

UNM Limited Competition Announcement

Dear UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting statements of interest and pre-proposals for the **Mellon Foundation Higher Learning 2026 Open Call for Concepts** limited competition. This funding opportunity supports inquiry into issues of vital social, cultural, and historical import. The Higher Learning program at the Mellon Foundation invites eligible institutions of higher education to submit ideas for research and/or curricular projects focused on either of the following two areas: Unruly Intelligences or Normalization and Its Discontents.

Sponsor: Mellon Foundation

Opportunity Title: 2026 Higher Learning Program Open Call for Concepts

Sponsor Due Date(s): 12/01/2025 (required registration); 2/17/2026 (application deadline)

Award Range: \$250,000 - \$500,000 maximum over four years

Number of Submissions Allowed from UNM: Three (3) per institution

Solicitation: <https://www.mellon.org/article/higher-learning-open-call-for-concepts-2026>

PI Eligibility: The Principal Investigator (PI), or applicant, must be a faculty member and/or dean in a program or department in the humanities or humanistic social sciences at the applicant institution. The PI may also be the institution's provost/chief academic officer.

Limited Comp. Instructions: We will be conducting a two-step internal competition to ensure we have a review committee in place by the pre-proposal deadline. You must complete both steps if you are interested in participating.

Limited Comp. STEP 1: Required SOI Due Date: **NOON on December 2, 2025** (for planning and eligibility purposes)

Limited Comp. STEP 2: Pre-proposal Due Date: **NOON on January 5, 2025**

STEP ONE: Please submit your ~100-word **statement of interest and confirmation of receipt email from Mellon** verifying that you have completed the required registration in the Mellon Foundation's Grant Portal, via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). **Note that you must complete the Mellon portal registration (<https://mellon.fluxx.io/apply/hcall>) by December 1 @1pm and BEFORE you submit your SOI.** You will find the information required for the registration at the bottom of this document. This is a required step, and no late submissions will be considered. Note that SOIs will NOT be scored; we require them to assist us in forming a review committee.

STEP TWO: Please submit your 3-page pre-proposal, abbreviated budget, (1-2 page) CVs for key personnel, and your **invitation email from the Mellon Foundation** to complete your login credentials for access to the portal, via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). You will receive an email when the InfoReady competition has been converted from the SOI application to the pre-proposal application, but you may work on your documents outside the system before that. No late submissions will be considered.

The pre-proposal should address the major topics that will be included in the concept note:

1. **Project Concept:** Describe your ideas for a potential project, including the rationale and, especially, specific activities it might involve. The note should clearly state the necessity of the planned work, its goals, potential impact, and the fitness of the institution and/or network to the proposed work.
2. **Humanities:** Applicant institutions should have a demonstrated track record of excellence in the humanities. Provide a brief paragraph outlining those efforts.

The pre-proposals will be reviewed using the following criteria:

1. Necessity of the planned work, its goals, potential impact, and the fitness of the institution and/or network to the proposed work.
2. Alignment with one of the two topic areas (Unruly Intelligences or Normalization and Its Discontents) and demonstrated record of excellence in the humanities.
3. Eligibility and qualifications of the PI to lead the proposal.
4. Necessity, reasonableness, allowability, and justification of the budget.
5. Overall Score.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.
If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu for more information.

Please use the information provided in the screenshots below to complete the required registration in the Mellon Foundation Grants Portal (<https://mellon.fluxx.io/apply/hlcall>).

Please refer all questions regarding the substance, guidelines, and requirements of the call to hlcall@mellon.org.

For technical assistance, please contact fluxxusers@mellon.org.

Applicant Criteria

Please see the Eligibility section of the CFC Guidelines for further details regarding applicant institution eligibility.

Project Topic

Is the applicant institution an accredited, non-profit, four-year-degree-granting institution of higher education in the United States or its territories that offers a liberal arts education?

Is the applicant institution fully online?

Is the applicant institution a research institute or Special Focus Institution, as defined by the Carnegie Classifications (this includes medical schools and centers and other health professions schools; engineering and other technology-related schools; business and management schools; arts, music, and design schools; law schools that are not housed within an otherwise eligible university; and seminaries or seminary-like institutions)?

Does the applicant institution offer multiple degrees in humanities and/or humanistic social science disciplines? Please see the Eligible Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences Fields section of the call for concepts guidelines for a list of applicable disciplines.

Yes ▾

Does the applicant institution enroll more than 1,000 full-time, degree-seeking undergraduates?

Yes ▾

Is the Principal Investigator (PI) for this application a faculty member or dean in a program or department in the humanities or humanistic social sciences, or the institution's provost?

Yes ▾

Organization Information

Please use the legal name of the institution; do not use the name of a department or center within the institution.

Organization Name

The University of New Mexico

EIN

85-6000-642

Address 1

1 University of New Mexico

Address 2

MSC01 1247

City

Albuquerque

Country

United States ▾

State/Province

New Mexico ▾

Postal Code (Zip)

87131-0001

Phone

505-277-4186

IPEDS ID (Six digit unique identification number assigned to postsecondary institutions surveyed through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Also referred to as UNITID.)

187985

Website

<https://www.unm.edu/>

Institutional Contact Information

We recommend consulting with the institution's sponsored projects/foundation relations office (or the equivalent) to identify the individual responsible for coordinating the institution's submission of no more than three applications.

First Name**Last Name****Job Title****Work Email (Organization Email Addresses Required)**