Student Support Services-TRiO (SSS) is a highly specialized program designated to increase the graduation rates of our institutions most deserving and talented students. Our motivated college students are first-generation from moderate to low-income families.

Mission

The mission is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of program participants at the University of New Mexico Main Campus. The SSS program draws upon a holistic framework where committed participants receive individualized support by addressing their educational and personal needs. Support is offered through academic and career advising, tutoring, mentoring, personal, financial and graduate school guidance, workshops and social/cultural events.

Vision

To be a transformative program which inspires and empowers students to overcome, social, cultural, economic and academic barriers to higher education.
The SSS program provides holistic services to the student to gradually build a professional collaborative relationship providing positive pathways, guidance and educational support. Programming includes academic advisement, mentoring, tutoring, personal and financial guidance, guidance through the graduate school process and offers cultural activities.

“Had it not been for SSS, I may have lost my scholarship, never would have been selected to participate in a research project, and I would’ve never learned to prioritize my education, especially in instances where I may have felt emotionally unstable. Through this program, I have learned that I can excel, no matter what my circumstances are; a lesson I will carry for the rest of my life.” – M.G. Population Health and Spanish

“Through this program I was mentored and tutored; a support system that I needed primarily, as a student living 2 hours from home. SSS was not only a support “family” but became the family away from home. I enjoyed the benefits of this program so much that I found the need to become a mentor/tutor immediately after my first year. If it wasn’t for SSS I would not be where I am today...graduating with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Thank you SSS!” – J.M. Mechanical Engineering

“I will now be working in the Capitol in D.C. this summer, thanks to the help of SSS. This moral support is impeccable and cannot be explained in words. I am grateful to SSS for being a part of my academic life. More specifically, by going to the student space, I am able to receive aid on Organic Chemistry studying and understanding various concepts with the help of the Peer Coaches.” – R.L. Political Science

“Student Support Services TRIO has been the main influence of my success. I would likely not be where I am today if not for SSS. They are the support network that I greatly needed coming in as a first generation and low-income student. I knew nothing about college and I felt like I didn’t belong in college and it was at SSS where I found my home away from home. It was thanks to my mentors in the advisors that helped me navigate through UNM and find my place.” – C.S. Psychology and Spanish

“Coming to the University of New Mexico, my transition has been made so much easier thanks to SSS. Meetings with my Peer Coach and my advisor has helped me to solve any of my issues with my academics. I am also able to have conversations about anything with them, even if it is not school related and the great thing is that they actually care for each and every one of their students.” – J.M. Exercise Science

“SSS helped me immensely at the start of my educational career at UNM. Having a reliable resource to turn to as a new student was a relief in the midst of a busy place. Meeting with advisers help me set standards and expectations that built a strong foundation for my first academic year. Checking in with Peer Coaches was a way for me to self-reflect on the progress I was making throughout my year, and it helped me set small attainable goals to look forward to every few weeks.” – E.E. Nursing
The University of New Mexico has identified the top 5 skill sets employers seek in new employees. The UNM 5 are professionalism, research & assessment, communication, critical thinking and collaboration. In combination with the SSS services, the UNM 5 components help the students develop lifelong skills useful in their future careers and personal endeavors.

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<tr>
<th>SSS offers several services throughout the academic year for program participants.</th>
<th>UNM SKILLS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advisement – The SSS program provides academic advisement to assist students as they explore and plan out their academic options to reach their career goals.</td>
<td>Professionalism, Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration</td>
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<td>Mentoring – Adapting to university life can be overwhelming for many students. Mentors assist SSS student by guiding them through the nuances of college life and to become acclimated in their new environment.</td>
<td>Professionalism, Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration</td>
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<td>Tutoring – College courses may be challenging for a variety of reasons. SSS provides tutors that assist students in strengthening their own study skills in a variety of subjects.</td>
<td>Professionalism, Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration</td>
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<td>Cultural – SSS provides excursions on and off campus to attend museums, cultural events, shows at UNM Popejoy Hall, historic landmarks and the unique terrain of New Mexico.</td>
<td>Professionalism, Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration</td>
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<td>Workshops – SSS holds workshops to assist students as they become acclimated to the college environment. Workshops are held on a number of topics including financial aid, financial literacy, undergraduate research programs, graduate school planning, resume, personal statements, etc.</td>
<td>Professionalism, Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Research &amp; Assessment</td>
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Fiscal Update, Revenues

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>US Department of Education TRIO Programs</td>
<td>$261,384</td>
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<td>Student Support Services-TRIO is a federally funded 5-year grant program, U.S. Department of Education. The grant is awarded through a competition process to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their bachelor’s degree.</td>
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Goals for 2017-18

1. A minimum of 160 participants will be served.
2. 84% of SSS participants will persist or will have earned their bachelor’s degree.
3. 87% of SSS participants will be in good academic standing.
4. 51% of SSS participants will graduate within 6-years.
Ninety percent of SSS participants come from families where neither parent or guardian has obtained a bachelor’s degree. First generation families generally do not understand the demands of the university environment and cannot provide adequate guidance on navigating the nuances of college.

Eighty-eight percent of SSS students qualified for the program under the federal TRIO criteria of mid to low-income family backgrounds. Low-income students generally struggle with overcoming financial stressors as they pursue their bachelor’s degree.

Sixty-four percent of SSS students graduate with their bachelor’s degree in six-years or less. Generally, students who are both first-generation and low-income are unfamiliar with the college bureaucracies and tend to hold jobs adversely affecting their academics.

**Class Standing Distribution**
- Freshman: 24%
- Sophomore: 27%
- Junior: 16%
- Senior: 33%

**Gender**
- Female: 68%
- Male: 32%

*Data presented is based on the U.S. Department of Education Federal TRIO Student Support Services Annual Performance Report 2015-2016, University of New Mexico - Albuquerque.*

**Quick Facts**
- 2/3 of SSS participants must be first-generation and low-income, federal TRIO requirement.
- Exclusive TRIO scholarships are available to SSS students.
- The federal TRIO programs were born out of the civil right era to close the education gap for disadvantaged students in their access to higher education opportunities.