

CAREERS FOR

Cultural Studies

MAJORS

Critical cultural studies majors immerse students in interdisciplinary investigations of histories, communities, and human perspectives. These fields examine cultural phenomena such as political structures, social movements, and media with an emphasis on power, social organization, and the experiences of historically marginalized people. Several UNM departments offer majors that fall under this umbrella, each using a distinctive lens and operating within a rich scholarly tradition. Because students in these majors often have similar career interests, we have grouped them together for the purposes of this guide. Cultural studies majors offered at UNM include:

- [Africana Studies](#)
- [American Studies](#)
- [Chicana and Chicano Studies](#)
- [Native American Studies](#)
- [Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies](#)

Students in these majors gain outstanding writing and critical thinking skills and an in-depth knowledge of their chosen focus areas. These disciplines are politically engaged, challenging students to grapple with issues of justice and equity. Graduates have the opportunity to make huge impacts in New Mexico, using their rigorous understanding of cultures, histories and systems of power to create sustainable, community-based solutions to our most pressing challenges. Graduates often pursue careers in the fields of law, policy, education, social services, and community organizing.

Industries & Occupations

K-12 and Higher Education

- Elementary school teacher,* secondary school teacher,* school administrator,* instructional coordinator, university faculty,* student services, multicultural student programming, advising

Government, Law and Policy

- Lawyer,* elected official, public policy, public administration, policy analyst, lobbying, advocacy, civil rights, human rights, international affairs

Nonprofit and Social Services

- Counselor,* social worker,* youth advocate, case worker, community organizer, religious work, program management, program evaluation

Museums and Cultural Affairs

- Community education, cultural preservation, curator, translator, researcher, writer, editor

*Requires a license or graduate degree

Graduate School & Other Training

Some cultural studies graduates pursue doctoral study in their chosen discipline. There are also a range of professional programs that may appeal to cultural studies majors. Some graduates pursue further training to obtain the licensure required for certain professions, like law, teaching and social work. Keep in mind that admissions requirements vary by program.

- [UNM School of Law](#)
- [NMHU School of Social Work](#)
- [UNM Master's in Public Policy](#)
- [UNM School of Public Administration](#)
- [UNM Master's in Secondary Education with Licensure](#)
- [CNM Alternative Teacher Licensure](#)

Selected Employment & Internship Opportunities

Nonprofit and community organizations, including:

- [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central New Mexico](#)
- [Indian Pueblo Cultural Center](#)
- [National Hispanic Cultural Center](#)
- [Rape Crisis Center of Central New Mexico](#)
- [Youth Development Inc.](#)

[City of Albuquerque](#), various departments including:

- [Environmental Health](#)
- [Family and Community Services](#)
- [Legal](#)

[State of New Mexico](#), various departments including:

- [Children, Youth and Families Department](#)
- [Department of Cultural Affairs](#)
- [Department of Health](#)

[Federal government](#), various departments including:

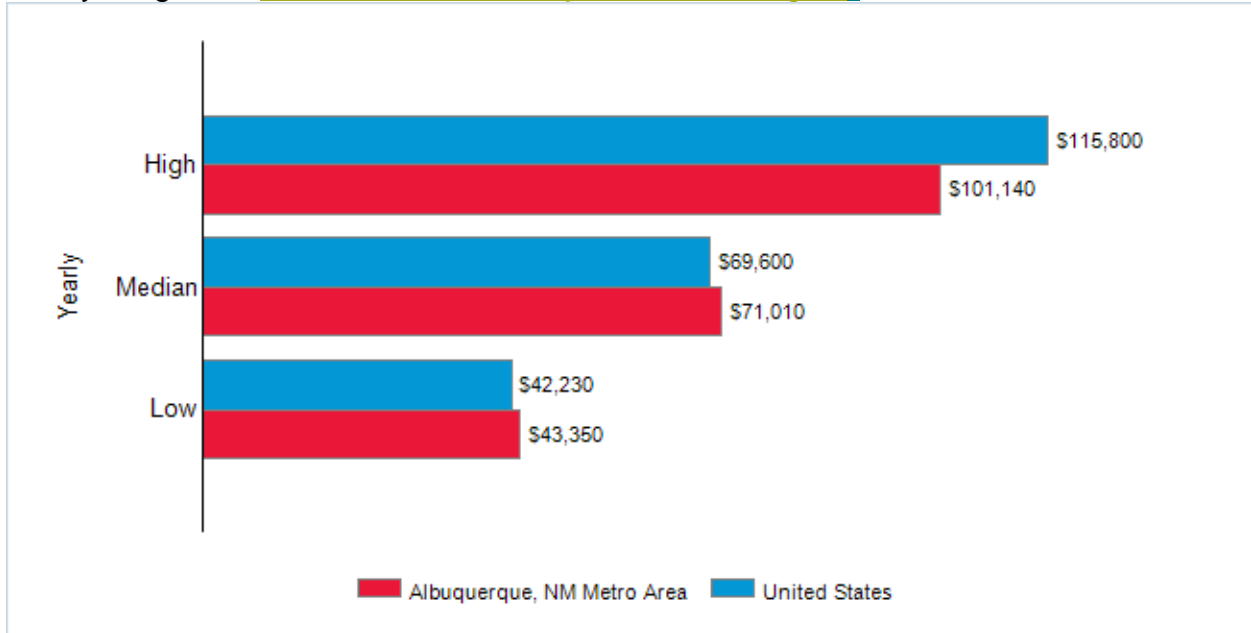
- [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#)
- [Department of State](#)
- [National Parks Service](#)

National service programs, including:

- [AmeriCorps New Mexico](#)
- [Peace Corps](#)
- [City Year](#)
- [Public Allies New Mexico](#)
- [Teach for America](#)

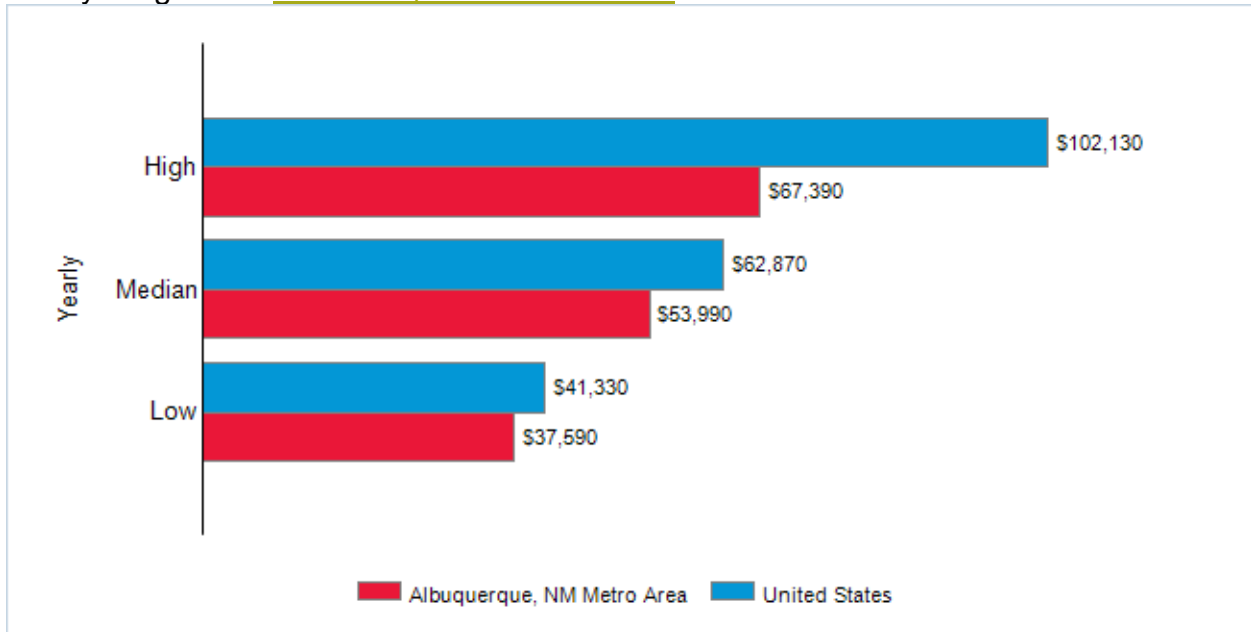
Salary Information

Yearly Wages for Social and Community Service Managers* in NM:



[*Career One Stop](#)

Yearly Wages* for Secondary School Teachers**



[*Career One Stop](#)

**Requires teacher licensure

Tips

- What issues from your classes are you most passionate about? Seek out community organizations working in those areas. Hands-on experience through jobs, internships and volunteer work will help you find focus in your field, plus building the skills and relationships that will allow a smooth transition to a job, graduate program or both.
- Ask your academic adviser, faculty adviser and professors about classes that include an internship or service learning component. For example, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies offers a class called Feminism in Action in which students complete an internship in the community.
- Did you know that by serving in any [AmeriCorps program](#), you can earn an [education award](#) to help pay for graduate school?
- Interested in working for the federal government? Special programs for [students and recent grads](#) are a great way to get started.
- Get an up-close up look at the field by conducting an [informational interview](#) with a professional who works in the field.

Learn More

UNM Departments

- [Africana Studies](#)
- [American Studies](#)
- [Chicana and Chicano Studies](#)
- [Native American Studies](#)
- [Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies](#)

Professional Associations

- [American Studies Association](#)
- [National Council for Black Studies](#)
- [National Association of African American Studies](#)
- [National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies](#)
- [National Women's Studies Association](#)
- [Native American and Indigenous Studies Association](#)

Resources

- [Buzzfile Employers by Major](#)
- [Center for Nonprofit Excellence – Jobs](#)
- [Register for Handshake: Jobs for Lobos](#)
- [Idealist](#)
- [O*NET](#)
- [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)
 - [Community and Social Service Occupations](#)
 - [Education, Training and Library Occupations](#)
 - [Legal Occupations](#)
 - [Media and Communication Occupations](#)

- [Student Activities Center](#), various organizations including:
 - American Studies Graduate Student Association
 - Chicanx Studies Student Collective
 - Generation Action
 - Generation Justice of UNM
 - Food Justice Initiative

Questions?

Visit UNM Career Services! Call 277-2531 to schedule an appointment. Come to our in person walk-in hours (check our website for days and hours) or email us directly to schedule or with any career questions you may have at onlinecareerservices@unm.edu.