



DEPARTMENT OF
SPEECH & HEARING
SCIENCES



Open House

Dr. Carlos Irizarry Perez

Graduate Admissions Coordinator

Tour



See Admissions page





Project MESA: Advancing Communication, Celebrating Diversity

Multilingual, Culturally Responsive *Early Childhood*
Social Communication Approaches



Purpose

Project MESA is designed to increase the number of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) prepared to use evidence-based practices with culturally and linguistically diverse children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities



Education Funding

Total award of \$64,800 over two years, funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Scholars may receive further funding for professional development opportunities and through participation in the LEND program.



Service Obligation

All MESA scholars must commit to working with infants, toddlers, or children with disabilities/delays as an SLP for **at least 4 years within 9 years post-graduation**. Verification is submitted to OSEP by their employer.

Get Ready for Project MESA!

Attend our
Zoom Info Sessions

Saturday, Nov 1

11:30AM -1:00PM MST
Meeting ID: 984 4056 2089
Passcode: Lobos

Saturday, Dec 13

12:30PM - 2:00PM MST
Meeting ID: 825 4396 2753
Passcode: MESA25

Workshops this fall.
Applications due February
2026. Get prepared, get
connected, and be ready to
apply for Project MESA!

Questions?



Contact Jessica Nico, Grant Manager,
jnico@unm.edu



Want more information?

Visit our website!

<https://sites.google.com/view/project-mesa>



Why Apply: Academic Experience

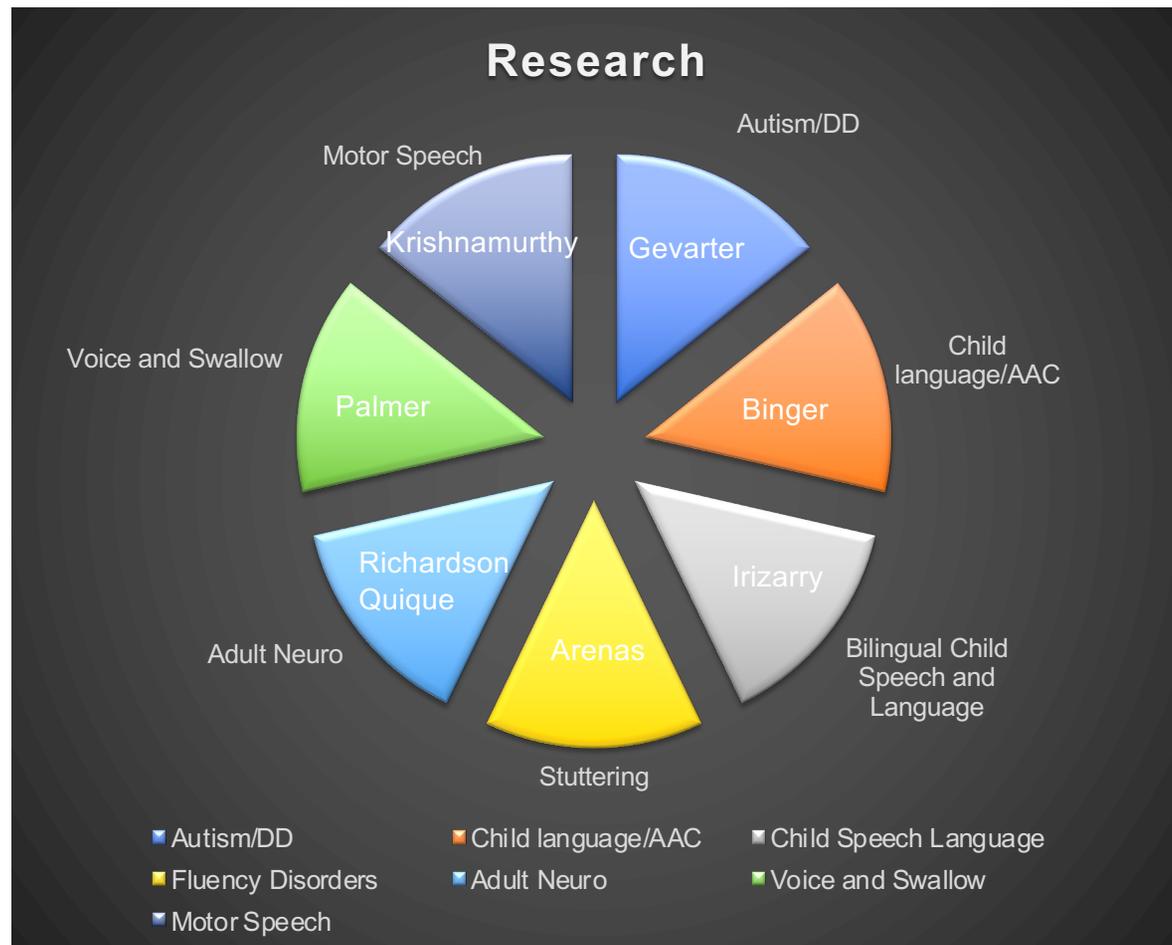
- Courses taught by experts in different areas
- Grant funding from NIH, US Department of Education and others
- Research- volunteer and paid positions
- Academic advisement
- University level supports (e.g.. Graduate Writing Center)

Specializations

Bilingual concentration

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities

IPE



Why Apply: Clinical Experience

- Hands on experience in our on-campus clinic
 - SLP and audiology assessment and treatment services to our community
 - Clients who range across the life span and with a wide range of severity and disorder areas
 - Opportunities to integrate research and clinic experiences
 - Experience with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse populations
- Hands on experience in our diverse community.
 - Off site placements to include rotations to give experience in schools, medical settings, and private practices.



Why Apply: Clinical Experience

- Hearing Loss
- Aural Rehabilitation
- Hearing and Communication:
 - Pure-tone air and bone conduction testing
 - Speech discrimination testing
 - Comprehensive middle-ear testing
 - Communication strategy training
- Hearing devices

Sarah Duncan,
M.S., CCC-A



- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Early Intervention
- Hearing Loss
- Social Communication
- Literacy
- Differential Diagnosis and Treatment of Childhood Speech Sound Disorders

Mary Hartley,
M.S., CCC-SLP



- Bilingualism
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations
- Pediatric Dysphagia
- Early Intervention
- Medically Fragile Populations

Andrea Martinez-Fisher,
M.A., CCC-SLP



- Voice
- Gender Spectrum Voice Affirmation
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Dysphagia
- International SLP Involvement

Lauril Sachet
M.S., CCC-SLP



- Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)
- Autism spectrum disorders (ASD)
- Child language development

Kimberly Mattison,
SLPD., CCC-SLP



- Neurologic disorders in adults
- Aphasia
- cognitive deficits
- Dysarthria
- apraxia

Maria Strum M.S., CCC-SLP



- Elementary school SLP therapy
- Trauma-informed therapy
- Child and adult articulation
- Integration of art into language therapy for adults on the spectrum
- Social Skills/Pragmatic language for teens and adults
- Transgender Voice Affirmation

Moira Ellis
M.S. CCC-SLP





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- New Mexico has a rich cultural heritage that includes festivals, exhibitions, and shows.
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Peer Supports

- GSA
 - Social events
 - Educational events
 - Peer mentor program
- NSSLHA
- Student Equity Group

Student Perspective



Minimum requirements to apply

- 3.4 cumulative GPA in SHS or CSD
 - This includes Fall 2024 classes
- At least 12 course credits in SHS or CSD
 - Earned a B or better
 - We will consider if over 6 years, but likely will need to repeat courses
- Will have completed undergraduate degree





Graduate Studies

Using the UNM
application site

- Apply to [Graduate Studies](#)
- SHS website along with [detailed instructions](#) about how to navigate the application site
- STRONGLY recommend reading instructions
- *Follow requirements on our website (only 2 letters of rec, written application uploaded to letter of intent)

Key components of application



Official and Unofficial Transcripts (including Fall SHS courses)



Two Letters of Recommendation



Written Application



UNM SHS funding application (*and FAFSA)



*NO GRE!

Transcripts

- *After Fall grades are posted
- ALL transcripts that contain SHS (or equivalent) coursework
- UNM students:
 - [Request](#)
 - \$10; make sure you give enough time

Unofficial

Upload to online UNM graduate admissions page under educational background

Official

Mail in SEALED envelope to **UNM Office of Admissions**,
PO Box
4895, **Albuquerque**,
NM 87196-4895

OR

If college allows you to directly send official transcripts electronically—send to apply@unm.edu

Two Letters of Recommendation

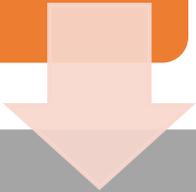
- [Review](#) in detail:
- Do NOT SEND 3 letters- if so, we only look at first 2 and it might not be your two strongest
- Who should recommend you?
 - **At least 1 recommender** should be a **professor or clinical faculty member from speech and hearing sciences or communication sciences disorders**
 - **One other recommender** can be a **professor or clinical faculty member from any department** (can be another SHS faculty member or from another discipline) OR a **supervisor/mentor from SLP or a related field**
 - **Do NOT** choose people such as a family member, parent of child you babysit, coach, or a former patient.



How are letters sent to us?

Once recommenders have agreed to write you a letter, you can login to the UNM application page and fill out recommenders' information and save prior to submitting full application

- Fill in as much info on them as you can (e.g., assistant professor)



Requests for letters of recommendation are then sent directly by email from the online application system to your chosen recommenders

Securing Letters of Rec



Request Letters

Contact professors by the **third Monday in November** to ask if they are willing to recommend you

At a minimum your **request** must include:

- A list of schools you are applying to with deadlines
- Courses you've taken with the faculty member or how you know the faculty members



Send info needed for letters

Send [letter of recommendation packet](#) with the following documents to recommending faculty by **December 15th (* or by December 1st if you have any letters due December 15th)**



Tips for professors you don't know very

- Start request email with classes you took with them/grade you earned
- Ask to set up a meeting to re-introduce yourself and talk about your interests
- Send a photo of yourself
- Send an assignment you completed in their class
- *Establish a connection*
 - *Brainstorm*

Securing letters from other recommenders

Non-UNM students: follow any instructions your institution provides for requesting letters

Provide clinical recommenders or non-SHS professors with resumes, suggestions for information to include in a letter (e.g., how you work with clients, how you collaborate with others etc.) and set up meetings to discuss your interests in a speech and hearing program with them





Written application

Instructions

- Complete ALL parts, save as PDF and **upload under “Letter of Intent” on UNM application site**
- More on this at next session
 - Workshop will go over in detail with group discussions
- Can use as basis for letters of intent for other programs



About 65% of
students get
some form of
funding during
the program

Funding

- Graduate assistant positions
- Research assistant positions
- Departmental Scholarships/Fellowships
 - Bilingual concentration
- Lab positions
- [Additional opportunities](#)

If you want any kind of funding



1) Complete the SHS funding [application](#)



2) Upload SHS funding application to UNM online application system under **assistantship interest**

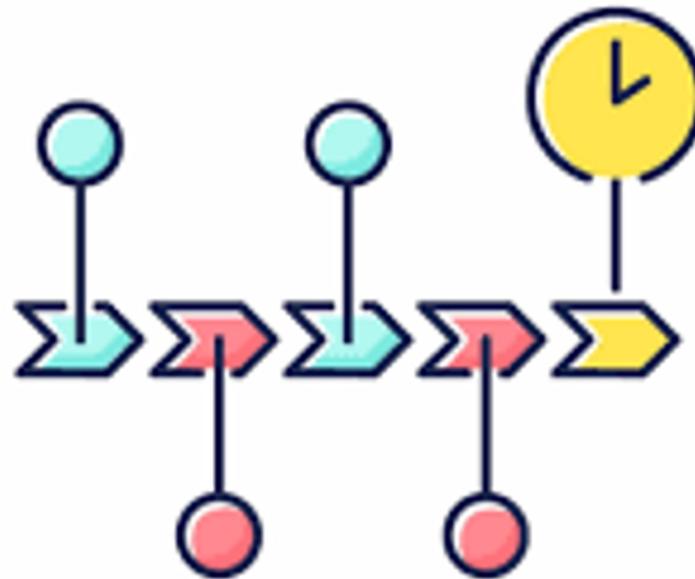


3) Fill out FAFSA

Example Timeline

By 3 rd week in November	By Dec 15 th (or Dec 1 st for early schools)	End of Fall semester (once grades posted)	December-January
Confirm Recommenders	Login to system and submit recommenders' info	Request official transcripts sent via mail or email	Complete draft of written application and have someone proofread it
Create login in and save your pin– get familiar with application website; fill in easy info	Draft materials needed to send to UNM SHS recommenders; send packets	Download unofficial transcripts after fall grades are posted and upload to online application	Check back in with recommenders if need be
Research your programs of interest- make a list with info	Send useful information to other recommenders	Keep working on your written application	Complete funding application/FAFSA
	Take a look at funding application and opportunities/determine your interest		Complete and read through all parts of online application Sign and Submit!

Student
perspective-
timeline
and funding





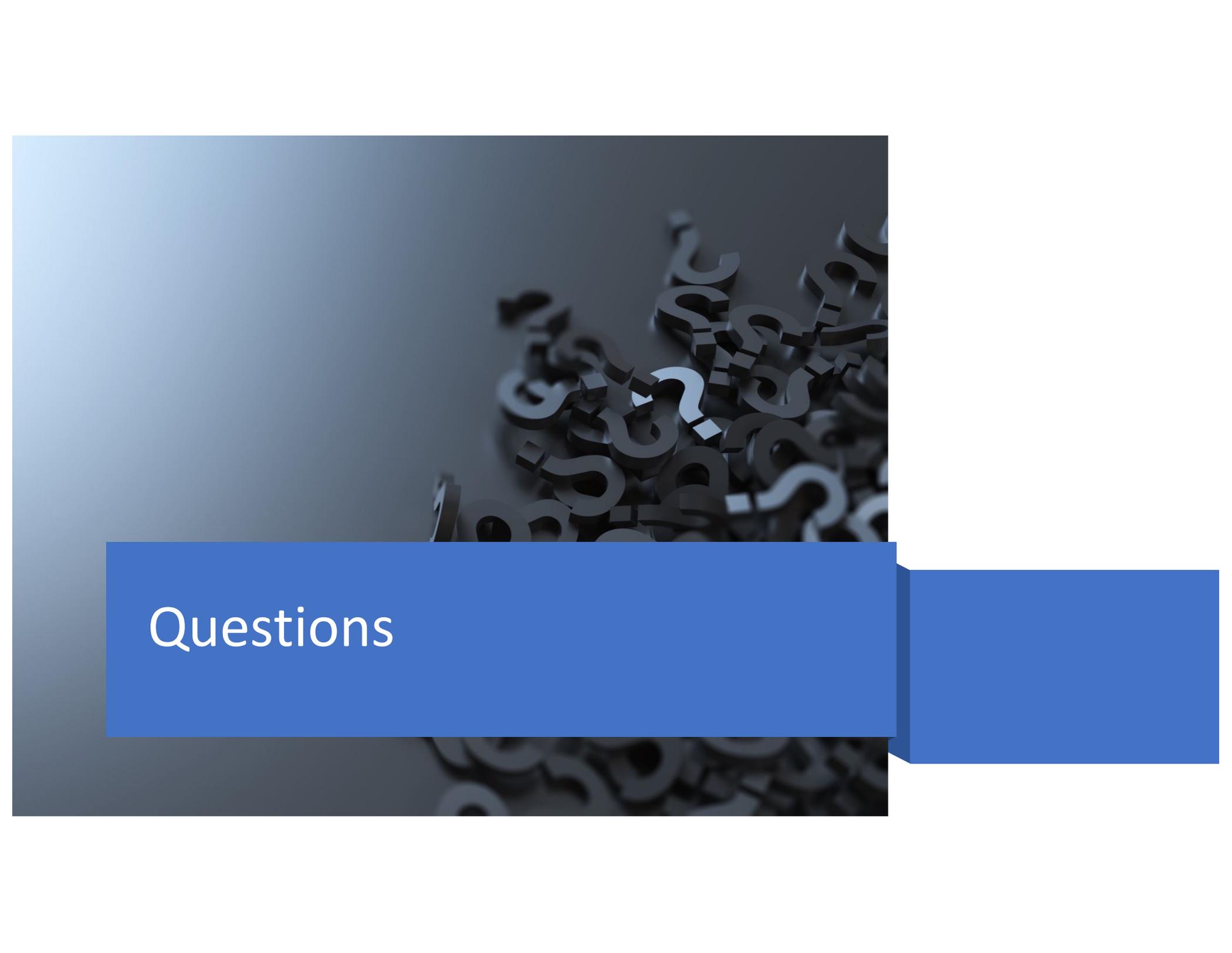
Who to contact

- Technical difficulties with application: Technical support form at top of UNM apply page or shs-admin@unm.edu
- Admissions content questions Dr. Irizarry nyec@unm.edu
- Non-degree course content/transfer questions: Dr. Arenas rickarenas@unm.edu
- Graduate program questions: Dr. Arenas rickarenas@unm.edu
- Questions related to clinical experience requirements: shs-admin@unm.edu
- Bilingual questions: Carlos Irizarry nyec@unm.edu

Written Application Workshop

- Same Zoom link
- Bring your written draft if you have one





Questions