

## Faculty-Mentored Research Award

The UNM Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and the Undergraduate Research, Arts and Design Network (URAD) are seeking nominees for the 2025 **Faculty-Mentored Research Award**. This joint award will be given annually to an outstanding undergraduate researcher and their faculty research mentor based upon the demonstration of a strong research partnership. In addition to quality of research and research outcomes, this award recognizes successes in developing a collaborative relationship and prioritizes aspects of the research process that contribute to professional growth of the student. As part of UNM's WeR1 initiative, this award develops UNM's tenet "research IS education" by promoting a culture of diverse research participation, advancing UNM students into successful futures, and increasing capacity for research to impact society.

### Scope

Consideration for the award will be given to a broad range of research partnerships. Students may be working under the umbrella of the faculty mentor's research projects or may be pursuing independent research in collaboration with the faculty mentor. Research under consideration may have been conducted within any context while the student was enrolled as a UNM undergraduate: paid or unpaid internships, formal research training programs, completion of an honor's thesis, part of independent study or other coursework, etc. All disciplines of research will be considered, inclusive of scholarship and creative works.

Nominations for the 2025 award must be submitted via InfoReady (<http://unm.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1972338>) by **May 30, 2025**. If you have any questions or require assistance submitting materials, please contact Assistant Vice President for Research Melissa Emery Thompson, [memery@unm.edu](mailto:memery@unm.edu), or URAD Director Tim Schroeder, [timschroeder@unm.edu](mailto:timschroeder@unm.edu). Award selections will be made in June 2025.

Faculty award recipients will receive a \$2500 prize to be awarded as an honorarium or a contribution to their research index. Student award recipients will receive a \$1500 cash prize. Both will be publicly recognized during the Research & Discovery Week in Fall 2025.

### Eligibility

- Under most circumstances, nominations should be for one undergraduate student paired with one faculty mentor. We will consider exceptional cases where a student worked closely with two faculty mentors, or where one faculty mentored two or three students who worked together on the same research project. The applicants must provide a compelling rationale that such cases represent a cohesive mentoring partnership. The award is not intended as a general mentorship award nor as a team research award.



- Nominations may be initiated by the student or the faculty mentor, though each will contribute to the evaluated materials.
- Nominated faculty members must have a full-time faculty appointment at the University of New Mexico. Main, branch, or health sciences campus faculty are eligible. Faculty of all ranks will be considered.
- The student under consideration must have been enrolled full-time in a UNM undergraduate degree program in either Fall 2024 or Spring 2025.
- The mentored research activity under consideration must have taken place over a period of at least 6 months, and at least a portion of the research activity must have taken place between May 2024 and May 2025. The research need not be completed.
- Students who were enrolled jointly in a graduate degree program when the research occurred are not eligible, nor are students who previously completed a bachelor's degree before the research was conducted.
- Previous nominations are not reconsidered automatically, but we strongly encourage those who still meet the eligibility criteria to submit an updated nomination.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

- Quality of tools and strategies used in mentorship and collaboration
- Student's initiative and contributions in shaping the trajectory of the research
- Success of the research program: was satisfactory progress made on research objectives and/or challenges overcome? Are the questions or outcomes significant and/or novel?
- Engagement by partners in disseminating research and/or developing broader impacts of research
- Evidence of professional growth of the student in one or more ways as a direct result of the research collaboration

### **Nomination materials**

1. Undergraduate student statement of research experience (up to 2pp). Please use your statement to address the following questions relevant to the evaluation criteria:
  - What motivated you to engage in research? How did you make the connection with your faculty research mentor?
  - How did the concept for your research project originate? Explain how you and your faculty mentor contributed to the success of the research program.
  - What are the major objectives of the research and why are they significant to your discipline of study?
  - How are you engaged in research-related activities outside of your immediate project (e.g., attendance at research seminars/workshops/symposia/conferences, opportunities to share results in public or professional settings, mentoring other students, or developing broader impacts of your work)?
  - Describe the mentoring relationship. What specific ways has your mentor helped you succeed?
  - What challenges have you faced in doing the research? How have you worked with your faculty mentor to address these challenges?

- Have you accomplished what you set out to accomplish so far? Be sure that your statement includes the timeline of your research program.
  - What skills have you learned as a result of your research experience? How has this research experience affected your future aspirations?
2. Undergraduate student resume or curriculum vitae.  
For help: <https://career.unm.edu/career-tools/index.html>
  3. Faculty mentor statement (up to 2pp)
    - What were the goals/objectives of the mentored research experience? Describe the progress towards these goals.
    - Explain the specific strategies you used to mentor the student through the research experience. How were challenges addressed?
    - What role has the student played in conceiving or carrying out the research program? How have the student's contributions shaped the trajectory of the research?
    - What skills (practical or professional) has the student developed as a result of this research experience? How well has the student engaged with opportunities to participate in research-related activities, such as attending seminars, sharing research results, mentoring others, or developing broader impacts?
    - How would you evaluate the student's overall success in the research experience and their prospects for success in future endeavors?
  4. Brief 'exhibit' of the student work. Eligible materials are: research poster (pdf), image, graphical abstract, or short media clip (<3 min). Please do not attach full research papers. Instead, students are encouraged to create a graphical abstract to represent their work (examples: <https://mindthegraph.com/blog/create-effective-graphical-abstract/#.Yipia3rMIuU>) or to create a 3min video 'lightning' talk (examples: <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/watch-3mt>).