



Department of Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies

Our Mission

Within the Department of Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies, we seek to:

- Create an academic community in which democratic governance, open dialogue, authentic collegiality, and collaboration are fostered. This community is committed to creating an intellectual culture conducive to maintaining and enhancing faculty vitality, productivity, and adherence to professional and ethical standards of conduct. We are also committed to the recruitment and retention of minority students and faculty.
- Identify and address the educational needs of a community that contains wide diversity with regard to class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and age, by providing the leadership, resources, and expertise necessary to create programs that foster the collaborative creation and sharing of new knowledge, pedagogies, and programs.
- Facilitate the study of culture, language, and literacy in conjunction with the study of the cultural, social, and political contexts in which educational events and practices are embedded.
- Provide courses and pursue scholarly inquiry in both traditional and anticipatory areas of foundational study. This includes historical, philosophical, sociological, and anthropological examinations of power, knowledge, technology, the media, and new cultural intermediaries and their impact on educational processes and institutions.
- Create a community of educators who link efforts in multicultural education to social action efforts that promote social reform in the wider community. These efforts are driven by the wider community and result in empowerment and change in both the college and the community.
- Maintain a dialogue with other COE programs on the impact of language and culture on the varied fields represented in the College of Education, such as health, technology, leadership, policy, families and communities, etc.

Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies (LLSS) is a multidisciplinary department committed to:

- The study of the social and political contexts of education.
- Scholarly inquiry using qualitative, critical, and innovative research methodology.

- Valuing differences of class, race, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and age as sources of leadership and expertise.
- Creating a community of educators devoted to social justice.

LLSS embodies the mission of the University of New Mexico by providing educational programs, conducting research, and serving the community. Our focus is on the educational needs of the citizens of New Mexico, the nation, and the world. We offer masters and doctoral degrees that enable our students to work in P-12 teaching, non-school learning environments, social action, research, educational policy, and higher education. Our research contributes to knowledge of the social and political contexts of education, with a specialty in qualitative and critical methodology. Our service contributes to the quality of life in New Mexico through contributions to public policy, support for first and second language learners, language preservation programs, political activism, and advocacy for the disenfranchised.