Regents Scholars Scholarship

Program Handbook

Latest revision: August 2019
# Table of Contents

Program Overview and History ........................................................................................................ 1

Program Features and Resources

  Regents Scholars Faculty Coordinator ..................................................................................... 1
  Honors College Admission ............................................................................................................... 1
  Honors Student Residence Hall .................................................................................................... 2
  Mentorship .................................................................................................................................... 2
  Group Meetings and Activities ...................................................................................................... 3
  Facebook Group ........................................................................................................................... 3

Scholarship Requirements

  Credit Hours and GPA .................................................................................................................... 3
  Active Status and Degree in the Honors College .......................................................................... 4
  Scholars Community Residence .................................................................................................... 4
  Annual Report ............................................................................................................................... 4
  Service and Extracurricular Requirements .................................................................................. 4

Petition/Appeal Process ................................................................................................................... 5

  Provisional Status ........................................................................................................................ 6

Leaves and Absences from UNM

  Leave of Absence and Co-op Programs ....................................................................................... 6
  National and International Student Exchange Programs .............................................................. 6
  Withdrawals/Transfers .................................................................................................................. 7

Other Requirements

  Employment ..................................................................................................................................... 7
  Unused Funding ............................................................................................................................. 7
  Graduation ...................................................................................................................................... 7
  Conduct and Behavior ................................................................................................................... 7

For more information about the Regents Scholars Scholarship, 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
  scholarship.unm.edu

For more information about the Regents Scholars Program, contact:

  Professor Leslie Donovan
  Honors College, MSC 06 3890
  1 University of New Mexico
  Albuquerque, NM 87131
  (505) 277-7409; Fax (505) 277-4271
  L.donovan@unm.edu

*The University of New Mexico is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this material is available in alternate formats upon request.*
Program Overview and History

In 1989, the Board of Regents established the University of New Mexico Regents Scholars Scholarship. This scholarship currently attracts applications from more than 250 eligible students. However, each year, it is awarded only to approximately 20 students entering their first year of college. While some other scholarships are awarded automatically based on standardized criteria such as test scores, the Regents Scholars Scholarship is UNM’s only full-ride scholarship available to UNM undergraduates through a competitive application process.

The Regents Scholars Scholarship provides a financial award that may be applied toward tuition and fees, room and board, books, and other educational materials. The award is available for up to 8 consecutive semesters, provided that the student meets specific criteria each semester. Beyond its obvious financial benefits, the Regents Scholars Program offers access to a variety of academic programs and research opportunities as well as co-curricular and extracurricular activities. To expand these experiences, each student is assigned a faculty mentor, specially chosen from among UNM’s outstanding faculty members, and completes one of three available degree options from UNM’s nationally recognized Honors College.

In addition, Regents Scholars students expand their tools for effective interaction and collaboration through group activities and develop leadership skills by representing UNM at various community and university functions. They also are encouraged to engage in other volunteer service to the extended community and to their peers.

Program Features and Resources

Regents Scholars Faculty Coordinator
Dr. Leslie Donovan, a professor in the Honors College, serves as the Faculty Coordinator for the Regents Scholars Program. No other UNM undergraduate scholarship program is supervised by a specially assigned faculty member. Dr. Donovan provides Regents Scholars with general academic advisement, information on special opportunities, assistance with applications for internships and graduate school, as well as many other activities that support and enrich Regents Scholars’ educational experiences. In addition, Dr. Donovan helps set up mentorship matches, organizes regular meetings for Regents Scholars, conducts the Regents Scholars New Student Orientation each August, and assists in the application and selection process. Dr. Donovan may be reached at (505) 277-4313 or by email at ldonovan@unm.edu.

Honors College Admission
Upon completion of an admission application, Regents Scholars are accepted automatically into UNM’s Honors College, where they may benefit from priority course registration, special library privileges, interdisciplinary seminars, enrollment in small courses of no more than 18 students, specialized advisement, unique interdisciplinary research opportunities, and options for innovative international and experiential education. More information about the Honors College may be found at honors.unm.edu.
Honors Student Residence Hall
UNM provides special residence hall accommodations for Regents Scholars in the Scholars Community of Hokona Hall. Only students admitted to the Honors College are eligible to participate in the Scholars Community housing plan.

Scholars Community is the only residence hall facility at UNM to have a specially selected faculty member who supports residents through special activities and services. Dr. Chris Holden, Associate Professor in the Honors College, is the current Scholars Community Faculty Coordinator. Services offered in Scholars Community include: personalized advising, forums for open dialogues, study spaces, a student-edited newsletter, and specialized academic and social activities. In addition, Scholars Community residents are given the opportunity to live in an atmosphere that is conducive to serious study.

With only a very few exceptions, students in the Regents Scholars Program are required to participate in Scholars Community because external research suggests that living in residence halls may benefit 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;
- Gain new opportunities to 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.

Mentorship
Faculty mentors: In addition to more general mentorship provided by Dr. Donovan, Regents Scholars are matched with a faculty mentor in their major or minor as often as possible. Among more general educational assistance, faculty mentors may advise students about selecting courses, skills building, internship options, research opportunities, career planning, professional networking, and employment possibilities. Regents Scholars are encouraged to initiate regular meetings with their mentors.

Peer Mentors: New Regents Scholars are also assigned peer mentors, who are juniors or seniors in the Regents Scholars program. Whenever possible, peer mentor matches are based on the students’ majors or minors. As Regents Scholars progress through their studies, juniors and seniors are expected to serve as peer mentors for new students. Peer mentors may ease the transition to college by giving informal advice, helping improve study habits, suggesting extracurricular activities, and socializing with their peers.
Meetings and Activities
To foster community-building, 4-6 regular meetings or activities for Regents Scholars are held each semester. Topics for these meetings vary, but may include guest speakers, workshops for improving academic or life skills, and focused or open discussions on a variety of subjects. In addition, Regents Scholars are provided opportunities for special extra- and co-curricular activities. Among others, Regents Scholars meetings and activities in the last few years have featured: tickets to TEDxABQ presentations; a reception for Regents Scholars to meet their UNM faculty mentors; yoga workshops; a speaker on bipartisan issues related to voting by college-aged constituents; a social gathering with Friends of Fulbright Argentinian exchange students to view the Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony on a big screen; a copy of a book to help high-achieving students succeed in college; self-defense workshops; and tickets to a film screening of Allegiance, a Broadway musical about the experiences of Japanese people in U.S. internment camps during World War II. Such meetings and activities encourage students in the program to connect with each other and to collaborate in ways that may allow them to form networks of professional colleagues and friends beyond college.

Facebook Group
Regents Scholars are invited to join a restricted Facebook group that allows them to interact informally with each other and share information about special activities, opportunities, and events. Since this is a closed group for current Regents Scholars only, students must request access to it. Non-Regents Scholars are not allowed to join. The page may be found at www.facebook.com/groups/rscholars/. When Regents Scholars graduate from UNM, they are invited to join the Alumni Regents Scholars Facebook page.

Scholarship Requirements
Credit Hours and GPA
To maintain the Regents Scholars Scholarship, students must complete 15 new credit hours and earn a 3.3 grade point average (GPA) each semester (Fall and Spring semesters). The summer session may be used to address credit hour and grade point deficiencies but the scholarship will not fund summer courses.

The following requirements also apply:
- Students may choose the Credit/No Credit option for no more than one class per semester. This does not apply to Honors College courses because the special grading system in Honors is required, rather than an option selected by students.
- Online courses offered by UNM count toward scholarship requirements and there is no restriction on the number of online courses students can take.
- Only one PE course (PE-NP) per semester, regardless of whether it is a one or two-credit course, is allowed to count as part of a student’s required 15 credit hours. Most PE-NP courses also may be repeated in future semesters and still earn credit toward the scholarship’s requirements.
- Except for courses marked as repeatable (most PE-NP courses, Honors College courses with different titles, and a few others), repeated courses taken to earn a higher grade do not count toward scholarship requirements.
• Students may not receive credit hours for scholarship purposes by participating in any correspondence courses.
• Students who earn a grade of F will not receive credit for scholarship purposes.
• Audit courses do not count toward hours or GPA.
• “T” courses (technical, vocational or special courses) do not count toward credit hours or GPA.

Active Status and Degree in the Honors College
Regents Scholars must maintain active status in the Honors College throughout their time at UNM. Students also must complete requirements for one Honors degree option: the Honors designation, minor, or major. Students having difficulty meeting these requirements should consult with Dr. Donovan as early as possible. Failure to maintain active status in the Honors College and demonstrate progress toward an Honors degree option may result in cancellation of the scholarship. Dr. Donovan will verify active status in the Honors College each year.

Scholars Community Residence
Because the Scholars Community provides an essential opportunity to participate in specific Honors student activities as well as general student life programs, all Regents Scholars are required to live in the Scholars Community during their first year at UNM. An exception to this requirement is that Regents Scholars who are also BA/MD students must live in housing assigned by the BA/MD program, rather than in Scholars Community. After their first year, Regents Scholars may choose to live in other campus or off-campus housing.

Annual Report
All Regents Scholars are required to submit to Dr. Donovan an annual report on their progress and activities each year. In April, Dr. Donovan will email students a template to follow when compiling their annual reports. Annual reports are typically no longer than 2-3 pages and must be emailed to Dr. Donovan in a pc-readable format (docx, pdf, rtf) by June 1 each year.

Service and Extracurricular Requirements
Regents Scholars are expected to participate in service and extracurricular activities in campus organizations, community groups, or other volunteer activities. As students progress through the program, you are expected to take on service and extracurricular activities that reflect increasing levels of commitment each year. In addition, it is expected that by their senior year, most Regents Scholars will have had leadership roles in service and extracurricular activities. Also, to gain the most out of the educational experiences afforded by the scholarship, most Regents Scholars typically engage in substantially more service or extracurricular activities than the requirements listed below:

• Year 1: 20 hours minimum required (To meet this requirement, first-year students are strongly encouraged to attend and get involved in HSA (Honors Student Association during their first year);
• Year 2: 30 hours minimum required;
• Year 3: 40 hours minimum required;
• Year 4: 60 hours minimum required.
It is up to each student to keep records of their participation in service and extracurricular work each semester to include in their Regents Scholars Annual Reports. Students are advised to get into the habit of recording activities shortly after participating in them. While service must be recorded clearly and accurately, extensive details are not required; students may record a note as simple as “HSA meeting, 9/14/18, Honors Forum, 1.25 hours.” Keeping good records will make it easier to complete these annual reports.

To count toward this requirement, students may not include service activities for which they earn college credit or payment of any kind. Beyond these restrictions, activities may include, but are not limited to, participation in extracurricular groups, community organizations, UNM committees, and Regents Scholars activities. If you have questions about whether an activity qualifies as service for the Regents Scholars Program, consult with Dr. Donovan.

**Petition/Appeal Process**

At the end of each semester, staff in the Scholarships Office will review each Regents Scholar’s academic progress. Students may lose their Regents Scholars Scholarships for failure to meet any of the requirements stated earlier. In this case, students who do not meet eligibility requirements will be notified of their scholarship’s cancellation by email. The Regents Scholars Scholarship allows students to appeal decisions regarding cancellation or the postponement of the award because of inability to complete eligibility requirements.

To appeal scholarship cancellation or postponement, students must submit a Scholarship Petition (available on the Scholarships website) and a written statement describing the circumstances surrounding their inability to meet the requirements. In their statements, students are advised to explain how they plan to avoid such deficiencies in the future. Submit any applicable documentation for review with your scholarship petition (i.e., medical or legal letters of support).

Scholarship petitions will be reviewed and addressed as soon as possible. Students will be notified by email when a decision is rendered. Instructions about any stipulations or conditions imposed will be stated when students are notified of the decision. Examples of stipulations are: a) summer school enrollment; b) personal interview/meeting with an assigned mentor, faculty or staff member; c) one-semester-at-a-time funding; d) provisional status and/or a contract. If the scholarship is reinstated, students must meet all necessary requirements to maintain the scholarship going forward.

If students disagree with the decision of their appeal, they have the opportunity to have their case considered by a manager or director in the Student Financial Aid Office. If there is additional or new information not presented in the original appeal, students may request this final appeal by submitting a new Scholarship Petition and supporting documentation to the Student Financial Aid Office within 5 days of the original decision.
**Provisional Status**

When students lose their scholarship, they are placed on *provisional status*, meaning they will not receive Regents Scholars funding and are responsible for paying their tuition and fees. However, provisional terms will continue to count as one semester of the 8 consecutive semesters of eligibility. Students on provisional status are still considered Regents Scholars.

Students on provisional status can have their scholarship reinstated by completing a minimum of 15 new credit hours with a 3.3 GPA in a single semester. 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.

**Leaves and Absences from UNM**

**Leave of Absence and Co-op Programs**

If students wish to interrupt their education for church missions, military service, co-op programs or medical reasons, they must submit a petition for a leave of absence to the Scholarships Office explaining the request with corresponding documentation. Students on an approved leave of absence, but still enrolled at UNM, must maintain a 3.3 GPA for all credit hours for which they enrolled during their leave. While taking an approved leave, students will not receive Regents Scholars funding; instead their scholarship will be held until they return. To reactivate scholarship eligibility after returning from an approved leave of absence, students must notify the Scholarships Office at least one month, but no more than two months, before the start of the semester in which they will be returning. A leave of absence request that has not been approved prior to a student’s exit from UNM may not be approved.

**National and International Student Exchange Programs**

Regents Scholars may participate in the National or International Student Exchange Programs or in the National Collegiate Honors Council Honors Semester and continue to receive the Regents Scholars Scholarship. Students who participate in the NCHC Honors Semester must also register for 3 credit hours of individual study in the Honors College or another department during that semester. Students may only use the Regents Scholars Scholarship for one semester of an NCHC Honors semester. If students attend a program that is *not* part of an affiliation agreement with UNM, other than an NCHC Honors Semester, they may *not* use the Regents Scholars Scholarship to fund it.

For students who attend another UNM-affiliated university under a national exchange program or study abroad program, the time spent away from UNM will be counted toward the 8 semesters of eligibility for the scholarship. A 3.3 grade point average and 15 new credit hours each semester are required for maintaining the Regents Scholars Scholarship during a national or international exchange experience.

**Withdrawals/Transfers**

Regents Scholars who withdraw or transfer from UNM must notify the Scholarships Office in writing of their plans to discontinue participation in the Regents Scholars Program. Written notification should be submitted at least one month before actual withdrawal or transfer.
Other Requirements

Employment
While the Regents Scholars Scholarship is expected to provide enough financial support that students do not have to work for much of their college career, we know that working part-time while in school may help improve skills and build professional networks that often leads to valuable professional experiences. However, it is essential that employment does not interfere with the ability of Regents Scholars to maintain the high academic standards that allow them to meet the scholarship’s eligibility requirements. Therefore, Regents Scholars are strongly encouraged to limit their employment to no more than 15 hours a week and preferably 10 hours or less a week.

Unused Funding
Regents Scholars are entitled to a maximum of 8 semesters of funding as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. Once they graduate, whether in 8 semesters or fewer, the term of the Regents Scholars Scholarship are completed and students may not apply any unused semesters of the scholarship toward graduate school or other purposes.

Graduation
When students graduate from UNM, they will be listed as a Regents Scholar in the UNM graduation program. To make sure their names and information are listed correctly, students must let Dr. Donovan know their plans to graduate as early as possible in that semester.

In the spring semester of their fourth year at UNM, Regents Scholars also will be expected to attend the dinner hosted by the UNM President that celebrates the achievements of Regents Scholar seniors. Even if students do not intend to graduate that eighth semester, they still will be invited to attend this dinner to celebrate with the cohort with which they entered the Regents Scholars Program. Students are recognized at this dinner for their accomplishments with a medallion to wear to any graduation ceremonies they attend.

Conduct and Behavior
Regents Scholars are expected to conduct themselves according to the rules and regulations outlined in the UNM Student Handbook, accessed at http://pathfinder.unm.edu. Violations of any of those rules and regulations may result in discontinuation of the scholarship. Of course, Regents Scholars also are expected to obey state, city, and federal laws. Infractions of any stated laws may jeopardize continued funding from the Regents Scholars Scholarship.