

Medical School Information Page
University of New Mexico School of Medicine
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Special emphases, strengths, mission/goal(s): The primary goal of the University of New Mexico School of Medicine (UNM SOM) is to produce competent, humanistic physicians capable of pursuing a complete spectrum of medical careers. Unique aspects of the UNM SOM include:

- Problem-based learning throughout the pre-clinical curriculum
- Longitudinal curriculum in ethics
- Longitudinal curriculum in cultural awareness & diversity
- Introduction to clinical skills in the first year of medical school
- Emphasis on health equity and awareness of disparities in access & quality of care
- Rural clinical experiences
- Early rotations in continuity clinic and specialty exploration
- Required medical student scholarly project

Average length of enrollment (initial matriculation to graduation): 4 years

AAMC Guidelines for Medical Schools Regarding Academic Transcripts: The UNM SOM's academic transcript is in full compliance with the AAMC Guidelines.

Description of the evaluation system used at the medical school: The pre-clerkship curriculum (Phase I) is graded Credit/No Credit for purposes of the UNM SOM transcript. No class rank is determined in Phase I. Numerical scores (0 – 100 scale) are tracked for students in Phase I courses for the purpose of determining Phase I Honors, which is earned by students who achieve an average numerical score of 90% or more in Phase I courses. In addition to 90% average or more, students must take Step 1 by school selected deadline and be in good professionalism standing. Any student earning less than a 75% average on a Phase 1 block, is allowed to take a different version of the final examination. If the second attempt results in an average of equal to or greater than 75% the block is considered remediated and the student is given credit. All re-peated Phase 1 examinations are reported on the MSPE.

Although the UNM SOM does have a deadline for Step 1, students are allowed to take the test up to 8 weeks after the deadline without it affecting their graduation date. Students who take Step 1 after the deadline are not considered on a leave, but rather considered part of the flexibility of our curriculum. The first and second clerkships missed during the additional Step 1 preparation are taken during fourth year. If a student misses more than 2 clerkships they can no longer graduate on time with their cohort and this is considered leave and specifically mentioned in the MSPE.

All graded Phase II and Phase III clerkships use a four-point scale: Outstanding (4.0), Good (3.0), Satisfactory (2.0), and Fail (1.0). The Phase II class rank is calculated at a census date using all available GPA components. In the event of a tie, the total number of students tied will have the same rank order number. The subsequent students' rank will reflect the total number of students with the higher GPA.

Students must earn a grade of Satisfactory or better in all course/clerkships to proceed to the next phase of the curriculum. Formative feedback and summative grades, including descriptive narratives, are used throughout the curriculum. Students are required to pass a National Board of Medical Examiners shelf exam in each core clerkship. In the event that the student passed the clerkship based on clinical scores but NBME score is equal to or less than the 5th percentile, the student is allowed to take the NBME test a second time. If this second attempt is greater than 5th percentile the student is given an overall score of Satisfactory and this is not reported on the MSPE given the student was passing clinically. If the student fails a clerkship based on clinical performance, they are required to take the clerkship a second time and this is reported on the MSPE. Students are also required to pass three performance assessments (observed structured clinical exams) during Phase II.

USMLE Step 1: Required to pass for graduation

USMLE Step 2 CK: Required to pass for graduation

Course narrative comments: The narrative comments contained in the MSPE have been edited for spelling, grammar, or length, but not for content.

Process for composing the MSPE: The Associate Dean of Medical Student and the Office of Medical Student Affairs Faculty Advisors prepare and compose the MSPE. Students are permitted to review the MSPE for accuracy prior to its transmission. The Associate Dean of Medical Student Affairs and the Office of Medical Student Affairs Faculty Advisors determine the final content of the MSPE.

For additional information about the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, please visit: <https://som.unm.edu>.