

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE
FORM C
Form Number: C2814**

Fields marked with * are required

Name of Initiator: Laura Burton	Faculty Contact Amy Levi	Department HSC
Initiator's Title Assoc Dir,Business Operations: Facilities	Administrative Contact Laura Burton	Branch Rio Rancho
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Phone Number: 505 994-5064	Admin Phone 505994-5064	

Associated Forms exist? Yes

Proposed effective term

Semester Year

Course Information

Select Appropriate Program

Name of New or Existing Program

Select Category Degree Type

Select Action

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog. If there is a change, upload current and proposed requirements.

See current catalog for format within the respective college (upload a doc/pdf file)

[PreHealth Title and Requirements.docx](#)

☐ **Does this change affect other departmental program/branch campuses? If yes, indicate below.**

Reason(s) for Request (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

Upload a document that includes justification for the program, impact on long-range planning, detailed budget analysis and faculty workload implications. (upload a doc/pdf file)

[PreHealth Certificate Justification and budget analysis.docx](#)

☒ **Are you proposing a new undergraduate degree or new undergraduate certificate? If yes, upload the following documents.**

Upload a two-page Executive Summary authorized by Associate Provost. (upload a doc/pdf file)

[2pg Prehealth residency Certificate Executive Summary Rev.11.23.21.docx](#)

Upload memo from Associate Provost authorizing go-ahead to full proposal. (upload a doc/pdf file)

[Signed Form C letter PreHealth.docx](#)

September 24, 2021

Stephanie Rodriguez
Acting Secretary of Higher Education
New Mexico Higher Education Department
2048 Galisteo Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-2100

Dear Secretary,

In accordance with the regulations governing HED's review process for new undergraduate programs, I am writing to let you know of the University of New Mexico's intention to submit a proposal for a 15-credit hour, Pre-Health Scholars Certificate program.

The new certificate proposal is in the process of seeking approval through the university's internal curricular process. It will be submitted to the UNM Health Sciences senior leadership for review next week. It is anticipated that the proposal will be forwarded to the UNM Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee and the full Faculty Senate during the 2021-2022 academic year, with the final university approval by the UNM Board of Regents and submission to the HED following shortly thereafter. Dr. Amy Levi, HSC Vice President of Academic Affairs, will represent the program and the university at the various stages of review at the state level.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this notification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amy Levi, PhD, UNM'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Levi
HSC, Vice President of Academic Affairs

cc: James Holloway, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Michael Richards, Interim Dean, School of Medicine
Joe Suilmann, University Accreditation Director



Pre-Health Scholars Certificate Executive Summary

The 5-course, 15-credit hour transcribed Pre-Health Scholars Certificate program offers undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students a rigorous and challenging social science-focused opportunity to strengthen their applications to professional programs and gain a foundation for their healthcare studies and future careers. Professional health programs increasingly recognize the importance of social science and humanities knowledge and skills in healthcare education and practice. As a result, most professional health programs have adopted a holistic application approach. Programs are seeking students who are not only good in science but also in understanding and interacting with people – the type of people who we would want as our personal health professionals.

Pre-Health Scholars Certificate students will gain an appreciation and enhanced understanding of the interplay among social, cultural, and psychological factors with health behaviors and outcomes, while building and practicing skills for effective and inclusive healthcare delivery. Through highly interactive, discussion-based, rigorous curricula that incorporates thought-provoking engagement and mindful learning through demanding discussion, activities, application exercises, and field trips, students will be challenged to think deeply and analyze factors influencing healthcare.

This unique certificate lays the groundwork for professional studies and health careers with courses on meanings and cultural understanding, communication, motivational interviewing, critical thinking, and psychology. The observational learning course will provide learning through shadowing and community engagement in field trips. The community field trips will allow students to hear the stories of community members and healthcare workers while being immersed within a community context. Throughout the certificate program, students will hear professional testimonials regarding personal experiences of social and academic adversity stressing the common and temporary nature of these feelings. Research indicates these testimonials can have long-term positive outcomes academically and professionally.

Admissions: Target population includes: undergraduates, post-baccalaureates who are returning to complete pre-requisites for health programs, and post-baccalaureates who were unsuccessful candidates to professional health programs. The rigor of these courses is designed to assist students' transition into graduate-level thinking.

All courses will take place at Health Sciences Rio Rancho Campus. These courses can serve as elective credits within degree pathways for undergraduates.

An application to include an academic letter of support is required for the certificate program. The certificate program will have rolling admission. Courses must be taken in sequence.

Courses

Meanings and Culture in Health and Illness HSCI400 – 3 credit hours (Fall). The course will explore the role culture and meanings play in the conceptualization, experience, and treatment of health and illness, as well as healthcare interactions and outcomes. Additionally, students will expand their understanding, respect, skill, and humility in approaching individuals with different cultural frameworks from their own while reflecting deeply about their own beliefs and frameworks.

Integrating Psychology and Medicine HSCI401 – 3 credit hours (Fall). The importance of integrating psychology into healthcare delivery will be explored. After a brief review of foundational psychology theories, students will explore how behavioral health impacts medical conditions and outcomes. Students will grapple with difficult patient interaction scenarios, such as, delivering bad news, discussing common medical and mental health issues, managing personal emotions in challenging interactions, and handling the larger social and emotional responses of a patient's family. Students will gain a deeper awareness of their own emotional responses and how these influence care delivery, as well as, strategies in dealing with difficult emotions of others. The

development of personal self-wellness plans will assist students in managing the stress and trials of professional school and careers.

Critical Thinking, Learning, and Problem Solving for Health Professions HSCI402 – 3 credit hours (Fall). Critical thinking and problem solving are critical to the successful completion of rigorous professional health programs and effective healthcare delivery. Students will receive explicit instruction on critical thinking and problem solving with a focus on group practice and practical application in critical and integrative thinking through the use of a variety of scenarios and case studies. In addition to critical thinking, students will explore mindful and meaning learning, including reflectively analyzing their own learning styles.

Communication in Action for Health Professions HSCI403 – 3 credit hours (Spring). Pre-requisites: HSCI400 and HSCI401. The importance of communication skill is widely accepted, especially in healthcare. This rigorous course is heavily weighted on skill development with a focus on engaged, respectful, and meaningful communication. Content will include engaged listening, narrative, use of metaphors, and facework. The praxis of communication will focus on narrative medicine, motivational interviewing, writing, and interview skills.

Pre-Health Observational Learning HSCI404 – 3 credit hours (Spring). Pre-requisites: HSCI400, HSCI401, HSCI402. This course is limited to those accepted into the certificate program. Observational learning provides opportunities for students to engage their whole being within a context in a way that can facilitate deep lifelong learning. This course is designed to help students make deep connections between social determinants of health, culture, and health professions with real world contexts in both cognitive and affective ways. The two components of this course are shadowing and community engagement. This course will also include guest speakers, panels, and in-class discussions and reflection.

- Shadowing. Although shadowing is an application requirement for many professional programs, many students struggle to find and secure placements, which can exacerbate inequities. Certificate students will receive assistance in securing shadowing placements. However, specific specialties are not guaranteed. Prompts and direction will be given to students to focus their observations, reflections, and discussions.
- Community Engagement. Field trips and guest speakers provide first-person experiences highlighting social determinants of health, health disparities, and cultural differences from real world contexts in New Mexico. Engagement with a range of communities provides the opportunity to overcome current and future overgeneralizations and stereotypes that hinder quality health outcomes. Students will not only learn about the challenges and obstacles faced by community members but also the strengths and assets of the communities and cultures.

Mental Health First Aid – 8 hour training. Mental Health First Aid is a course that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis.

Pre-Requisites

Students must have Junior Standing (60 credit hours) with a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher, which must include at least: General Chemistry – 2 semesters; Biology – 2 semesters; English – 2 semesters; Intro to Psychology PSY1110; and Intro to Statistics Math1350 or Psych2510. Exceptions can occasionally be made by petition to the Director for special approval

Certificate Award

All five courses and the Mental Health First Aid training must be completed with a 3.0 GPA or higher to earn the certificate. The certificate and the individual courses will be listed on student transcripts.

Pre-Health Scholars Certificate

Justification for the course

Pre-Health Scholars Certificate: Professional health programs increasingly recognize the importance of social science and humanities knowledge and skills in healthcare education and practice. As a result, most professional health programs have adopted a holistic application approach. Programs are seeking students who are not only good in science but also in understanding and interacting with people – the type of people who we would want as our personal health professionals

Pre-Health Scholars Certificate students will gain an appreciation and enhanced understanding of the interplay among social, cultural, and psychological factors with health behaviors and outcomes, while building and practicing skills for effective and inclusive healthcare delivery. This rigorous, unique 5-course certificate will strengthen students' applications through laying the groundwork for professional studies and health careers with courses on meanings and cultural understanding, communication, motivational interviewing, critical thinking, and psychology. The observational learning course will provide learning through shadowing and community engagement in field trips.

Impact on long-range planning

This 5-course pre-health certificate was developed with the intention of producing revenue for the UNM Health Sciences Rio Rancho Campus. The success of this program will not only support the professional health programs in HSC by improving the humanities knowledge and skill of applicants, it will also help support the expenses of the Health Sciences Rio Rancho Campus.

Detailed budget analysis

The Health Sciences Budget Offices assisted in the analysis and development of the program budget. The goal of the program is to enroll a minimum of 20 to 25 students per course offering. The pilot budget incorporates temporary part-time instructors. The program needs at least 13 students to break even, and with 20 students enrolled, the program will generate a projected net margin of almost \$24,000.

With 25 students, the program will generate a projected net margin of over \$39,000.

Enrollment	13	20	25
Revenues			
Tuition and Fee Revenue	47,334	72,821	91,026
Institutional support/Educational Initiatives	(4,480)	(6,890)	(8,610)
Net Revenues	\$42,854	\$65,931	\$82,416
Expenses			
Instructor	32,150	32,150	32,150
Administrative Support	6,270	6,270	6,270
Course supplies and other costs	2,911	3,940	4,675
Total Expenses	\$41,331	\$42,360	\$43,095
Projected Net Margin	\$1,523	\$23,571	\$39,321

Faculty workload implications

There are no faculty workload implications because this program will utilize temporary part-time instructors.

Pre-Health Scholars Certificate

- HSC Undergraduate Certificate
- A 5-course, 15-credit transcribed Certificate for pre-health students
- All courses will take place at the Health Sciences Rio Rancho Campus

The HSC Pre-Health Scholars Certificate program offers undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students a rigorous and challenging social science-focused opportunity to strengthen their applications to professional programs and gain a foundation for their healthcare studies and future careers. Professional health programs increasingly recognize the importance of social science and humanities knowledge and skills in healthcare education and practice. As a result, most professional health programs have adopted a holistic application approach. Programs are seeking students who are not only good in science but also in understanding and interacting with people – the type of people who we would want as our personal health professionals.

Pre-Health Scholars Certificate students will gain an appreciation and enhanced understanding of the interplay among social, cultural, and psychological factors with health behaviors and outcomes, while building and practicing skills for effective and inclusive healthcare delivery. Through highly interactive, discussion-based, rigorous curricula that incorporate thought-provoking engagement and mindful learning through demanding discussion, activities, application exercises, and field trips, students will be challenged to think deeply and analyze factors influencing healthcare.

UNM Health Sciences Supported

The courses were designed based on input from the UNM Health programs including School of Medicine, Physical Therapy, College of Pharmacy, Center for Native American Health, School of Medicine's BA/MD program, and University College Pre-Health Professions. The Pre-Health Scholars Certificate program was approved by senior leadership of UNM Health Sciences.

Admissions Information

Target Audience. Target population includes: undergraduates, post-baccalaureates who are returning to complete pre-requisites for health programs, and post-baccalaureates who were unsuccessful candidates to professional health programs. The rigor of these courses is designed to assist students' transition into graduate-level thinking.

Prerequisites. Students must have Junior Standing (60 credit hours) with a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher, which must include at least:

- General Chemistry – 2 semesters
- Biology – 2 semesters
- English – 2 semesters
- Intro to Psychology PSY1110
- Intro to Statistics Math1350 or Psych2510

Exceptions can occasionally be made by petition to the Director for special approval.

The five courses in the certificate program can serve as elective credits within degree pathways for undergraduates. Students will apply for the certificate program and upon successful completion, the

courses and the certificate will be listed on their transcripts. All five courses must be completed with a 3.0 or better to successfully earn the certificate.

The certificate program will have rolling enrollment. The application will include pre-requisite courses and a professional letter of support. Any student may enroll in individual classes if space is available, except the observational learning course. However, they will not receive the certificate without applying for and completing the entire certificate program with required grades. As a certificate program, financial aid and student loans will be available to students, including post-baccalaureate.

Program Curriculum

The courses comprising the Pre-Health Scholars Certificate do not duplicate existing courses at UNM.

This unique certificate lays the groundwork for professional studies and health careers with courses on meanings and cultural understanding, communication, motivational interviewing, critical thinking, and psychology. The observational learning course will provide learning through shadowing and community engagement in field trips. The community field trips will allow students to hear the stories of community members and healthcare workers while being immersed within a community context. Throughout the certificate program, students will hear professional testimonials regarding personal experiences of social and academic adversity stressing the common and temporary nature of these feelings. Research indicates these testimonials can have long-term positive outcomes academically and professionally.

The five courses of the certificate:

- Meanings and Culture in Health and Illness HSCI400
- Integrating Psychology and Medicine HSCI401
- Critical Thinking, Learning, and Problem Solving for Health Professions
- Communication in Action for Health Professions
- Pre-Health Observational Learning

In addition, students will be required to complete an 8-hour Mental Health First Aid training.