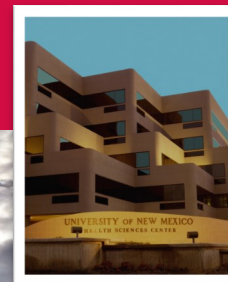
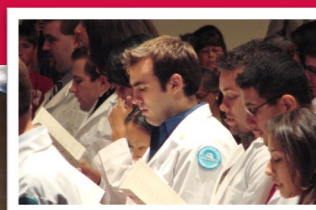




THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO



COMBINED BA/MD DEGREE PROGRAM

ADDRESSING THE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE IN NEW MEXICO

The Combined BA/MD Degree Program is an eight-year degree partnership program between the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Medicine. It is designed to alleviate the physician shortage in New Mexico. The program began in 2006 and provides opportunities in medical education to New Mexico high school students, especially those from rural and underserved communities throughout the state. 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 gain unique rural medicine experience and public health preceptorship opportunities that begin in the undergraduate years and continue throughout medical school. The classroom curriculum for these rural medicine experiences emphasizes the public health perspective. The Program curriculum offers a strong foundation for practicing medicine with sensitivity to New Mexicans and their healthcare needs.

EARN A RESERVED SEAT AT THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

BA/MD students earn both a Bachelor of Arts and a medical degree at UNM. Students first earn a baccalaureate degree through the College of Arts & Sciences in a challenging four-year curriculum specifically designed to prepare them for entering medical school. Upon successful completion of the undergraduate academic and eligibility requirements of the program, students will matriculate to the UNM School of Medicine to complete their Doctor of Medicine degree.

SPRING 2016

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PROGRAM APPLICATION

Application available:

August 2016

Application deadline:

November 11, 2016

Interviews:

Nov. 2016– Feb. 2016

Final decision notification:

April 1, 2016

Application can be found
online at:

<https://bamdadmissions.health.unm.edu/>

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FOLLOW US!



@UNMCombinedBAMD



UNM Combined BA/MD
Degree Program

BA/MD ORGANIZATION

KYLIE DISCH — JUNIOR CLASS AMBASSADOR, 2013 COHORT

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to increase knowledge in the field of medicine, pursue community and professional opportunities, and build overall unity amongst the BA/MD students.

The purpose of the BA/MD Organization is to provide peer/contemporary foundation for students who are members of the Combined BA/MD Degree Program. This organization provides an atmosphere that encourages its members to increase their knowledge of the field of medicine, to pursue community and professional opportunities, and to build overall unity and cohesion.

FOLLOW US!



BA/MD Organization



@BAMDOrg



BAMDOrg

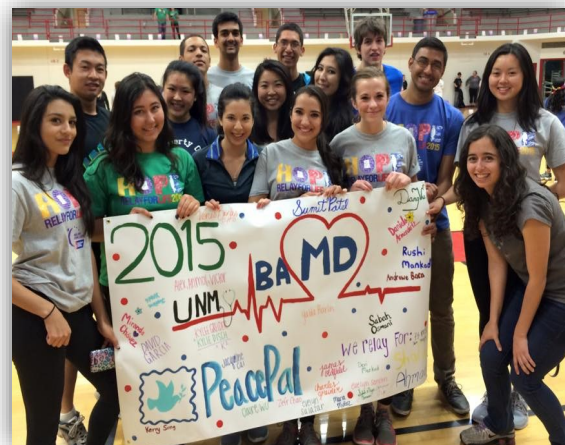


<http://www.bamd.club/>

It was another successful semester for BA/MD Organization! Under our new president, Kylee Greider, we have been working to expand our presence on social networks. In addition to our Facebook page, there are now a Twitter account (@BamdOrg) and a blog page (bamd.club). On the new website are pictures from our various events as well as a schedule of upcoming events. There is also a blog on the page where you can go look for some advice on topics such as starting college, what medical school is like, study abroad, and others. The website also features ways to donate to our causes. The three



organizations we are raising money for include: the American Cancer Society (through Relay for Life), the UNM Children's Hospital (through LoboThon), and Casa Esperanza (a local nonprofit that gives families a place to stay while their loved one is getting treated for cancer). We have been the top fundraising organization for both LoboThon and Relay for Life, and plan on defending our title! You can donate one of three ways: through a direct monetary donation, purchasing a ticket for our Flapjack Fundraiser, or buying the Lobo Medicine t-shirts or hoodies. Bake sales are another opportunity to help us raise money, and we have already had a successful Valentines Day bake

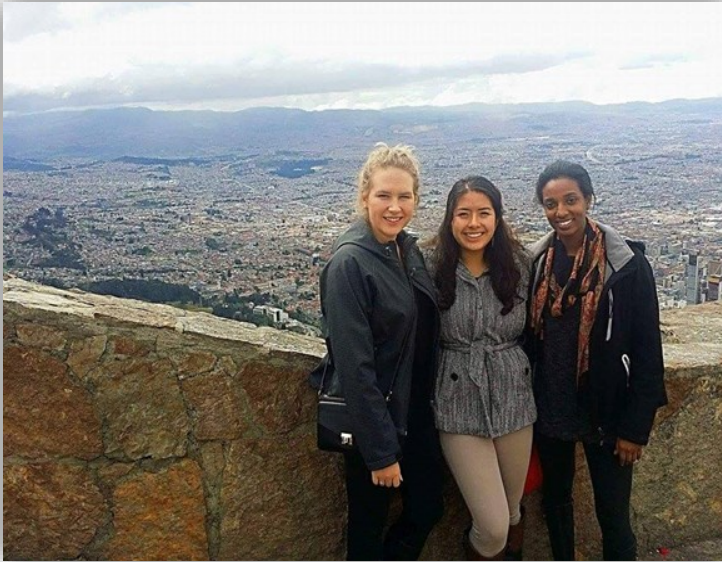


sale and are planning on doing two more this spring semester. Beyond our fundraising efforts, we have been active in our community. In September we had back-to-back walks to help out the Alzheimer's Association and an addition walk to raise money for ALS. Besides walks, we have been spending time at Casa Esperanza by cooking dinner for families coming back from long days of chemotherapy and other cancer treatments. Casa Esperanza makes signs announcing when we will be there and the great part is that not only are we cooking a meal for these people, but also we get to talk to them and hear their stories. We also helped out at a local Health Fair that took place at Highland High School. To keep up to date with what we are participating in as well as how to help us reach our fundraising goals, please check out our website <http://www.bamd.club/>.



FAMILY IS FOREVER

ELIANA GARCIA — 2013 COHORT



Looking back at the past three years, I realize just how much the Combined BA/MD program has changed my life. My BA/MD experience is unique in a very particular way because before getting accepted into the program, I was a regular UNM student for a semester. My senior year of high school I graduated in December and began college here at UNM that January. I had to go to regular advisement, go to regular classes, live in regular dorms, and literally only knew 3 people at the university.

The BA/MD program is special because it comes with many perks including priority registration, student-centered classes, personalized advisors, financial support, academic support, community support, and last but not least, a RESERVED SPOT in medical school. The cohorts get to know each other very well because we are required to live in the same dorms for the first two years, plus we have the majority of our classes together. I am lucky to say that many of the people in my cohort and other BA/MD cohorts have become my second family. All of the people in BA/MD have something special and unique about them and that is why they are a part of the program. By my second year I had already formed life long friendship with many of my peers. Two of these friends are Nardos and Paulina. Nardos's family is from Eritrea, Africa; Paulina's family is from

Poland; and I am from Colombia. During our sophomore year, we had this crazy idea to travel the world and give each other a tour of our home countries.

This past winter break, part one of our crazy idea came true. Paulinka and Nardos visited my family and me in Bogota, Colombia and we had an amazing time. It was really exciting to integrate them into our culture and show them around my beautiful country. They tried all our traditional food and even took part in our traditional prayer that we do every night during the Christmas season, called the Novena. My family and I tried to make them feel at home and we took them to visit other small and rural pueblos in Colombia so they would be exposed to both city and country life. Next fall, the three of us will be studying abroad and going to Africa, Poland, and other places in Europe. Time is literally flying and I know soon we will be taking our MCAT, be in our last semester of college, and starting medical school. For now, I am very happy and enjoying working, studying, and being in college with my second family.

Once all of us finish our residency, I sincerely hope that we remember how much the BA/MD gave to us and changed our lives. I can personally say that because of BA/MD, I am where I am today, and have made lifelong friendships. This program is one of the biggest blessings in my life and I can't wait to give back to New Mexico one day by practicing here.



MY SEMESTER IN THE LAND OF FREE TAPAS

ARINEA SALAS — 2012 COHORT

One of the perks of being a BA/MD student is the encouragement given by the program to pursue other interests. When I began college, one of my goals was to become fluent in Spanish. I had heard that the best way to learn a language was immersion, so I figured that studying abroad would be the best and most fun way to learn. I remember making my four-year plan as a freshman and including a semester abroad for the first semester of my senior year. It seemed so far away at the time, but before I knew it I was struggling to carry my luggage up a cobblestone Moorish street in an ancient European city.



I decided to study abroad in Granada (located in the southern region of Andalucía in Spain) on a whim. I didn't really know anything about the city or the region, but an acquaintance of mine had studied there and had a great time. I may be biased, but I was fortunate to have chosen the most beautiful and student friendly city in Europe to



study in. Granada is compact and walkable. I could walk to any neighborhood I wanted to in twenty-five minutes or less.

Granada, mostly due to its proximity to Africa and

Morocco, is extremely diverse for a Spanish city and has many different neighborhoods.

There was Sacromonte, the neighborhood on the outskirts of the city that had gypsy caves and amazing views of the city and the Moorish architecture marvel: La Alhambra. El Albaicín, another neighborhood or "barrio," was also built by the Moors and had beautiful ancient white buildings with windy and extremely narrow streets that were barely wide enough for a car to pass. I lived in the city center, which was a five-minute walk from all of the major stores like H&M, El Corte Ingles (Spain's version of a department store), and el Mercadona (the largest supermarket).

People from infants to the elderly were out walking in the streets often until midnight or later. The cost of living was a lot cheaper than Albuquerque, even when accounting for the slight

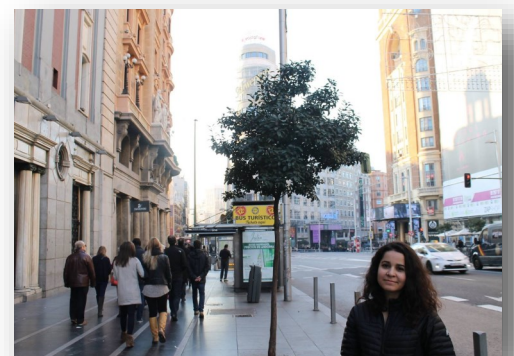
currency difference. Granada is unique in that it is the only major city in Spain that has free tapas. This means that I could buy a drink, which was normally €1.50, with a free appetizer.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to become a resident, even if for a short while, of a city and place completely different from home. Being out of my comfort zone for such a long period of time helped me to get to learn

"I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to become a resident, even if for a short while, of a city and place completely different than what I've ever known."

not only about others but also myself. While I loved the Spanish lifestyle, it helped me to appreciate the people and the culture of New Mexico on a deeper level.

Before I left, I wasn't completely sure that I wanted to continue pursuing medicine because I had never really experienced anything else. However, my time away from the rigors of being a premed student helped me to reflect and realize that I really do desire to become a physician here in New Mexico, my home. I'm so thankful that this priceless experience will have a direct impact on my future career as a healthcare provider.



JUST GO FOR IT

ESPERANZA COCA

When I first heard about the opportunities within the program to use my scholarship to study abroad, it all sounded too good to be true. I immediately went to my advisor and we put it into my 4-year plan, Fall 2015. As my first and second year flew by, I didn't really think too much about it, but once I got to my junior year, everything started to fall into place. I don't think it fully hit me that I

my flight over. Luckily, I had a wonderful house mom and amazing roommates, and with a little bit of practice, my Spanish came back in no time. My time in Spain also significantly improved my Spanish skills. The Intensive Language Program at CLM in Granada is a wonderful program. Their staff is very understanding and takes the time to make sure that every

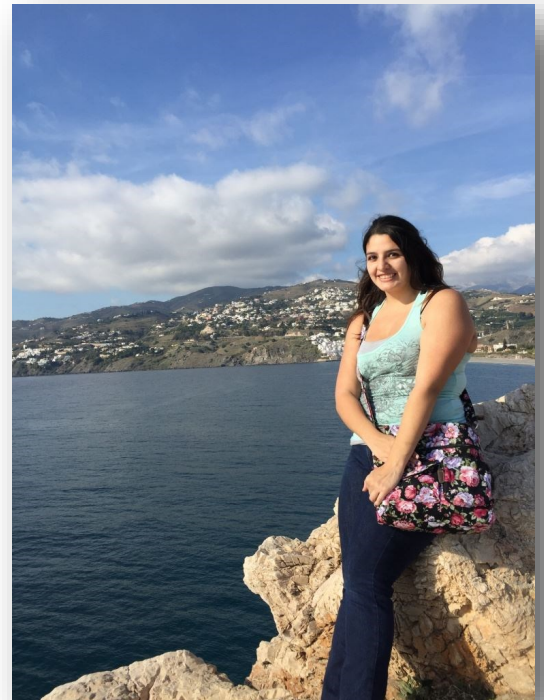
"This trip was by far the most adventurous thing I had ever done."

student is getting everything they

can out of their instructional time abroad. In addition to classroom time that I got with my program included group trips to some of the most beautiful and cultural cities in Spain as well as cultural visits to the beautiful attractions within Granada itself. I also took a few trips with my friends,

including to Barcelona and even Africa. When I told my parents, my dad said, "What, one new continent isn't enough for you?" Being able to see the different cities and lifestyles was eye-opening.

Adapting to a new culture and way of life was difficult, and I would be lying if I said I didn't get homesick, but I think that is part of the journey. While those three months that I spent in Granada were filled with adventure and



spontaneity it helped me appreciate my life here. Four years ago, I couldn't have imagined experiencing something like this. For me, it would not have been

"Four years ago, I would have never imagined that I could have experienced something like this."

possible without the BA/MD program. My advice to all of the students who have even pondered the idea of studying abroad to just go for it. You will be glad you did. I know I am.



would be living in Spain for three months until my flight landed in Granada. This trip was by far the most adventurous thing I had ever done. I went from being on a plane only once for a school trip in high school, to flying international all by myself. Once I got to my home stay and settled in, all of the anxiety turned to excitement. I was in Spain! My biggest struggle when I first arrived was adjusting to the language. All of my Spanish knowledge seemed to dissipate on



MEDICAL SCHOOL RESEARCH

CHRIS MEDINA — 2011 COHORT

For the past two and a half years, research has been a large part of my life. It began in October 2013 when I started working in the lab of Elaine

Bearer in the Department of Pathology at the UNM School of

Medicine. I had always envisioned research to involve primarily “bench work” -meaning physical experiments, such as PCR - but this job introduced me to another field of science, bioinformatics. Bioinformatics merges the fields of computer science and statistics into the field of biology. The projects I have worked on include investigating the effects defective amyloid precursor protein and kinesin have in neuronal transport in mice. These defects are associated with multiple neuronal diseases, such as Alzheimer’s. My job as a computer analyst is to map the transport in the brain from images taken at different time points and compare the maps with statistical analysis.

When medical school began this past July, I was worried that I would not have time to continue my work in the lab. Like many

students about to begin medical school, I had heard horror stories about the

grueling stresses of medical school. I found medical school to be at a much higher difficulty level than undergrad. The difficulty of subject matter and critical thinking are on a similar level, but the sheer amount of memorization is intense. We are quizzed on several hundred pages of PowerPoint slides per week. Nevertheless, I found that it’s still possible to have a job and even a life. Many of my classmates, including myself, make it out to the gym several times a week. I kept my research job after all and my work is flourishing now more than ever. Last semester, I took a weeklong trip to Pasadena to work in the lab of our collaborator at Caltech. I also gave lectures at the Society



for Neuroscience conference in Chicago and the American Society for Cell Biology conference in San Diego.

My research experience has been great. I also look forward to enhancing my clinical experience. This semester, I will be working in a UNM family practice clinic and I hope to continue working in family practice during our Practical Emersion Experience (PIE) this summer, which is the medical school’s six-week version of practicum.

IT STARTED WHEN I STOPPED

ALEXANDRA CERVANTES — 2012 COHORT

I thought at twenty-one I would have my life more together than I did when I applied to this program at seventeen. But in fact it is just the opposite. At seventeen I had a more polished plan, a mental timeline detailing the who’s, what’s, and where’s of my life. I was prepared to do collegiate research in a Biology Lab, spend all of my time shadowing, and find a science mentor who would serve as my medical Yoda. And I was



going to have a ‘usual’ at the coffee shop for those nights in the library. More than that I was going to be what a pre-medical student ‘should’ be.

I then realized along the way that I was so stuck in what I thought a good doctor should be that I forgot who I was and why I even wanted to be a doctor. I started college trying to fit the stereotypical formula: Research, Competition, Community Service, Shadowing, North Campus Job,

Good Grades, MCAT, all just things to be checked off a list. I was lost in a city that was too cold and a dorm that was too empty. I needed a change.

But then I realized that I was just doing this to myself and that this program actually offered me the freedom from that cut and dry recipe that I so desperately desired. After that first year, I decided to reject a job offer as a biology tutor and I began working with the Student Government office teaching an ELL leadership class instead. It was within those walls that I found my home and actual Yoda. I started doing research in the community instead of in a lab and instead of prematurely working my way into North Campus; I became invested in making main campus the best that it could be.

Since then I've served on many student organizations, sat on hiring and infrastructure committees for the University and served as a senator and ultimately the Undergraduate Vice President of UNM. I've started 7 new scholarships, made 30+ trips to Santa Fe to lobby our State Representatives, and eaten more meals in the SUB than I care to admit. My involvement on campus takes most of my time every day, but I wouldn't have it any other way. When I allowed myself to create my own experience, I fell in love with college, my program, and once again with my dream to be of service to others. So if I've learned anything throughout my collegiate career it is to finally be who I want to be instead of who I should be or who I am thought to be and for me that has been more powerful than anything I could've taken from a textbook.

MEET OUR NEWSEST BA/MD RECRUITER

TAMARA CLOVER

Hi! I am the new recruiter at the BA/MD program. I am passionate about education and proud to be able to encourage students to work towards their dreams. In addition, it's pretty cool to travel around New Mexico. I love the state, but just a couple of months ago, this "big city" Albuquerque girl had never heard of towns like Peñasco, Animas, Alamo and Cimarron. (Sorry guys; don't take it personally!) Now however, each of those names recalls images of antelope, plains, winding roads or cowboy boots and of course, the people I met.



"How much does medical school cost?"

"Can I put my job experience on my application? How about being the school mascot?"

"How many hours should I shadow?"

"How many years do you have to go to school for to become a doctor?"

"Should you tell colleges if you've taken the ACT more than once?"

Last fall high school students were boldly asking these questions and more in auditoriums, counseling offices, libraries, and classrooms all over New Mexico.

I'm learning a lot and enjoying my new job. Hands down, the most inspiring thing I experienced this fall was hearing from students who shared big goals for their lives after high school, and are already working to make those happen.

If you're working towards your own goal, or maybe just trying to figure out what your goals are, here's some advice I have for you:

1. Set big goals and then be resilient as you work towards them. You won't get everything right the first time, but... you CAN do something big!
2. Some of the most practical things you can do now are...
 - Find a mentor who will help you when you need it.
 - Take a lot of math and science courses, and read everything you can!
 - Shadow a professional in a career that you're considering. The person you're shadowing can end up being a great reference and resource for you if you decide that you want to go for it.

Finally, along with the rest of our program staff, I'm here for you! Keep the questions coming.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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

- Academic excellence (ex. GPA, ACT/SAT scores, honors courses, advanced placement courses, and international baccalaureate courses)
- Community involvement
- Volunteer experience
- Commitment to practice medicine in New Mexico
- Honors and awards
- Extracurricular activities
- 3 Letters of recommendation
- Personal statement
- 2 Interviews

Minimum ACT or SAT Scores		
	ACT	SAT
Math	22	≥510
Reading	19	≥450
Science	19	
English	19	
*Scores must be achieved prior to the application deadline. (SAT subject test scores are not accepted.)		

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 in the Navajo Nation are also eligible)
- Have a personal commitment to pursue a medical career in New Mexico's rural or medically underserved areas.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Application available: August, 2016
- Application deadline: November 11th, 2016
- Interviews: November 2016– February 2017
- Final decision notification April 1, 2017
- Applicant commitment: May 1, 2017

The application can be found online at: <http://som.unm.edu/education/bamd>

CONTACT US

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM– 5 PM

Physical Location: 2400 Tucker NE

Family Medicine Center, #248, Room 137

Phone: 505-925-4500 FAX 505-925-4004

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Website: <http://som.unm.edu/education/bamd/index/html>

