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## University of New Mexico Medical School Expansion

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### Background

- In 2024, the University of New Mexico presented a proposal to double the size of the school of medicine (SOM). The proposal would build a new medical school facility and allow a doubling of not only medical doctoral students, but associated occupations including physician assistants, physical therapists, and occupational therapists among others.
- The expansion is projected to cost approximately \$600 million with construction to be completed by the fall of 2030.
- The expansion will increase class sizes for several different occupations to meet a rapidly increasing need for health care providers.

#### Health Provider Shortage Projections

Occupation	Practitioner Need 2024	Practitioner Need 2035	% Change
Physicians	522	1,680	322%
Nurses	5,952	10,520	177%
Dental Hygienists	88	350	398%
Physician Assistants	281	No Data	N/A
Physical Therapists	526	1,590	302%
Occupational Therapists	114	610	535%
Pharmacists & Related	482	700	145%

Source: UNM

- UNM Health System anticipates significant growth of the clinical delivery system over the next 10 years including the addition of 265 inpatient beds, 2,100 additional hospital staff, 300-350 additional School of Medicine faculty, and 200 additional residents/fellows.

### SOM Construction Costs

- UNM estimates the cost for planning and design to be approximately \$37 million and the need for an additional \$30 million in enabling projects to make the sight ready for construction.
  - The Legislature appropriated \$30 million to the project for these purposes.

- UNM spent \$2.5 million to date including \$1.5 million from institutional funding to produce a business plan and conceptual drawings for the expansion project as well as \$1 million for enabling project work and infrastructure preparation.
- For FY26 through FY30, the total need will be \$598.9 million as shown below:

**School of Medicine Projected Spending**  
(in thousands)

Year	Spend	Running Total
FY26	63,235.2	63,235.2
FY27	54,988.0	118,223.2
FY28	310,030.1	428,253.3
FY29	166,936.9	595,190.2
FY30	3,702.5	598,892.7

Source: HSC

- The new facility would be located on the north side of Lomas at University, a site that offers the potential for complementary clinical expansion to the east, and potential university academic expansion north. To the west and southwest along the Lomas corridor, there is the opportunity for economic development - that could potentially include housing, hotels, and retail. While these have been discussed, there is no plan to add these additional amenities at this time.

## SOM Operations

- The expansion will require additional faculty and staff anticipated to increase recurring costs from \$724 million to approximately \$1 billion. At the same time, SOM's total operating revenues are anticipated to increase from \$734 million to approximately \$964 million.
  - UNM anticipates the need for an additional \$49 million to fully fund the increased operational costs by 2034.
- Doubling the size of the SOM will provide more opportunities for New Mexico residents to attend medical school, but this does not necessarily translate into additional practicing physicians in the state.
  - The training path for a medical doctor begins with an undergraduate degree followed by medical school, known as undergraduate medical education (UME), and concluding with graduate medical education (GME), known as medical residency.
  - The SOM expansion will affect UME, but not GME/residency opportunities which are mostly dependent on capacity at UNM Hospital.
  - GME is offered primarily through UNM Hospital and residents are selected through a national matching process which may see New Mexico medical school students placed in out-of-state programs.
- Currently, 95 percent of UME students at UNM SOM are from New Mexico.

- UNM reported significant expectations for growth of the inpatient clinical delivery system over the next 10 years including the addition of 265 inpatient beds, 2,100 additional hospital staff, 300 additional faculty and 200 additional residents/fellows.
- The expansion of the clinical delivery system will provide additional opportunities for UNM students to transition into a residency at the UNM Hospital.
  - National data show 68.9 percent those who completed UME *and* residency in New Mexico remain in the state upon completion of their medical residency versus only 38.5 percent of New Mexico UME students who become licensed physicians in the state.
  - Based on these percentages, UNM anticipates the expansion of the medical school could result in an additional 54 physicians per year completing medical school or residency and practicing in the state.
- The table below shows SOM enrollment projections by program. Health Provider Programs (HPP) include anesthesiologist assistants, dental hygienists, medical lab sciences, occupational therapists, physician assistants, physical therapists, and radiologic sciences.

**Medical School Student Enrollment**

Students	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30*	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34*	FY35
HPP	593	610	626	634	666	809	1,023	1,153	1,185	1,187
Medical	422	432	442	452	482	542	632	722	782	812
Graduate	93	95	97	99	111	134	157	180	192	192
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>1,185</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>2,159</b>	<b>2,191</b>

Source: UNM-SOM

\*SOM expansion completion in FY30, UNM-H Tower phase 2 complete FY34

- In addition to medical students, SOM anticipates a significant increase in the health provider programs, growing from 666 students when the facility opens to 1,187 students in the next five years.
  - Graduate students are expected to increase from 111 in 2030 to 192 in the next five years.