UNM

Regents’ Scholarship Program Handbook
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Dear Regents’ Scholars Scholarship Recipient:

Congratulations on your selection as a Regents’ Scholars Scholarship recipient. We are proud to have you as part of the University of New Mexico.

The Regents’ Scholars Program was established in 1989 and the first class was selected in 1991. The program is designed to attract the brightest and most talented students from the state and nation to UNM. It is the most prestigious of all scholarships awarded at the University of New Mexico offering an academic scholarship which provides funding that covers standard tuition, books, fees, and room and board. The scholarship is renewable for eight semesters provided students meets specific renewal requirements. Regents’ Scholars are typically high-achieving, self-motivated students who are involved in innovative and exciting programs and opportunities. We and look forward to your outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the University.

This on-line handbook is provided to ensure your full participation and understanding of all requirements of the Regents’ Scholars Scholarship Program. Please review the handbook, use the resources identified and let us know how we can assist you while you are at UNM.

Best wishes,

Eddie Salazar
Eddie Salazar
Financial Aid Manager
Scholarships & Funds Management
Program Description

In 1989, the Board of Regents established the University of New Mexico Regents’ Scholars Scholarship Program.

The Regents’ Scholars Scholarship Program provides an award that can be applied toward tuition and fees, room and board, and books to a maximum of twenty freshman students who meet specific criteria outlined on the following pages. The award can be maintained for up to eight (8) consecutive semesters provided the student meets specific renewal criteria each semester.

Regents’ Scholars will be involved in innovative and exciting programs and opportunities. To enhance the students’ academic experiences, each new Scholar will be assigned a faculty mentor, chosen from among UNM’s outstanding faculty members.

Regents’ Scholars will be accepted automatically into the University of New Mexico Honors College, where they will receive specialized advisement and course registration privileges.

Regents’ Scholars will represent the University at various community and University functions.
Orientation

Regents’ Scholars must attend regular Lobo Orientation sessions to fulfill UNM’s mandatory freshmen orientation requirement. Regents’ Scholars are strongly encouraged to sign up for the earliest possible Lobo Orientation they can attend, in order to have available to them the widest variety of courses. For information about and to sign up for Lobo Orientation, visit http://nso.unm.edu/.

In addition, Regents’ Scholars also must attend the mandatory Regents’ Scholars Orientation at the end of the summer. Scholars will be notified by email of the details for the Regents’ Scholars Orientation.

NOTE: Regents’ Scholars are expected to pay the Lobo Orientation fee assessed by the program.
Program Benefits

Mentorship:
UNM Regents’ Scholars are matched and assigned to a mentor(s). Mentors are faculty members selected by the Coordinator of the Regents’ Scholars program. Each Scholar/Mentor match is a result of research compiled from student demographics and intended fields of study. You are encouraged to meet with your mentor regularly. Mentors will also contact you from time to time throughout your UNM career.

Mentors may assist in the following areas: advisement, employment (referrals), personal counseling, internship opportunities, etc.

Regents’ Scholars Faculty Coordinator:
Dr. Leslie Donovan, a long-time faculty member of the Honors College, serves as the Faculty Coordinator for the Regents’ Scholars Program. Dr. Donovan provides students in the program with general academic advisement, information on special opportunities, assistance with applications for internships and graduate school, as well as many other advisement activities. In addition, Dr. Donovan organizes regular meetings for Regents’ Scholars throughout the year as well as the Regents’ Scholars New Student Orientation each August. She also assists in the application and selection process. To contact Dr. Donovan, call (505) 277-4313 or email her at Ldonovan@unm.edu.

Honors Participation:
Regents’ Scholars are required to participate in the Honors College for at least their freshman/sophomore years. They should also participate in departmental honors in their majors. The application process must be completed for both the Honors College (as freshmen) and departmental (as juniors). Advantages of the Honors College include: special library privileges, space in Honors seminars, small courses of no more than 17 students; Honors advisement, special program consideration (e.g., Conexiones, Scribendi, etc). Students must maintain the minimum Honors College standards. Failure to participate in either the Honors College or in departmental honors may result in the cancellation of the Regents’ Scholarship, even in the third or fourth years of the award. Participation in Honors will be verified annually by the Regents’ Scholars Faculty Coordinator.

Meetings:
Each semester, the Regents’ Scholars Coordinator will hold meetings for Regents’ Scholars. These meetings may include guest speakers, special discussion topics, workshops for improving academic skills, or open discussions on a variety of subjects. Such meetings encourage students in the program to get to know each other and to learn from as well as collaborate with each other in ways that frequently allow them to form networks of professional colleagues and friends beyond college.
**Private Website:**
Regents’ Scholars are provided with access to a website designed to allow them to interact with each other, get information about special opportunities, access online information and forms about the Regents’ Scholars Scholarship Program, and review minutes from Regents’ Scholars meetings. Since this is a private website for Regents’ Scholars, it is accessed by invitation only.

**Residence Hall**
The University of New Mexico provides special housing accommodations for Regents’ Scholars and other Honors students on the third floor of Hokona Hall in an area known as Scholars’ Wing. Students on various scholarship programs are eligible to participate in the Scholars’ Wing Housing Plan.

Services offered at the Scholars’ Wing include: personalized advisement and/or counseling, forums for open dialogues, a student-edited newsletter, and specialized academic and social activities. In addition, Scholars’ Wing residents are given the opportunity to live in an atmosphere that is conducive to serious study.

Living in UNM’s residence halls, such as Scholars’ Wing, benefits students by allowing them to:

- Become a member of an active, supportive community;
- Participate in community activities, programs, and organizations;
- Experience personal growth with opportunities to gain independence and display leadership;
- Earn a higher grade point average;
- Graduate more quickly;
- Transition more easily into college life;
- Make friends who share similar interests;
- Meet students with a diversity of life experiences;
- Enjoy a more convenient and less expensive living style;
- Learn principles of civility among roommates and neighbors.

Because the Scholars’ Wing provides such an essential and excellent opportunity to participate in specific activities of the Regents’ Scholars as well as general student life programs, all Regents’ Scholars are required to live in the Scholars’ Wing during their freshman year. After their first year at UNM, Regents’ Scholars may choose to live in other campus housing or off-campus.

Regents’ Scholars are encouraged to apply for UNM housing in the Scholars’ Wing as early as possible. For more information about UNM Housing and to submit an application, visit [http://housing.unm.edu/](http://housing.unm.edu/).
Scholarship Maintenance

Requirements:
To maintain the Regents' Scholarship, you must meet the requirements given below. If you do not meet these requirements, you will be notified by the Scholarship Office that your scholarship has been cancelled, at which point you may submit a petition requesting that you be placed on provisional status.

- Complete 15 new credit hours at the UNM Main Campus with a 3.3 grade point average (GPA) or better each semester (Fall and Spring semesters). If you become deficient in credit hours, you may petition that courses taken during the summer session be used to address credit hour deficiencies. However, be aware that the Regents’ Scholars Program will not fund summer sessions. The following rules also apply:

  – Students may take only one Credit/No Credit option class per semester. However, Honors College courses are exempt from this, because the special grading system of those courses is required and not an option you choose.
  – “T” courses (technical, vocational or special courses) do not count toward hours or GPA.
  – Audit courses do not count toward hours or GPA.
  – Only one credit hour of non-professional P.E. per semester may count toward the required 15 credit hour minimum.
  – Students may not receive credit hours for scholarship purposes for any correspondence courses.
  – Students earning a grade of “F” will not receive credit toward hours for scholarship purposes.
  – Repeat courses (credit hours) do not count toward scholarship requirements

- Participate in the Scholars’ Wing program during the freshman year.

- Participate in the Honors College for at least the first two years at UNM. This does not mean students have to take Honors classes each semester of their first two years. Instead, while Regents’ Scholars are strongly encouraged to take Honors College courses for at least their first two years, the requirement is that students maintain their status as an active member of the Honors College, which requires that they take some Honors classes during that time, attend peer advisement sessions, and meet eligibility requirements for the Honors College.

- Engage in service activities at UNM, in the local community or throughout the state while a Regents' Scholar. In general, Regents’ Scholars are expected to spend at least roughly 10 hours of service during their first year in the program, 20 hours in their second year, 30 in the third year, and 40 in the final or fourth year.
• Submit an Annual Report of academic progress and service activities to the Regents' Scholars Faculty Coordinator no later than May 1 of each year. Regents' Scholars starting the program in or after Fall 2012 are required to submit an Annual Report. Scholars who entered the program before Fall 2012 are strongly encouraged to submit an Annual Report, but not absolutely required to do so. The Annual Report is intended to assist the Faculty Coordinator keep accurate records for each student. It also helps establish good professional habits and will aid students when constructing resumes and filling out applications for scholarships, internships, jobs, summer programs, etc.

Other Expectations
• While enrolled in the program, Regents’ Scholars are expected to limit employment hours to no more than 10 hours a week. The level of the Regents’ Scholarship enables you to concentrate on your academic work, service to the University of New Mexico, and special activities of interest to you.

• You are strongly encouraged to participate not only in the Honors College, but also in departmental Honors programs for your major whenever possible.
Appeal Process

The UNM Regents’ Scholars Scholarship Program allows for Regents’ Scholars to appeal any decisions made regarding the postponement or cancellation of the award because of inability to maintain the eligibility requirements.

The Scholarship Office will review academic progress at the end of each semester. Students who do not meet renewal requirements will be notified by email of the scholarship cancellation.

Appeals may be addressed by submitting the Scholarship Petition (available on the Scholarships website at http://scholarships.unm.edu/Forms/student-forms.html along with a detailed (typed) letter describing extenuating circumstances that contributed to the failure to meet academic requirements.

Additional support documentation, if applicable, should be submitted for review with your scholarship petition (i.e., medical, legal, support letters from advisors and/or faculty).

Scholarship petitions will be considered immediately upon receipt, and students will be notified when a decision is rendered.

The Scholarship Office will review all scholarship petitions. Instructions about any stipulations or conditions imposed will be addressed when you are notified of the decision. Examples of stipulations may be: a) summer school enrollment; b) personal interview/meeting with assigned mentor, faculty and/or staff member; c) one-semester-at-a-time funding; d) provisional status and/or a contract.

Provisional Status:
You may lose your Regents’ Scholars Scholarship for failure to meet any of the renewal requirements stated earlier. If you have lost your scholarship, you are placed on provisional status. Provisional status means you will not receive Regents’ Scholarship funding until you meet the requirements for renewal. During this time, you are personally responsible for paying your tuition and fees.
Reinstatement:
If you are on provisional status, you can have your scholarship reinstated by completing a minimum of 15 new credit hours with a 3.3 GPA in a single semester at the UNM Main Campus. Only courses taken at the UNM Main Campus during the semester(s) a student is on provisional status will be counted toward reinstatement of the scholarship.

If your scholarship is reinstated, you must meet all requirements necessary to maintain the scholarship going forward.

If you are placed on provisional status more than twice, or if you stay on provisional status for two consecutive semesters without earning reinstatement, you will be considered ineligible for the Regents’ Scholars Scholarship Program.

If you disagree with the decision of your appeal, you have an opportunity to have your case considered by a manager or director in the Student Financial Aid Office. If there is additional or new information that was not presented in your original appeal, you may request this final appeal by submitting a new Scholarship Petition and supporting documentation within five days to the Student Financial Aid Office.

While you are on provisional status, you are still considered a Regents’ Scholar. However, you will not receive the scholarship funds during this time. Also, provisional term(s) will count as one semester of your eight consecutive semesters of eligibility.

Leave of Absence, Graduation, National and International Exchange Programs and Withdrawals/Transfers

Leave of Absence and Co-op Programs:
If you wish to interrupt your education for church mission, military service, co-op programs or medical reasons, you must submit a petition for a leave of absence to the Scholarships Office explaining the request with corresponding documentation. If you are on leave of absence but still enrolled at UNM, you must maintain a 3.3 G.P.A. for all hours enrolled during the leave of absence. While you are on approved leave of absence, you will not receive your scholarship; instead it will be held for you until you return to UNM. To reactivate scholarship eligibility after receiving an approved leave of absence, students must notify the Scholarships Office at least one month, but no more than two months, prior to the start of the semester he or she will be returning. A leave of absence request that has not been approved prior to a student’s exit of the University may not be approved.
National and International Student Exchange Programs:
You may participate in the National or International Student Exchange Programs or in the National Collegiate Honors Council Honors Semester as a Regents’ Scholar and continue to receive the Regents’ Scholars Scholarship. If you choose to participate in the NCHC Honors Semester, you must also register for 3 credit hours of independent study at UNM during that semester. You may only use your scholarship for one semester of an NCHC Honors semester. If you choose to attend a program that is not part of an affiliation agreement with UNM, other than an NCHC Honors Semester, you may not use your Regents’ Scholars Scholarship for funding.

If you attend another UNM affiliated university under a national or foreign exchange program, the time you spend away from UNM will be counted toward your eight-semester maximum eligibility for the Regents’ Scholars Scholarship Program. In addition, grades and hours earned while on national student exchange will be counted either to place a student on provisional status or to regain the scholarship if a student is already on provisional status.

A 3.3 grade point average and 15 new credit hours each semester are required for maintaining the Regents’ Scholars Scholarship during any national or international exchange experience.

Graduation:
As a Regents’ Scholar, you are entitled to a maximum of eight consecutive semesters of the scholarship as long as you meet the eligibility requirements. Once you graduate, whether in eight semesters or fewer, your Regents’ Scholarship is completed. You may not apply any unused semesters of your scholarship toward graduate school or other purposes.

To graduate as a Regents’ Scholar, you must have received the Regents’ Scholars Scholarship for a minimum of 75 percent of your eligible semesters. In addition, you must have earned a 3.3 minimum cumulative GPA.

Withdrawals/Transfers:
If you plan to withdraw or transfer from the University of New Mexico and are currently a Regents’ Scholar, you must contact the Scholarships Office in writing of your plans to discontinue your participation in the Regents’ Scholars Program. Written notification should be submitted at least one month before actual withdrawal or transfer.

Conduct and Behavior

Regents’ Scholars are expected to conduct themselves according to the rules and regulations outlined in the UNM Student Handbook. Of course, Scholars are expected to obey state, city, and federal laws. Infractions of any of the stated laws may jeopardize your Regents’ Scholars Scholarship.
For more information about the Regents’ Scholars Scholarship Program at the University of New Mexico, please contact:

The University of New Mexico  
Student Financial Aid Office  
1155 University Blvd. SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
Tel. (505) 277-8900 Fax (505) 277-6326  
scholarships.unm.edu

Note: The most recent published handbook is applicable to all Regents’ Scholars.  
Latest revision: August 2013

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