
With over 135 iA approved courses and events, the innovationAcademy prepares students to enter the entrepreneurial ecosystem with confidence.

1. 

iA students connect with like-minded individuals, mentors, and investors to build, develop, grow and flourish as entrepreneurs.

2. 

When it all comes together, students are able to create a path for themselves that isn’t dictated by their degree, but rather their passions and start-up spirit.

3. 

We’ve been busy this year!

581
Students registered for iA as of June 1, 2017

14
Student-run companies currently in business

135
iA approved courses taught each semester

58
Students received academic credit for starting their business

$1.2 million
in venture funding for student-run businesses

OUR WORK

One of the goals of iA is to change the way our university teaches based on the way students learn. The growth of the program will distinguish UNM from other universities because we are reinventing ourselves using our state’s rich scientific, artistic and cultural resources.
The UNM innovation Academy (iA), in partnership with UNM and CNM, provides an unexpected pathway to a graduate degree. With the 2 + 1 + 2 program, students can transition from an associate degree, through a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree, and into a Master of Business Administration in a total of five years. The program not only offers an expedited path through all three degree programs, but delivers unique and important features to help ease transitions between degrees.

42 Students Currently Enrolled

Program Mentors:
The core feature of this program is a dedicated advisor to mentor and guide students through all three degree programs. This advisor, housed within the iA, provides the continuity research suggests is a key contributor to academic success and degree completion.

Affordability:
A graduate of a New Mexico High School on the Lottery Scholarship can complete all three degrees, (including incidental fees), for less than $12,000, far below the average debt of a New Mexico four-year college graduate at $28,000 and significantly lower than the average cost of an AACSB MBA which comes in between $45,000 and $60,000 for the graduate degree alone. The AACSB MBA is the gold-standard in MBA programs, and UNM’s Business School holds this accreditation.

The Darwin International Institute for the Study of Compassion

iA will facilitate the US office of DIISC, hosting the collaborative efforts of US institutions including Stanford University and Harvard University to promote Graduate education and research in compassion. Doctoral fellowships will be awarded to outstanding candidates pursuing this field at UNM and partner institutions. Currently, 3 fellowships for UNM students have been secured and additional funding is anticipated in the near future.

Internship Fairs

Students mingle with start-ups and entrepreneurial-minded employers looking for interns at our bi-annual internship fair. The Spring 2017 fair drew 157 students looking for experiential learning opportunities.

Lobo Labs

In partnership with Creative Startups, iA is offering a for-credit startup bootcamp in Fall 2017. The course will help students further develop their creative ideas for market entry.

New Course

Learn about patents, trademarks, copyrights, products, services, and revenue streams. Students will identify or develop products/services and pitch their ideas at the Fall 2017 iA/STC.UNM Pitch Competition.
IA & STC.UNM Pitch Competition

Each semester, in partnership with STC.UNM, the innovationAcademy hosts a pitch competition where students can earn money to help start or grow their business. The competition is an enormous success, and we plan to make it bigger and better in coming years!

91% of student businesses that participated in the pitch competition are currently in business

207% increase in pitch competition participation from Fall 2016 to Spring 2017

This year, two winners received an ALL EXPENSE paid trip to the European Innovation Academy in Turin, Italy. We are excited to see what knowledge and experience they bring back to UNM to share with us!

The Mandela-Washington Fellowship Program

innovationAcademy, in partnership with the US Department of State and UNM Sustainability Studies, welcomed 25 leaders from Africa to explore entrepreneurial opportunities in Albuquerque for 6 weeks. Selected from a pool of over 64,000 applicants, these fellows represent promising opportunities for trans-continental business development.

Disney College Program

UNM students and students across the country live, learn, & earn as Disney Interns for a semester. iA facilitates awarding credit to both UNM and non-UNM students for their participation.

"Participating in the Disney College program is one of the best things I have ever done! I was able to meet people from around the world, be introduced to how large companies operate, and enhance my communication skills to be able to understand a more diverse group of people. I loved every moment of it there and was able to receive credit from UNM by taking a collegiate class while I was there, and then also by taking an innovative class the semester after my program. I highly recommend the Disney College Program to anyone at UNM, even if they don't think it fits with their degree, because they will obtain valuable life skills (such as time management and good work ethic) all while receiving credit from the University!"

-Sherre Chevalier, UNM and DCP Alumni

33 students participated in 2016-2017
OTHER INITIATIVES

The Lobo Rainforest building

Why do we call it the Lobo Rainforest Building?

Because a human ecosystem is like a rainforest in which human creativity, business acumen, scientific discovery, investment capital, and other elements come together in a special recipe that nurtures budding ideas so they can grow into flourishing and sustainable enterprises.

The goal is for innovationAcademy-connected students to live, work and play at the Innovate ABQ site. The ia staff offices will be located on the Lobo Rainforest ground floor, alongside technology transfer programs run by UNM and some of the national laboratories, to help students build and grow new companies.

Opening
August 2017

More than 350 young entrepreneurs, from all over the world, gathered in Manhattan in June 2017 to encourage, inspire, and collaborate with each other. The Next Gen Summit, a conference created by and for millennial entrepreneurs, was the perfect venue for UNM’s innovationAcademy to spread the word about what UNM and the academy have to offer these future leaders.

As part of the Albuquerque Innovation Central national marketing campaign, we attended the conference to connect with entrepreneurial-minded young people in hopes of bringing them to UNM and Albuquerque.

The conference was a success, and we are confident we began relationships with future Albuquerque entrepreneurs!
Crafted is a company providing an innovative way to create sustainable baked goods using spent grains, while cross-promoting local breweries and bakeries.

As of June 1, Crafted has agreements with House of Bread, and CNM Culinary for baking and Bow & Arrow, Santa Fe, Bosque and Marble breweries for grain supply.

The business idea came out of the Collaborative Startup Project course, a course managed by and hosted under the academy, but facilitated by an iA student.

More Student Businesses!

**Inde Beats**
connects local artists and listeners onto one platform via 30 second and under videos

**Pencil In**
New software to make data entry into computers painless

**Blossom Beauty**
a cosmetic subscription service providing a convenient and affordable way to sample animal-friendly and natural cosmetics

**Wyrd**
Flipboard for online entertainment

**Savvy**
a social budgeting fintech app

**FormaPop**
Baby bottle attachment that contains built-in formula storage for convenience on the go

**Signal Bundle**
A bundled & downloadable collection of platform-agnostic open-source, creative commons, and public domain information

**Back to Earth Productions**
An entertainment experience fueled by block chain technology

**The Cornivore**
a gourmet popcorn company

**TABS**
a mobile application for bar/brewery/restaurant expedited payment service
OUR PLANS

Over the next year, we will continue to work to find new and exciting ways to introduce UNM students to the world of entrepreneurship through innovation and creativity.

Widening Our Reach & Impact

We aim to reach as many students at the university as possible, to share the idea of being an innovator in any field. We will continue to do this through the expansion or continuation of many of our currently successful programs:

- Bi-Annual Pitch Competitions
- Bi-Annual Internship Fairs
- Fall Recruiting Class Visits
- New Course Offerings

Dedicated 2+1+2 Advisor

The cornerstone of the 2+1+2 Program will be an advisor dedicated to our 2+1+2 students. This advisor will be a continuous point of contact for these students as they transition through the three degrees.

This advisor will be officially on iA staff by August 1, 2017.

Urban Innovation Graduate Certificate

Beginning in Fall 2017, the School of Architecture and Planning in collaboration with innovationAcademy will offer a graduate certificate in Urban Innovation with concentrations in Design, Policy, or Energy. The program will deliver synergistic learning opportunities across disciplines.

Tech Navigator Challenge

Proposed Kickoff: January 15, 2018
Proposed Finals/Luncheon Awards Ceremony: March 15, 2018

A competition/learning experience in collaboration with Air Force Research Lab, Sandia National Laboratories, STC.UNM, the Bioscience Center, the City of Albuquerque, and City Alive, facilitated by the innovationAcademy at the University of New Mexico.

Teams of students from UNM and CNM will take part in an 8-week competition to create commercialization plans for existing technology. Students may enroll in an optional 8-week course.

Teams will work with mentors to create commercialization plans for existing technologies from our partners with the option to create a business at the conclusion of the challenge.
OUR PARTNERS

Thank you to our generous funding partners!

New Mexico Gas Company
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Daniels Fund

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