



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Graduation Rates

About six years ago, UNM made a renewed commitment to improving successful outcomes for its students. Among the simpler metrics of student success are an institution's undergraduate graduation rates. These are measured for First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen (FTFTF) by monitoring the graduation rates of a cohort of incoming freshmen students who take a full load of courses. Such metrics are at best incomplete as they do not account for the ever increasing part-time, transfer and non-traditional students. Nevertheless, these metrics remain important national measures and UNM continues to improve our graduation rates as follows:

- Six year graduation rate for the cohort of students who began in 2011: Now at 47.9 percent and may be as high as 48.5 percent when data are complete for this year. This is up from 45 percent five years ago.
- Five year graduation rate for the cohort of students who began in 2012: Now at 41.05 percent and may go slightly higher. This is up from 38 percent five years ago.
- Four year graduation rate for the cohort of students who began in 2013: Now at 26.42 percent and may go as high as 29.39 percent. This is up from less than 15 percent five years ago.

We remain focused on improving our graduation rates and anticipate that our investments in improved advising, data analytics, student support, teaching techniques, and streamlined curricula will continue to result in further increases in the upcoming years. Our goal is to break 30 percent for 4-year graduation and 60 percent for 6-year graduation. At the same time, we continue to measure the "soft skills," such as such as critical thinking, problem solving, team work, and communication, of our graduates so we can monitor the "quality" of our students' education as well as their graduation rates.

Extended Fourth of July Holiday

I am pleased to announce that I have approved July 3rd as a University holiday, giving our community a four-day weekend. The efforts of our faculty and staff are much appreciated, and we would like to recognize our employees with this additional day off for their hard work. Since this is a day that classes are scheduled it will require an adjustment to the academic calendar. A more detailed announcement will be forthcoming regarding class scheduling and employee time reporting.

Until next week,

Chaouki T. Abdallah

Acting President

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