



Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (U-RISE)

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

OBJECTIVE:

The primary objective of the Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (U-RISE) program is to promote broad participation in the biomedical research workforce by strengthening research training environments and expanding the pool of well-trained students who complete their baccalaureate degree, and transition into and complete biomedical, research-focused higher degree programs (such as Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.).

WHAT U-RISE SCHOLARS DO AND RECEIVE:

- Partner with a faculty
- Attend workshops to prepare you for competitive graduate and/or MD-PhD programs.
- Obtain Honors credits by enrolling in an Honors U-RISE course each semester.
- Meet outstanding researchers from leading institutions across the country.
- Participate in Summer Research at leading research-intensive institutions.
- Receive academic and financial support.

WHO CAN APPLY:

- Juniors and Senior undergraduate students with two years prior to graduation.
- Must be currently enrolled in at least 15 credits and must have completed 60 credit hours.
- Minimum overall GPA of 3.2.
- Students interested in entering Biomedical or Bio-Behavioral Research Disciplines
 - Majors in Biology, Chemistry/Biochemistry, Engineering, Plant/Environmental Sciences, Kinesiology, Anthropology, Public Health, Biostatistics, Computer Sciences, Psychology, Animal Sciences, and any major that can contribute to biomedical sciences!! **Call us and ask!**



For more information and an application:

CALL: the U-RISE Program @ (575) 646-7963.

STOP by the office in Foster Hall Room 465

EMAIL Graciela A. Unguez: gunguez@nmsu.edu

Merranda Marin: mmarin@nmsu.edu

Laura Rodriguez: laurodri@nmsu.edu

Program Website: u-rise.nmsu.edu



Applicant Information

Full Name (Last, First):

Mailing Address:

NMSU Email:

Cell Phone Number:

Current Major:

Year in School:

Anticipated Graduation Date:

Demographics

The information you provide about yourself on this page is confidential and used to help us follow federal granting agency requirements for this training program.

Are you a U.S. Citizen? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a Permanent Resident of the U.S.? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a First-Generation College Student? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Sex: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Gender: ☐ Woman ☐ Man ☐ Transgender ☐ Non-binary ☐ Other

Ethnicity: ☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Non-Hispanic ☐ Do not wish to provide

Race (Check all that apply):

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black/African American

☐ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ☐ White ☐ Other (please list) _____

☐ Do not wish to provide

Disability (Do you have a disability?): ☐ No ☐ Yes (Check all that apply)

☐ Mobility/Orthopedic Impairment ☐ Visual ☐ Hearing

☐ Other ☐ Do not wish to provide

Tell Us About Yourself

1. How did you hear about the Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (U-RISE) Program?
2. What do you hope to gain by becoming a U-RISE Scholar and doing research in the lab of an NMSU faculty member?

3. Are you currently a student in one of these research training programs at NMSU?

☐ McNair Scholars Program ☐ New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP)
☐ Discovery Scholars ☐ Capstone Project: Honors Program
☐ Enhancing Hispanic Access to Natural Resource and Agricultural Careers through Education, Mentorship, and Training (ENHANCEMENT) Project
☐ ACES Undergraduate Research Program ☐ Other; Please list:

4. What is your desired advanced degree? (Preference will be given to students planning on a research career)

☐ M.S. ☐ PhD ☐ MD/PhD ☐ Other (Please list):

5. In your opinion, what makes you a good candidate for the U-RISE Program at NMSU?

6. Do you have any previous research experience? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "yes" to the above question, describe your research project and what you learned. Please also describe what you liked and disliked about your experiences.

7. Indicate your general biomedical or biobehavioral research interests.

8. Describe your interests and hobbies outside of research.

Your Future Plans and Goals

9. What do you see yourself doing five years from now?

10. What else would you like us to know about you that was not asked?

Faculty Research Mentor Interviews

Following the initial interview, you must talk to a minimum of three (3) Faculty Research Mentors on the list provided about their laboratory research activities and how these may best match your research interests.

11. List the 3 NMSU faculty you met with and interviewed about your research interests and their lab/group. You must obtain their signature after your interview. You may add more than 5 if you prefer.

Faculty name: _____ Signature and date: _____

Faculty name: _____ Signature and date: _____

Faculty name: _____ Signature and date: _____

11. AFTER your interviews are completed, please rank the faculty order of preference to join their research group.

Choice #1. Faculty name: _____

Choice #2. Faculty name: _____

Choice #3. Faculty name: _____

12. For your application to be complete, you must ALSO interview with both Program Directors, Drs. Merranda Marin (mmarin@nmsu.edu) and Graciela A. Unguez (gunguez@nmsu.edu). Please set up an appointment with them by sending a joint email to both of with dates/times that you are available to meet in person or via zoom.

Merranda Marin: _____ Signature and date: _____

Graciela A. Unguez: _____ Signature and date: _____

Additional Required Information

Include a copy of your current unofficial transcripts with your completed application.

Submission Deadline

Deadline for submission of your COMPLETED application is September, 05 2025 by 11:59 pm

Send all required forms (this form with answers to all questions; signatures and dates from the 3 faculty and Program Directors you interviewed; and unofficial copy of your transcripts) via email to Dr. Laura Rodriguez at laurodri@nmsu.edu



Graciela A. Unguez
Co-Director



Merranda Marin
Co-Director



Laura Rodriguez-Uribe
Program Assistant