

UNM–Taos Health Sciences & Nursing: Strengthening New Mexico's Healthcare Workforce

*Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
July 20, 2026*



UNM-Taos Land Acknowledgement

The University of New Mexico-Taos sits on the traditional homelands of the Red Willow People of Taos Pueblo. The original peoples of current-day New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache 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 gratefully recognize our history and work to maintain healthy, fruitful relationships with our neighbors for generations to come.

UNM-Taos Mission

Our mission is to provide high-quality education to transform students' educational journeys. We empower our students to imagine possibilities, cultivate knowledge, and achieve personal and economic well-being. UNM-Taos strengthens the regional economy by developing a skilled workforce in partnership with local employers. Our committed faculty and staff honor student stories, a weaving together of family, tradition, and heritage.

Thank You for Investing in New Mexico's Students and Workforce

UNM-Taos extends our sincere appreciation to the New Mexico Legislature for its continued commitment to higher education and workforce development. These investments make it possible for us to:

- ✓ **Expand Opportunity**

Accessible and affordable pathways to degrees, certificates, and workforce credentials.

- ✓ **Build the Workforce**

Prepare essential workers in healthcare and other high-demand fields.

- ✓ **Strengthen Communities**

Support regional employers, economic development, and rural futures.

- ✓ **Transform Lives**

Create pathways to careers, economic mobility, and lifelong success.

Together, we are transforming student lives and strengthening northern New Mexico.

UNM-Taos AY2025-2026 Awards

PROGRAM AREA	PROGRAMS INCLUDED	AWARDS	%
Health Sciences & Nursing	AS Nursing, AS Emergency Medical Services, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy Technician, Medical Assistant, Community Health, Massage Therapy	106	50%
Workforce & Technical Certificates	AAS General Studies, CDL, Construction Technology, 3-D Printing, Woodworking, Culinary Arts	37	18%
Arts, Humanities & Social/Behavioral Sciences	AA Liberal Arts, AA Early Childhood Education, AS Education, AFA Fine Arts, AA Film and Digital Media Arts, Film Technician, Applied Arts & Crafts	36	17%
STEM Pathways	AS Pre-Science	22	11%
Business & Entrepreneurship	AA Pre-Business Administration, Entrepreneurship	8	4%
Total Awards		209	100%

Health Sciences & Nursing represented 50% of all AY 2025–2026 awards

Health Science Programs Overview

Health Sciences Degrees and Certificates

- Behavioral Health/Mental Health/LSAA
- Community Health Worker
- Social Work Pathway

- Holistic Health & Healing Arts
- Massage Therapy
- Structural Integration

- Medical Assisting
- Nursing
- Nursing Assistant
- Phlebotomy

- AEMT
- EMR
- EMT

AY 2025–2026 AS Pre-Science Program Snapshot

Key Takeaway

- AS Pre-Science is the largest Associate-level major at UNM–Taos, serving more than one-quarter of all degree-seeking home students and contributing significantly to the institution's annual degree production.

Key Metric	AY 2025-2026
Unduplicated Headcount	145 students
Share of Degree-Seeking Home Students	27%
AS Pre-Science Awards	22 graduates
Share of All Graduates (N = 191)	12%
Share of Total Awards (N = 209)	11%

AS Pre-Science Student Profile (AY 2025-2026)

AY 2025-2026
AS Pre-Science Headcount

Race/Ethnicity	Percent
American Indian	8%
Hispanic	65%
White	20%
Other	7%

AY 2025-2026
AS Pre-Science Headcount

Gender	Percent
Female	71%
Male	29%

AY 2025-2026

AS Pre-Science Headcount

	Percent
PELL	89%
First Generation	69%

AS Pre-Science Headcount

	Percent
Full-time	58%
Part-time	42%

Strengthening Nursing Education

- **Your investments have made possible:**
- Advanced simulation and lab equipment
- Faculty development and workforce capacity
- Student support and retention initiatives



UNM–Taos Nursing Program Snapshot

	Enrollment	100% completion	150% completion	NCLEX	Employment	Region
0824	5	100%	N/A	83.3% (5/6)	100%	100% NNM
0825	16	81.3%	87.5%	83.3% (10/12)	100%	73% NNM 18% ABQ
0826	16	75%	*	*	*	*
0827	14					

+ Dual Degree data

*In progress

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- EMR, EMT, AEMT
- Paramedic?
- Academic pathways
 - AS EMS
 - EMT to RN/PA/MD, etc.



EMS Statistics

- Rural EMS is struggling
 - Paramedics in particular
- NREMT pass rates:
 - NM: 73%
 - UNM-Taos: 87%
- Nearly all employed in the Enchanted Circle
 - Both paid and volunteer
- This fall
 - EMT, AEMT full; added sections



Community & Behavioral Health Pathways



Community and Behavioral Health Pathways



New Health Career Offerings at UNM-Taos

PATHWAYS TO NURSING



STACKING CREDENTIALS

- Phlebotomy
 - 2 cohorts graduated
- Medical Assisting
 - Phlebotomy
 - Nursing Assistant (CNA)
 - Gen-Ed courses

Health Sciences Program Enrollment and Outcomes

AY 2025–2026

Course	Number Enrolled	% Passed Program	% Licensed/ Certified	% Employed
EMR SU25	13	100%	NA	NA (No Licensure Exam)
EMT-BASIC AY2025-2026	33	85%	93%	73%
EMT-I (AEMT) F2025	13	100%	85%	100%
CNA AY2025-2026	23	78%	55%	20% Spring 2026 data pending
PBT AY2025-2026	22	86%	Outcome data not yet available	Outcome data not yet available

Challenges for Success

Academic Readiness

Barrier to nursing enrollment originates in K–12 academic readiness.

Only 25% of New Mexico students demonstrate proficiency in math, limiting eligibility for prerequisite coursework.

Science (35%) and reading (43%) proficiency further constrain readiness for nursing curricula.

Average State chronic absenteeism rate 34%, [Example: Taos District not including charter schools 50%; Taos District Charter 8% and State Charter 13%] (NM Vistas, graphs)

Achievement gaps among economically disadvantaged, Native American, and English learner populations reduce the diversity and size of the applicant pool.

Challenges for Success

THE REALITIES THAT STUDENTS NAVIGATE

| Financial & Cost-of-Living

| Basic Needs & Transportation

| Work, School, & Time Demands

| Family Caregiving

Current Strategies to Support Student Success

Academic Advising

- Mandatory advising each semester
- Degree planning and course selection
- Early intervention and progress monitoring

Health Sciences & Pre-Nursing

- Pre-Nursing degree planning
- Prerequisite sequencing
- Nursing admission preparation
- Summer Bridge for new nursing students

Student Support

- FYEX (First Year Experience)
- Tutoring and academic support referrals
- TECC literacy support
- TABE-informed academic readiness
- IET (Integrated Education and Training)
- Bridge to Health Careers class
- Basic Needs Support

Financial & Academic Planning

- Lottery & Opportunity Scholarship guidance
- GPA and credit-hour planning
- Academic probation success plans
- Student stipends

Current Strategies to Support Student Success

Recruitment & Transition

- Outreach and recruitment partnerships
- Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment transition advising
- Career Connected Advising (CCA)

Stackable Credential Pathways

- CNA → Phlebotomy → Medical Assisting
- EMR → EMT → Associate Degree

Career & Transfer Planning

- Connect credentials to career goals
- Support transfer pathways in health professions
- Align education with workforce opportunities

The Student Journey: Building Pathways to Success: Every student's journey is unique-success is built one step at a time through encouragement, guidance, and opportunity.



Begins Early

Educational goals are shaped through early experiences, encouragement, and opportunity.

Builds Skills and Confidence

Students develop academic, professional, and life skills needed for success.

Requires a Personalized Pathway

Every student's journey is unique, with choices, milestones, and opportunities to adjust direction.

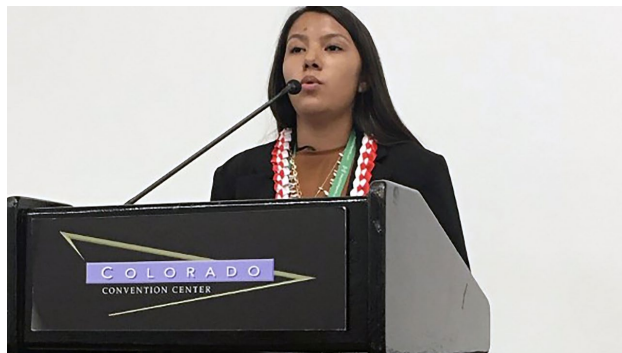
Starts with the End Goal in Mind

Students identify their goals and build pathways that connect education to careers.

Supported Every Step of the Way

Advising, mentorship, and resources help students navigate challenges and continue moving forward.

Student Success Stories



Strong Healthcare Partnerships



Strong Community Partnerships



Looking Ahead: Strategic Priorities

Strengthening Student Pathways

- Advance campus-wide strategic planning
- Expand dual enrollment advising and early student engagement
- Develop career-connected pathways from education to employment

Advancing Healthcare Education & Workforce Development

- Strengthen healthcare program outcomes
- Expand behavioral health pathways
- Pursue grant funding to support healthcare initiatives

Building Partnerships & Collaboration

- Increase cross-campus collaboration
- Grow community and workforce partnerships

The Bigger Picture: From Education to Community Impact

UNM-Taos is building healthcare workforce from the ground up.

- **Educating Local Talent**
- **Preparing the Workforce**
- **Improving Community Health**
- **Creating Lasting Impact**

Questions?

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