The Graduation Project

This project is designed to help every student who left The University of New Mexico in good standing after earning at least 98 credit hours, but without finishing a baccalaureate degree. We have made arrangements for monthly tuition payments and priority enrollment for students with the goal of earning a degree in two years while attending part-time. We can also help with the advisement and admissions processes.

General Information

- Began the planning process in the Fall of '96 (first mailing was Jan. of 97)
- Dr. David E. Stuart and F. Chris Garcia conducted two large sample surveys to find out why students were dropping out
- Based on that information, four key factors were identified
  - Students could not afford the tuition
  - Students could not get into the necessary classes needed for graduation
  - Students were not able to receive advisement
  - And, students could not find parking
- The Graduation Project was founded by Dr. Stuart, the only one of its kind in the nation, though it has been said other schools are trying to start a similar program
- Three of the identified factors as to why students drop-out, were the highest priority for the project
- We give a tuition award (TAP), allotted from the Regents, to those students who qualify
- We get students into most closed courses
- And, we provide degree summaries
- We identified 8 cohorts and sent mailings based on the criteria of 98 + credit hours with a 2.0 or higher.
- The Graduation Project mailed to the Phase 9 cohort this past summer (2004).
- We also take students (who have the necessary criteria) who walk in or who are advised or recommended to the office
- Of the 1684 that have “come back”, 1124 have graduated (as of Spring 2004)!
- Mission of the Graduation Project is to facilitate the graduation for students who left the university for one reason or another, provide timely support, and act as a “home base” for students returning to the university through our project.

Student Questions

- Have you been away from UNM for more than one semester?
- Have you completed at least 98 credit hours which count toward a UNM degree?
- Do you have a 2.0 GPA or better on your UNM transcript?
- Do you have a 2.5 GPA or better? If so, you may qualify for a Tuition Assistance Stipend.

If a student can answer "Yes" to the first three questions, he or she is encouraged to call our office at (505) 277-0896 for information on admissions.

For any additional questions, please call the Graduation Project at (505) 277-0896
The Graduation Project
January 1997 – March 2006

- Total graduates: 1342
- Number of students who stopped-out and are eligible for the project: 3830
- Number of students who have “returned” to UNM*: 1934
- Percent of “returned” students who graduated: 69%
- Number of students who are currently enrolled: 197+
- Number of students currently in graduate school: 47
- Number of students who have received a graduate degree: 30
- Percent of minority students who graduated: 40.84%

Graduation Project Students by Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th># Graduated</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>9.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>27.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>56.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Graduates</strong></td>
<td><strong>1342</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Minority Graduates</strong></td>
<td><strong>548</strong></td>
<td><strong>40.84%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Returning Graduates' GPA
Fall 1996 – Fall 2005

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<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Graduates</td>
<td>1342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average GPA at Graduation</td>
<td>3.03**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA of Graduates at First Stop-Out</td>
<td>2.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Between Fall 1990 and Fall 2000, 3153 students left UNM after completing at least 98 credit hours, with an aggregate GPA of approximately 2.93, but without graduating.

* Some of these students only needed to complete paperwork or have credits transferred to UNM to complete their degree.

** 33 Graduation Project students graduated with a minimum 4.0 GPA

Prepared by Vanessa Shields, Graduation Project Coordinator
Reviewed by Dinira Gomez, Senior Program Manager, Academic Affairs
March 15, 2006
Phone: 277-0896