

Student Loan Code of Conduct

To comply with the 2008 Higher Education Opportunity Act, The University of New Mexico's (UNM) Student Loan Code of Conduct serves to ensure the integrity of the student financial aid process. All UNM employees who have responsibilities with respect to educational loans are required to comply with this Student Loan Code of Conduct.

Neither UNM as an institution nor any individual employee shall enter into any revenue-sharing arrangements with any lender. For the purposes of this document, revenue-sharing is defined to mean any arrangement between an institution and a lender making Title IV loans wherein the institution recommends the lender or the loan products, and in exchange, the lender pays a fee or provides a service to the institution or its employees.

An employee who has responsibilities with respect to education loans, or any of their family members, shall not solicit or accept any gift from a lender, guarantor, or servicer of education loans. For purposes of this prohibition, the term "gift" means any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, or other item having a monetary value of more than a de minimus amount. The term includes a gift of services, transportation, lodging or meals, whether provided in-kind, by purchase of a ticket, payment in advance, or reimbursement after the expense has been incurred.

An employee who has responsibilities with respect to education loans shall not accept from any lender or affiliate of any lender any fee, payment, or other financial benefit (including the opportunity to purchase stock) as compensation for any type of consulting arrangement or other contract to provide services to a lender or on behalf of a lender relating to education loans.

Lender selection- The University of New Mexico shall not, through a financial aid offer or other method, refuse to certify, or delay certification of, any loan based on the borrower's selection of a particular lender or guaranty agency. The University of New Mexico has partnered with two private loan comparison tools, please visit our Private Loan webpage for an approved lender list.

Private Loans- The University of New Mexico shall not certify student eligibility for a private educational loan without first informing the borrower that (a) federal financial assistance (including grants and loans under Title IV) may be available and (b) federal loans may provide more advantageous terms to the borrower than private loans.

The University of New Mexico shall not request or accept from any lender any assistance except if those services are short-term and nonrecurring. Those services may include providing counseling, financial literacy, or debt management materials to borrowers as long as such materials disclose to borrowers the name of the lender that provided or assisted in the preparation of the materials.

Any employee who has responsibilities with respect to education loans or other student financial aid, and who serves on an advisory board, commission, or group established by a lender, guarantor, or group of lenders or guarantors, shall be prohibited from receiving anything of value from the lender, guarantor, or group of lenders or guarantors, except that the employee may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in serving on such advisory board, commission, or group.