



LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
AUG. 20, 2026



UNM-Gallup Land Acknowledgement

Founded in 1968, The University of New Mexico-Gallup sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Zuni Nation and Navajo Nation. The original peoples of New Mexico-Pueblo, and Navajo, since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples.

We thankfully recognize our history, strive to build robust relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous peoples, and commit to maintain a diverse and inclusive environment with respect, understanding, and appreciation of all.

UNM-Gallup Mission

The University of New Mexico-Gallup prepares people to achieve their educational and professional goals in a context of respect for the traditions and values of the many groups it serves.

Health Science Programs Overview

Certificate Programs:

- Dental Assisting
- Emergency Medical Technician – Basic
- Human Services
- Nursing Assistant
- Practical Nursing

Associate Degree Programs:

- Human Services – Family Studies
- Human Services – Substance Abuse
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Nursing

▪Bachelor's Degree Program:

- Nursing

Nursing & Human Services Progress Report



Nursing & Human Services Progress Report

Despite a one-year dip in enrollment and NCLEX pass rates, tied to a smaller admitted cohort and mid-year faculty turnover, the Division enters this academic year with a full nursing faculty complement, a CNA testing partnership with Red Rocks Care Center now in development, an LPN high school pathway targeting a Fall 2027 launch, and a new Hozho Center fieldwork partnership supporting Human Services licensure.



Enrollment & Pipeline

Admissions: We continue to admit students each Spring and Fall, though this year's intake was smaller than our recent average:

- Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 each admitted 19 students, compared with the 20-24 we have typically admitted per semester.

Combined with 17 students graduating during calendar year 2025, this brought our current pipeline to 69 students, down from the 86 we reported to this committee last year.

The smaller admitted cohorts reflect applicants not meeting minimum admission requirements, primarily TEAS entrance exam scores, with a small number missing application requirements outright, rather than any change in our admission standards.

Student Success Metrics (AY 2025–2026)

Retention: Our AY 2025-2026 retention rate was 78.5%, compared with 85.6% the prior year.



NCLEX-RN Pass Rate Performance

Calendar Year 2024: 92.31% first-time NCLEX-RN pass rate.

Calendar Year 2025: The first-time NCLEX-RN pass rate for calendar year 2025 was 68.75%, a decline driven by a smaller, harder-hit cohort and mid-year faculty turnover, but Q2 2026 monitoring data already shows an improved 87% pass rate.

Q2 2026 (in progress): Our monitoring data shows an 87% first-time pass rate for the current period, indicating the program is trending back toward its historical performance.

New This Year: CNA Competency Testing Comes to Gallup

UNM-Gallup is in the process of developing a partnership with Red Rocks Care Center to bring CNA competency testing to campus, with the agreement currently under campus legal review, that would remove a major travel barrier for CNA candidates across the region.

- This matters for our region. CNA candidates in McKinley County and surrounding communities have historically had to travel significant distances to sit for competency testing, a real barrier for working adults and rural residents.
- Local testing removes that barrier, accelerates entry into the healthcare workforce, and gives our long-term care partners a faster path to fully credentialed staff.

High School LPN Program: Status Update

- Partnership Established
- Curriculum Developed
- Staffing Model Defined
- Revised Launch: Fall 2027



Comprehensive Student Support

- I-BEST Integrated Instruction
- High-Fidelity Simulation & Skills Labs
- Advising & Mentorship
- Academic Supports
- Wraparound Services



Faculty Recruitment: Progress and Persistent Gaps

- Full-time faculty at capacity
- Progress: I-BEST Faculty Hired
- Persistent part-time shortage
- Why this matters: Enrollment growth and clinical placement supervision

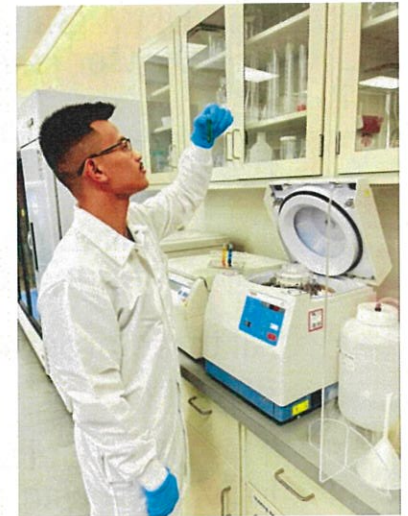
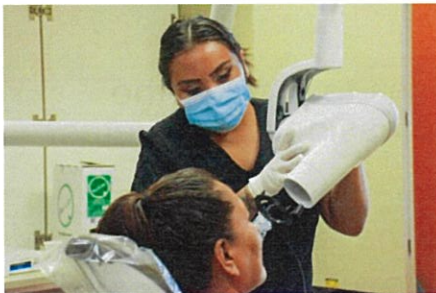


Looking Ahead

The UNM-Gallup Nursing and Human Services Division is committed to:

- Launching the High School LPN Program with Gallup-McKinley County Schools in Fall 2027, contingent on securing funding and hiring three new faculty members.
- Getting on-campus CNA competency testing with Red Rocks Care Center and growing it as the entry point to our nursing career ladder.
- Attracting and retaining qualified nursing educators.
- Sustaining the student support services that drive our retention and NCLEX outcomes.
- Beginning Human Services student recruitment this year through high school recruitment drives, building on our new fieldwork partnership with the Hozho Center.
- With ongoing legislative support, we can meet these commitments and continue building a strong nursing and human services workforce for New Mexico.

Allied Health Sciences Progress Report



Allied Health Sciences Progress Report

The UNM-Gallup Allied Health Sciences programs consist of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Dental Assisting and Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT).

All three programs continue to achieve consistent successful student outcomes while providing our local/surrounding areas with the allied health sciences workforce pool.

These allied health sciences programs demonstrate measurable student success rates, supported by steady enrollment through nationally accredited programs.

All three programs have strong missions, visions and goals that align closely with one another.

The UNM-Gallup Allied Health Sciences Division is equipped with resources to provide the local area with diverse clinically competent, well prepared and reliable professional graduates.

All prerequisites are offered on the UNM-Gallup campus or can be achieved through our public school system, which allows for a smooth enrollment transition into the allied health sciences programs here on the UNM-Gallup campus.

National Accreditation

■ Certified DA

- The Dental assisting certificate program is accredited by The Commission of Dental Accreditation (CODA). They have been accredited for the past 26 years, and renewal accreditation is every 7 years.

■ Certified EMS

- All EMT attributes and skills are evaluated with a Professional Behavior Evaluation rubric required from our accreditation and affiliation with the EMS Academy and individual skills assessments required by the state and for national standards assessment.

■ AS MLT

- The associate of science Medical Laboratory Technology program is nationally accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). They are currently accredited for the next 8 years without a formal yearly inspection.

Enrollment Metrics

- **Certified DA**

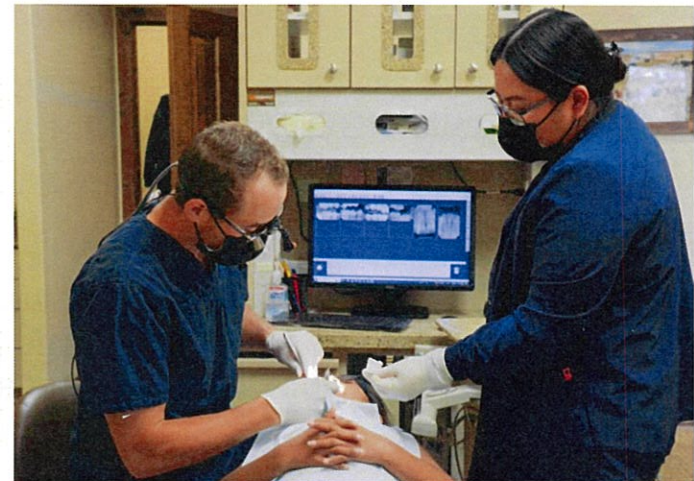
- Max capacity enrollment (12) achieved during past 3 years.

- **Certified EMS**

- 60 BLS CPR and 24 EMT students enrolled each academic year.
- EMT max capacity enrollment (12) achieved consistently.

- **AS MLT**

- 42 students enrolled during past 3 academic years.
- 12 enrolled within past academic year (2025-2026).
- Consistent enrollment of 4-10 students each semester.
- Fall 2026 semester enrollment of 10 students (most since Spring 2024).



Overall Retention Metrics (Past 3 AY)

- **Certified DA**

- High retention rate — 24 students enrolled a year with a retention rate average of 92% over the past 3 years.

- **Certified EMS**

- Retention circumstances vary.
- Retention rate average is around 75% per academic year.

- **AS MLT**

- During the past 3 academic years, the MLT program had a successful overall retention rate of 92% — 25 students entered their final phase of the program and 23 of them graduated with their Associate of Science in Medical Laboratory Technology.

Certification/Licensure Preparation

- **Certified DA**

- Program coordinator provides in-person tutoring, mock exams, and guidance in taking the certified dental assisting exams and state expanding function exams.
- On campus support programs: TRIO, Zollinger Library and Center for Academic Learning

- **Certified EMS**

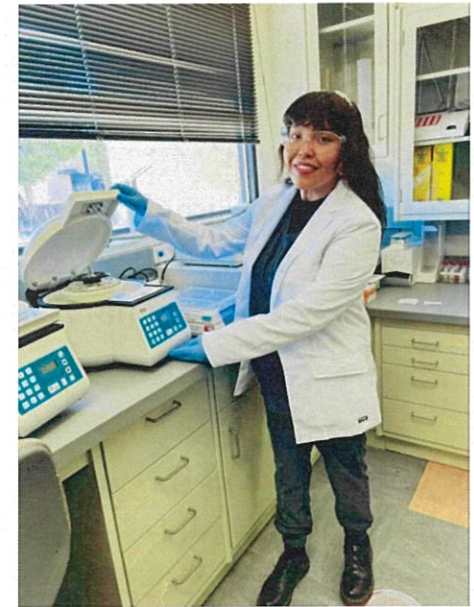
- EMS certificate graduates receive 2 certificates. One is from UNM-Gallup certification of completion of the program and the second is the Course Completion issued by the EMS Academy at Main Campus.

- **AS MLT**

- Students receive instruction that meet national standards.
- In-person exam prep course.
- Tutoring and preparation for the national exam handled by MLT faculty.

Extensive Student Support

- **Qualified Faculty**
- **In-Depth Hands-on Labs**
- **Advising & Mentorship**
- **Academic Support**
- **Additional Campus Services**



Program Successes

- **Certified DA**

- Dental Assisting Pinning Ceremony
- Common Curriculum Requirements Updated

- **Certified EMS**

- Real-life/simulated patient care, equipment, and situational awareness experience
- Atmosphere identical to the workforce but in a controlled environment/setting
- Modeled stationary box ambulance

- **AS MLT**

- Qualified for the highest national accreditation allotment of 10 years
- Incorporated course fees to ease financial strain
- Increase in new student enrollment
- Steady successful retention rate

Barriers and Program Needs

- Faculty Recruitment
- Lack of Budget and Funding
- Expansion Limitations

A common barrier among all three programs that directly affect retention rates are financial hardship, childcare security and reliable transportation. These specific barriers at this will need to be addressed at a higher level. The university's student support resource center is not equipped to offer full resolutions for these very real homelife barriers.



Looking Ahead

The UNM-Gallup Allied Health Sciences Programs are dedicated to:

- Assisting lifelong learners while developing clinically competent and culturally sensitive healthcare workers within the private, public, local and national health care settings.
- Hiring and retaining fully competent, qualified and passionate faculty.
- Providing the highest level of student experience for our rural community through didactic and clinical instruction for years to come.



Questions?

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Thank you for your continued support!