



Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the University of New Mexico's graduate program in speech-language pathology. Our master's program is fully accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and we are dedicated to giving you the academic and clinical education you need for a successful professional career.

At the University of New Mexico, we pride ourselves on **rich traditions** and a **modern mission**. New Mexico is a “minority majority” state, thanks to the diversity of its residents. These many cultures have interwoven to create a rich and vibrant tapestry. A central mission of our department is to prepare you to become a leader in a multicultural and multilingual society—the society of the future. Graduates who have this modern, multicultural preparation are in high demand throughout the United States. In fact, New Mexico is experiencing a critical shortage of speech-language pathologists, as are many areas of the country. Your decision to enter this profession will make a valuable difference in many lives.

Bilingual and multicultural issues are infused throughout our curriculum and clinical experiences. You will learn theoretical foundations and practical methods so you can oversee appropriate testing and treatment even when you don't speak your client's language. You may want to participate in our annual trip to *Comunidad Crecer*, a rehabilitation center in Mexico City, or simply seek out the many multicultural activities on campus and in the community. If you wish to gain or improve your proficiency in Spanish, you will have many opportunities to do so.

While you gain multicultural experience, you will also gain a broad and thorough professional education. Our faculty and professional staff have a wide range of expertise and our curriculum is comprehensive. The UNM Speech-Language-Hearing Center is a very active clinic, where you will work with our professional staff and learn to treat a wide variety of disorders in clients of all ages. We have an outstanding collaboration with the Albuquerque Public School system that allows you to have real-life clinical placements in the public schools right from the start of your program. We have very close ties with the UNM Hospital and with many other medical and rehabilitation facilities in the area that serve children and adults. In your last semester, you will complete an internship that will give you a fulltime professional experience at a site that you select. Many internship opportunities are available locally, but internships can be arranged almost anywhere in the United States.

Our commitment to research is just as strong as our commitment to teaching. This means that you will be taught by faculty who are on the leading edge of knowledge in our profession. There are many opportunities to complete a thesis, or if you'd rather not do a thesis there are many other ways to be involved in research projects.

If you live or have visited here, you know why New Mexico is called the *Land of Enchantment*. You will be enchanted by our sunny skies, mountain and desert landscapes, and magical blend of cultures. We are very fortunate to be located in a metropolitan area with over 900,000 residents. The city and surrounding areas provide a wealth of placement sites for our students (and jobs for our graduates), as well as many activities, services, and employment possibilities for you and anyone you may bring with you. Because we are a major university located in a major city, you get the best of both worlds. You can root for the Lobo football team or attend basketball games in the notorious “Pit”, see student theater productions, and get your fill of fast food at campus hang-outs like the Frontier restaurant. You can also see world-class opera in Santa Fe, shop in modern malls or neighborhood boutiques, and choose from hundreds of restaurants.

Housing is relatively easy to find and reasonable, with studios starting around \$400, and many one- and two-bedrooms in the \$500-800 range. UNM also offers dormitories and some campus apartments for married students or students with dependents. The department has wonderful facilities that include state-of-the-art clinical and academic spaces. Access to the department is easy, from campus or from the community.

The UNM website ([www.unm.edu](http://www.unm.edu)) and our department’s website ([shs.unm.edu](http://shs.unm.edu)) contain information about our curriculum, our faculty and staff, application information, financial matters, and lots more. Please look everything over and then contact the department if you have more questions.

My very best wishes,

*Barbara Rodríguez*

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*P.S.* The application deadline for Fall admission is **February 1**.