University of New Mexico
College of Education

Excellence and diversity through people, ideas, and innovation.

GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE 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 within the college in which democratic governance, open
dialogue, authentic collegiality, and collaboration within and without the college are fostered.
This community will create 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
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 cultural,
social, and political context 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 will link effort in multicultural education to social
action efforts which promote social reform in the wider community. These efforts would be
driven by the wider community and result in empowerment and change in both the college
and the community.

- Begin 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.

Our Programs

The Department of Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies (LLSS) offers masters (M.A.)
and doctoral (Ph.D.) degree programs that focus on language and literacy, bilingual education,
language acquisition and on the study of educational concepts and debates in the social
foundations of education.
Masters Degree

The masters degree programs seek to contribute to professional development for educators. Each program requires 36 hours of coursework in one of the following concentrations:

- American Indian Education
- Bilingual Education/Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
- Educational Thought and Sociocultural Studies
- Literacy, Language Arts and Reading
- Social Studies

A required seminar, taken in the first year of the program, provides foundational perspectives in LLSS and a 6-hour research requirement encourages students to develop a range of inquiry skills, including practitioner research. A maximum of 12 hours may be transferred into the program from non-degree or other graduate level work completed up to 7 years prior to LLSS degree completion.

Doctoral Degree

The LLSS doctoral degree program prepares students for college teaching and research in education (including teacher education) and other leadership positions in education, social services and allied professions. The program is organized around areas of focus that are tailored by the student in consultation with his or her Advisor and Program of Studies Committee. The focus areas are:

- American Indian Education: This focus area is designed for those teachers who are interested in working in schools (BIA, Mission, Public, or Tribal) whose students are primarily American Indian. The concentration offers a broad spectrum of course work that allows the student to explore American Indian worldviews in learning, science, political issues, contemporary federal and state issues and an array of methods courses designed to offer teachers a better understanding of instructional, methodological, and teaching styles that enhance American Indian student achievement.

- Bilingual Education/English as a Second Language: This focus allows students to conduct research and study theory, pedagogy, and curriculum development in bilingualism and second language development and to explore educational issues across cultures and linguistic groups. Courses in this emphasis address the social, political, cultural and linguistic contexts that affect language minority students, schools, and communities. Faculty in this program affirm and are committed to educational equity, cultural and linguistic rights, and social justice for language minority students, their families and communities.

- Language Arts, Literacy, and Reading: Faculty and students study literacy as a social, political, historical, linguistic, and cognitive practice and the implications of this practice for equity and social justice. Courses in this focus on current research and theory in language and literacy development (including reading and writing, as well as other forms of interpreting and composing), literary works and interpretation, the nature of learning communities both within and outside of classrooms, and the assessment of student literacy learning.

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Educational Thought and Sociocultural Studies: With a strong commitment to social justice and equity, ETCS delves into the key concepts and debates in the social foundations of education. The study of race, class, and gender is at the center of the curriculum. Students explore interdisciplinary perspectives (e.g., anthropology, women’s studies, sociology, American studies, Chicano studies, African American studies) that link both structure and culture in the critical examination of educational policy, practice, and theory.

Educational Linguistics: This cross-departmental program, with the Department of Linguistics, enables students to study first and second language development, language preservation, sign language, and language function, meaning, and structure as they pertain to diverse educational settings. Additional information is available from LLSS.

The Ph.D. requires 72-75 credit hours plus 18 hours of dissertation credit. In all focus areas students are required to complete:

- 6 credits of foundational seminars (3 credits each)
- 12 credits in Research Methodology
- A 3-6 credit Research Internship
- 24 credits in an Emphasis Area
- 24 credits in a Support Area, including 12 credits from outside LLSS
- A 3-credit Dissertation Seminar

A maximum of 36 credit hours may be transferred into the program from a related masters degree, with approval of your Advisor and Program of Studies Committee.

Application

LLSS accepts masters program applications twice a year (February 1st and September 15th). The Department accepts doctoral applications once a year (December 1st). The GRE is not a requirement for either the masters or doctoral program in LLSS. The application process for doctoral students does require that students make contact with at least three faculty members to discuss the program and research interests. Part of the application materials are available on The University of New Mexico website: http://www.unm.edu/preview/na_online.htm

To request a full application packet, contact:

1 University of New Mexico
Department of Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies
Hokona Hall Room 140
MSC053040
Albuquerque, NM 87131
(505) 277-0437
(505) 277-8362 fax
email: schaffer@unm.edu
Financial Aid

The College of Education has a listing of scholarships on its website at http://coe.unm.edu/. Graduate teaching assistantships in the Department of Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies are available for doctoral students who have passed to candidacy in particular areas. Some graduate teaching opportunities are also available in the Department of Teacher Education.

About UNM

The University of New Mexico, established in 1889, is located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Considered the state's flagship university, UNM has more than 30,000 students on its four campuses, 98 master's degree programs, 49 doctoral programs and a medical and law school. UNM is a Carnegie Research I university, one of 88 in the country. With its libraries, museums, galleries and a four-theater Center for the Arts, UNM provides the state with a rich cultural resource. UNM seeks to attract and retain qualified students from historically underrepresented groups from the United States and around the world.

The Albuquerque/New Mexico Area

New Mexico is located in the Southwest region of the United States, and Albuquerque, located in the central part of the state, is its largest city. The city of Albuquerque offers a multitude of cultural attractions, including the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, Albuquerque Rio Grande Zoo and Biological Park, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Hispanic Cultural Center and New Mexico Theater Southwest. In the surrounding areas, the scenic and cultural attractions range from outdoor activities to art, opera, music and dance.

Housing

A selection of campus student housing and apartments are available close to campus. The website listed below provides further information for student residence halls and married student housing. A wide selection of off-campus housing is available, within easy walking or bicycling distance.

Web Sites for Further Information

http://www.unm.edu (University of New Mexico)

http://coe.unm.edu (College of Education)

http://www.unm.edu/~finaid/ (Financial Aid and Scholarships)

http://www4.unm.edu/reshalls/ (Student housing)

http://www.newmexico.org/ (New Mexico Tourism)