

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Connor Jorgensen</b>
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**

**[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov)**

*(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

**Date Prepared:** 2/15/2025 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** HB375 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Reps. Ferrary, E. Chavez, Jones, and Cates and Sen. Lopez **Agency Name and Code** University of New Mexico-952  
**Short Title:** Graduate Behavioral Health Scholarship Act **Person Writing** Lenaya Montoya  
**Title:** Scholarship Act **Phone:** 5052771670 **Email** lenayamontoya@unm.edu

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
	\$10,000,000	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>						

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: HB 89, SB 68  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

##### Synopsis:

HB 375 enacts the “Graduate Behavioral Health Scholarship Act” to provide debt-free education to eligible graduate students who are studying to become behavioral health professionals. Affected grad programs/fields: counseling, psychiatric nursing, nurse practitioner or physician assistant in addiction medicine; psychology; social work. HB 375 creates the “graduate behavioral health scholarship fund” and appropriates \$10M to create and administer a scholarship program that pays tuition/fees, books, and licensing application/fees for full-time students enrolled in behavior health grad programs who commit to practice in the state of New Mexico. It allows students to receive scholarship support for as many years as they commit to practice in New Mexico, and it provides for a penalty of up to 3x the value of the scholarship for those who default on the contract obligation to practice in New Mexico.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

UNM cannot comment on the overall fiscal implications of the bill, but can provide the most recent UNM official enrollments (2023-24) for eligible fields:

- COUNSELING
  - Master of Arts in Counseling 99
  - Certificate in Advanced Grad Counseling 1
- NURSING
  - Nursing Certificate 7
  - Master of Science in Nursing 76
  - PhD Nursing 19
  - Doctor of Nursing Practice 104
  - (Please note we do not have breakdowns for how many of these nursing students focus on psychiatric nursing or addiction medicine specifically.)
- MEDICINE
  - Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies 44
  - (Please note we do not have a breakdown for how many of these PA students focus on addiction medicine specifically.)
- PSYCHOLOGY
  - PhD Psychology 71
- SOCIAL WORK
  - UNM does not currently have a graduate program in social work

Cost to support students with scholarship support:

- Total students in all eligible fields: 421
- Cost of attendance estimate for full-time students:
  - Resident \$10,800/year
  - Non-resident \$29,715/year

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

There are several details that are not addressed in the bill, raising questions that will need clarification before the scholarship could be administered. These issues may need to be clarified in the bill, or HED must be empowered to make decisions accordingly:

1. Bill does not define what is meant by “practice in the state.” Does this mean full-time clinical practice? (Is part-time clinical practice allowed, and if so how will this change the practice requirement contract?)
2. Can the practice requirements be fulfilled concurrently with the period of graduate training? Most grad trainees in the specified fields are engaged in practice experiences that serve the state during the same period that they are completing their graduate programs. Will this count toward the practice requirement?
3. Must the practice requirements be fulfilled immediately after graduation? PhD students who graduate in Psychology, for example, must complete a residency and postdoc training elsewhere before they could realistically return to NM to complete their practice requirement?
4. Must the practice requirement be fulfilled in consecutive years? If not, should the requirement be framed as a certain time period (e.g. requirement must be fulfilled within 5 or 10 years)?

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

## **ALTERNATIVES**

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

UNM will continue to provide degree programs in the fields listed above, and students in these programs will be eligible for scholarship aid under a variety of existing programs including those authorized under the Graduate Scholarship Act.

## **AMENDMENTS**