

# Academic Dispatch



We're all in this together. Credit: University Communication and Marketing.

## October 30, 2020

### Our best, or our worst?

The snow on the mountains is truly beautiful. The snow on the roads is dangerous. We can both appreciate the beauty and sense of peace that the winter frost brings, and we can manage the risks that the roads present. At UNM we are now a month from Thanksgiving, when in-person instruction will largely cease until January 2021, and over this month we will have both the joys of discovery, and the stress of the work that leads to learning. We are experiencing a huge growth in COVID cases in New Mexico and our country, while our health care workers are giving of themselves to support and heal our sick friends and neighbors. We are but a few days from the official election day, November 3rd, a moment both exercising the wonder of democracy wherein we render authority to new leaders, and a moment inflaming our individual anxiety about the outcomes. Whatever the result of this democratic process, some of us will be elated, and some of us will be disappointed. The result will be a collective decision to which each of us contributes, but which no one of us controls. What we do control is how we respond, as individuals, to the outcome. We can respond with our best – with grace, patience, community, and constructive purpose – or with our worst – with anger, violence, and divisive intent. And this is true of all of the tremendous challenges this year has brought: all we can do is decide what to do with the challenges we are given.

Here are some resources to help with navigating the next few weeks, so that, I hope, you can choose to be your best:

## On COVID-19

Look at the statistics on the dashboard for UNM COVID-19 cases at <https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu>.

- Our numbers are low so far compared to Bernalillo County, New Mexico as a whole, and other college campuses.
- The same site contains information about COVID-19 prevention, symptom/positive reporting, campus safety measures, and what you should do if someone in your unit reports testing positive for COVID-19.

## On Bullying and Hate Speech in the Context of Election Season

- Attend Compliance Week events, including the panel discussion titled, “Trolling, Doxing, and Zoom Bombing” at UNM that will go live Nov. 2, 2020 at 12 p.m., and you can watch it [here](#). Hosts: Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO), UNM Information Technologies Academic Technologies, & Division of Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Speakers: Rob Burford, Elisha Allen, Francie Cordova, and Assata Zerai.
- Report hate speech or hate bias incident at [unm.ethicspoint.com](http://unm.ethicspoint.com) or by using [the hate bias form](#).

## On Addressing Divisive Election Language in Classes

These resources were kindly shared with us by researchers from the College Transition Collaborative:

- [Creating Identity Safety in the Classroom as the 2020 Election Approaches](#) (Author: Katie Boucher, College Transition Collaborative)
- [How to Foster Identity Safety in Three Election-Related Scenarios](#) (Authors: Katie Boucher, Krysti Ryan, Christine Logel, and Mary Murphy, College Transition Collaborative)

## On Switching to CR/NC grading mode:

- Before grading opens on Dec. 4 at 5 p.m., students may use the Enrollment Authorization [CHANGE GRADE MODE form](#) to change grade mode to CR/NC (\$10 fee).
- After 5 p.m. on December 4, students may use the [Enrollment Authorization - AFTER THE TERM form](#) to request a Grade Mode Change. The “AFTER THE TERM” form provides the mechanism for faculty to report the final grade under the new grade mode.
- Credits taken CR/NC do not necessarily meet degree requirements, but CR grades do not have a negative impact on GPA.
- Students should discuss the CR/NC option with their academic advisor and review this [information](#) about limits on CR grades for degree requirements. Just like a failing grade, “NC” has an impact on financial aid.

## Fair and Equitable Use of Electronic Technology

- Many UNM students do not have printers and so can't print and e-mail a scanned assignment. Instructors can: create a fillable document using Adobe or, if students need to send answers written by hand (rather than typed), make sure students have access to a scanning app that can be used with a smart phone, and provide instructions to number answers written on a plain sheet of paper that can then be scanned with the scanning app.
- Learn best practices for safe and respectful web meetings at <https://webmeetings.unm.edu>.
- Learn more about exams, technology, and the differential effect of some exam formats: "[How It Feels When Software Watches You Take Tests](#)," by Anushka Patil and Jonah Engel Bromwich. "[What Do Final Exams Mean?](#)" by Beckie Supiano.

## For a List of Faculty Resources and of COVID-19 Faculty Flexibility Policies:

- [A comprehensive list of resources for faculty.](#)
- [Temporary and voluntary reduction in full-time equivalency.](#)
- [Extension of probationary period \("tenure clock"\) due to COVID-19. Spring 2020 and Fall 2020.](#)

## On Providing Support to those Experiencing Stress and/or Mental Health

### Concerns:

- Mention the [mentalhealth.unm.edu](http://mentalhealth.unm.edu) site in a simple, kind, and low-key way. You can note that the site includes easy access to drop-in stress reduction sessions and other resources, such as consultations with a provider, many of which are free.
- Join a workshop and Q&A on "How to Support Students Experiencing Stress" with Dr. Stephanie McIver (SHAC), Dr. Kristopher Goodrich (Dept. of Counselor Education), and Ms. Lisa Lindquist (LoboRESPECT Advocacy) held on Nov. 12 at 4 p.m. Please request the zoom link by e-mailing [StudentExperienceUNM@unm.edu](mailto:StudentExperienceUNM@unm.edu).

Please Vote. Wear your mask. And be kind.

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