

Experiences of Undergraduate STEM Majors  
New Mexico AMP Program

Principal Investigator(s)/ Student Researcher(s): Sandra Way and Assata Zerai

You have been invited to participate in a survey sponsored by the New Mexico AMP program under the direction of Sandra Way, Associate Professor of Sociology at New Mexico State University. Dr. Assata Zerai, Vice President for Equity and Inclusion and Professor of Sociology at the University of New Mexico is a coinvestigator in this study. This form has important information about our reasons for doing this study, what we will ask you to do if you decide to participate in the study, and the way we would like to use information about you if you choose to be in the study.

Why are you doing this study?

You are being asked to participate in a research study about how college students in STEM fields perceive their educational environments and experiences.

The purpose of the study is to better understand the factors that contribute to the success of undergraduate STEM majors in order to enhance support provided by your college or university and programs such as NM AMP.

What will I do if I choose to be in this study?

You will complete a survey that asks questions about your background and educational experiences in college. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Researchers may contact you in future semesters to invite you to take follow-up surveys.

Researchers plan to obtain information from the college/university regarding participants' current address/phone, race/ethnicity, gender, birthdate, Pell Grant eligibility and other financial status information, first generation student status, name of high school, high school size, ACT/SAT scores, high school GPA and rank. In addition, we may request ongoing information from the institution regarding your academic status including major, course enrollment, credits earned, college GPA, and graduation status for up to 8 years. This information will help us study what factors predict academic success over the long term.. By signing below, you agree to have your records released to the study researchers. All of your identifying information will be removed from the file containing this information.

All identifiable information (e.g., your name, email) will be removed from the information collected in this project. After we remove all identifiers, the information may be used for future research or shared with other researchers without your additional informed consent. Paper copies with records will be stored in a filing cabinet in the researcher's locked private office. Electronic copies will be located on the researcher's encrypted, password protected computer.

What are the possible risks or discomforts?

Your participation in this study will not involve any physical or emotional risk to you beyond that of everyday life. It is possible that thinking about any negative experiences might make you feel sad or increase your awareness regarding personal and family stressors. If this occurs, researchers are available to help you discuss your feelings. In addition, you can obtain free counseling services at UNM Student Health and Counseling (SHAC), <https://shac.unm.edu/services/mental-health/index.html> at 505-277-3136 or AGORA Crisis Center at 505-277-3013 or 866-435-7166.

What are possible benefits to me or others?

You are not likely to have any direct benefit from being in this research study. This study is designed to help us learn more about the experiences of students and what factors help them be successful in their chosen fields. Study results may inform programs and policies that help students succeed in college. How will you protect the information you collect about me, and how will that information be shared? Your study data will be handled as confidentially as possible. To minimize the risks to confidentiality, your name and other identifiers will be removed from your survey responses and kept in a confidential file that is only accessible by the researchers. If results of this study are used in reports, publications and presentations, individual names and other personally identifiable information will not be used.

Compensation:

Participation in this study will involve no cost to you. While you will not be directly paid for your participation, your name will be entered into a drawing to win 1 of 40, \$25 gift cards. The drawing will be conducted by Sandra Way or another member of the New Mexico AMP research team at NMSU during the first week of December. The chance of winning a prize is approximately 1 in 10. The names of all eligible survey takers will be compiled and 40 students will be selected at random. The winners will be notified by email and given the award code and instructions on how to redeem.

What are my rights as a research participant?

Participation in this study is voluntary. You are not required to participate in research as part of any class, program or scholarship requirements. If you would prefer not to participate in this study, or would like to end your participation in this study at any time there will be no penalty. You are free to make your own choice about participation and may request no further contact at any time.

Who can I contact if I have questions or concerns about this research study?

If you have questions, you may contact Dr. Assata Zerai, Vice President for Equity and Inclusion at the University of New Mexico by calling 505-277-1238 or via email at [zerai@unm.edu](mailto:zerai@unm.edu); or reach out to Dr. Sandra Way at the Department of Sociology at New Mexico State University by calling 575-646-3448 or via email at [sway@nmsu.edu](mailto:sway@nmsu.edu).

If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this research, you can contact the following office at The University of New Mexico: Institutional Review Board (UNM IRB) at 505-277-2644 or by email: [irbmaincampus@unm.edu](mailto:irbmaincampus@unm.edu). The IRB is a review board which monitors the research process and ensures the ethical and legal conduct of human subjects research at UNM. You are welcome to call collect if you identify yourself as a research participant.

Consent:

Your agreement indicates that you fully understand the above study, what is being asked of you, you are 18 years old or above and that you are participating voluntarily. If you have any questions about the study, please contact Dr. Assata Zerai at [zerai@unm.edu](mailto:zerai@unm.edu) or at 505-277-1238 or Dr. Sandra Way at [sway@nmsu.edu](mailto:sway@nmsu.edu) or at 575-646-3448. Please print, save or request a copy of the consent form for your records.

I Agree

I do not agree

If agree, participant's electronic signature:

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