



# Chair, Nuclear Engineering

## Leadership Profile

2025



*WittKieffer*

## Executive Summary

The University of New Mexico School of Engineering seeks a visionary and collaborative leader who can guide the Nuclear Engineering (NE) department to a higher level of excellence. The Chair will report to [Donna Riley](#), the Dean of the School of Engineering.

The University of New Mexico was founded in 1889 as New Mexico's flagship institution. The University is an R1 institution offering various academic programs through 14 colleges and schools. These academic options include more than 215 degree and certificate programs, including 94 baccalaureates, 71 master's, and 37 doctoral degrees. UNM is a Hispanic Serving Institution that takes pride in the extraordinary diversity of its students and in providing opportunities for students, regardless of socioeconomic background. UNM has four branch campuses across the state, which provide academic and vocational training, leading to certificates, associate degrees, and transfers to baccalaureate programs. The University enrolls over 26,000 students and employs over 10,000 faculty and staff.

The University of New Mexico School of Engineering, originally known as the College of Engineering, opened in 1906 with a faculty of two and a single classroom. With time, advances in technology, social change, and the dedication and foresight of many talented people, the School has become a leader in education and research in engineering and computer science. The School's programs include chemical and biological engineering, civil, construction, and environmental engineering, computer science, nuclear engineering, mechanical engineering, and nuclear engineering. The School benefits from robust partnerships with national labs, including Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Air Force Research Laboratory, which provide strong research collaborations and offers students excellent internship and career opportunities. UNM also provides an excellent entrepreneurial ecosystem to translate intellectual property into business.

The Department of Nuclear Engineering has its roots in an undergraduate Department of Chemical Engineering founded in 1946, and a graduate Nuclear Engineering department founded in 1965. The departments were administratively combined in 1972 and then separated in July 2014. The program has been continuously accredited by ABET since 1984. UNM's Department of Nuclear Engineering is the only nuclear engineering program in New Mexico and one of only a handful in the western United States that offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. On-site facilities for the department include an AGN-201M low-power, teaching reactor; a functioning Hot-Cell with material testing facilities; a Lead Loop; multiple high-temperature molten salt test facilities; a high-temperature, Thermal-Hydraulics, and Energy Conversion Laboratory high-pressure helium test loop; and an Environmental measurements laboratory. The department also has associated research centers of the Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation Science & Technology and the [Institute for Space/Nuclear Power Studies](#) and enjoys extensive interactions and collaborations with Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, and the Air Force Research Laboratory, as well as with the UNM School of Medicine and high technology industries locally and nationally. The research expenditures of NE and associated research centers are over \$3.1 million per year.

The NE Chair will report directly to the dean and be an integral and vital part of the School's leadership team. As the department's academic and administrative leader, the NE Chair is responsible for all education, faculty, research, and service activities across Nuclear Engineering. The Chair oversees the department's operations and budget, manages resources strategically and responsibly, and works with the Dean to encourage philanthropic engagement and support. Toward that end, the NE Chair will be expected to lead and unify the department around a cohesive vision and supportive culture; improve Student Success and prioritize graduate and undergraduate enrollment; develop, recruit, and retain faculty and staff; build a culture of equity and inclusive excellence; grow research and innovation, and develop and expand partnerships.

The University of New Mexico School of Engineering seeks a Chair of the Department of Nuclear Engineering who has the leadership capacity and collaborative approach to develop, with input from stakeholders, consensus around a strategic vision and plan for the department that aligns with the School of Engineering and the University's strategic priorities. An earned doctorate in nuclear engineering or a related field is required, as is a record of scholarly achievement meriting appointment as a tenured full professor. A demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, student success, and working with broadly diverse communities is strongly preferred. Prior administrative experience, a demonstrated commitment to collaborative leadership, and a strong track record of impactful research and excellence in teaching are also preferred.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy on page 17.



## Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The Chair of Nuclear Engineering will report directly to the dean and be an integral and vital part of the School's leadership team. The chair is responsible for further strengthening the department's leadership in research and education and contributing to the success of the [School's strategic plan](#).

As the department's academic and administrative leader, the Chair is responsible for all education, faculty, research, and service activities across Nuclear Engineering. The Chair oversees the department's operations and budget, manages resources strategically and responsibly, and works with the Dean to encourage philanthropic engagement and support for the department. Toward that end, the Chair of Nuclear Engineering will be expected to:

- **Lead and unify the department around a cohesive vision and supportive culture**

As the visionary leader for the Nuclear Engineering department, the Chair will engage faculty, staff, students, alumni, and industry partners in a collaborative dialogue and process, focusing on leading a clear vision and setting priorities to guide the department's future. That vision should activate and support the faculty and the department's potential and align with both the School of Engineering's strategic roadmap and the broader institution's strategic plan and key priorities. The ideal chair has strong connections to the national labs and engagement with the Nuclear community and its societies to ensure the department is aligned with that future.

The vision and strategic plan for the department should also impact the culture, promoting one that is cohesive, collegial, and focused on working collectively toward a set of common goals. The department's faculty, staff, and students value this culture and seek a Chair who will cultivate it, taking an active interest in the lives of the members of the department community and setting a tone of support for each other's success and a desire to advance mutual goals for the benefit of faculty, staff, and students. The next chair must be a collaborative, communicative, approachable, and transparent leader.

- **Champion Student Success and Prioritize Enrollment**

Part of the School of Engineering's strategic roadmap is to increase enrollment by 20% over the next five years by increasing the number of faculty, staff, and students, advancing New Mexico's technical workforce and economic development. The chair will collaboratively grow undergraduate and graduate enrollment, lower barriers to student entry, and increase student success through high retention rates, academic completion, and post-graduate outcomes. Enrollment must be a key priority for the next chair. The chair will ensure the department provides meaningful experiences for all students, including first-year experiences and high-impact course environments, incorporating experiential and community-engaged opportunities for all students.

- **Develop Faculty and Staff**

The chair must place a high priority on the recruitment, retention, mentorship, and development of faculty excellence as fully and equitably as possible. They will seek to diversify the faculty and strengthen the department's impact and reputation. The new leader will ensure that faculty have the support and infrastructure they need to thrive, with attention to professional development opportunities and the physical and mental wellness of all faculty and staff. The chair must ensure ample opportunities for mentorship and support as faculty prepare for tenure, navigate the early post-tenure years, and for non-tenure-track faculty with a promotion path. It will be imperative that the next leader creates an environment where faculty and staff feel connected to the mission, informed, supported, and valued, and a priority is placed on activities to support retention.

- **Grow Research, Innovation, and Reputation**

The School of Engineering is distinguished by its ambitious faculty and impactful research. The research expenditures of NE and associated research centers are over \$3.1 million per year. The department's research excellence is built on a highly interdisciplinary and collaborative approach. The new chair will catalyze and support new collaborative opportunities that will benefit the department's educational and research programs, including cross-department collaboration within the school and strong relationships with national laboratories.

The chair will work to create an intellectual and collaborative environment that identifies and pursues emerging areas of scholarship that excite both faculty and students, promotes and fosters interdisciplinary pursuits, raises the department's reputation and ranking, and supports and enhances standards of scholarly excellence. The chair will ensure the infrastructure is in place and faculty are mentored and supported to sustain the department's excellence. The chair will advocate for the resources to support a vibrant research and educational program.

▪ **Advance diversity, equity, and inclusion**

The University of New Mexico and the School of Engineering are committed to a culture of community, respect, civility, and belonging for all faculty, staff, and students. They will enhance equity in student success by sharing student success data and strengthening ties between the Engineering Student Success Center, advising staff, and faculty. In addition, the chair will motivate and equip faculty to deploy proven equity-enhancing practices in their teaching, mentoring, and research.

Faculty and staff equity and inclusion are also of paramount importance. The next chair must inspire and motivate the department around a vision for a more equitable and inclusive community while recruiting and retaining a talented and increasingly diverse faculty, staff, and student body. They must ensure a healthy and productive work environment and organizational culture of openness, fairness, and transparency that celebrates diversity of thought and expression and promotes an environment of inclusion.

▪ **Develop and Expand Partnerships**

The chair will be an active, enthusiastic, and successful relationship builder with the demonstrated ability to draw upon these relationships to benefit the department and school. They will serve as a compelling advocate and spokesperson for the Department to alumni, donors, and other external audiences. Through departmental activities, the chair will:

- Improve pathways to UNM by strengthening community college and K-12 partnerships.
- Develop partnerships for community engagement, public service, and the arts in New Mexico.
- Grow strategic partnerships with industry, government labs, and the state's entrepreneurship and economic development ecosystem.
- Strengthen on-campus partnerships (e.g., with the Global Education Office, Athletics, interdisciplinary programs, and other colleges and schools around campus).

▪ **Align and Manage Resources**

The next chair will lead the department by optimizing the use of existing resources and aligning resource allocation and incentives with the School of Engineering's goals and priorities. Focusing on resource management, the next chair will lead the department by optimizing existing resources and aligning resource allocation and incentives with the School of Engineering's goals and priorities. This includes analyses of human resources, teaching loads, physical space, equipment, facilities, financial reserves, research, and building/equipment repair and maintenance costs and schedules.

Working closely with the school's leadership, the chair will continue to develop the donor base to build a culture of philanthropy in the School of Engineering. The development directors will guide the chair in working with donors and alumni to invigorate existing supporters and cultivate new supporters, including faculty and staff. The chair will be an outstanding communicator and inspire alumni and industrial partners to invest in the department's vision and impact.

## Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The University of New Mexico, School of Engineering, seeks a Chair of the Department of Nuclear Engineering who has the leadership and managerial capacity to develop and implement a strategic vision for the department that fosters innovation and growth in both research and education.

The minimum requirements for the role are:

- A doctorate in nuclear engineering or a related field is required, and a record of scholarly achievement meriting appointment as a tenured full professor;

The preferred qualifications are:

- Demonstrate commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and student success, as well as working with broadly diverse communities;

Prior administrative experience;

A demonstrated commitment to collaborative leadership and a strong track record of impactful research and excellence in teaching;

- Commitment to lead the department with transparency, collegiality, and a dedicated commitment to equity;
- A willingness and ability to provide both visionary and hands-on day-to-day leadership;
- Ability to develop and execute a compelling strategic vision and plan in an academic setting or a similar context; the ability to inspire key constituencies in support of the department's priorities;
- Ability to catalyze, support, and nurture interdisciplinary collaboration and capitalize on novel opportunities;
- Enthusiasm for forging new opportunities for industry partnerships, sponsored research, and alumni engagement and philanthropic support;
- Commitment to interdisciplinary, collaborative, and entrepreneurial activities and wide-ranging intellectual interests;
- Strong relationship-building, interpersonal, and communication skills; the ability to engage and mentor faculty, staff, and students and to work effectively across the campus and with external groups;
- An understanding of and ability to articulate the unique nature of the department and its degree programs and requirements; an appreciation for the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary research conducted by its faculty; and
- Personal qualities that include collaboration, transparency, intelligence, vision, compassion, courage, humor, and unquestionable ethics and integrity.

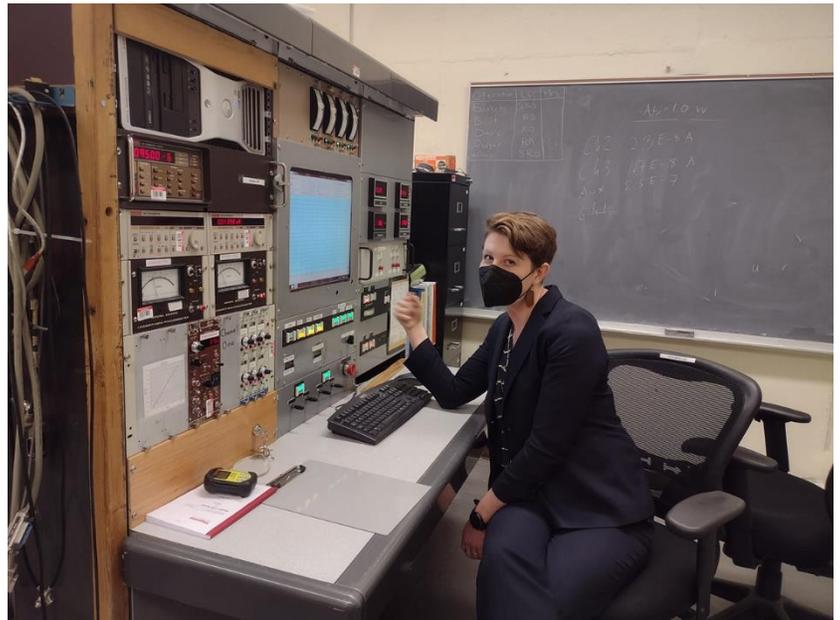
## Department of Nuclear Engineering

The School of Engineering was founded in 1906 and evolved into a four-year undergraduate degree-granting program in 1917. Today, the Department of Nuclear Engineering (NE) continues to command nationwide recognition and respect as one of thirty-five nuclear engineering degree programs by academic institutions. The department also has [associated research centers](#) and enjoys extensive interactions and collaborations with Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, and the Air Force Research Laboratory, as well as with the UNM School of Medicine and high technology industries locally and nationally.

The Nuclear Engineering programs are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of [ABET](#).

### Faculty and Staff Breakdown

- 4 full professors
- 2 associate professors
- 2 assistant professors
- 3 national lab professors
- 1 lecturer III
- 1 professor of practice
- 4 temporary faculty (research professors, post-doctoral fellows, adjuncts)
- 6 staff members



### Degree Programs

#### Undergraduate Program:

[Bachelor of Science degree in Nuclear Engineering](#)

#### Master's Programs:

MS in Nuclear Engineering

MS in Nuclear Engineering, concentration in Radiation Protection Engineering

MS in Nuclear Engineering, concentration in Medical Physics

#### Doctoral Programs:

Ph.D. in Engineering, concentration in Nuclear Engineering

**Departmental Research Concentrations**

Plasma Science  
Fusion Technology  
Space Power  
Thermal Hydraulics  
Radiation Diagnostics and Protection  
Nuclear Criticality Safety  
Reactor Physics  
Radiation Transport and Radiation Interactions with Matter  
Radioactive Waste Management  
Materials Development and Testing for Advanced Reactors

**Research Labs**

Advanced Manufacturing and Materials Laboratory  
Applied Pulsed Energy, Ionization and Discharge Center (APERIODIC)  
Center for High Technology Materials (CHTM)  
Extreme Materials Labs  
High Energy Density Physics (HEDP) / High Power Microwaves (HPM)  
Integrated Circuits Hardware Analysis Lab  
Medical Image Analysis Lab (MIALAB)  
Plasma and Fusion Science Laboratory  
Pulsed Power, Beams, and Microwaves Laboratory

**Affiliated Research Centers**

- Institute for Space/Nuclear Power Studies

**Enrollment (Fall 2024)**

Undergraduate Pre-Majors: 68  
Undergraduate Majors: 42  
Master's: 13  
Ph.D.: 37

**Degrees Awarded (2023-2024)**

Undergraduate: 18  
Masters: 13  
Ph.D.: 3



## School of Engineering

The University of New Mexico School of Engineering, originally known as the College of Engineering, opened in 1906 with a faculty of two and a single classroom. With time, advances in technology, social change, and the dedication and foresight of many talented people, the School has become a leader in education and research in engineering and computer science. The UNM School of Engineering is the highest-ranked engineering program in New Mexico and the only Carnegie R1 (highest research activity) university in the state, putting it in the same class as MIT, Stanford, Purdue, and other well-respected engineering programs in the country. UNM is a member of the Sandia Academic Alliance, along with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Texas at Austin, Purdue, and Georgia Tech.

The School benefits from robust partnerships with national labs, including Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Air Force Research Laboratory. These labs provide strong research collaborations and offer students excellent internship and career opportunities.

Learn more at [www.engineering.unm.edu](http://www.engineering.unm.edu).

### Vision

The School of Engineering is the vanguard for inclusive excellence, where everyone belongs, thrives, and shines. Through research, learning, and innovation, we serve the land and its people, transforming lives and communities in New Mexico and beyond.

### Mission

The School of Engineering provides accessible pathways and experiential learning opportunities to prepare a diverse, imaginative, and responsible engineering, computer science, and construction management workforce.

We conduct research with global impact that fosters healthy, resilient, and secure communities.

We leverage excellence across disciplines on our flagship campus and creative partnerships with government, industry, and local communities to realize impact, enhance economic development, and improve quality of life.

### Strategic Roadmap: Our Path Forward

Beginning in spring 2023, Dean Donna Riley conducted a series of listening sessions with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other key stakeholders. That listening tour produced a situation analysis that identified and clarified the School's strengths and opportunities. The strategic roadmap, [Our Path Forward](#), identifies six goals that provide a framework for the School for 2024-2028.

Goal One: Improve Student Success Pathways

Goal Two: Develop Faculty and Staff

Goal Three: Build a Culture of Equity and Inclusive Excellence

Goal Four: Grow Research and Innovation

Goal Five: Develop and Expand Partnerships

Goal Six: Grow and Manage Resources

## Rankings

- No. 86 in Best Overall Graduate Program (U.S. News & World Report 2023)
- No. 61 in Best Online Graduate Engineering Programs (U.S. News & World Report 2022)
- No. 90 in Best Undergraduate Programs in Engineering (U.S. News & World Report 2024)
- No. 18 in the nation as the "Best Value" Engineering School (Best Value Schools, 2018)
- No. 1 No. 2 in Impact of Innovation for mid-sized Research Universities (2020 George W. Bush institution and Opus Faveo Innovation Development poll)
- No. 16 in the Top 100 U.S. Universities granted utility patents in 2023 (National Academy of Inventors)
- No. 1 in economic diversity among state flagships (New York Times, 2023)

## Departments

[Chemical and Biological Engineering](#)

[Civil, Construction & Environmental Engineering](#)

[Computer Science](#)

[Electrical & Computer Engineering](#)

[Mechanical Engineering](#)

[Nuclear Engineering](#)

## Bachelor's degree programs

- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Construction Engineering
- Construction Management
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Nuclear Engineering

## Graduate programs

- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Construction Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Nanoscience & Microsystems Engineering
- Nuclear Engineering
- Optical Science & Engineering



## School of Engineering Research Centers

The School of Engineering has a long history of research that addresses global challenges. Currently, three School-level research centers focus on everything from the environment to space.

[Center for Water and the Environment](#): Conduct cutting-edge research into technological and engineering-based solutions to problems with water and the environment in a framework that considers the social, economic, policy, regulatory, and legal implications.

[COSMIAC \(Configurable Space Microsystems Innovations & Applications Center\)](#): A space-related research center that promotes aerospace innovation through configurable technology, serving the interests of industry, government, and academia.

[Manufacturing Training and Technology Center](#): Supports teaching, training, research and development, start-up companies, manufacturing prototyping, and extension-service activities. Features a 6,200-square-foot cleanroom, prototyping bays, CAD rooms, and other high-tech facilities that support research, academics, and workforce readiness for students.

The School also collaborates closely with six university-level centers and institutes:

[Center for High Technology Materials](#)

[Center for Microengineered Materials](#)

[Center for Advanced Research Computing](#)

[Center for Accelerating Resilience Innovations in Drylands](#)

[Quantum New Mexico Institute](#)

[Accelerating Resilience Innovations in Drylands \(ARID\) Institute](#)

## Research Areas

Research is a fundamental element integrated into virtually every program at the School of Engineering. It is the basis for graduate degrees and a growing number of undergraduate degree programs.

The University of New Mexico is the only university in the state ranked a “Research University/Very High Research Activity” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This status confirms a university’s world-class research, academic excellence, exceptional student body, and highest levels of innovation, creativity, and scholarship.

The School of Engineering has a wide variety of research interests that involve students, state-of-the-art facilities on the UNM campus, nearby partners at Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Air Force Research Laboratory, as well as industries and universities worldwide.

UNM’s School of Engineering research activities align with many of the [grand challenges](#) outlined by the National Academy of Engineering and the major clusters for support identified by the New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD). Read the NMEDD report [here](#).

## Sandia University Partnerships Network

[Sandia University Partnerships Network](#) facilitates multi-faceted opportunities with key academic institutions across the nation. Partnering strategically with these universities enables the creation and growth of research and development capabilities and enhances the trajectory of the scientific landscape. Faculty at network universities engage tightly with Sandia and grow their professional network with other leading-edge researchers. This strong partnership with Sandia enables faculty to gain exposure to the many Sandia mission areas, enhance the educational experience of their students, and connect them to internship and postdoctoral opportunities at the nation's premier science and engineering laboratory.

### Enrollment: Fall 2024

Undergraduate: 2,267

Master's: 395

Ph.D.: 369

View more enrollment data [here](#).

### Degrees Awarded: 2023-2024

Undergraduate: 230

Master's: 202

Ph.D.: 46

View more degree data [here](#).

### At a Glance

95 tenured and tenure-track faculty

Over \$53 million in research expenditures  
- FY24



---

## Leadership

### Dean Donna Riley



Donna Riley is a leader in engineering education and inclusive excellence. She was a founding faculty member of the Picker Engineering Program at Smith College, the first engineering program at a U.S. women's college, where she spent 13 years. In 2005, she received a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award for developing critical pedagogies for engineering classroom implementations. She is a fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) and was elected vice president of scholarship for ASEE in 2023.

Before joining UNM, she was the Kamyar Haghighi Head and Professor in the School of Engineering Education and Professor by courtesy in Environmental and Ecological Engineering at Purdue University. Previously, she was professor and interim head in the Department of Engineering Education at Virginia Tech. From 2013-2015 she was program director for engineering education at the NSF.

Riley is the author of two books, *Engineering and Social Justice* and *Engineering Thermodynamics and 21st Century Energy Problems*. She is the recipient of the 2016 Alfred N. Goldsmith Award from the IEEE Professional Communications Society, the 2012 Sterling Olmsted Award from ASEE, and the 2010 Educator of the Year award from Out to Innovate.

Riley earned her B.S.E. in chemical engineering from Princeton University, a M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Carnegie Mellon University in engineering and public policy.

### Interim Provost



Rodriguez Rodriguez has been senior vice provost since 2018, overseeing faculty personnel matters, including tenure and promotion; faculty labor relations; and academic policies and procedures. She is also a professor of speech and hearing sciences at UNM and was chair of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences from 2012 to 2018. Rodriguez became a UNM faculty member in 1999. She previously was a bilingual clinician throughout New Mexico, including in K-12 public education settings, and directed the UNM Speech Language and Hearing Clinic from 1992-1994. She earned both her Bachelor of Arts in Communicative Disorders and master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology at UNM and her Ph.D. in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Washington.

# The University and Community

## Overview

Founded in 1889 as New Mexico's flagship institution, with a total enrollment of over 26,000 students (44 percent Hispanic and 14 percent Native American) across multiple campuses, the University of New Mexico now occupies nearly 800 acres near old Route 66 in the heart of Albuquerque, a city of more than 900,000 people. Albuquerque is a blend of culture and cuisine, styles and stories, people, pursuits, and panoramas, from the magnificent mesas to the west, past the banks of the historic Rio Grande, to the Sandia Mountains to the east.

## Vision

Be a global leader in realizing human potential, addressing critical community challenges, and demonstrating the power of inclusive diversity.

## Mission

As the state's premier institution of higher learning and provider of health care, the University of New Mexico promotes discovery, generates intellectual and cultural contributions, honors academic values, and fosters an educated, healthy, and economically vigorous New Mexico.

## Values

**Excellence:** The University of New Mexico values excellence in all work and strives to perform and achieve at the highest levels.

**Inclusion:** The University of New Mexico respects and celebrates the differences of all persons and values working in a collaborative environment where diversity is cherished and there is a shared sense of belonging.

**Environment:** The University of New Mexico is dedicated to the protection of the planet to ensure the health, well-being, and success of future generations.

**Integrity:** The University of New Mexico values fairness, honesty, and transparency and are good stewards of the resources given to them.

**Place:** The University of New Mexico is dedicated to the peoples and places of New Mexico, even as they reach for global impact for the benefit of all humanity.

## Academics

The University has branch campuses in [Gallup](#), [Los Alamos](#), [Taos](#), and [Valencia County](#), plus an HSC extension campus in Rio Rancho, also home to the UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center. [UNM's libraries](#), [museums](#), galleries, and performance spaces are rich cultural resources for the state. UNM is a federally designated Hispanic-serving institution.

As a [Minority Serving Institution](#), the University represents a cross-section of cultures and backgrounds. In the Spring of 2023, [more than 24,000 students attended](#) the main, branch, and HSC campuses and education centers.

UNM boasts an outstanding faculty that has included four National Academy of Sciences/Engineering Members, six National Academy of Inventors Fellows, 60+ Fulbright scholar program awardees, and several fellows of national and international associations and societies. Faculty publish in major refereed professional journals,

including The New England Journal of Medicine, American Historical Review, and Nature, and with top-tier academic presses such as the University of Chicago Press and Cambridge University Press. As publicly oriented scholars, UNM professors share their expertise in local and national media outlets, from The Albuquerque Journal to The New Yorker.

UNM is the state's largest academic employer, including [University Hospitals' employees](#). It has more than [200,000 alumni](#) with Lobos in every state and more than 2,400 alumni outside the U.S.

UNM offers 94 baccalaureate, 71 master's, and 37 doctoral degrees. Home to the [Lobos](#) and contenders in the Mountain West Conference, UNM athletics draw fans from all over. The University Arena, or "The Pit," is one of college basketball's most famous and recognizable buildings. In fact, The Pit was ranked 5th by the Travel Channel as one of the [best college basketball venues](#).

UNM is a place where cutting-edge research and creative endeavors flourish. [As a very high research activity \(R1\) institution](#), UNM research injects millions of dollars into New Mexico's economy, funds new advancements in health care, and augments teaching—giving students valuable hands-on training in state-of-the-art laboratories.

As an academic institution, UNM is ranked nationally as a "[Top Public School](#)", "[Best Global University](#)", and "[Best National University](#)" and the highest ranked for each within New Mexico.

UNM Health Sciences Center is the state's largest integrated healthcare treatment, research, and education organization. In 2022, U.S. News and World Report ranked the [UNM School of Medicine](#) 16<sup>th</sup> nationally in "[2023 Best Medical Schools: Primary Care](#)", 5<sup>th</sup> in "[Most Diverse Medical Schools](#)," and 7<sup>th</sup> in "Best Family Medicine Programs." UNM's [nursing-midwifery program](#) ranks 11<sup>th</sup> nationally for "[Best Midwifery Program](#)," and UNM's bachelor of science in nursing is also recognized as the [67<sup>th</sup> best in the nation](#), placing it in the top 10% of ranked BSN programs. UNM College of Pharmacy ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> nationally for "[Best Pharmacy Schools](#)."

The [UNM School of Engineering](#) has been designated among the top 100 "Best Engineering Schools" and has six [top 100 national rankings](#) for programs including Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Nuclear Engineering. [UNM School of Law](#) has been ranked [8<sup>th</sup> in "Best Clinical Training Law Programs"](#) and in the top 5% nationally for this recognition. The photography program at [UNM College of Fine Arts](#) is ranked [8<sup>th</sup> in the nation](#) for "Best Photography Schools" and ranks within the top 30% of "[Best Art Schools](#)" across the U.S. At [UNM College of Arts & Sciences](#), [13 programs rank in the top 100](#) in the nation—including Sociology, Biology, History, and Earth Sciences.

Among the University's many [outstanding research](#) units are the [Center for Advanced Research Computing](#), [Comprehensive Cancer Center](#), [COSMIAC](#), [Center for High Technology Materials](#), [Design Planning Assistance Center](#), [Innovation Academy](#), [Center for Quantum Information & Control](#), and the [Mind Research Network](#).

## UNM 2040: Strategic Framework

The University of New Mexico has crafted a multiyear plan to build its future. This plan provides both a vision for the future and a set of more immediate tasks designed to move UNM toward that vision. Learn more about the strategic framework [here](#).



## Albuquerque, New Mexico

Albuquerque's affordable living, diverse dining scene, outdoor recreational activities, accessible day trips, and wellness options create a compelling environment for those seeking a balanced and engaging lifestyle. The city's cost of living is 4% lower than the national average, a benefit that extends to housing, where the median home price remains attractively below the U.S. average. This economic advantage is coupled with lower property and state income taxes, making Albuquerque an appealing place for professionals seeking a high quality of life without the high costs.

The culinary landscape in Albuquerque is a tapestry of flavors deeply influenced by Indigenous, New Mexican, and Spanish cuisines. Dining out can range from sampling the famed New Mexican chile in red and green varieties to exploring innovative dishes at upscale restaurants. The city's love for its unique culinary culture is evident in its numerous food festivals and markets, offering an endless array of dining experiences.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Albuquerque's proximity to ski resorts, such as the nearby Sandia Mountains, provides a winter playground for all ages. The skiing opportunities here cater to both beginners and seasoned enthusiasts, making it a perfect family outing. Beyond the slopes, the city's numerous parks, bike trails, and the Rio Grande provide endless outdoor activities, from picnics to kayaking, fostering a healthy, active lifestyle.

Albuquerque is ideally located for memorable day trips. Destinations such as Santa Fe, with its historic adobe landmarks and vibrant arts scene, and the Jemez Springs area, known for its natural hot springs and beautiful mountain scenery, are within easy reach. These excursions provide a refreshing break from the urban environment and an opportunity to immerse oneself in the natural and cultural richness of New Mexico.

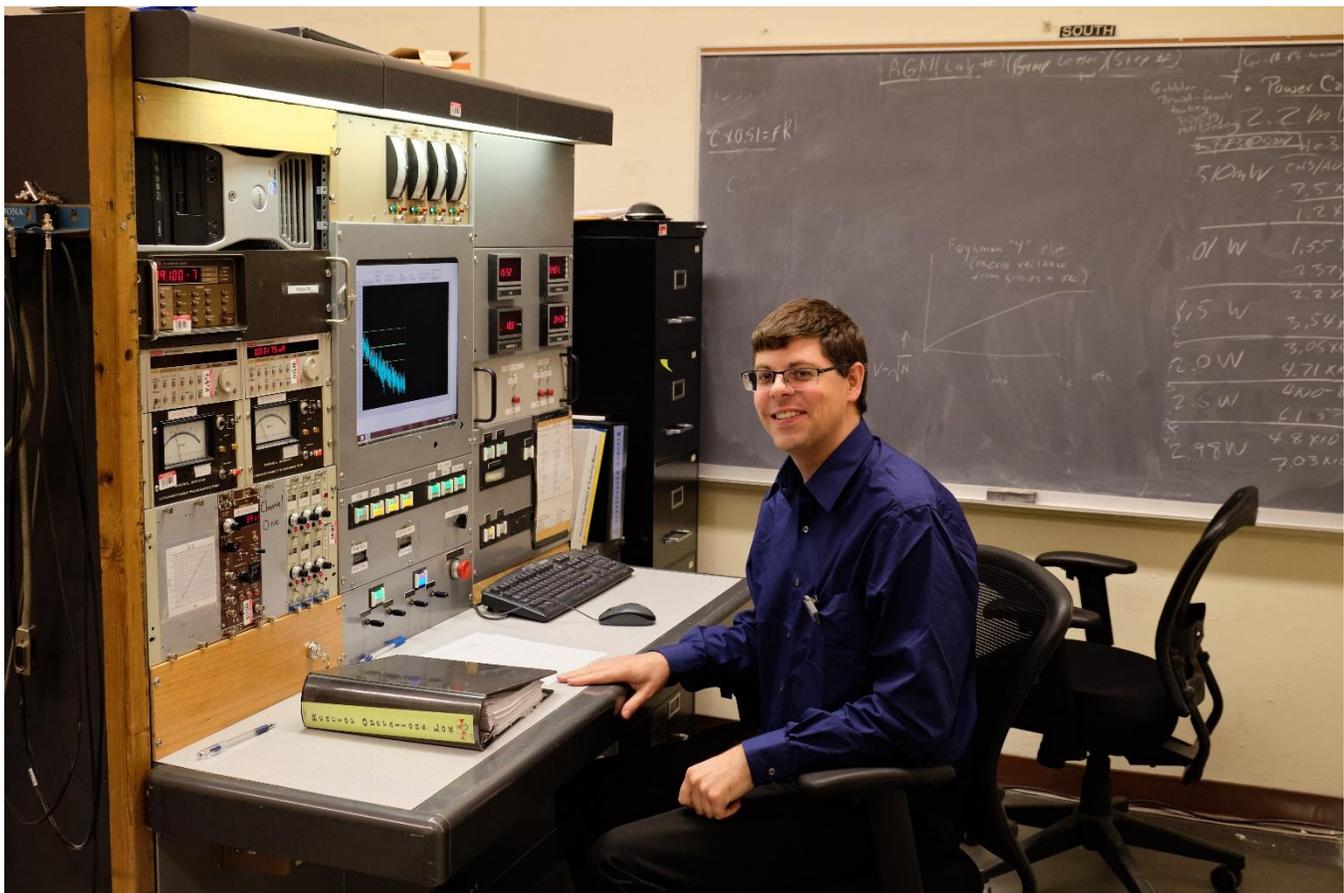
Destinations like the Petroglyph National Monument offer a glimpse into ancient history, while the Bandelier National Monument and the Valles Caldera National Preserve allow visitors to explore stunning natural landscapes and learn about the region's cultural heritage.

Wellness and relaxation are also a cornerstone of the Albuquerque experience, with a selection of spas that leverage the tranquil desert setting to provide a serene retreat. From luxury spa resorts offering a full range of treatments to more intimate settings incorporating traditional Native American healing techniques, there are ample opportunities for rejuvenation.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.visitalbuquerque.org/> or <https://www.newmexico.org/>.

Wellness and relaxation are also a cornerstone of the Albuquerque experience, with a selection of spas that leverage the tranquil desert setting to provide a serene retreat. From luxury spa resorts offering a full range of treatments to more intimate settings incorporating traditional Native American healing techniques, there are ample opportunities for rejuvenation.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.visitalbuquerque.org/> or <https://www.newmexico.org/>





## Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting the University of New Mexico in this search. Applications will be accepted until an appointment is made. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by September 4, 2025.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Sarah Seavey and Jessica Herrington

[UNMChairNuclear@wittkieffer.com](mailto:UNMChairNuclear@wittkieffer.com)

*The University of New Mexico is committed to hiring and retaining a diverse workforce. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer, making decisions without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, or any other protected class.*

*The University of New Mexico requires all regular staff positions successfully pass a pre-employment background check. This may include, but is not limited to, a criminal history background check, New Mexico Department of Health fingerprint screening, New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department fingerprint screening, verification of education credentials, and/or verification of prior employment. For more information about background checks, visit <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/3000/3280.html>. Refer to <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/3000/3200.html> for a definition of Regular Staff.*