

New Mexico State University
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

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Departmental Vision Statement

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction at New Mexico State University provides a complex, diverse, and professional environment for students to grow as socially responsive educators and professionals in a variety of disciplines. The department prepares teachers for schools, community agencies, post-secondary teaching and scholarship, and educational leadership through programs in Bilingual Education; Critical Pedagogies; Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education; Language, Literacy, and Culture; Learning Technologies; and, TESOL through a critical multicultural lens. The department is composed of diverse and experienced educational practitioners, scholars, and activists who support learners in a multiplicity of ways. We envision and enact dispositions, competencies, and pedagogies that will build and sustain social justice communities within geo-political, socio-cultural, and historical contexts. These contexts inform how knowledge is shaped and represented, transforming classrooms, schools, and communities.

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction recruits students who show potential and interest, both personal and professional, to embrace multicultural education and a social justice view of curriculum and pedagogy. Students must commit themselves to take risks to develop the knowledges, dispositions, competencies, and pedagogies to transform themselves, their classrooms, their schools, and their communities. The multicultural professional experience for undergraduates and graduates at New Mexico State University is intended to enable students to begin a process of learning about themselves, their social roles, and the necessity of that process for their socio-cultural and socio-political transformations. The department demands learning as activism, which is fundamental for students and faculty to become responsible and committed professionals to create educational, cultural, and social change. Change emanates from understanding the intersections of race, ethnicity, nationality, class, gender, language, gender orientation, sexuality, diverse abilities, and many other hidden or seemingly invisible manifestations.