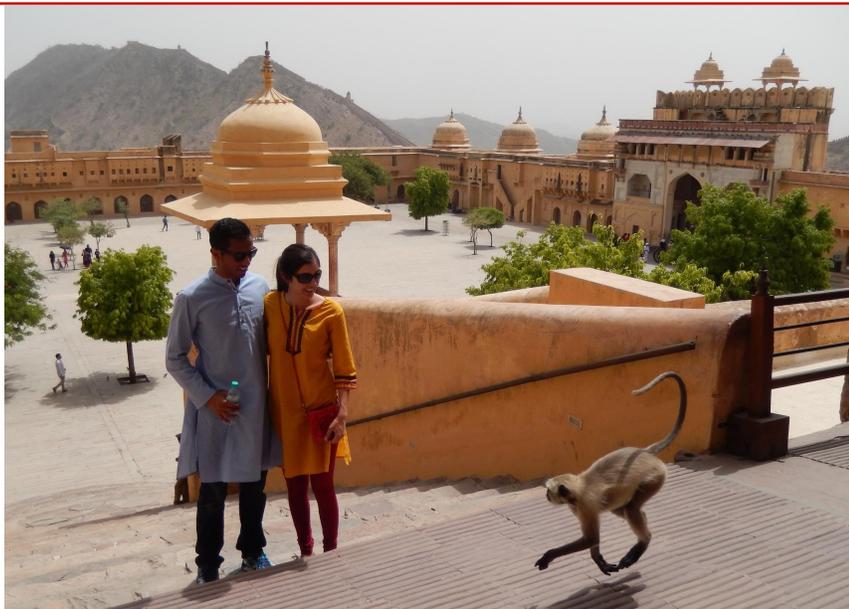
The nerves were killing me. All I could think of were the mosquitos and all of the diseases the travel doctor informed us about: malaria, Japanese encephalitis, food poisoning. Not to mention everyone's biggest warning about India in the summer: the unbearable heat! I started to tear up as the plane landed in New Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport. Vishal and I pulled out a travel size 100% deet bug spray and begin to spray ourselves on the plane, when I noticed the flight attendant laughing hysterically as she observed what appeared to be our ridiculous precautionary measures.

That night we were taken to our new homestay in Faridabad where we spent the next 4 weeks. I couldn't sleep the whole night. I missed my parents, the Wi-Fi was disconnected and I couldn't contact them, there was no air conditioning, and the bed was a piece of wood. All I wanted was to go back home.

The next day arrived and we woke up at 6 a.m. to head to the slum where we would be volunteering. As we walked we were bombarded by small children smiling and telling us "Good morning ma'am" and "Good morning sir," holding their hands up for a high five. As we arrived at Morning Star School-cement pillars with a tent cover- we were assigned to our students. My class was the upper kindergarten class, and Vishal's class was lower kindergarten. The first day was overwhelming. We weren't given a syllabus on how or what to teach, and with no prior training, I felt like a failure. But within a matter of days, both Vishal and I set up a method of how to teach, when to have a break for a game, how to keep the children's attention, and how to survive the heat. It didn't take us long to realize that mosquitos were essentially nonexistent. We left America with 5 cans of bug spray, and returned with 5. I felt ashamed to have been thinking of myself as I packed for India after seeing the living condition of the children we worked with.

Aside from volunteering, Vishal and I travelled to Amritsar, Jaipur, and all over New Delhi. We had the most amazing experiences. I picked up on some Hindi, watched multiple movies without subtitles as Vishal tried to whisper the English version in my ear, fell in love with Indian clothing, almost fell off of an elephant, learned that Café Coffee Day is the best place to have a Frappuccino, and ultimately, learned that I had fallen wholeheartedly in love with India. The people, the life, the culture, the religion, the history, the landscape, the simplicity, and the respect toward animals are some of the few things that I found amazing about India.

When the time came to return to America, Vishal had to drag me onto the plane. I cried the whole way back as I stared at the henna that had been beautifully painted on my hands, thinking of when I would have the opportunity to go back again. India changed me in so many ways. I missed my students, and had formed a newfound respect for teachers. My students changed my life values and my perception on humanity. They taught me what it means to be happy and what I need to be happy. I may have taught them a little English and Math while I was there, but they taught me *how to live*.



2015 GRADUATION COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Since the Combined BA/MD Degree Program began in 2006, there has been 6 undergraduate cohorts that have matriculated to the School of Medicine.



Roseangela Garay (left) and Bethany Cohnheim (right)

This year's commencement ceremony for the BA/MD graduates was held at Rodey Theatre at the University of New Mexico. 26 students from the 2011

entering cohort began their first year of medical school in July. These successful students have a challenging 4 years ahead of them as they move through several educational blocks and

hospital rotations. We wish them the best of luck as they pursue their dreams and aspirations of becoming great healthcare providers.



2015 Class Representative
Jaron Kee from Crystal, New Mexico, spoke at the commencement ceremony held at Rodey Theatre.



Natalie Johannes (left) and Shane Wilder (right)

Dr. Paul Roth
Chancellor for Health Sciences
CEO, UNM Health System
Dean, School of Medicine



2015 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE GRADUATION BRUNCH

In May 2015, the second entering cohort of the UNM Combined BA/MD Degree Program graduated from the UNM School of Medicine. The members of this year's graduating BA/MD class were recruited in 2007 from their high schools in Albuquerque, Clovis, Los Lunas, Gallup, Deming, Roswell,



Greg Martin (left) and Pavan Angadi (right)

Tucumcari and Grants. Now, after an eight year journey through the College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Medicine, these graduates begin their residency programs. Seven of the members matched to residency programs here at the University of New Mexico while the remainder of the graduates matched in several locations across the nation. As the

second successful BA/MD cohort moves forward with their aspirations to be excellent physicians, they all recognize and appreciate the program that offered each of them a wonderful opportunity to fulfill their dreams of becoming physicians. The success of the program is reflected by the accomplishments of the BA/MD cohort members as well as the faculty and staff members of the program and the state legislators who have provided funding for the program. This great milestone for the program is only the beginning of what is expected for the future of the UNM Combined BA/MD Degree Program as it continues to guide prospective New Mexico students through a challenging path to becoming physicians.



2015 Class Representative
Pavan Angadi from Clovis, New Mexico, spoke at the undergraduate commencement ceremony.



A Graduation Brunch for the BA/MD School of Medicine graduates was hosted by the BA/MD Degree Program and was held at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in honor of their accomplishments.



BA/MD Graduating Class of 2015—Congratulations, Doctors!

TRADITIONAL MEXICAN MEDICINE

PRISCILLA MENDOZA—ALBUQUERQUE, 2013 COHORT

From the moment I saw the bright blue flyer announcing a course in Oaxaca, Mexico to study traditional Mexican medicine I knew I would do anything in my power to go. The many curanderos, or healers, I met in my journey believe in destiny. They believe a person has a predetermined path and that we are chosen to be in a specific spot at a specific time.

I travelled to Oaxaca in mid-July with the intention of learning the medicinal uses of plants, practicing my medical Spanish, and studying the traditional medicine of Mexico. Not only did I gain this valuable knowledge but I also discovered a part of myself repressed by years behind towering stacks of books.



I began my trip in the capital city, Oaxaca, where I was enrolled in a medical Spanish course at the local language school of Solexico. From the Zocalo, or plaza, to the cathedral of Santo Domingo the city of Oaxaca is breathtakingly beautiful with its bold colors and colonial architecture. I witnessed multiple limpieas – a cleansing ritual performed when a curandero sweeps bad energy away from the body using a bundle of plants, spraying the body with the locally made alcohol Mezcal, and occasionally by also using an egg or candle – from multiple curanderos and curanderas. After touring the market, we used the herbs we bought to prepare a cough syrup, massage oil, a shampoo made with aloe vera, and two different salves either to treat muscle pain or aches in the bones.

My nearly three-week journey took me all over the southern Mexican state through tightly winding mountain roads. We visited the Pueblos Mancomunados, one of which was Cuajimoloyas, a pueblo famous for its great diversity in edible mushrooms. There we documented over 30 plants and their medicinal purpose over the course of a steep hike. Our van then slipped through a muddy road to reach Lachatao, a pueblo quite literally in the clouds. There we visited the rediscovered sacred ceremonial place of the Zapotec people – The Hill of the Jaguar. That night I experienced my own limpia and later crawled into a Temazcal, an Indian steam bath, with my fellow travelers. Each one of us experienced our own obstacle but confronted it together and after three hours of excruciating heat and excessive sweating I crawled out feeling empowered and confident in myself.

A week after the course ended, I took a flight out of Oaxaca. I met my family in the bays of Huatulco and enjoyed the warm beach and stunning views. I again drove through the mountains to return to Oaxaca just in time for the Guelaguetza, an annual indigenous cultural event filled with traditional dancing in intricate costumes, parades, and artisan crafts. Of course I couldn't leave without seeing Monte Alban, a pre-Columbian archeological site filled with temples and ceremonial sites; the Tree of Tule, a 2000-year-old tree so large that it takes 30 people holding hands to reach around the trunk; and the cathedral of Santo Domingo, considered the third most beautiful cathedral in the world with over 60,000 sheets of gold decorating the interior.

I will never forget my experience in Oaxaca. Not only did I gain factual knowledge, but also gained insight into the Mexican culture and most importantly, I rediscovered myself. I elevated my self-confidence and independence and realized how I best express my emotion. I know this course was the beginning of my travels. I highly recommend studying abroad to any student. Opportunities are constantly popping up so open your eyes and take a leap!

A SUMMER IN SPAIN

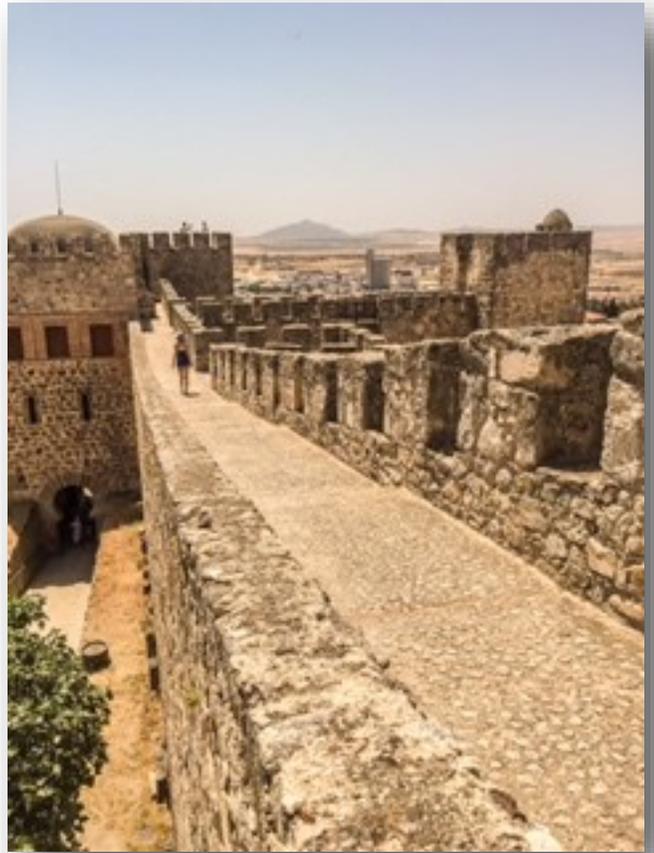
ANISSA GALLEGOS — LAS VEGAS, 2012 COHORT

This summer I had the amazing opportunity to improve my Spanish speaking skills and travel to Cáceres, Spain with UNM's Conexiones program, a four-week program of intensive Spanish language and culture study. We stayed with host families and attended classes at the Instituto de Lenguas Modernas every day. Every Friday was excursion day where we would travel to nearby cities in Spain. All cities we visited, including our home city of Cáceres, were located within the region of Extremadura, a very important region of Spain with significant historical ties to New Mexico.

My host Mom, Christina, and I had a rough start. Day 1 was a train wreck. After almost 14 hours of travel and almost zero confidence in my Spanish speaking skills, communication with my "Mamá" was a disaster. I felt as if I didn't know any Spanish at all and that every word of Spanish I learned since high school completely disappeared from my brain. However, I was surprised at how quickly my survival skills kicked in and by the 3rd day I was able to communicate well enough to order more than a coffee at a restaurant, ask for directions, explain to my Mamá that New Mexico is not just a "newer" part of Mexico, and talk about the Spanish Civil War with my new abuelos. I quickly fell in love with the people and the culture of Spain. The people were kind and social. The culture was relaxed, yet lively. Aside from nighttime and siesta time, people were outside, eager to find a friend to talk to, enjoy the day, and "tranquila," or relax, with some wine and tapas. Family is at the center of all values and beliefs. Kids live at home with their parents long after they graduate from University. Although there were times the language barrier caused frustration between my Mamá and I, and I felt homesick on several occasions, I feel that by the end of the 4 weeks, Christina truly became my Mamá Española and that I will always have *family*, and a *home*, in Cáceres.



On excursions, we traveled to several different cities with castles, monasteries, and chapels. Around every corner, the history was palpable in the air. I visited Trujillo, the town of the Conquistadores, where I got to see the most beautiful Plaza Mayor. Guadalupe was my favorite, surrounded by mountains and home to the Royal Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe, an ensemble of 14th to 18th century religious architecture. We spent a day in Albuquerque, our medieval sister city, where olive and cork trees dominate the landscape and the castle overlooks 11th century streets with red-roofed houses. I was blown away by the city of Mérida, a 1st century Roman city. Mérida was once three-times its current size and is now home to some of the most famous Roman ruins found outside of Italy such as Roman theaters and aqueducts. I visited Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. The smell of fish and wine filled the streets and castles could be found on almost any hilltop, valley, and even in the middle of beaches and oceans. During my final week in Spain, I traveled to Sevilla, Granada, and Madrid, all the while, enjoying traditional Spanish dishes such as paella, gazpacho, tortilla Española, migas, and jamón ibérico. I am glad to be back home among my family and friends, but I do miss Spain and my Mamá, Christina.



Overall, I feel my Spanish has improved immensely, and I have finally overcome my fear of saying something wrong when speaking Spanish. Additionally, the cultural, and travel experience gained during my time abroad is something I will carry with me always and most importantly, I gained a family.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Application available: August 1st, 2015

Application deadline: November 13th, 2015 at 5:00PM

Interviews: November-February

The UNM Combined BA/MD Degree Program considers all aspects of an applicant's background, experience and academic progress including:

- Commitment to pursue a medical career in New Mexico's rural or underserved areas
- Academic excellence (ex. GPA, ACT/SAT scores, honors and advanced placement courses)
- Community involvement and volunteer service
- Honors and awards
- Extracurricular activities
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal statement

Applicants who achieve the **required** ACT and/or SAT minimum test scores and complete the online application by the application deadline will be invited for two individual interviews with members of the BA/MD Admissions Committee.

Eligibility:

Application eligibility for the UNM Combined BA/MD Degree Program requires that a student:

- Be a **New Mexico resident** at time of application
- Be a current **New Mexico high school senior** (high school seniors outside of New Mexico who are enrolled members of the Navajo Tribe and live on the Navajo reservation are also eligible)
- Have minimum ACT or SAT scores. For specific scores see out website:
<http://som.unm.edu/education/bamd/>
- Have a personal commitment to pursue a medical career in New Mexico's rural or medically underserved areas.

Mailing Address:

The University of New Mexico
MSC09 5065
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001



CONTACT US:

Office phone:
(505) 925-4500

Web:
<http://som.unm.edu/education/bamd/>

Email:
HSC-CombinedBAMD@salud.unm.edu