

Newsletter

"You can cut all the flowers, but you cannot keep spring from coming."
- Pablo Neruda

TRIO Student Support Services

March 2026



Important Dates

- March 9-12 → Midterms Week
- March 11 → Ice Cream Social "Cool Down with Us"
- March 12 → ATI TEAs Workshop (CAL?)
- March 16-20 → UNM-Gallup Spring Break
- March 17 → St. Patrick's Day
- March 17-18 → **ATI TEAS EXAM**
- March 24 → English Workshop
- March 25 → Math Workshop
- April 6 → Summer/Fall 2026 Registration Opens



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Advisor AILC Training



2026 March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Every small step is a
giant leap toward your
dreams.

-Unknown



March Events



FASFA UMN PRIORITY DEADLINE



The priority deadline for submitting the UMN FAFSA is March 1st. If you haven't completed your FAFSA yet, there's still time to do so. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need any assistance.

Spring Break Week March 16-20

Spring Break is fast approaching! From March 16th to 20th, you have the chance to step away from your classes. Embrace this midway point and get ready for the upcoming half of the term. If you need any assistance, TRIO/SSS will be available to help.



NM GALLUP

2026 SUMMER & FALL

Registration Opens April 6, 2026

Schedule to meet with your TRIO/SSS Advisor through Student Hub to begin planning your Summer and/or Fall Semesters!

Appointments for Registration begin March 23, 2026

<https://studenthub.unm.edu/>

Sophia Francisco (Last Name Alpha A-L)

Tara Platero (Last Name Alpha M-Z)

Spring Schedule Available to View at www.schedule.unm.edu

2026 Summer & Fall Registration OPENS



Registration for the upcoming sessions will commence this month, with Advisement meetings scheduled for the last week of March and the first week of April. Don't forget to book your appointment with your advisor through StudentHub to secure a slot between March 25th and April 5th.

March Events



Join Us for an Ice Cream Social!



We invite you to our ice cream social, a fantastic opportunity to connect with your mentors and advisors for a midterm check-in. We are excited to hear about your progress and discuss ways we can support you on your educational journey at UNM-Gallup.

Why Attend?
This event is the perfect moment to recharge and refocus, especially during this crucial midterm period, whether you're coming from or heading to class. Remember, TRIO/SSS is here to offer support and encouragement!

What to Expect:

- Delicious Ice Cream: Indulge in a variety of delightful flavors.
- Relaxed Atmosphere: Enjoy a setting that promotes community and camaraderie.
- Valuable Insights: Share your experiences and gain insights to help you through the rest of the semester.

Whether you seek academic advice or just want to enjoy a sweet treat, this social is a delightful break from your busy routine. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, reflect, and rejuvenate with your peers and mentors!



Our English and Math Workshops are now underway!



We invite you to join our English and Math Workshops, which are now in session! If you're currently enrolled in these subjects or plan to take them in Summer or Fall 2026, we encourage your participation.

Why Join the Workshops?
TRIO/SSS is committed to supporting your educational journey, and these workshops are tailored just for you. Whether you need some extra assistance or simply wish to enhance your skills, our sessions are designed to accommodate various learning styles and levels.

- Supportive Environment: Feel free to ask questions and work through challenging concepts.
 - Confidence Building: Gain assurance in your abilities as you learn.
 - Networking Opportunities: Meet fellow students who share the same academic path.
- Don't miss this chance to strengthen your foundation and pave the way for your success. We can't wait to see you there!



Upcoming Events



SAVE THE DATE

The upcoming events are vital for honoring the dedication and achievements of all graduates receiving awards this semester. These gatherings present a valuable opportunity for us to come together as a community, celebrate each other's successes, and create lasting memories. They will not only mark the conclusion of an important chapter but also serve as a springboard toward a bright and promising future. Graduation represents a significant milestone deserving of a celebration filled with joy, pride, and a sense of accomplishment. Let us unite to recognize and support our fellow graduates as they embark on new journeys rich with possibilities.

2026 TRIO/SSS Award Ceremony

TRIO/SSS award ceremony is scheduled for **May 6th, 2026**. An Invitation for RSVP will be sent to graduates from 2025 Fall, 2026 Spring & Summer. The evening promises to be a night filled with celebration and recognition. It is a wonderful opportunity to honor the hard work and dedication of TRIO/SSS Graduates. Be sure to mark your calendars and save the date for this special occasion. Get ready to applaud the achievements of our participants and enjoy a memorable evening together. Let's come together to celebrate success, support one another, and create lasting memories. See you there!

2026 Spring Graduation Date

The Spring 2026 Graduation Commencement date has been announced! Graduates for Fall 2025, Spring & Summer 2026 can mark their calendars for May 16th at 6:00 pm at the Angelo DiPaolo Memorial Stadium. Let's celebrate the achievements of these graduating students and wish them all the best in their future endeavors!



Scholarships



Cobell Scholarship



Undergraduate Scholarship – Application Period: December 15 to March 31 Annually

The Undergraduate Cobell Scholarship aims to support:

- Enrolled members of U.S. federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native corporations. A dropdown list of these tribes and corporations is available in the application system.
- Individuals pursuing a bachelor's degree (BA or BS) at a nonprofit public or private institution.

Students working towards an associate of arts degree (AA), also known as a 2-year degree, while attending a nonprofit public or private institution.

Native Forward



Basic Eligibility Information

- Degree-seeking students must be enrolled full-time at an accredited institution within the U.S.
- All applicants need to provide proof of Tribal affiliation through a Tribal Eligibility Certificate. Each opportunity has its own specific Tribal eligibility criteria; please review them carefully to confirm your eligibility.
- Applicants are required to submit a Financial Needs Form (FNF) by July 15 for every academic year. Additionally, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each academic year to qualify for the Native Forward Scholars Fund.

Furthermore, students must be eligible for federal financial aid. Those ineligible due to academic suspension, expulsion, failure to meet satisfactory academic progress standards, or educational loan default may not qualify for the Native Forward Scholars Fund.

American Indian College Fund



- Be enrolled with your respective Native Nation, whether it is federally recognized or non-federally recognized, from the continental U.S. or Alaska.
- Provide a copy of your Native Nation enrollment (there is no minimum blood quantum requirement for eligibility). Acceptable documents include a copy of the student's Native Nation I.D. card or an official letter from the Nation. You must be recognized as a citizen or member of your Tribal Nation.
- Maintain full-time student status.
- Achieve a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Submit a current class schedule along with your transcript.
- Attend an accredited institution pursuing an Associate's Degree or higher (please note that the Association does not fund certificate programs or seminaries).
- Include essays in the application that illustrate the student's connection to their Native Nation and Native Country.

Scholarships

Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Aid

Re-apply online for the upcoming Academic Year Fall 2026 & Spring 2027 at www.onnsfa.org.



The ONNSFA online application will open on **March 15, 2026** and will close on the day of the **Deadline Date: June 25, 2026**. You must complete your file by submitting all supporting documents by June 25, 2026. Deadline date applies to both part time and full time applications. Any questions, you are encouraged to call your ONNSFA Agency.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR/PLANNER!

Freeport-McMoRan Native American Navajo Code Talkers Scholarship



- **Deadline: April 1st, 2026**
- Students awarded with a scholarship are also required to participate in the Success Services Program, in partnership with Education Forward Arizona. The participation requirements include:
- Participation in advising sessions with a Success Adviser twice per semester
- Keeping in constant contact with your Success Adviser
- Submit all paperwork, including transcripts, schedules, school changes and other requests by Education Forward Arizona or your Success Adviser
- Respond to all Education Forward Arizona communication within 48 hours
- Attend the Annual Leadership Symposium (if required by your Success Adviser)
- Attend one Scholar Success Network meeting per semester
- Follow the College and Career Success Milestones as presented by your Success Adviser.



March Birthdays



Happy Birthday

**Debra
Sanchez-Valdez**

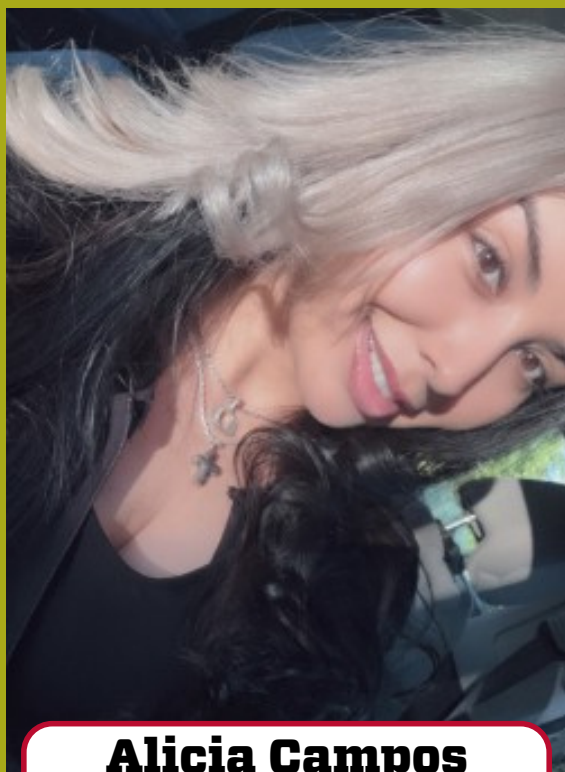
**Felicia
Douglas**

**Brianna
Livingston**

**Jazmin
Benally**

**Mathew
Clyde**

Scholar of the Month



Alicia Campos
AAS Nursing

How does it feel to be scholar of the month?

"I am really shocked and grateful!"

Do you have any study habits that you would recommend to other students? What are they?

"If I would recommend anything it would be group sessions."

What is your favorite thing about TRIO/SSS?

"I think the most fulfilling thing is the extra support I have from TRIO."

Where do you plan to transfer?

"If I plan to transfer, I would transfer to the University of Oregon."

Is there someone you are particularly thankful for and would like to acknowledge?

"I would like to thank my parents."



What are 5 fun facts about you?

- I like to watch K-Dramas
- I like to make sour dough bread
- I'm really into hiking
- I'm addicted to watching anime: favorite is Jujutsu Kaisen
- I like college football



Preparing for Exams



Effective midterm preparation combines organized planning, active study techniques, and stress management to maximize performance.

- **Plan and Organize**

- Develop a study schedule that divides your courses into manageable segments, allocating specific times for each subject. Collect all your notes and handouts to ensure you have everything you need.

- **Active Study Techniques**

- Process your notes and create summaries that emphasize vital concepts while omitting less significant details. Instead of cramming, study consistently over days or weeks to strengthen your memory and alleviate stress.



- **Optimize Your Environment**

- Select a quiet, well-lit space free from distractions for your study sessions. Divide your study time into focused intervals, such as 50 minutes of concentrated effort followed by a 10-minute break to help maintain your attention.

- **Manage Stress and Health**

- Prioritize sufficient rest and balanced meals to enhance cognitive performance. Incorporate short walks and stretches to alleviate anxiety and boost concentration. Consider utilizing tutoring or study groups for clarification on challenging concepts.

- **Final Review**

- Before your exam, take the time to review all your notes and key concepts thoroughly.



TRIO/SSS Advisors American Indian Law Center Training

This training focused on training advisors who support or encourage American Indian and Alaska Natives to pursue the path to law school.
Topics covered during this training included:
The Need for Native Attorneys
Preparing Students for Law School
Resources and Best Practices for Advisors
Native American Student Perspectives

The staff from ASU, Berkeley, UNLV, and UNM offered comprehensive insights into the journey of becoming a law student following the completion of a bachelor's degree. The training guided advisors through key steps, including:

- Preparing students for law school and understanding student's needs.**
- Understanding admission processes, timeline, requirements and cost**
- Advising on law school selection, applications, letters of recommendation, and personal statements**
- Financial Aid 101**



Sophia Francisco

"I really enjoyed attending this advisor training, they gave us so much information. Starting with the need for Native American Attorneys as they represent about 0.5% of all U.S. Attorneys. Considering there are over 570 federally recognized tribes, increased representation is vital for tribal sovereignty and to address trust obligations tied to land, water and resources. The sessions were well thought out and encouraging. During our working lunch sessions we got to meet some professionals who went through the AILC- PSLI Program, that is when we got to meet Deb Holland. It was an honor to meet these former students and getting to hear about their experience in school and where they are now practicing law. I could visualize our students in this field."



Tara Platero

"I was truly honored and excited to be introduced to Deb Haaland. Meeting such a strong and influential Native leader was an inspiring moment for me. It meant so much to stand beside someone who has paved the way for Native representation and continues to advocate for our communities. It was a powerful and unforgettable experience."