

Library Science, BS Ed • University of Nebraska at Omaha

I've had epilepsy since I was six. When I went to college it got bad. Eventually, I had to quit and that became a source of insecurity for me.

After receiving a seizure response dog, I was able to start working as a library assistant. As a former elementary education major, it became clear I could still teach as a librarian, but in a quieter, calmer environment. Due to my seizures, I'm unable to drive myself, so an online bachelor's program in library science was necessary.

Being accepted into the program and starting classes gave me a sense of purpose. Now, I'm getting a quality education that works for my circumstances, and I'm fulfilling my dream. With the online program from the University of Nebraska at Omaha I've found an education and a field I love, even if my life didn't take a straight path.



Associate Vice President for Digital Education Director of University of Nebraska Online

Message from the Director

As this annual report was being prepared, the University of Nebraska was in the midst of developing strategies to deal with a budget impact that could result in reduced access to a university education for students. President Bounds asked each of us at the University to think strategically and work together to find solutions that maintained quality and our mission of access and affordability. Distance education has always been a component of our access mission. Even more so now, digital education becomes a key strategy to help mitigate the negative consequences of our current budget challenges. Student success is the driver for what we do and creating opportunities for students to reach their academic potential, career aspirations and contribute to the economic health of our great state is our job.

As you read through this report of the 2016-2017 academic year, take note of the depth of online offerings from the four campuses that provide the opportunity for a growth of 9% in the number of students pursuing a degree online. The average age of these students is 32 and the vast majority are working full time. The commitment to access our University has extends to the need for flexibility for life and work balance. Barriers to starting and completing can take many forms. By working together we can find solutions to reduce those barriers. Together, we can provide knowledge and credentials that form strong workforce pathways for students. Together, and in partnership with other Nebraska stakeholders, we can have a positive impact on the economy of Nebraska.

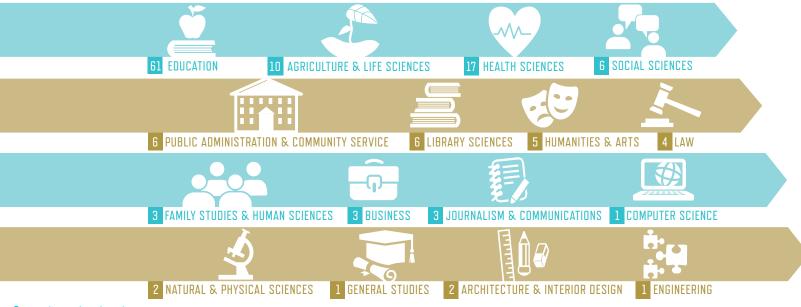


Online Programs

Collectively UNK, UNL, UNO and UNMC offer 132 fully online or primarily online programs.

At the University of Nebraska (NU), distance education has roots stretching back more than 100 years. This rich tradition speaks to our land-grant mission of access to quality education. By leveraging the latest in technology innovations, NU continues to meet

the needs of Nebraskans and others across the country and around the world with a wide array of programs available online. Now, students may choose from more than 130 programs online whether they want to complete a degree or advance their education.



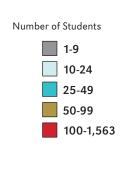


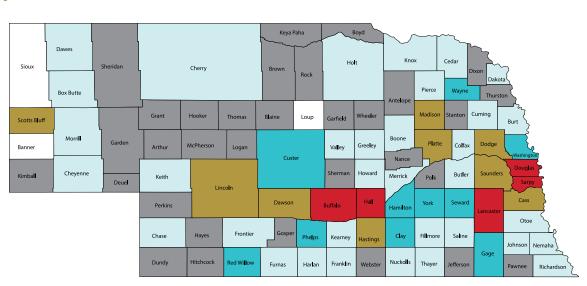
Serving Nebraska

By 2020 more than 70%* of jobs in Nebraska will require some form of postsecondary education. The need for well-skilled employees is impacting Nebraska now. In a survey of Nebraska business owners from across the state, labor availability as a top concern rose from just 3.8 percent at the start of 2012 to 23.7

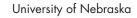
percent in the third quarter of 2017**. To support our state's workforce and economic vitality, NU is committed to strategic efforts to increase degree attainment and college-going in Nebraska. This is especially important for the nearly 300,000 Nebraskans who have completed some college credit but have not earned a degree.

During the 2016-2017 academic year a record 5,087 Nebraskans studied entirely at a distance.





- *Georgetown Public Policy Institute
- **University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research



"Technology offers so many new and exciting opportunities to reach students who want to take advantage of the transformative power of higher education. We have a responsibility to leverage those opportunities in order to help grow our state's workforce and economy."

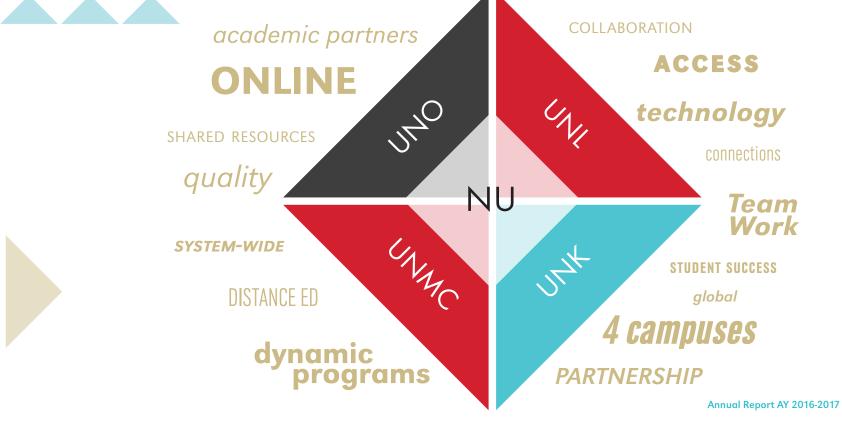




NU Online

The University of Nebraska Online is the University's collaborative distance education initiative focused on providing greater access for more students to the high-quality courses and programs offered online by the four campuses of the university system.

By coordinating efforts among the campuses and working together across the system, NU provides a depth of opportunity and choices to students regardless of proximity to one of our campuses or work/life challenges that could prove a barrier to pursuing an education.



Fostering Exploration

Innovation in Pedagogy & Technology Symposium

Each spring, NU Online partners with Information Technology Services (ITS) to offer a system-wide faculty and staff development opportunity, the Innovation in Pedagogy and Technology Symposium, which focuses on the use of technology to teach and support the academic mission.

More than 550 attendees gain exposure to plenary and extended workshop sessions led by nationally-recognized speakers, along with dozens of NU-led sessions that highlight effective practices in a variety of areas and provide time for sharing across the institution.

Campus Conversations

Expanding the opportunity for professional development and networking throughout the year, Campus Conversations covers key topics related to online learning. These events are generally offered as 'lunch and learns' and include an on-campus presentation and online webcast option, allowing NU faculty and staff access to a range of expert speakers from across the country.

Recognizing Innovation

Across the system, NU faculty and staff are developing, innovating and infusing their expertise to enhance online teaching and learning. A number of faculty and staff were recognized for their work through presenting at national conferences on such topics as Mobile Methodology for Modeling Mobile Pedagogy, Learner-Centered Collaborative Notetaking to Increase Participation, and Cheating in Online Learning: A Mixed Method Study with Undergraduate Students.







Associate Professor
Department of Criminal Justice
University of Nebraska at Kearney

"As diverse as our group is, we are always interested in additional perspectives and input. The opportunity to extend our collaboration to include other parties in the university is a really motivating experience."

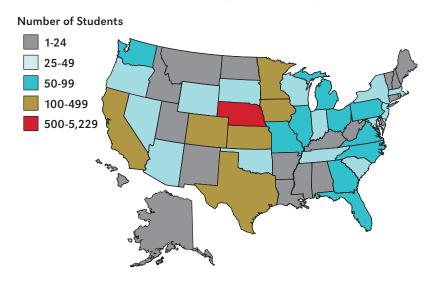


Enrollment Growth

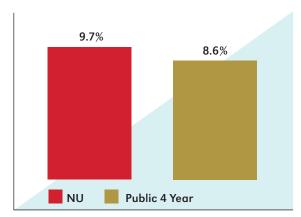
Nationally, working adult student enrollment is projected to increase more than twice as fast as full-time student enrollment through 2022*. With a robust portfolio of online programs, NU is well-positioned to capitalize on the full continuum of student demand and its steady enrollment growth reflects this.

In addition to serving students who study at a distance in NU online programs – students who would not have enrolled without the flexibility of distance delivery – NU leverages technology and innovation in course design for on-campus students who choose to take one or a couple online classes in an academic year.

Online enrollments come from every state.



NU surpasses peers in growth of students who study entirely at a distance.



Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2016 vs. Fall 2015.

^{*}Center for Postsecondary and Economic Success



Angelia Wimberly, Student

Emergency Preparedness, MS University of Nebraska Medical Center

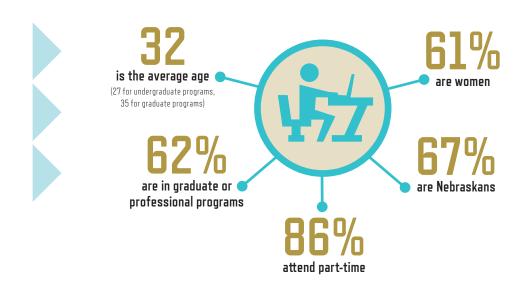
> When I was younger my dad got very sick. From that point on I knew I wanted to enter the medical field. At 19, I joined the military and served as a surgical tech in the Air Force while deployed in Afghanistan. From that, I found I didn't want to be stuck in a hospital. I wanted to be out working in the community.

I'm now pursuing my master's degree in emergency preparedness. My online classes help me manage my busy lifestyle – I'm a mom, I care for my sick dad and I work fulltime. In my program I'm learning to prepare and implement emergency response plans for anything from an emergent infectious disease to terrorism. My goal is to combine my education with my military training to move into a new position after I graduate. The military has prepared me for a career in emergency response, but now I have the education to go even further.

Who Studies Online at NU

Central to our mission is access to high quality education. Through the flexibility of online programs, more students are able to advance their academic goals. Online learning fits the needs of many adult students who may be juggling multiple demands including work, family and other commitments.

Students on campus also have options to supplement with online courses as a way to accommodate their busy schedules. Digital education pedagogies and technologies leveraged for all students can help improve retention and persistence, improve learning and provide flexible scheduling opportunities to decrease time to degree for students.



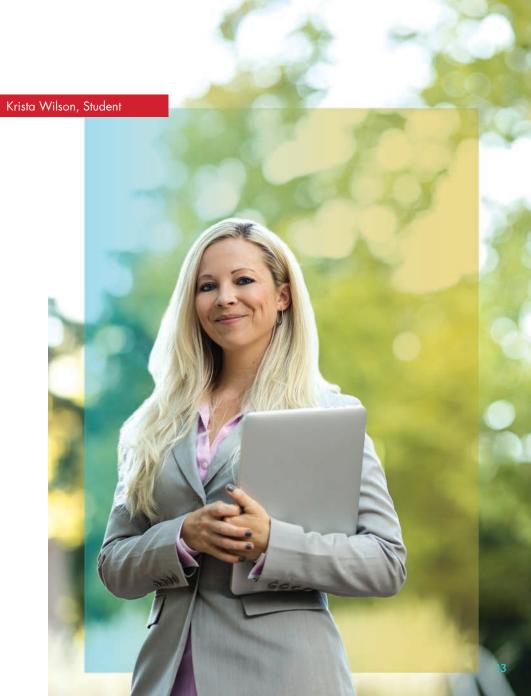
Business Administration, BS • University of Nebraska at Kearney

Neither of my parents went to college, and in high school I had one meeting with the school counselor to discuss the possibility. That was it. I didn't know I had options, so college wasn't a priority.

About five years ago, I began reconsidering. I knew if I ever wanted to switch companies I needed a degree.

I found my program through a top college awards and online programs article. It was everything I was looking for: credible, authentic and cost effective. I thought it would be difficult to feel like a part of the university as an online student, but it's been very immersive. My professors each have their own teaching style, so my courses haven't felt cookie-cutter. And, because it's online I do it on my own time, after work and after my son goes to sleep. I don't think there's anything better than that.

I'll be proud when I finish my degree, and I'll also feel like an alumna. That's what I was always looking for.



Collaboration

A strength of the University of Nebraska is in the diversity of our institution. Four campuses, each with unique expertise and perspectives, working together for student success.

Increasing instructional capacity

During summer 2017, a pilot grant program awarded funds to increase the instructional capacity of key course sections deemed vital for successful student progress through their programs of study. More than 40 new sections were added resulting in an estimated 1,019 additional enrollments from students who were able to take their needed courses.

Strategic course offerings

Nebraska faces a critical nursing shortage. The University of Nebraska Medical Center is committed to helping meet this need with their online RN to BSN program. Often, applicants have a handful of prerequisite courses needed before they can begin their nursing courses. Collaboration between the College of Nursing and online leaders from the three undergraduate campuses has led to ensuring that nursing students have access to the courses they need to complete their degree.

Instructional Design Summit

New for the 2017-2018 academic year, the Instructional Design Summit is an initiative sponsored by NU Online to bring together instructional designers from across the system for conversation and sharing of ideas and effective practices. The group meets throughout the year, both in-person and virtually.



"Online education is an important area where our campuses are working together to develop new programs, coordinate course offerings and explore best practices in service of student needs and success. I could not be more proud of the work our campuses are doing to make a rigorous, affordable education available to more students in Nebraska and around the world."



Executive Vice President & Provost, Dean of the Graduate College University of Nebraska

NU Online Website

To assist prospective students in learning about NU's online programs, the NU Online website provides a comprehensive view of the portfolio of programs offered by our four campuses.



Who's searching for NU's online programs







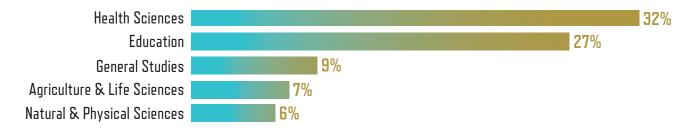




12% of requests for information click 'Apply Now'

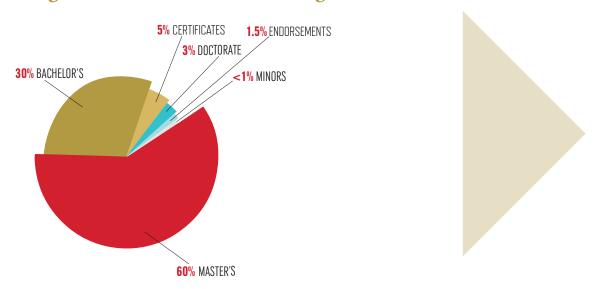


What subjects students are searching





What degree level students are searching



Ramon Guerra, Associate Professor

Department of English • University of Nebraska at Omaha

We have a huge sense of diversity among the experiences of the students I've encountered. These students are in all different phases of their lives – from graduate students who are blending their programs to students who are working two full-time jobs or students who are coming back very late and may need to overcome unique challenges. I'm really thinking how can I tap into that diversity and get students to engage not just with me but with each other much more.



Pathways for Success

As the state's public university and a senior partner in Nebraska's P-16 initiative, NU is committed to supporting Nebraska students' college preparedness as well as the overall affordability of postsecondary education.

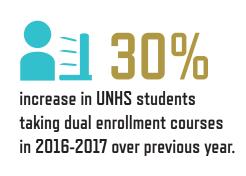
College Credit for High School Students

In partnership with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska High School (UNHS) offers online high school courses for college credit. Students may earn credit equal to their first year of college, which delivers a significant cost savings to families and contributes to a timely college graduation.

Dual Enrollment Courses

- Psychology
- Sociology
- AP Comparative Government & Politics
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Calculus AB 1

- AP Calculus AB 2
- AP U.S. History 1
- AP U.S. History 2
- AP Computer Science A 1
- AP Computer Science A 2





A History of Quality Education

More than 88 years ago, the University of Nebraska began offering high school level distance education by providing paper-based, correspondence study courses to rural Nebraskans. Fast forward to today and UNHS serve more than 3,000 students throughout the U.S. and the world.

The open enrollment, self-paced nature and rigorous college-prep quality of UNHS courses provides students the flexibility they need in their education today, and the skill set to take advantage of opportunities now and in the future.

Students choose UNHS to:

- Earn a respected diploma
- Take individual courses to supplement local curriculum
- Fit courses into their busy schedules
- Get ahead on credits
- Earn college credit through dual enrollment
- Farn credit over summer

Educators choose UNHS to:

- Provide additional course options
- Address low enrollment courses or teacher shortages
- Solve scheduling conflicts
- Support high-achieving students with AP® and other courses



SUMMER CREDITS

dual enrollment

by AdvancED & Nebraska Department of Education

offers more than

self-paced

courses to fit your

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Partnering Across Nebraska

In 2016-2017, more than 600 Nebraska students pursued a UNHS diploma or enrolled in individual courses. In support of Nebraska schools, UNHS established the Nebraska Virtual Scholars (NVS) program in 2011 to offer schools throughout the state the funds necessary for students to take UNHS courses at no cost to local schools or families. To date, the NVS program has provided nearly 700 scholarships, serving more than 100 schools and hundreds of students across both rural and urban regions of Nebraska.

Scholarship demand has been strong for upper level STEM and AP® courses, but need has also been discovered in many schools for world languages, English and language arts and career education courses. UNHS continuously monitors the curriculum requests cited by students and educators and has added new courses in 2017 in response to these needs, including First Year German and Civics, with plans to add more courses in the near future.



UNHS Citizenship 101 course honors Nebraska's 150th statehood anniversary

Across Nebraska and the nation, there is growing interest in civics education, specifically in the area of citizenship. UNHS recently launched a non-credit short course, Citizenship 101, which is aligned to Nebraska Social Studies Standards and helps students prepare for the U.S. civics test. The course has been offered free throughout 2017 in honor of the Nebraska Sesquicentennial.



Matthew L. Blomstedt, Nebraska Commissioner of Education

Reaching Globally

While serving Nebraskans is core to the mission of the University of Nebraska High School, the reach and impact of UNHS extends far beyond the borders of the state and even the U.S. In 2016-2017, UNHS served students in 48 states and 102 countries throughout the world.

UNHS Students





are Nebraskan

32%

16% course enrollments increase



Governance & Leadership

A university-wide steering committee appointed by the president of the University of Nebraska provides insight, input and consultation to assure that the strategy, direction and efforts of NU Online align with the mission and goals of the University as a whole and the NU campuses.



Steering Committee Members

<u>Marie Barber</u>, Executive Director, Online & Distance Education University of Nebraska–Lincoln

<u>John Bartle</u>, Dean, College of Public Affairs & Community Services, Professor, School of Public Administration University of Nebraska at Omaha

<u>Amy Goodburn</u>, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor, Dean Undergraduate Education, Professor of English University of Nebraska–Lincoln

<u>Jaci Lindburg</u>, Director, Digital Learning University of Nebraska at Omaha

<u>Chris Marvin</u>, Professor, Special Education & Communication Disorders

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

<u>Juliann Sebastian</u>, Dean & Professor, College of Nursing University of Nebraska Medical Center

<u>Kenya Taylor</u>, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs and Dean, Graduate Studies & Research University of Nebraska at Kearney

Jan Tompkins, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Assistant Professor, Health Services Administration Division, College of Allied Health Professions University of Nebraska Medical Center

<u>Gloria Vavricka</u>, Director of eCampus University of Nebraska at Kearney

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University of Nebraska High School

<u>Barbara Shousha</u>, Associate Director, University of Nebraska Online and Director of University of Nebraska High School bshousha@nebraska.edu





