

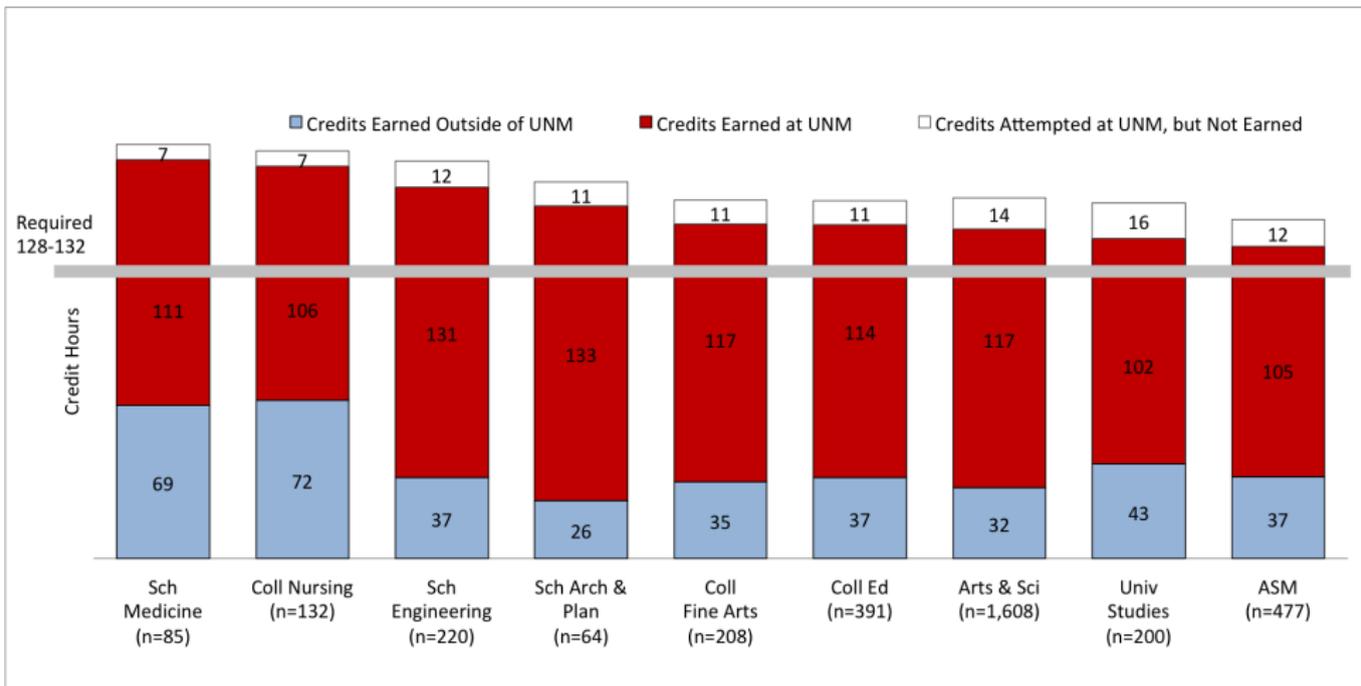
Timely Completion at UNM: Excessive Credits and Baccalaureate Degree Program Minimums

Presented to the Legislative Education Study Committee
New Mexico Legislature

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June 18, 2014

The Credit Hour Problem at UNM



Avg. number of credit hours by college for bachelor's degree recipients at UNM during the 2011-12 academic year.

Institution	Min. Credit Hours Bachelor's Degree	Notes
Arizona State University	120	Policy allows for exceptions; however, <i>all</i> programs, including those in architecture and engineering, meet the minimum.
University of Arizona	120	
University of California–Riverside	180 (quarter system)	Equates to 120 semester credit hrs.
University of Colorado–Boulder	120	
University of Colorado–Denver	120	
Florida International University	120	
University of Iowa	120	
University of Kansas	120	
University of Missouri–Columbia	120	
University of Nebraska–Lincoln	120	
University of Nevada–Las Vegas	120	
University of Oklahoma	120	
University of Tennessee	120	
(Texas System) Texas A&M University–College Station Texas Tech University The University of Texas at Arlington The University of Texas at Austin The University of Texas at El Paso University of Houston	120	120 credit hours is the legislated maximum, with exceptions allowed. Texas State Law on Excessive Underg. Hours assesses a penalty for exceeding 30 hours beyond those required for degree.
Oklahoma State University	120	Some programs are as high as 150 credit hrs.
University of Utah	122	

2013-14 Academic Year:

Institution	Min. Credit Hours Bachelor's Degree	Notes
Eastern New Mexico University	128	
New Mexico Highlands University	128	
New Mexico State	128	At least 48 hrs. numbered 300 and above.
New Mexico Tech University	130	
Northern New Mexico College	128	
Western New Mexico University	128	
University of New Mexico	128	

The UNM Faculty Senate reduced the minimum number of credit hours required for a baccalaureate degree from 128 to 120 on Jan. 28, 2014

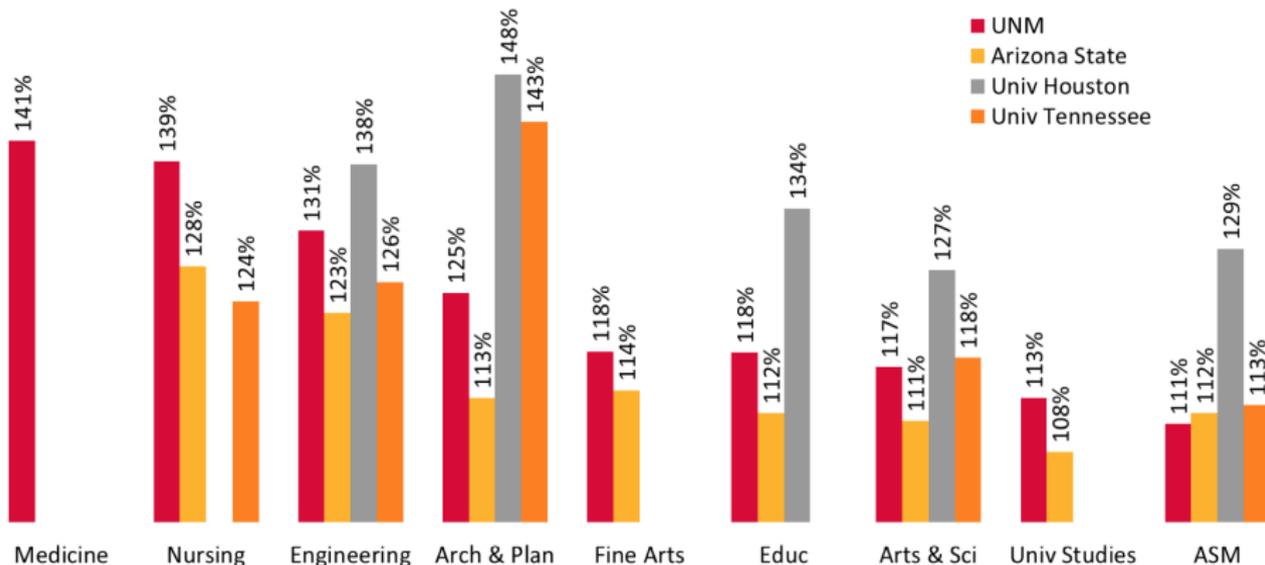
- **State of Florida.** Within six months of enacting legislation, statewide inventory of degree programs reduced by 1,571 credit hours. At the University of Florida the produced a savings of nearly 56,000 credit hours annually, i.e., approximately 400 additional four-year degrees/year without changing the overall enrollment level.
- **University of Wisconsin.** Enacted changes similar to those in Florida. Over the next sixteen years, the average number of credit hours attempted by graduates reduced from 145 to 132. This change has allowed the university to accommodate 15,000 additional students through 2009-10, as compared to what would have been possible by 1993-94 rules.

Avg. Credit Hours – Other States

UNM	Arizona State	Univ Houston	Univ Tennessee
Degree Year	'11-'12	'11-'12	'10-'11
Min. Credit Hours for Degree	128	120	120
<u>Average Credit Hours by Coll.</u>			
School Medicine	180.5		
Coll. Nursing	177.7	Nursing & Health Innovation 153.0	Coll. Nursing 148.5
School Engineering	168.1	Engineering 147.0	Cullen Coll. Engineering 166.2
School Arch. & Planning	159.5	Design & The Arts - Design 136.0	School Architecture 177.8
Coll. Fine Arts	151.5	Design & The Arts - Fine Arts 137.0	Architecture & Design 171.7
Coll. Education	151.3	Teachers Coll. 134.0	Coll. Education 160.5
Coll. Arts & Sciences	149.3	Liberal Arts & Sciences 133.0	Coll. Liberal Arts & Soc Sci 152.5
University Studies	145.1	Letters & Sciences 129.0	Arts And Sciences 141.1
Anderson Schools Management	141.5	Business 134.0	Bauer Coll. Business 155.2
			Business Administration 135.0

Avg. number of credit hours accumulated by graduates.

Excess Credit Hours – Other States



Excess credit hours accumulated by graduates as a percentage of the minimum required for the degree.

- Enacted policy that reduced the minimum number of credit hours required for a baccalaureate degree at UNM from 128 to 120. **Many of our peer institutions have demonstrated that this is possible while also maintaining program quality.**
- Working with academic departments to review all degree programs, with the goal of reducing degree requirements in order to match the 120 credit hour minimum, with exceptions allowed if compelling academic reasons are provided.
- A number of programs have already created 120 credit hour degrees – a potential to see 4-year graduation rate improvement in a few years.

- For most degree programs, even in the School of Engineering, it's possible to create 120 credit hour degrees.
- Creating 120 credit hour degrees in programs involving licensure in elementary education is problematic.
 - NMAC 6.61.2.8 – 57 very specific credit hours are specified:
 - English (12); History (12); Mathematics (9); Gov't, Economics or Sociology (6); Science (12); Fine Arts (6)
 - Still must fit in teacher preparation courses.
 - Arizona Department of Education requires:
 - Completion of a teacher preparation program in elementary education from an accredited institution.
 - 45 credit hours of education courses from an accredited institution, including 8 hours of practicum.

- Created four-year semester-by-semester online road maps for all degree programs.
- Creating degree road maps that may be customized to a student's particular circumstances — e.g., that start at the math course a student tests into, or that incorporate work completed at other institutions in the state (taking into account articulation agreements).
- Developing mechanisms for tracking the progress of students relative to these road maps, as well as intervention mechanisms for off-track students.



UNM's Academic Programs: Undergraduate Degrees:

Undergraduate Degrees

Arts & Culture

Have you been interested in how humans and societies interact with each other from a perspective of race, ethnicity, gender and nationality? Does the intersection of arts, culture and the world stimulate you to think critically? UNM prides itself on its diversity and by majoring in an arts and culture area, you will emerge with a dynamic mindset of inquiry to delve deeper into these topic areas.

[Learn More](#) ▶



Explore By Interest:

Arts & Culture

Teaching & Learning

Life Sciences, Health & Healthcare

Social Science & Transformation

Business, Finance & Economics

Energy & Environment

Humanities & Languages

Physical Sciences

Computing & Cyberspace

Engineering & Mathematics

Infrastructure, Construction & Design

Policy & Politics

Creative Expressions

Exploratory & Interdisciplinary

Law & Social Justice

Technology & Science

Explore By College:

University College

College of Fine Arts

Anderson School of Management

School of Engineering

University Libraries

College of Nursing

Honors College

College of Arts & Sciences

College of Education

School of Architecture and Planning

School of Medicine

Explore By Keyword:

Search

UNM's Academic Programs: Undergraduate Degrees: College of Education:

Undergraduate Degrees

College of Education

Major	College/School	Department	Degree	Online	Degree Plan
Art Education	College of Education	Educational Specialties	BA	No	DEGREE PLAN
Athletic Training	College of Education	Health, Exercise, and Sports Sciences	BS	No	DEGREE PLAN
Early Childhood Multicultural Education	College of Education	Individual, Family, and Community Education	BS	No	DEGREE PLAN
Elementary Education	College of Education	Teacher Education	BS	No	DEGREE PLAN
Elementary Education (Teaching English as a Second Language Concentration)	College of Education	Teacher Education	BS	No	DEGREE PLAN
Elementary Education (Bilingual Concentration)	College of Education	Teacher Education	BS	No	DEGREE PLAN
Exercise Science	College of Education	Health, Exercise, and Sports Sciences	BS	No	DEGREE PLAN
Family Studies	College of Education	Individual, Family, and Community Education	BS	No	
Family Studies	College of Education	Individual, Family, and Community Education	BA	No	DEGREE PLAN
Health Education	College of Education	Health, Exercise, and Sports Sciences	BS	No	DEGREE PLAN
Human Development & Family Relations	College of Education	Individual, Family, and Community Education	BS	No	DEGREE PLAN
Nutrition and Dietetics	College of Education	Individual, Family, and Community Education	BS	No	DEGREE PLAN
Physical Education Teacher Education	College of Education	Health, Exercise, and Sports Sciences	BS	No	DEGREE PLAN
Secondary Education (Communicative Arts Concentration)	College of Education	Teacher Education	BA	No	DEGREE PLAN



Undergraduate Degrees

2013-14 Degree Plan Computer Engineering, BS

School of Engineering: Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

[Graph View](#)
4 Year Plan

Starting Math:150

CNM to UNM Transfer

Term 1	Hours Towards Degree: 17	Crucial course: ①	Hours	Minimum Grade	Notes	
			ENGL 101: Composition I: Exposition	3	C	
			① MATH 162: Calculus I	4	C	
			ECE 101: Introduction to Electrical & Computer Engineering	1	C	
			ECE 131: Introduction to Programming	3	C	
			① PHYC 160: General Physics I	3	C	
			ECON 105: Macroeconomics or ECON 106: Microeconomics	3	C	
			Term Hours:	17		
Term 2	Hours Towards Degree: 34	Crucial course: ①	Hours	Minimum Grade	Notes	
			ENGL 102: Composition II: Analysis and Argument	3	C	
			① MATH 163: Calculus II	4	C	
			① PHYC 161: General Physics II	3	C	
			PHYC 161L: General Physics II Lab	1	C	
			ECE 231: Intermediate Programming	3	C	
			Humanities	3	C	
			Term Hours:	17		

