



Luna to be closed for spring break *8-week courses begin on March 15*

Luna Community College in Las Vegas and its campuses in Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer will be closed on Thursday, March 11, and Friday, March 12, for spring break.

The college will resume its regular hours on Monday, March 15. Eight-week courses at Luna begin on March 15 and end on Friday, May 14. For more information on eight-week courses, please go to luna.edu and click on the link Schedule of Courses. The last day to register for 8-week courses is Friday, March 19.

The last day to register for PE 112 at the Gerald P. Ortega Wellness Center is Friday, March 19.

This file photo depicts how beautiful the main campus at Luna is.



Luna Community College opens Gerald P. Ortega Wellness Center

Luna Community College's Gerald P. Ortega Wellness Center will be open beginning on Monday, March 1, following a new Public Health Order.

If you are a returning student or currently taking a class at the college you can call the Luna Registrar's Office at 505-454-5313. If you are a new student, or have not taken a class at Luna for over a year, visit our website at luna.edu and click on the link Apply Now. You may also call Luna's Admissions Office at 505-454-2550.

The current Public Health Order allows Luna to reopen the Wellness Center at 33 percent occupancy. The class that individuals can sign up for is PE 112 which is a self-paced one credit course and allows access to all wellness equipment.

The Gerald P. Ortega Wellness Center will be open

from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays. The last day to register is Friday, March 19. The last day of the spring semester ends on Friday, May 14.

COVID-19 protocols will take place which includes a daily temperature check and a health questionnaire. Face masks will be worn at all times.

The cost of the class will be \$48. If you are 55 and over the cost is \$30. For more information, you may call Gerald P. Ortega Wellness Center Director Carl Vigil at 505-454-2517 or the admissions office at 505-454-2550.

Note: The hours of operation and occupancy level could change depending on any new Public Health Orders.

More college students now eligible for SNAP food benefits through Coronavirus relief

SANTA FE – Thousands of New Mexico college students might be eligible for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits, commonly known as food stamps, announced the New Mexico Human Services Department and Higher Education Department.

“The pandemic has created many economic challenges particularly for college students and families with limited resources,” said Cabinet Secretary David R. Scrase, M.D. “Jobs for college students are scarce. College students have either had their hours reduced or lost their job altogether, making it difficult to meet their basic needs. We look forward to working with the Higher Education Department to spread the word and extend food benefits to New Mexico college students and urge congress to make this a permanent change.”

“Food insecurity should never be a barrier to academic success,” said Acting Higher Education Department Secretary Stephanie Rodriguez. “It is our job to reflect the needs of students during this pandemic and beyond, and action is vital to ensure that no student goes hungry. We’re working with our partners at colleges and universities across the state to raise awareness about the expansion of SNAP benefits for college students and their families.”

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, [temporarily expands](#) SNAP eligibility to include students enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education, who either:

- Are eligible to participate in state or federally financed work study during the regular school year, as determined by the institution of higher education.
- Have an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$0 in the current academic year.

Beginning on Jan. 16, 2021, [students](#) who meet one of the two criteria outlined above may receive SNAP if they meet all other financial and non-financial SNAP eligibility criteria. This eligibility will remain in place until 30 days after the public health emergency ends. Since the Biden Administration has advised that the declaration will most likely remain in place at least until the end of 2021 and states will have 60 days-notice before it ends, this policy change will more than likely be something that can help families for the remainder of the crisis.

New Mexico college students who would like to apply should visit: www.yes.state.nm.us

According to the 2020 University of New Mexico [Basic Needs Insecurity Research Report](#), food insecurity can impact academic success and student health and well-being. Food insecurity is associated with lower grades and a greater likelihood of students withdrawing or otherwise de-

ferring or suspending their studies. Students who are food insecure are less likely to report a sense of belonging, more likely to feel they are not welcome to engage with faculty, and less likely to access campus services. Overall, at the University of New Mexico, the prevalence of food insecurity among students is 32 percent, with American Indian students at 52 percent, and Hispanic students at 35 percent.

In New Mexico, the rate for food insecure households is 16.9 percent. Many institutions of higher education are working on the issue:

The University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Highlands University, Western New Mexico University, Santa Fe Community College, and Northern New Mexico College have implemented food pantries.

University of New Mexico’s food pantry began in 2014 and has served over 8,700 students by providing free groceries once a month. New Mexico State University’s food pantry distributes food bags twice a week. New Mexico Highlands University gives pre-boxed packages to students, faculty and staff twice a month and Santa Fe Community College’s students may visit their food pantry once a week. Northern New Mexico College’s includes access to locally grown produce with their farm to food pantry programs.

A January 2019 Government Accountability Office [report](#) found that at least one in three college students do not always have enough to eat. Additionally, 71 percent of college students today do not fit the model of a “typical” college student and may be financially independent, work at least part time, enroll in and stay in college at a later age, or have dependent children. These factors, when paired with other challenges students face like cost of tuition, lodging and/or transportation, books, and supplies, can create significant barriers to making ends meet. The report includes a literature review of 31 studies of college hunger and indicated there was a range of 9-50 percent of students who experienced food insecurity on campuses but that in 22 of these studies, food insecurity was estimated to be above 30 percent of the students surveyed.

The Human Services Department provides services and benefits to more than 1 million New Mexicans through several programs including: the Medicaid Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Support Program, and several Behavioral Health Services.

Note: This article was provided by the New Mexico Human Services Department.



Photo of the edition. This photo, submitted by Ashley Kayla Gallegos, captures as Gallegos puts it: The beauty of a hard day's work at Santa Rosa State Park.

*“Creating
Opportunities
for You!”*



This photo of the Pecos River in El Valle was taken right after the last snowfall.

Luna business program earns top ranking from website

College also rated among best in New Mexico

Luna Community College's associate degree program in business administration has been ranked No. 1 in the nation by the independent website Intelligent.com for 2021.

According to Jase Beard of Intelligent.com, the rankings are calculated through a scoring system that takes into account "student engagement, potential return on investment and leading third-party evaluations," with evaluation based on "curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation and post-graduate employment."

Previously, Luna's associate in business administration was ranked



No. 2 overall and No. 1 in terms of affordability by Intelligent.com, a Seattle-based website that researched 2,277 accredited colleges and universities to develop its annual guide for consumers. The two-year degree program is available entirely online through the LCC School of Business.



Additionally, Luna Community College was rated among the top colleges in New Mexico, garnering particular praise as "Best for Small Class Sizes." The college remains committed to providing academic and workforce training opportunities to students while keeping costs affordable. Base tuition rates start at \$40 a credit hour for in-district students; additional fees may apply.

For more information on Luna and its nearly three dozen programs leading to associate degrees or certificates, please see LUNA.edu or call 505-454-2500 or 800-588-7232.

ACE Lab Coordinator Raymond Varela along with ACE tutors prepare for a virtual writing workshop that took place on Friday, Feb. 26. It was a free workshop for Luna students. For more information on the ACE Lab, please call Varela at 505-454-5306.



Zoom informational session for Luna students on March 18

Student Services will provide information to Luna students about available resources during a Zoom session from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., on Thursday, March 18.

Where: Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/98594545022?pwd=dGEvRnQzZXNl9CR3h1VEcyY2F6UT09>

When: 9 a.m. 10 a.m., Thursday, March 18

Learn more about:

- Financial Aid
- Tutoring
- Distance Learning/Pathways
- Library resources
- Bookstore
- Advising/Counseling

For more information, call the Student Success Center at 505-454-2549.

Join our team and help us serve our communities!

Employment opportunities

Positions available at Luna Community College

FULL-TIME

- General maintenance II (INTERNAL LISTING ONLY at this time) ... opened Feb. 26, 2021
- Branch campus & location coordinator ... opened Jan. 15, 2021
- Custodian I ... opened Jan. 15, 2021

TEMPORARY PART-TIME

- Preschool substitute teacher/ caretaker ... opened Sept. 30, 2020

ADJUNCT (per course)

- Career & Technical Education —

automotive instructor, Springer ... opened Nov. 21, 2019

- Career & Technical Education — welding instructor, Santa Rosa ... opened Oct. 31, 2019
- Career & Technical Education — CDL instructor ... opened August 28, 2019
- Career & Technical Education — collision repair instructor ... opened June 6, 2018

Most recent postings listed first. All positions open until filled unless otherwise noted. For more information



on each position, please log on to our website at <https://www.luna.edu/jobs>



Interested in nursing school?

TEAS

Nursing Entrance Exam

March 2021

Test dates



Scheduling for the following dates is taking place now.

Tuesday, March 2	1:30 p.m.
Monday, March 8	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 9	10 a.m.
Wednesday, March 10	1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 16	8:30 a.m.
Friday, March 19	10 a.m.
Thursday, March 25	1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 30	8:30 a.m.

To reserve a test date, contact:

Yvonne Pina
505-454-2525
ypina@luna.edu

Please provide your phone number and preferred exam date in your e-mail.

Please create an account with ATI prior to the exam date. To create an account, go to atitesting.com, click on Create Account. On the day of your exam, please arrive 10 minutes early to log in and register for the exam. You will need to bring a debit/credit card to purchase the exam (\$70 per attempt) and a photo ID for identification verification. A calculator is available in ATI, and the proctor will provide paper and pencils for use during the exam. All materials will be collected by the proctor before you leave the exam site. No late admission to testing area.



College Scorecard:

The U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard has the most reliable data on college costs, graduation and post-college earnings. Visit collegescorecard.ed.gov

The Luna Light is a publication of the Luna Community College Office of Public Relations. To submit story ideas or items for consideration, please e-mail Jesse Gallegos, jgallegos@luna.edu, and Dave Kavanaugh, dkavanaugh@luna.edu.



March 8, 2021

The 55th Legislature's regular session began on Jan. 19 and will end at noon March 20. Deadline for introduction of legislation was Feb. 18. Due to COVID-19 precautions, access to the Roundhouse is limited this session while both chambers are employing both teleconferencing and social distancing to conduct business. Luna @ The Legislature, an initiative of the Luna Community College Office of Public Relations, provides a weekly update on the session to inform the campus community.

Legislation of particular interest to Luna Community College, filed as of publication deadline:

House Bill 2 General Appropriations Act, introduced Jan. 19 by Patricia Lundstrom ... Among other appropriations, sets aside \$867 million from general fund, \$672,300 from other state funds, \$52.9 million from internal service funds and interagency transfers, and \$10.8 million from federal funds to higher education department for spending or allocation to higher

education agencies in fiscal year 2022 ... Amended version passed House 60-10; now in Senate Finance Committee.

HB 25 LESC Study of Public & Postsecondary Education, introduced Jan. 4 by G. Andres Romero ... Tasks Legislative Education Study Committee to study issues pertaining to public schools and public postsecondary education in New Mexico. Passed House 66-0; currently in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 43 Black Education Act, introduced Jan. 5 by Sheryl Williams Stapleton ... Requires development of racial sensitivity and anti-racism training for public education and higher education.

Amended version passed House 67-0; now in Senate Education Committee.

HB 83 Change Graduation Requirements, introduced Jan. 13 by G. Andres Romero ... Calls for high school students receiving opportunity to prepare next-step plans to include curricular and course options such as dual credit, career pathways, college prep. Amended

version passed House 66-1; now in Senate Education Committee.

HB 87 Yazzie Lawsuit Higher Ed Funding, introduced Jan. 14 by Derrick Lente ... Makes appropriations to state institutions of higher education and tribal colleges to comply with the Martinez & Yazzie v. New Mexico lawsuit by improving educational outcomes for certain students and families. Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee.

HB 100 College & Career Readiness Systems, introduced Jan. 15 by Raymundo Lara ... Funds \$3 million for college and career readiness systems statewide and sets requirements to receive funding. Amended version currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee. (See also SB 107.)

HB 101 New Mexico Lottery Educational Assistance Act, introduced Jan. 15 by Raymundo Lara, Phelps Anderson, Randall Pettigrew, Steven

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Neville ... Adds certain other types of gaming as potential revenue sources for state lottery educational assistance program. Currently in House Education Committee.

HB 117 General Appropriations Act of 2021, introduced Jan. 19 by Patricia Lundstrom and Nathan Small ... Among other appropriations, funds \$6,984,200 for instruction and general purposes, \$1,866,600 other and \$453,200 athletics, along with \$483,800 student retention and completion, \$251,000 nurse expansion at Luna Community College. Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee. (See also SB 176.)

HB 131 Assistant Secretary of Hispanic Education, introduced Jan. 19 by Christine Trujillo ... Creates position of assistant secretary of Hispanic education in the Higher Education Department. Amended version passed House 44-19; now being introduced in Senate.

HB 133 College Hunger Reduction Pilot Program, introduced Jan. 19 by Joanne Ferrary, Karen Bash, Melanie Stansbury ... Appropriates \$100,000 to Higher Education Department for pilot program. Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee.

HB 217 Public health emergency lottery scholarships, introduced Feb. 2 by Micaela Lara Cadena ... Amends eligibility requirements for student to receive legislative lottery scholarship during public health emergency. Amended version passed House 67-0; now in Senate Education Committee.

HB 218 Student Loan Bill of Rights Act, introduced Feb. 2 by Patricia Roybal Caballero and Katy Duhigg... Enacts regulations over student loan servicers. Currently in House Judiciary Committee. (See also SB 164.)

HB 285 Capital Outlay Projects, introduced Feb. 16 by Javier Martinez ... Provides for severance tax bonds and includes \$103,500 to plan, design, construct, renovate, purchase, equip and install fire alarm systems campuswide at Luna Community College. Also appropriates for educational retirement board facility work. Currently in House Taxation & Revenue Committee.

HB 289 College Faculty Minimum Wage, introduced Feb. 16 by Christine Trujillo ... Sets minimum wage and makes other provisions for non-tenure track faculty. Currently in House Labor, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee.

HB 294 Gaming Revenue to Lottery Tuition Fund, introduced Feb. 18 by Derrick Lente ... Distributes a portion of the Indian gaming revenue to the lottery tuition fund. Currently in House Education Committee.

HB 297 Workforce and Economic Prosperity Act, introduced Feb. 18 by Angelica Rubio ... Creates Workforce and Economic Prosperity Council, creates council and mandates development of statewide framework to develop clean energy workforce and sustainable economy. Amended version currently on House calendar for vote.

HB 302 Financial Literacy for Graduation introduced Feb. 18 by Cathrynn Brown and Gail Armstrong ... Creates financial literacy requirement for high school students, involving preparation of next-step plan to include exposure to college and career options, etc. Amended version currently in House Education Committee.

House Memorial 13 North NM Satellite Public Safety Training Center, introduced Feb. 18 by Andrea Romero. Requests Department of Public Safety to convene working group to discuss creation of a satellite law enforcement and first responder training center in

northern New Mexico. Currently in House Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 21 Retiree Health Care Act, introduced Jan. 19 by Roberto Gonzales and Natalie Figueroa ... Changes retiree health care act to conform to federal patient protection and Affordable Care Act. Amended version passed Senate 31-9; now in House State Government, Elections & Indian Affairs Committee.

SB 39 Names of Finalists for Executive Positions, introduced Jan. 19 by Bill Tallman ... Exempts records for certain appointive executive position applicants from public inspection pursuant to the Inspection of Public Records Act. Currently in Senate Judiciary Committee.

SB 42 Increase to Educational Retirement Contributions, introduced Jan. 19 by Mimi Stewart ... Increases certain contributions to the educational retirement fund. Amended version passed Senate 36-6; currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee.

SB 77 Two Plus Two Pilot Program, introduced Jan. 19 by Gay Kernan ... Creates regional Two Plus Two pilot project to establish seamless transition from community college to university and measure student and institutional outcomes. Passed Senate 37-0; currently in House Education Committee.

SB 94 Student Athlete Endorsement Act, introduced Jan. 19 by Mark Moores, Bill O'Neill and Antonio Maestas ... Changes limitations against student athletes earning compensation through use of their name, image or likeness. Amended version passed Senate 39-0; now in House Commerce & Economic Development Committee.

SB 107 Career Readiness Systems Statewide, introduced Jan. 19 by Roberto Gonzales ... Funds \$3 million for college

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and career readiness systems statewide and sets requirements to receive funding. Currently in Senate Education Committee. (See also HB 100).

SB 135 Opportunity Scholarship Act, introduced Jan. 31, by Bill O'Neill and Joy Garratt ... Creates Opportunity Scholarship fund for two-year and four-year colleges and universities. Amended version currently in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 148 Diversity Commission, introduced Jan. 31 by Mimi Stewart ... Creates Commission on Diversity, Equity and Excellence in Education. Amended version now on Senate calendar for vote.

SB 151 Educational Loan Repayment, introduced Jan. 31 by David Gallegos ... Enacts Instructional Support Provider Loan Repayment Act. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 158 Career Job Readiness Programs Funding, introduced Jan. 31 by Pete Campos ... Appropriates \$575,000 to Workforce Solutions Department for job readiness programs for youth and adults. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 164 Student Loan Bill of Rights Act, introduced Jan. 31 Katy Duhigg... Enacts regulations over student loan servicers. Currently in Senate Judiciary Committee. (See also HB 218.)

SB 165 NMFA Public Projects, introduced Jan. 31 by Shannon Pinto and Nancy Rodriguez ... Authorizes the New Mexico Finance Authority to make loans for public projects from the public project revolving fund available to various entities including Luna Community College for building, equipment, infrastructure, debt refinance, road, land acquisition, water, wastewater, water rights and solid waste projects. Currently in Senate Indian, Rural & Cultural Affairs Committee.

SB 169 Create Higher Ed Coordinating Council, introduced Jan. 31 by Roberto Gonzales ... Creates Higher Education Coordinating Council, gives HED sole authority to approve capital expenditures of state postsecondary institutions. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 176 General Appropriation Act of 2021, introduced Jan. 31 by George Munoz ... Among other appropriations, funds \$6,984,200 for instruction and general purposes, \$1,866,600 other and \$453,200 athletics, along with \$483,800 student retention and completion, \$251,000 nurse expansion at Luna Community College. Currently in Senate Finance Committee. (See also HB 117.)

SB 233 Student Bill of Rights, introduced Feb. 1 by Linda Lopez ... Enacts Student Bill of Rights for public school students and includes right to access counseling for vocational and other college information, among other rights. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 240 Vocational Training Scholarship Act, introduced Feb. 1 by Cliff Pirtle. Appropriates \$2.55 million and authorizes scholarships for career technical education courses at community colleges ... Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 253 Higher Education Department Libraries, introduced Feb. 1 by Shannon Pinto. Appropriates \$494,000 to HED for improvements in internet access in college and university libraries. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 263 Adult Diploma Program Act, introduced Feb. 1 by Craig Brandt ... Establishes program and contract guidelines for provision of workforce diploma services. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 305 Capital Outlay Reform Act, introduced Feb. 1 by Pete Campos ... Creates committee, task force and capital

planning & assistance division in DFA to consider capital projects. Currently in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 337 Workplace Preparation School Programs, introduced Feb. 10 by Roberto Gonzales ... Appropriates \$750,000 for academically integrated out-of-school and summer programs supporting college and career readiness; includes dual credit and other partnership with postsecondary institutions. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 348 Employment Boot Camp Training, introduced Feb. 10 by Gerald Ortiz y Pino ... Appropriates \$3 million for Central New Mexico community college for development of intensive short-term boot camp training for unemployed and underemployed; curricula to be licensed to other New Mexico colleges. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 375 Officer Training & Certification, introduced Feb. 11 by George Munoz and Stuart Ingle ... Provides for new areas of emergency responder training, creates law enforcement certification board. Amended version currently on Senate calendar for vote.

SB 390 Educational Retirees Returning to Work, introduced Feb. 17 by Mimi Stewart ... Amends regulations on return-to-work and retirement benefits for educational retirees. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

As of 1:30 p.m. March 8, 2021. Compiled by Dave Kavanaugh, LCC Communications & Marketing.

Be **STRONGER** in 2021.



**Join us for
eight-week courses
March 15 through
May 14 at Luna
Community College!**

Last day to register is Friday, March 19.

For more information, please visit LUNA.edu
and click on Schedule of Courses.

AMONG THE COURSES AVAILABLE:

BUSA 1110E Sec. 98	Introduction to Business (DL)	Asynchronous
CJUS 1110E Sec. 99	Intro to Criminal Justice (DL)	Asynchronous
ENG 106 Sec. 1	Reading & Writing for Inquiry	MW 8-10:40 A.M.
ENGL 1110 Sec. 1	Composition II	TR 9 a.m. to noon
PSYC 1110E Sec. 99	Intro to Psychology (DL)	Asynchronous
SOCI 1110E Sec. 99	Intro to Sociology (DL)	Asynchronous
SPAN 1110 Sec. 7	Spanish I	MTWR 4-5:15 p.m.
PE 112 Sec. 70	Physical Fitness (on site, main campus)	MTWRF

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL 505-454-5313!





Luna Community College welding student Isaiah Dominguez works on wire brushing the slag off a one-inch test plate. Dominguez will be seeking to get a American Welding Society certification this semester. For more information on welding, please call 505-454-2530.



Luna Community College Counselor/Advisor Cindy Branch provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities, assists in Accuplacer testing, advises new students, and helps with special projects. Branch is currently working on a suicide prevention project with co-workers and community members. "We are now faced with finding ways to help others get past dark places in our lives, not only during COVID but always. Our community both on campus and off campus has had to deal with many changes that can cause distress or depression. And I feel this a good time to reach out to others more than ever." Students in need of assistance can e-mail her at cbranch@luna.edu. You may also call Branch at 505-454-2541.



The American Dental Assistants Association designated March 7-13 as Dental Assistant Recognition week. Dental assistants are a key part of the dental practice year-round, but they get a special week dedicated to them each year for all the great work they do! Let us take a moment to thank Luna's dental assisting students and faculty.