



**Welcome** to the website of the Department of Economics at the University of New Mexico (UNM). Under the College of Arts and Sciences at UNM, the department is home to a highly-diverse faculty, with 17 tenured-or-tenure track members and 24 total faculty appointments. These include a number of award-winning researchers, mentors and teachers. Several current faculty members hold leadership and administrative positions across the UNM campus. We have approximately 200 undergraduate majors and more than 50 graduate students. We offer bachelors (BA), masters (MA), and doctoral (PhD) degrees. Including those enrolled in our freshmen-level principles of economics classes, we teach more than 3,000 students every year, with a majority-minority student population. In addition to the wide array of classroom courses scheduled on the UNM main campus during the academic year (fall and spring semesters), we offer a number of summer and intersession courses, classes at several alternative locations (e.g., UNM West), and select offerings of online and hybrid courses.

Our department community views economics learning as a pathway to careers and opportunities that can be both personally rewarding, while also contributing to improved societal well-being. This is reflected in our department **Vision Statement** (August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011), which reads:

*“Our department (faculty, staff, and students) is an applied economics program. We value collegiality, intellectual diversity and excellence. We work to improve the well-being of communities. Collectively, we aspire to:*

- *Provide quality learning experiences that produce intellectually curious and highly capable graduates*
- *Conduct policy-relevant and high-quality research*
- *Serve the community, university, and discipline.”*

In working towards this vision, the department relies on the dedicated efforts of our professional staff, as well as those of our faculty, including active participation in governance. While striving to improve, we are proud of our research, teaching, and service.

Economics classes have been taught at UNM for more than 100 years, with undergraduate degrees beginning in the 1920's. Currently, at the undergraduate level, interested students can complete an economics major leading to the BA degree, and we offer an economics minor. The department also participates in a 3+2 BA-MBA degree program with the Anderson School of Management. Our curriculum includes a full range of regularly-offered, theoretical, topical, mathematical and econometric courses. A departmental honors program is also open to outstanding economics majors, typically beginning in their junior year. While some of our undergraduates continue onto graduate school, many others pursue careers in government or in private industry.

Economics faculty members regularly lead study abroad opportunities for undergraduates. Recent trips include: Nicaragua, Cuba, Germany and Nepal.

The department has offered graduate studies since the 1940's and the doctoral (PhD) degree since the 1960's. Our graduate students include a mix of domestic students, including some from New Mexico, as well as international students from across the globe. Graduate student support and funding opportunities include graduate assistantships, participation in various fellowship programs, as well as research opportunities through faculty-funded research programs. Our graduate students follow a number of paths, pursuing careers in academics, research, government, as well as private industry.

In addition to offering the MA and PhD degrees, the department also participates in a number of interdisciplinary graduate programs, such as Latin American Studies (LAS), and Water Resources Program (WRP). The LAS program offers interdisciplinary MA and PHD degrees. The WRP offers the interdisciplinary Masters in Water Resources (MWR) degree, where economics faculty members regularly participate in

teaching the core curriculum. The department will also be participating in an approved, new interdisciplinary graduate program, offering the Masters in Public Policy (MPP) degree. The MPP program is expected to begin with the 2017-2018 academic year.

The generosity of a number of benefactors helps to support current economics students. The department offers a number of awards annually, both to graduate students and undergraduates. Students have the opportunity to apply for: the Gerald and Vivian Boyle Memorial Graduate Student Award; the Alfred L. Parker, Ph.D. Endowed Scholarship in Economics; the J. Raymond Stuart Award in Economics; and the Julian S. Duncan Scholarship in Latin American Economic Studies. More information on each of these can be found through the links on this website.

The research focus of the department is driven by the three fields of specialization for our PhD program: (i) **environmental and resource economics**; (ii) **public economics** – with an emphasis in health; (iii) and **international development and sustainability**. Of note, the department was one of the earliest to offer a field in environmental and resource economics and is home to one of the outstanding applied groups in the country. Faculty members have served as editors, associate editors, members of editorial boards, as well as committee members on National Academy of Science projects. Research spans a number of areas, including climate change, water, wildfire, and energy. The public economics group focuses on a variety of policy issues including public health, risky behavior, as well as poverty and discrimination. The international development and sustainability group is truly global in nature with a focus ranging from Europe to Africa, to Central and South America to Asia.

Departmental faculty members maintain active grant-funded research. We ranked 62<sup>nd</sup> among U.S. Economics programs in one recent NSF ranking of R&D expenditures; and we were 49<sup>th</sup> among PhD-granting U.S. economics programs in overall research activity, from the latest (2010) National Research Council ranking.

The department supports economics faculty and student participation in a wide variety of interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary endeavors. This is seen in the many connections both inside and outside the department. The department houses two centers: the Science Impact Laboratory for Policy and Economics (SILPE); and the Nepal Study Center (NSC). Faculty and students also have connections to a number of other interdisciplinary programs and centers at UNM. These include the Water Resources Program (WRP), the Center for Water and the Environment, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy, the Latin America and Iberian Institute (LAI), the International Studies Institute (ISI), the Institute for Social Research (ISR), the Evaluation Lab, and the Center on Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Addiction (CASAA).

Please use these webpages to learn more about our undergraduate and graduate offerings, as well as the research and service activities in the Department.

Sincerely,

Robert Berrens

*Robert P. Berrens*

Professor and Chair