



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

COMBINED BA/MD DEGREE PROGRAM

SPRING 2015
NEWSLETTER

ABOUT THE COMBINED BA/MD DEGREE PROGRAM

RESERVE A SEAT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

IN THIS ISSUE

The Combined BA/MD Program Newsletter is for current and prospective students, staff, and faculty who are interested in the Program.

The Combined BA/MD Degree Program is a partnership between the College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Medicine. This eight-year program aims to alleviate the physician shortage in the state of New Mexico. Every year a diverse class of 28 high school seniors who are committed to serving New Mexico communities with the greatest need are admitted into the Program in their pursuit to become medical doctors.

Students in the Program earn a baccalaureate degree through the College of Arts &

Sciences in a challenging four-year premedical 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 degree.

In their four years of undergraduate study, the students engage in the fields of academics, research, community involvement and other areas of interest. This newsletter serves to recognize the Program's outstanding students, and also serves potential applicants by portraying the Program's mission.

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COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES
and SCHOOL of MEDICINE

Combined BA/MD Program

BA/MD Organization

The BA/MD Organization is a chartered UNM student group established in 2006. Within this group, BA/MD students increase their knowledge within the field of medicine, pursue community and professional opportunities, and aim for unity within the BA/MD community. The group meets twice a month to discuss service opportunities within the community, plan social events, and to interact with BA/MD students outside our own cohorts. We have had many exciting partnerships this past year, including the UNM-SOM Surgery Interest Group, Relay for Life, and For the Kids Lobothon! We've raised funds for our outreach programs, and we've been able to interact outside of a school setting!

Our organization has succeeded over the years because of our vast member diversity. Individuals within the BA/MD Organization bring different ideas and experiences to the table, and it is this diversity which allows us to achieve many of the goals that we set during the year. The BA/MD Organization has also been the stepping stone in intra-cohort unity. We've established relationships with those who are beyond the undergraduate level to strengthen our ties within the community. We believe that by interacting with one another and maintaining close bonds, we learn from each other, gain different perspectives, and better ourselves along the way to our common goal of becoming physicians. We encourage BA/MD students to be a part of this dynamic group.



Junior BA/MD Students in Rural New Mexico



The 2013 BA/MD cohort, the seventh entering cohort, is going to be taking part in summer practicum in hospitals and clinics throughout New Mexico this June as part of their summer practicum experience.

Students will study in seven locations including Taos, Las Vegas, Hobbs, Gallup, Las Cruces, Silver City, and Farmington. All students in the Combined BA/MD Degree Program participate in this summer experience between their undergraduate sophomore and junior year in the Program.

The goals of the practicum experience include enabling students to gain public health experience by working on community specific service learning projects. Students will also define their current and future roles as practitioners in rural underserved communities along with acquiring skills needed to access and report on health related literature.

Students in the junior cohort are randomly split into different groups and sent to various parts of rural New Mexico as indicated to the left.

TAOS

Paulina Majewska
Austin Graham
Gabiella Acosta
Frances Attiogbe
Shawn Spencer

SILVER CITY

Sam MacDonald
Cynthia Sanchez
Allianna Madrid
John Salmon

GALLUP

Alex Blue
Eliana Garcia
Kim Nguyen
Carlos Vargas

LAS CRUCES

Emileah Lujan
Satyam Patel
Daniel Freeman
Hannah Groves
Priscilla Mendoza

HOBBS

Kyree Sky
RayLee Otero-Bell
Nardos Dawit
Juliana Runnels

FARMINGTON

Nichole McGuire
Ashtyn Megariz
Deanna Gonzales
Kylee Greider

LAS VEGAS

Paolo Lanucara
Kylie Disch
Alicia Sikora
Sahitya Podila

Welcome to the Team, Jeff!

Meet our newest BA/MD Recruiter



Hi everyone, my name is Jeffrey and I am the newest addition to the awesome staff here in the Combined BA/MD office. I came on board at the end of August 2014 and it has been nothing but an amazing experience meeting current BA/MD students and learning about their journey, how they got to where they are now, as well as meeting potential new students to join our future cohorts. So much so that the enthusiasm and drive these students have has also lead me to further my education in Nursing and serve New Mexico in the near future. I really enjoy the trips I make to the schools and enjoy

being that first point of contact for prospective students. It is awesome getting the students excited about the BA/MD Program and helping them on the road to be a part of something great here at UNM.

Q: Do you have any recruitment tips for the BA/MD application?

A: Now that I have survived my first recruitment season, I want to advise potential students interested in the BA/MD program to **ASK** questions! I am here to help you with any questions you may have on the application or the process. The more questions the better. I want to help you fully

understand the program and get a feel for a day in the life of a BA/MD student here at UNM. With that being said, definitely start on your application process early with ACT or SAT prep in your junior year if at all possible. I look forward to continuing to meet current BA/MD students as well as potential students. I enjoy talking to any student that is willing to share their story on where they came from and their goals on serving New Mexico's rural and underserved communities.

BA/MD's Resident Assistant

My name is Beverly Williams. I am from Abiquiu, New Mexico and I attended Espanola Valley High School. I will be graduating from the program in May of this year. I am majoring in Biology and minoring in Chemistry and Health Medicine & Human Values.

When I think about it, it seems like my four years here at UNM have flown by, but when I take the time to really look back I realize that there are countless memories and moments that are in my heart. Living in the residence halls was such an amazing experience. Being able to laugh with the people that have become your family away from home is an experience that cannot be found anywhere else. I remember times of being scared for the upcoming test and instead of studying some more, you just decide to make a run to McDonalds—because who cares if it's 3 A.M.!

And when I think about moments like this that have come and gone, it really makes me appreciate all four years. I enjoyed living in Redondo so much that I decided to live on campus my junior and senior year, and I even became the resident advisor for the BA/MD hall my senior year! Being the RA for the freshmen and sophomore BA/MDers has been such an exhilarating experience. One of my goals for this school year was to pass on things to them that I have learned throughout my time here—whether it was tips on studying, or what classes to take or even simply advice on life. We have all formed a bond to where they feel like they can ask me anything and not feel weird about it. It is really amazing to see that the exact same things that they are going through, I went through. But I have been able to tell them that it is okay to be afraid of not passing that

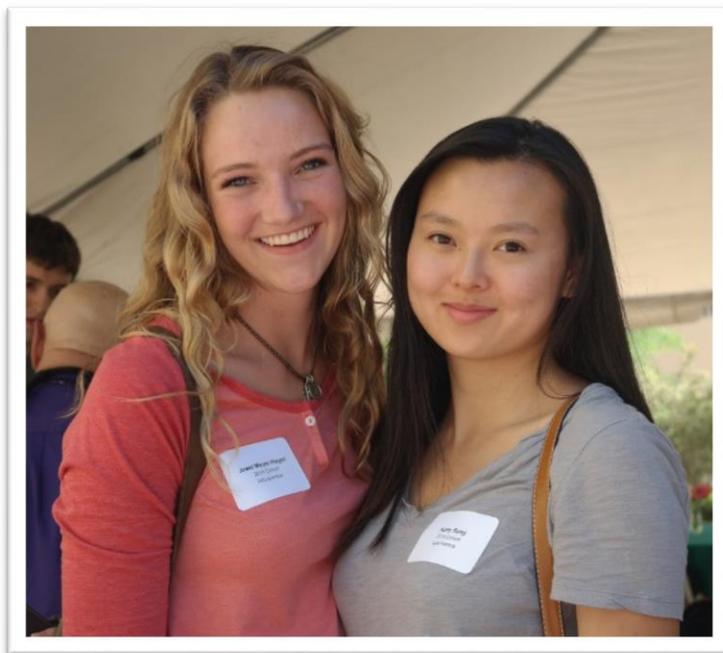


organic chemistry test. The true sign of success is when they realize that they will and that they are capable of anything. Being an RA has been one of the most amazing experiences I've had here at UNM. College can be difficult at first because you get exposed to a wealth of diversity that you have never truly handled before. It is a time that you question who you are the most. Being a part of the program means that you don't have to do it alone. There are 27 other people that are going through the exact same thing that you are—and you are all supporting each other through it. Because even at your lowest point, 3 o'clock in the morning and you don't think that you will make it—trust me, you will.



Welcoming the Freshmen

Every fall, the Combined BA/MD Degree Program organizes a barbecue for students, staff and faculty to socialize and welcome the new cohort of students. This year the event took place on North Campus on the plaza by the fountain. Guests enjoyed music, great food, and conversation.



Jewel Meyer-Hagen (left)- Hope Christian High School, Albuquerque
Kerry Song (right)- Los Alamos High School, Los Alamos



Beverly Williams (left)- Espanola Valley High School, Abiquiu
Parisa Mortaji- Sandia Preparatory School, Albuquerque
Wendy Nguyen- Cibola High School, Rio Rancho
Leah Lucero- Robertson High School, Las Vegas
Helen Nordquist- La Cueva High School, Albuquerque
Priscilla Mendoza (right)- La Cueva High School, Albuquerque



Arinea Salas (left)- Belen High School, Belen
Deanna Gonzales (center)- Early College Academy, Albuquerque
Shawnee Martinez (right)- BA/MD Program Coordinator



BA/MD Olympics

BA/MD Olympics is an annual fall tradition organized by the wonderful BA/MD staff. Each of the four cohorts (freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors) as well as staff compete for the BA/MD Olympic Trophy. Competitions include tug of war, sprinting, bounce house maze, syringe skills, and more. BA/MD Olympics is fun because it is a chance to socialize with the staff and members of the program, eat some good food, as well as show some friendly competition!



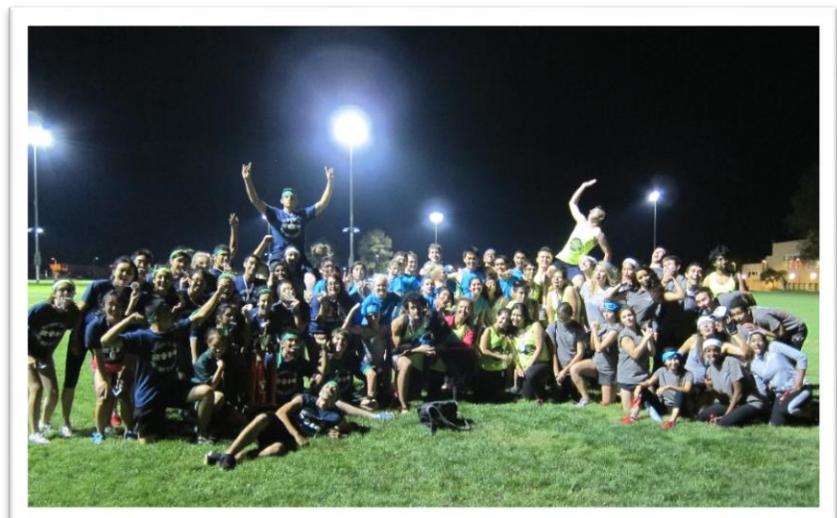
2013 and 2014 cohorts



Tug of war is the most well-known event in the BA/MD Olympics.



2014 BA/MD Olympics with 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 cohorts.



Admission Requirements

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 courses 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 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 New Mexico who are enrolled members of the Navajo Tribe and live on the Navajo Reservation are also eligible).
- Have a minimum ACT or SAT scores. For specific scores see our website: <http://som.unm.edu/education/bamd/index.html>
- Have a personal commitment to pursue a medical career in New Mexico's rural or medically underserved areas.

CONTACT US:

For more information on this opportunity and to apply please visit our website:

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

Toll Free 1-877-977-BAMD (2263)



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