

ISAIAH GONZALES

My name is Isaiah Gonzales

- I am a second-year student at CNM.
- I am in my final semester preparing to graduate with my associate degree in business administration.
- This degree will be the next step to continuing my education.
- I plan on attending UNM's Anderson School of Management and will pursue my degree in Marketing or Human Resource management.

I am pursuing this degree for my personal accomplishment. My motivation to continue school was put in question when COVID arose for my final year of high school. I had teachers suggesting that we take a break before entering college because, like us, they had never experienced anything like this either.

For me this is what I needed to hear, I didn't want to prolong my education any further. The momentum I had built up all these years to earn my high school diploma would continue so that I could get my college degree.

I chose CNM as my primary choice of education so that I could remove the distractions of college before they even occurred. In my two years at CNM I have developed as a student because it has allowed me to focus on what is important to me my education, family, and work.

Isaiah Gonzales

- ✓ 2nd year CNM Student
- ✓ Certificate in General Business
- ✓ High School Diploma
- ✓ Cumulative 3.5 GPA

My Work

[Final Powerpoint.pptx](#)

IT 1004 was an introduction to computers and typing course and I took this course in the fall semester of 2022. This course was a required elective for me, but the issue was that I had already taken BCIS 1110 which was the advanced version of this course, so I was backtracking. My professor gave me the choice to either stay in the course or select something else because she had seen that the material was already familiar with me.

I stuck with it and for our final project we took all the information that we learned about Microsoft Word and PowerPoint and applied it to a final project. I was very grateful for this project because for me I wanted to work on my oral presentation skills, and I was able to take one of my biggest college takeaways from a course that was easy for me. When it came to oral presentations, she taught us how to use less words than more and use imagery to trigger talking points to keep the presentation simple and more engaging. To be able to practice this skill that I wasn't as proficient in and create one of my favorite PowerPoint presentations that I have given was memorable for me.

[Business Ethics Final Draft.docx](#)

BUSA 2460 was an online course that I took in my Fall semester of 2022, the course was Business Ethics. I prefer my courses in-person because I feel that's how I learned best. With COVID, my senior year of high school was moved to online learning and I had to take some online courses at CNM because in-person was not offered to me, but to me I still tried to make the most of it. This course exposed me to something I had never done. The project was a semester long that lead to the final project which was a research paper.

We were assigned companies spread throughout the state of New Mexico who had been nominated or had previously won the

Business Ethics Award. This was a group project, but there were no mandatory zoom meetings. The only information I had on my partner was from the Week 1 introduction post, so I was worried. We had to problem solve and learn how to make it work in an online setting while working with a company based out of Espanola, New Mexico.

This was not my favorite project, but I was grateful for it when we were done because I was put in a situation where I was uncomfortable. The only guidance we had was check-ins through email and the information posted in the modules, and this worried me, but I couldn't just avoid it because this was going to be our final project, so I had to make it work.

Learning about local non-profit businesses that I had never heard of was really eye opening and inspiring to see how much people care about our communities. My favorite part of this was meeting with the owner and being able to interview him over zoom because we were able to network with not only an outstanding businessman, but being able to see how similar they are to everyday people was a great experience.

[Book Critique.docx](#)

RELG 1110 was another one of my elective courses which was an intro to World Religions. I got my lowest grade in this course than I have gotten in my tenure at CNM. Growing up in Catholic schools and the Catholic church this was not like any religion class I had taken. I took world religion classes in high school but they weren't like this course. I enjoyed this course a lot because college is a melting pot so there was a lot of discussion about religion but also a non-partisan approach to it. For me I like learning about the variety of religions around the world because to me everyone has their own beliefs, and I enjoy seeing the variety of practices and beliefs while still holding my own. We did a book critique for our final and the book had to be based on our religion separate from our own.

I wanted to venture off and get outside of my comfort zone, so I chose a book based on cults. The book was a psychological study on cult behavior and thinking, and this book consisted of psychological data and personal account interviews. The goal of the critique was to take outside sources and contradict the book to take a non-bias approach to see how effective the author was writing on this specific topic. The overall topic of the book *Them and Us Cult Thinking and the Terrorist Threat* by Arthur Deikman was that as humans we must be aware that there is cult like behavior and situations in our everyday lives and how to acknowledge that we may be behaving in cult like manners. This was a fun project for me because again I was put outside my comfort zone with having to research and find arguments advocating for cults to try and contradict the book, but the book ended up being a good read and I learned a lot.

These assignments best represent my time at CNM as a student. These were some of the assignments I was most proud of because they took the extra effort from me by putting me in situations, I was not familiar with, there was times where I was uncomfortable academically. These assignments didn't get the best of me I learned and grew from them.

Struggles

Overall, my experience at CNM with my program was a positive experience, but like anything there is always bumps along the road. Something that I won't forget but I did struggle with was my Accounting 1110 and 2110 courses. These were not my favorite courses, and I did struggle with the material at times. This was a struggle that helped me though because it helped me eliminate a choice for selecting my concentration. I passed both classes with nothing lower than an 80% so I have no reason to complain but it is safe to say that the material was not my specialty.

My Intro to World Religions course was also another course that hurt my GPA because I finished the course with a high C which

had been my lowest grade in a class in college. This was an unusual experience for me because I enjoyed this course a lot, so I don't want to forget it. For myself this was a realization to not get complacent and to make sure I was not taking the quality of my work for granted from there on out.

The biggest struggle that I had to learn to grow with was not always being able to learn in-person. Online learning was introduced to me my senior year of high school and going in to college I noticed it was becoming more common. I took in-person classes when I got the chance, but I was forced to take online especially this last semester because there was no in-person offered for my final courses. I'm growing more comfortable with it since I have had to take it more frequently, but I feel like struggle to learn more, or it makes learning just a little bit harder with limited or minimal interaction with the professors.

Highlights

Overall, I believe this program was the right program for me especially since I was unsure if this was even the route I wanted to take out of high school. I was able to meet and take courses with a lot of professors that I enjoyed. One of my favorite parts was taking courses that I never would have even thought of such as Business Professionalism or Customer Service in Business. These were highlights for me because from these courses they were so practical that I could take the material from them to work that same night. Courses like these allowed me to reflect on my individual self personally in variety of ways ranging my social style or a management style. I've been able to learn a lot about myself.

I found interest in things I didn't have before joining this program. I credit this a lot to the professor, Professor Rob Stone, for Business Law. When I saw this course on my degree tracker I dreaded it, and despite the overload of information and homework Professor Stone taught this class in a manner that piqued my interest. I can no longer say that I will never go to law school because I feel like a subject that I knew nothing about

became something I would consider expanding my knowledge in.

A moment I won't forget was when I found out I passed Macroeconomics. This was another course I dreaded, I was scared because people close to me had talked about having to retake the class multiple times. One of my goals was never failing or dropping a class through college so that I could maintain my scholarship. This was in danger by the first exam, I had gotten a twenty percent on the first exam even after I had studied. Our professor had said that our first exams will give us an idea of how we would do in the class. I couldn't drop the course because for me that would mean I didn't even try to keep my scholarship. I couldn't let the first test be the end all so I took the second test the week of the drop deadline. After the second test all the signs were telling me I should just drop this course. Instead of dropping it I thought there had to be a way, and there was a way. I was nervous to check the grades after they were finalized because I didn't know if my effort was enough. I ended up finishing the course with a B which was a major relief for me.

Overview

My time at CNM has been a positive experience for me. There were struggles because it isn't life without struggles. It was memorable for me because I feel like I learned a lot about myself and about the material for the program. I would recommend this program for others interested in business even if you are unsure because they provide you with the right courses to help guide someone if this is the route someone decides to take. I feel like CNM has helped keep me focused on my school priorities and become a better student from it.

