



How We Became a Learning Team

Student Experiences in the Premedical Enrichment Program (PrEP) at The University of New Mexico School of Medicine (UNM SOM)

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CONTEXT

We are the first class enrolled in the Pre-Medical Enrichment Program. PrEP is a two semester post-baccalaureate curriculum designed to facilitate careers in medicine for educationally disadvantaged New Mexicans. The program accepts 7 students yearly and focuses on:

- Basic sciences enrichment
- Learning
- Test taking skills
- Reflective writing
- Critical reasoning

STUDENT GOALS

- Enhance foundational knowledge in biochemistry and other basic sciences.
- Become familiar with medical school expectations and practices.
- Develop critical thinking skills.
- Enhance awareness of diverse learning styles.
- Keep in touch with our empathetic side and prepare for patient interaction.

FALL SEMESTER	SPRING SEMESTER
Biochemistry 545L (4 hours)	Biochemistry 546L (4 hours)
Medical Science Foundations Tutorial (4 hours)	Medical Science Correlations Tutorial (4 hours)
Life-long Learning Skills (2 hours)	
Reflective Writing (2 hours)	



STUDENT COMMENTS

“I loved this course (Reflective Writing)! At first I thought it wasn’t relevant but think it has taught us to be more humane and get to know a little about our peers in a positive way.”

“I would say that through the PBL tutorial I was able to start figuring out what is important for me to learn without having a teacher tell me what is important.”

“I don’t think there was a single aspect that was most useful. I think it was all very useful. I’m glad I was selected for PrEP because so far it’s made me a better learner, a better writer, and over all a better person.”

“... being part of a group that participated in the same classes and courses together. ... being able to teach to others during study time and observe other students’ approach to different questions or problems.”

COMPONENTS

- Devoted faculty
- Dedicated students
- Professional and social interaction
- Places and spaces and time to connect
- Academic rigor
- Professional leadership
- Reflective opportunities
- Metacognitive practices
- Confidence-building experiences
- Exposure to the medical environment

