

# About the College

## Mission

Mesalands Community College is an institution of higher education that promotes student learning through quality education and services while fostering personal growth, leadership, and opportunity to a culturally diverse community.

## Goals

The goals of Mesalands Community College are to provide:

- An environment where learning is appreciated, encouraged, and assessed.
- Academic and technical programs for qualified individuals to enhance their lifelong educational opportunities, with an emphasis in a general core base of knowledge.
- Accessible, multi-faceted services to qualified participants.
- Opportunities to develop leadership skills and achieve personal growth by valuing academic and social responsibility.
- Quality community service programs responding to the diverse needs of the region.

## General Education Philosophy

One of the goals of higher education is to prepare students with the cultural and social skills which will enable them to participate actively in our society. General education courses are intended to introduce students to a body of knowledge that gives meaning and cohesion to our society, in preparation for life-long learning.

The general education requirements are also intended to prepare the community college student with the academic background and skills to successfully pursue more advanced degrees at colleges and universities and/or to be more successful in a career. To that end, Mesalands Community College has incorporated into each degree and applied science certificate an institutional core of general education.

The College has identified three General Education competencies that all Mesalands Community College graduates should demonstrate upon completion of a degree. General Education competencies are delivered and assessed in specific, identified courses and reinforced and further assessed in discipline courses. These competencies represent the most deeply held values of the College, and are as follows:

**Communication:** Students will read, write, listen and use verbal skills to organize and communicate information and ideas in personal and group settings.

**Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning:** Students will demonstrate mathematical principles and scientific reasoning by applying appropriate methods to the inquiry process.

**Critical Thinking:** Students will identify, evaluate and analyze evidence to guide decision making and communicate their beliefs clearly and accurately.

## History

Mesalands Community College was established as Tucumcari Area Vocational School (TAVS) under the Area Vocational School Act of New Mexico during the thirty-third Legislative Session of the State of New Mexico. In January 1979, an act of the Legislature authorized the establishment of an area vocational school in Tucumcari (Statutory Authority: Sections 21-17-1 through 21-17-17 NMSA 1978). The school was authorized to offer programs of vocational education leading to certificates and diplomas.

In November 1993, the institution was authorized by the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education to offer Associate of Applied Science degrees in Business Administration and Computer Information Systems. In June 1994, the Commission on Higher Education authorized the College to offer the Associate of Applied Science degree for each of its technical/vocational programs. The degree programs were implemented in the fall semester of 1994.

In 1994, the Board of Trustees authorized Tucumcari Area Vocational School to begin doing business as Mesa Technical College in order to more accurately represent the institution to its varied constituents as a small community college.

In the fall semester 1995, Mesa Technical College implemented a pre-collegiate studies program and expanded its course offerings in general education. In the spring semester of 1996, the College began expanding its offerings via distance learning, including the Electronic Distance Education Network (EDEN), a cooperative effort of the universities of New Mexico, PBS and the Internet.

In the spring semester 1996, the College developed programs in paleontology and geology. Mesalands Dinosaur Museum and Natural Science Laboratories were planned, based on a partnership that developed between the College and the community in recognizing, owning, and promoting this region's rich heritage as one of the premiere deposits of fossilized ancient life. The community continues to donate considerable time, energy, and resources to the museum for cataloging specimens and providing sites for further exploration. An outgrowth of planning for separate funding of the museum resulted in the establishment

of Mesa Technical College Foundation, Inc., for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes.

On July 1, 1996, Mesa Technical College came under the direction of a new president, Dr. Phillip Barry, who instituted a concerted effort in strategic planning - a prerequisite to addressing institutional challenges and implementing effective change. The College's new direction has manifested itself in significant changes, including the implementation of student assessment, institutional effectiveness, and curriculum development. The institution's mission and goals were reviewed and revised, appropriate to Mesa's new effort toward community college status.

The president also launched an intensive effort to earn accreditation from The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools. Administration, faculty, and staff set forth on a fast track to compress the two-year process normally needed to earn a site visit from NCA into a period of less than a year. In August 1997, these efforts were rewarded when NCA granted Mesa Technical College candidacy for accreditation. In August of 1999, Mesa was granted the status of initial accreditation by NCA, at which time the state allowed the College to begin offering the Associate of Arts degree. In 2004 Mesalands Community College received 10 years of accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission, a Commission of North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

In the fall of 1998, the College launched a new intercollegiate rodeo program in response to the desires of its students and the locale in which the College is situated. The success of this program led to the establishment of a livestock judging team in 2001.



With the College continuing to grow and mature, the College's name was changed to more adequately reflect its mission. On September 11, 2001, the Board of Trustees renamed the institution Mesalands Community College.

In 2004 the College took to the airwaves when it designed and launched its Mesalands Telecommunication Network (MTN) and Implemented Digital Interactive Television (DITV). Then, in 2005, a Spanish language outreach radio program "La Voz" began airing twice weekly. That same year saw Building Trades start.

A new, expanded Health and Wellness Facility was added to Building A in 2007.

The North American Wind Research and Training Center was initiated in 2005. A commercial-grade, 1.5 megawatt General Electric wind turbine was erected on campus in 2008. During fall semester the same year, classes in Wind Energy Technology were initiated.

In the spring of 2010, Building G was expanded to include the President's Office, the Board of Trustees' Conference Room, four new classrooms, and the Bookstore.

In the fall of 2010, the North American Wind Research and Training Center, a 27,000 square foot building was dedicated.

In the spring of 2011 operations began in the new Wind Center.

In June 2011, Dr. Phillip O. Barry, President of Mesalands Community College, retired after 15 years of dedicated service.

On July 1, 2011, Dr. Mildred P. Lovato became the second President of Mesalands Community College. Dr. Lovato was instrumental in the College hosting the Economic and Rural Development Committee Meeting at the North American Wind Research and Training Center, on July 6-7, 2011. This meeting brought Legislators from across the state to our Campus.

On July 11, 2013, after an extensive nationwide search, the Board of Trustees hired Dr. Thomas W. Newsom, as the next President of Mesalands Community College.

## **The Mesalands Area**

Tucumcari, home of Mesalands Community College, was born out of a railroad construction camp in 1901 when the Rock Island Railroad was pushing a line toward the west coast. Merchants, gamblers, saloonkeepers, and dancehall girls from the rip-roaring cowtown of Liberty dismantled their establishments and moved three miles

south to take advantage of the payrolls of the hard-working, hard-playing railroad gangs. At first, the railroad camp was called Six-Shooter Siding.

After Indian Territory was opened in Oklahoma, the mesalands area surrounding Tatum got an overflow of homesteaders who had arrived in Indian Territory too late to get land. By 1907, there were 20 small towns scattered about Tatum. But it was a hardscrabble life for a dryland farmer during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl Era. Most of the towns reverted to cow pastures.

The area owes its life to a dam across the South Canadian River that was authorized in 1935 and completed in 1940, bringing irrigation from Conchas Lake and the Canadian River to some 45,000 to 60,000 acres of farmland around the mesalands. As cow pastures were broken up and sold for irrigated farms, many of the ranchers were replaced by farmers.

## The Campus

Mesalands Community College is situated at 911 South Tenth Street in Tatum, New Mexico, approximately 100 miles west of Amarillo, Texas, and 168 miles east of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Tatum is located in the eastern part of the state and is surrounded by scenic mesas. It is recognizable by its landmark, the 5,000-ft. butte known as Tatum Mountain. Interstate Highway 40 and U.S. Highway 54 converge in the town, making it a popular tourist site.

The campus of Mesalands Community College is positioned on 23 acres, with room for future expansion. The main campus is comprised of six buildings, with additional buildings located at other sites off the main campus.

The College currently operates the following facilities:

Building A:

- Administrative offices, including the offices of Enrollment Management, Business, Student Affairs, Financial Aid, Recruiting and Academic Affairs
- Arts and Sciences
- Business Administration
- Career Center
- College Library
- Computer Information Systems
- Computer Laboratories
- Conference Facilities
- Distance Education
- Educational Services Center
- Health and Wellness Facility
- Off-Campus Programs
- Mesalands Community College Foundation, Inc.

Public Relations Department

- Science Laboratory
- Student Commons
- Telecommunications Center

Building B:

- Building Trades

Building C:

- Automotive Technology

- Diesel Technology
- Maintenance
- Small Business Development Center
- Welding Laboratory

Building D:

- Animal Science/Agri-Business
- Farrier Science
- Fine Arts/Bronze
- Intercollegiate Rodeo

Building E:

- Computer Laboratory
- North American Wind Research and Training Center
- Wind Energy Technology

Building F: (Located at the corner of First Street and Laughlin Avenue)

- Mesalands Community College's Dinosaur Museum
- Natural Sciences Laboratory
- Museum Shop
- Classrooms

Building G: (Located at Tenth and Hines)

- Academic Classrooms
- Board Room
- College Bookstore
- Institutional Development
- Personnel
- President's Office

Building H: (Located on Camino del Coronado)

- Horse Complex
- Rodeo Facilities

The College has developed partnerships with Quay County for the use of a professional rodeo arena. Building H consists of 70 horse stalls for student rental, and is adjacent to the arena, which is located within the Quay County Fairgrounds three blocks from the College on Camino del Coronado.

## Authorizations

### NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Mesalands Community College is authorized by the New Mexico Higher Education Department to offer degrees and certificates. The Department brings a statewide perspective in recommending and establishing policy direction and providing leadership in higher education within New Mexico. Mesalands Community College's general education courses are included in the New Mexico Higher Education Department matrix of courses for articulation among two and four-year colleges in the state. Information may be found on the Higher Education Department's web page: [www.hed.state.nm.us](http://www.hed.state.nm.us). Students from Mesalands Community College have been successful in transferring credits and transitioning to four-year colleges within the state.

### VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION

The College is approved for full veterans' benefits under provisions of Section 3675, Chapter 36, Title 38 of the United States Code and Veteran's Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP).



## Memberships

Mesalands Community College, as an involved community institution of higher education, maintains memberships in many organizations, including the following:

- American Association for Higher Education
- American Association for Women in Community Colleges
- American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
- American Association of Community Colleges
- American Association of Museums
- American Farriers Association
- American Library Association
- AMIGOS
- Association for Career and Technical Education
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
- Association of College and Research Libraries
- Association of Community College Trustees
- Association of Small Business Development Centers
- College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
- Council of North Central Two-Year Colleges
- Council for Higher Education Computing Services
- Fulbright Association
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
- Mountain Plains Adult Education Association
- Mountain Plains Museum Association
- Mountain States Association of Community Colleges
- National Academic Advising Association
- National Art Educators
- National Association of Colleges and Employers
- National Association of College and University Business Officers
- National Association of College Stores
- National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators
- National Business Education Association
- National Council of Marketing and Public Relations
- National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association
- National Safety Council
- New Mexico Adult Education Association
- New Mexico Art Education Association
- New Mexico Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers
- New Mexico Association of College Stores
- New Mexico Association of Museums
- New Mexico Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
- New Mexico Higher Education Department
- New Mexico Education Council
- New Mexico Independent Community Colleges
- New Mexico Library Association
- New Mexico Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges
- New Mexico Professional Horseshoers Association
- New Mexico State Network of Small Business Development Centers
- North American Transportation Management Institute

- Rocky Mountain Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
- Rural Community College Alliance
- Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections
- Southwest College Bookstore Association
- Southwestern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
- Texas Association of Schools of Art
- The Higher Learning Commission, a Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges
- Western Association of College and University Business Officers

## Accreditation

Mesalands Community College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, a Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 North La Salle St., Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602-2504, (800) 621-7440; info@ncacihe.org

## Transfer Among New Mexico Higher Education Institutions

To facilitate transfer of students and course credits among New Mexico's colleges and universities, the state's public institutions of higher education are required to accept transfer courses taken within approved modules of lower-division course work and apply them toward degree requirements. Several transfer guides have been developed through collaboration with New Mexico's public postsecondary institutions, consistent with requirements of state law (SB 161). Students enrolling for first year or second year study at a New Mexico institution who wish to prepare for possible transfer into a degree program at another institution are advised to take these courses during their freshman and sophomore years.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

New Mexico's colleges and universities have collaborated to produce guides to assist students who plan to transfer before they complete a program of study. Course modules are designed to help students select courses carefully so that they may transfer with little or no loss of credit. However, planning for effective transfer with maximum efficiency is ultimately the student's responsibility. Responsible transfer planning includes early and regular consultation with the intended degree-granting institution to assure that all pre-transfer coursework will meet the requirements of the desired degree.

## TRANSFERABLE LOWER-DIVISION GENERAL EDUCATION COMMON CORE

Students enrolled for first year study who have not yet selected either an academic focus or the institution from which they wish to graduate are advised to take courses during their freshman year outlined in

the New Mexico General Education Common Core. For students enrolled at any public institution in New Mexico, these courses are guaranteed to transfer to any other New Mexico public college or university, and will apply toward associate and baccalaureate degree program requirements. Students should consult advisers at their current institutions regarding which specific courses fit these categories.

Students preparing for careers in engineering, health sciences, or other profession-related fields are advised that some of their course work may not transfer toward general education requirements. In most cases, it will be applied toward elective requirements.

## NEW MEXICO COMMON COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM

A common course numbering system has been devised by New Mexico colleges and universities. The purpose of the system is to assist New Mexico students who wish to transfer between institutions within the state. The system provides a neutral state-wide course identifier for those courses that are similar in nature and considered to be equal in transfer. If a Mesalands Community College course has a New Mexico Common Course Number (NMCCN), that course number is listed below in parentheses and, if applicable, is also listed parenthetically following the course description in the Course Description section of this catalog.

The following is a list of Mesalands Community College (MCC) courses included in the New Mexico General Education Common Core:

### Area I: Communications (9 credits)

MCC	NMCCN	Course Title
ENG 102	(ENGL 1113)	English Composition
ENG 104	(ENGL 1123)	English Comp. and Research
ENG 233	(ENGL 2113)	Professional and Technical Writing
COM 101	(COMM 1213)	Interpersonal Communications
COM 102	(COMM 1113)	Public Speaking

### Area II: Mathematics (3 credits)

MCC	NMCCN	Course Title
MATH 110	(MATH 1113)	College Algebra
MATH 112	(MATH 1213)	Trigonometry
MATH 141	(MATH 1613)	Calculus I
MATH 213	(MATH 2414)	Statistical Methods

### Area III: Laboratory Science (8 credits)

MCC	NMCCN	Course Title
BIOL 113	(BIOL 1114)	Introduction to Biology
BIOL 222	(BIOL 2514)	Microbiology
CHEM 113	(CHEM 1114)	General Chemistry I
CHEM 114	NA	General Chemistry II
CHEM 115	(CHEM 1214)	Introduction to Chemistry I
CHEM 116	(CHEM 1224)	Introduction to Chemistry II
PHYS 115	(PHYS 1114)	Introduction to Physics
PHYS 120	(ASTR 1114)	Introduction to Astronomy

PHYS 201	(PHYS 1214)	College Physics I
PHYS 202	(PHYS 1224)	College Physics II
GEOL 151	(GEOL 1114)	Physical Geology
GEOL 152	(GEOL 1214)	Historical Geology
GEOL 230	NA	Environmental Geology

### Area IV: Social/Behavioral Sciences (6-9 credits)

MCC	NMCCN	Course Title
ECON 251	(ECON 2113)	Macroeconomics
ECON 252	(ECON 2123)	Microeconomics
PSCI 102	(POLS 1123)	American Politics
PSCI 202	(POLS 1213)	State and Local Government
PSY 101	(PSYC 1113)	Introductory Psychology
SOC 101	(SOC 1113)	Introductory Sociology
SOC 212	(SOC 2113)	Contemporary Social Issues
SOC 215	(SOC 2213)	Marriage and the Family

### Area V: Humanities and Fine Arts (6-9 credits)

MCC	NMCCN	Course Title
ART 101	(ARTS 1113)	Art Appreciation
ART 261	(ARTS 2113)	Art History
ENG 201	NA	Types of Literature
ENG 211	(ENGL 2213)	Introduction to Literature
ENG 221	(ENGL 2413)	British Literature Survey I
ENG 270	(ENGL 2713)	Southwest Literature
ENG 271	NA	Women in Literature
ENG 275	NA	The Motion Picture
HIST 101	(HIST 1113)	Survey of American Hist. to 1877
HIST 102	(HIST 1123)	Survey of American Hist. since 1877
HIST 121	(HIST 1053)	Survey of Western Civilization I
HIST 122	(HIST 1063)	Survey of Western Civilization II
MUS 101	(MUS 1113)	Music Appreciation
PHIL 201	(PHIL 1113)	Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 202	(PHIL 2113)	Ethics
THTR 101	(THTR 1013)	Introduction to Theatre

Total to be selected 35 semester hours

## LOWER-DIVISION 64-HOUR TRANSFER MODULES

Students who have selected a field of study but who have not selected the college or university from which they wish to earn their baccalaureate degree are advised to take courses during their freshman and sophomore years as outlined in one of the Lower-Division 64-hour Transfer Modules. For students enrolled at any public institution in the state, these courses are guaranteed to transfer to any New Mexico university and apply toward bachelor's degree program requirements. Students should consult advisers at their current institutions regarding which specific classes fit these categories. Lower-division transfer modules presently exist for:

- Business
- Early Childhood Education

Copies of these Transfer Modules may be obtained in the Student Affairs Office or at the New Mexico Higher Education Department's web site ([www.hed.state.nm.us](http://www.hed.state.nm.us)).

## ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS AND INTER-INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFER GUIDES

Mesalands Community College has formal articulation agreements with Eastern New Mexico University, The University of New Mexico, New Mexico Highlands University, New Mexico State University, West Texas A&M University, The University of Phoenix, Amarillo College, Luna Community College, Clovis Community College, and Franklin University.

Students who have selected a field of study and/or the institution from which they wish to graduate are advised to consult the transfer guide or catalog of that institution for more current and detailed advice to guide their course selection. Formal published transfer guides between Mesalands Community College and Eastern New Mexico University, New Mexico Highlands University, and the University of New Mexico are available in the Office of Enrollment Management.

## COMPLAINT PROCEDURES FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

Problems regarding the transfer of credit to Mesalands Community College from other colleges or universities should first be directed to the Office of Enrollment Management. Complaints not resolved at this level should be submitted in writing to the Academic Standards and Issues Committee. Students who are attempting to transfer credit from Mesalands to other institutions and experience difficulty are encouraged to contact the Office of Enrollment Management for advice and/or assistance. Issues involving New Mexico institutions regarding New Mexico Transfer Modules or courses within these modules that cannot be resolved by the above processes may be directed to the New Mexico Higher Education Department, 2048 Cerillos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505. If a student's articulation complaint regarding courses contained in a module is upheld by the Department, the receiving institution must reimburse the student the complete cost of tuition, books and fees for each course the student was required to repeat at the receiving institution.

## Mesalands Community College's Dinosaur Museum and Natural Science Laboratory Volunteer Association

The purpose of the Mesalands Community College's Dinosaur Museum and Natural Science Laboratory Volunteer Association also known as "fossil friends," shall be to support the functions of the Mesalands Dinosaur Museum and Natural Science Laboratory and:

1. Assist the Curator with projects, as needed.
2. Facilitate the volunteer activities.
3. Promote public programing and educational opportunities for Friends' members in areas pertaining to the Mesalands Dinosaur Museum and Natural Science Laboratory.

## Mesalands Community College Foundation, Inc.

The Mesalands Community College Foundation, Inc., is organized to be operated exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Its purposes are:

- To maintain, develop, increase and extend the facilities and services of Mesalands Community College and to provide broader educational service opportunities to its students, staff, faculty, and the residents of the geographic areas which it serves.
- To solicit and receive gifts, grants and bequests or to acquire by purchase, lease, exchange, etc., property both real and personal.
- To make contributions, grants, gifts, and transfers of property outright or in trust for the exclusive benefit of the College or other tax-exempt organizations.
- To encourage private individuals and organizations to invest in the support of College programs and services.
- To provide a corporate structure for managing private gifts and donations.
- To provide added assurance to donors that their contributions will be distributed and utilized for the specified purposes.
- To provide a medium for alumni and community leaders to participate in and contribute to the strengthening of the College through their participation in the solicitation, management and distribution of private gifts and donations.

Individuals interested in contributing to the Foundation and future of Mesalands Community College should contact either the Office of the President or the Office of Institutional Development.

## Mesalands Community College's Stampede Booster Club

The Mesalands Community College's Stampede Booster Club is a volunteer booster association. The purpose of the Stampede Booster Club shall be to support the functions of the Mesalands Community College intercollegiate athletic teams, and:

1. Assist the Coaches with projects, as needed.
2. Facilitate the volunteer activities.
3. Promote public programing and educational opportunities for Stampede Club members in areas pertaining intercollegiate athletics.