Who We Are

The National Security Studies Program (NSSP) is a student focused initiative helping a new generation of New Mexico students develop the knowledge and skills necessary in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world. NSSP is tailored to prepare UNM students from a broad spectrum of disciplines and professional fields of study for careers in U.S. government service. NSSP is sponsored by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), which is a member of the 17 member U.S. Intelligence Community (IC). UNM is designated as one of twelve national Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence.

Mission

The mission of the University of New Mexico (UNM) National Security Studies Program is to ensure that interested students develop the knowledge, skills and relationships necessary to successfully compete for Intelligence Community and related national security careers.

Vision

The vision of the National Security Studies Program at UNM is to prepare our students for competitive, high paying careers while serving the highest national and global good. The program emphasizes theoretical and practical preparation in four critical areas:

- Command of research, analysis and critical thinking skills.
- Expertise in science or professional fields or understanding of the complex interaction between science and policy.
- Knowledge of international, regional and cultural issues of national security importance.
- Proficiency in foreign languages and context-sensitive studies.

The program seeks to coordinate and support other activities on campus with related goals.
The National Security Studies Program is by its nature multi-disciplinary and integrative. It draws upon business, law, the sciences, health sciences, the humanities and all areas of specialization. It provides students with:

- Interesting seminars and speakers on a wide range of national security related issues
- Study abroad opportunities focusing on a unique cultural experience and language development
- Skills such as critical thinking, innovative research and briefing development
- Career and personal development opportunities
- Acknowledgment of accomplishments in national security studies through a designated UNM Certificate Program and a BLA Global and National Security Concentration
- Courses designed to engage global and national security topics and issues and designed to develop critical skills.

Scott Shane, Pulitzer Prize winning reporter for the New York Times speaks on cyber/political issues to 2017 Global and National Security Symposium
## Programs, Services, Sub-units and Initiatives

| Career Preparation: Through seminars, visiting specialists, counseling, critical thinking exercises and research projects. Help ensure students will be competitive for careers in intelligence and other national security analysis work. NSSP works closely with Career Services and other student services units such as Veterans Resource Center. | Career Readiness
Research Experiences
Writing and Briefing
Critical Thinking |
| Annual Symposium: This event provides national, international and local experts speaking and interacting with students. Topics explored are global, national and involve human security trends and issues. This week-long event is distributed across campus from Law to Engineering and with plenary sessions in the Student Union Building. Panels include UNM faculty, industry professionals and student presenters. | Career Readiness
Collaboration
Active Participation
Oral Communication
Professionalism |
| Study Abroad: Students travel abroad to gain cultural awareness and language skills. Foreign language mastery is important for a career in a global security field. About 15 students each year are sponsored for this activity. | Career Readiness
Contextual Communication
Creating Relationships |
| Academic Programs: Promote and support the National Security and Strategic Analysis (NSSA) Certificate and the new BLA concentration in Global and National Security (BLA/GNSS), both in University College. The certificate and the degree option acknowledge a student’s interests and accomplishments in security issues to prepare for a national or international career as an analyst or other related position. To accomplish this activity, NSSP annually directly supports 5-7 courses on topics related to global, national, and human security. | Career Readiness
All goals of Critical Thinking
All goals of Research and Assessment |

*Students meeting with CIA Director John Brennan*
Goals for 2017-18

1. **Enhance Curriculum Offerings and Continue Program Development**: Continue course development for the new BLA GNS option and for the NSSA certificate, as well as a new emphasis on graduate offerings coordinated with the newly established Global and National Security Policy Institute (GNSPI). Continue to reach out to other UNM programs for integration and mutual support.

2. **Hold Annual Colloquia with Higher Education, Government and Industry Partners in the Region**: This is planned for the first week in April 2018. Students and faculty will be engaged with national and regional speakers and panel members.

3. **Continue to Encourage Foreign Language Development at UNM**: Focus on supporting students in study abroad programs and continue to engage international programs, seminars and speakers for students.

4. **Maintain an Ethnic, Gender, And Programmatic Diverse Student Profile to Match that of the University**: Our diversity focuses on ethnic and gender and extends to our student membership and faculty participation in all our activities. Diversity also includes reaching across disciplines and all levels of study.

5. **Facilitate Student Participation**: Provide on-campus academic programs, on and off-campus professional development activities, and overseas cultural immersion experiences for our students. Provide multiple opportunities for student professional and academic development.

6. **Establish and Maintain Strong Program Management and Develop a Long-Term Sustainment Plan**: Our objective here is to further establish our academic programs, create ties within OSA and across campus, to establish a program which endures past the end of our external funding.

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**UNM NSSP students engaging other foreign students after a lecture at Chengdu University, China**
2016-17 NSSP

- 99 student scholars with 300-400 students attending NSSP sponsored events
- We graduate about 20 scholars each year and gain about 20 each year
- Scholar’s GPAs at the End of Spring 2017 was 3.542
- Many receive internships and subsequent career offers, mostly in government

Selected Impacts and Outcomes

Ethnic Diversity

- American Indian: 1, 1%
- Asian: 43, 45%
- Black or Afro American: 6, 6%
- Hispanic: 3, 3%
- White: 43, 45%

Age Distribution

- 16, 16%
- 19
- 20-22: 8, 8%
- 23-25: 41, 42%
- 26-29: 21, 21%
- 30+: 1, 1%

Gender Diversity

- Male: 16
- Female: 40, 40%
- 59, 60%

Quick Facts

- 8th year of a 10-year Center of Excellence federal grant – one of 12 currently in US
- Primary goal is to increase minority participation in the US intelligence community
- NSSP supports a certificate and degree option in Global and National Security through University College
- Each year there are approximately 100 participating student scholars
- NSSP scholars represent the diversity of UNM and the diversity of academic programs across campus.
- NSSP works closely with Career Services and the new Global and National Security Policy Institute

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