



Why Degree Planning?

To learn how to build your path to graduation! Everyone's path looks different; the EE and CPE curriculums show an ideal 4-year scenario, but the courses that you'll take each semester and how many semesters you'll end up taking will differ depending on where you started, credits you already have, how many courses you can take per semester, retaking a class, etc. Planning your degree path will give you a better idea of how you'll get to graduation, how long it will take, what your course load will be each semester, any potential pitfalls to avoid, and any opportunities you may be able to incorporate and take advantage of. An undergraduate degree is more than just classes!

Learning Outcomes

NSO/TNT advisement and "Intro to UNM" gave you an overview of the resources you needed to help you create your semester schedule. You already have the tools needed to help you create your degree plan! Now think about how to:

- Plan your degree plan and determine a projected graduation date
- Incorporate things like Study Abroad, 4+1, 3/2, 2nd majors, minors, etc.
- Explore options for summer courses
- Process transfer courses

What does a degree plan do?

It allows you to plan out your future semesters to help combat issues that impact your ability to graduate on time.

There are 3 common scenarios:

- 1) Students are at pre-req MATH levels and cannot take PHYC or ECE courses yet. This means 2 things: 1) it's hard to maintain 15 hours each semester that work towards the major. You might want to look at a second major, or a minor. 2) It's probably going to take 5-6 years to complete the degree unless you take summer courses. Not just any summer courses, however; specific courses can cut down your grad date by an entire year!
- 2) Students are trying to cram too much into a semester and take more than the maximum 18 hours. This has a couple of issues: 1) you must get approval to take more than 18 hours, which means your GPA should be at least 3.0. It costs more money, too, and scholarships DO NOT cover anything over 18. 2) Are you sure taking 19-21 hours of engineering and upper level MATH courses in the same semester is a good idea? If you earn a C- you must take it again, and if it's a fall or spring only, you really set yourself back.
- 3) Missing critical pre-requisites for fall/spring only courses. This will likely set you back an entire year.

Summer semesters at UNM

Summer semesters aren't required, but they may help you speed up your progress. Some things to consider about Summer semesters at UNM:

- **8 weeks long.** You'll still be covering a regular semester's worth of content, so you will be studying and working a lot, really fast; be ready for the workload. Your class may meet several times a week (as opposed to 2-3 days) for multiple hours at a time. On the plus side, you're focusing your attention on just one or two subjects.
- **Limited course offerings.** Not every class is offered during the summer, so if you're thinking about a certain class you should research to see if it's a possibility. You can look at previous summer schedules to get an idea, but they're no guarantees of future summer offerings. For example, ECE courses are offered depending on student demand and faculty availability.
- **Cost.** Summer tuition and fees are over \$300/hr, so a 3-credit hour course will cost around \$1,000. Most financial aid usually does NOT cover Summer. You'll probably have to pay out of pocket or look for summer scholarships.

Summer semesters elsewhere

Take equivalent courses at other institutions. Consider:

- Application process
- Cost (cheaper at community colleges~ CNM)
- Location (it doesn't have to be NM, you can go back home for the summer and take classes there)
- Semester length
- Sending transcripts to/from UNM; overrides from advisors

Most importantly! You have to make sure you are 1) taking a course that is needed 2) make sure the course is going to transfer appropriately to your degree program. If it's not in TES (see below), get it approved before you take it!

TES – Transfer Equivalency System admissions.unm.edu

From the UNM Admissions page, click **TRANSFER**, **Transfer Equivalencies**, then the **Transfer Equivalency button**

Domestic: TES database has an extensive list of established UNM equivalent courses anything listed is already approved!

International: <https://studyabroad.unm.edu/section/international-course-equivalency-database>

If the course you want to take is not listed, you can request review for equivalency of the course by providing a syllabus to the respective department. If it is an English course, the English Dept. must review it. If it is an ECE course, our dept. will review it.

Consortium

Allows you to take courses at two different schools and still be considered a full-time student for financial aid purposes.

Ex: 9 hrs at UNM + 6 hrs at CNM = 15 hrs and you still meet your Lottery scholarship requirements.

https://scholarship.unm.edu/common/documents/consortium_agreement_fda1.pdf

Study Abroad geo.unm.edu

Engineering majors can't study abroad- MYTH! We want you to study abroad, it is an enriching opportunity

By creating a degree plan we can determine the best semester to go abroad and keep you on track for graduation.

Shared Credit 4+1 ece.unm.edu- programs

Save money and time! BS to MS; 5 years, 2 degrees. No GRE, no MS application fee: both are waived with the 4+1 program. Must have at least 3.0 cumulative GPA to apply. If accepted, you begin taking 500 level courses in your senior year. Those courses will apply towards BOTH the undergraduate and graduate programs. See ECE website for details.

ESS- Engineering Student Success Center ess.unm.edu

Located in Centennial Engineering 2080 (2nd floor, once you step out of the south elevators)

- 1) Tutoring- Engineering majors tutoring engineering majors. See website for schedule
- 2) Career Services- Resume writing workshops, career development workshops, career fairs
- 3) Internships and Jobs-Career fairs, job postings, internships, NSF
- 4) Student organization-Get connected to like minded students, go to conferences, compete, connect!
- 5) Did I mention \$SCHOLAR\$HIP\$ - Scholarship specific to engineering majors. 1 application, many scholarships!

Now Create your Degree Plan

Don't forget to:

Use your LoboTrax degree audit (transcript and checklist in one, must be complete to graduate)

Use LoboAchieve to schedule appointments or view advisor walk-in hours

Use ECE curriculum as a guide

Use UNM Catalog to make sure you have the pre-co reqs needed for courses

Make sure you are planning semester specific courses correctly

And most importantly.... ASK QUESTIONS!