

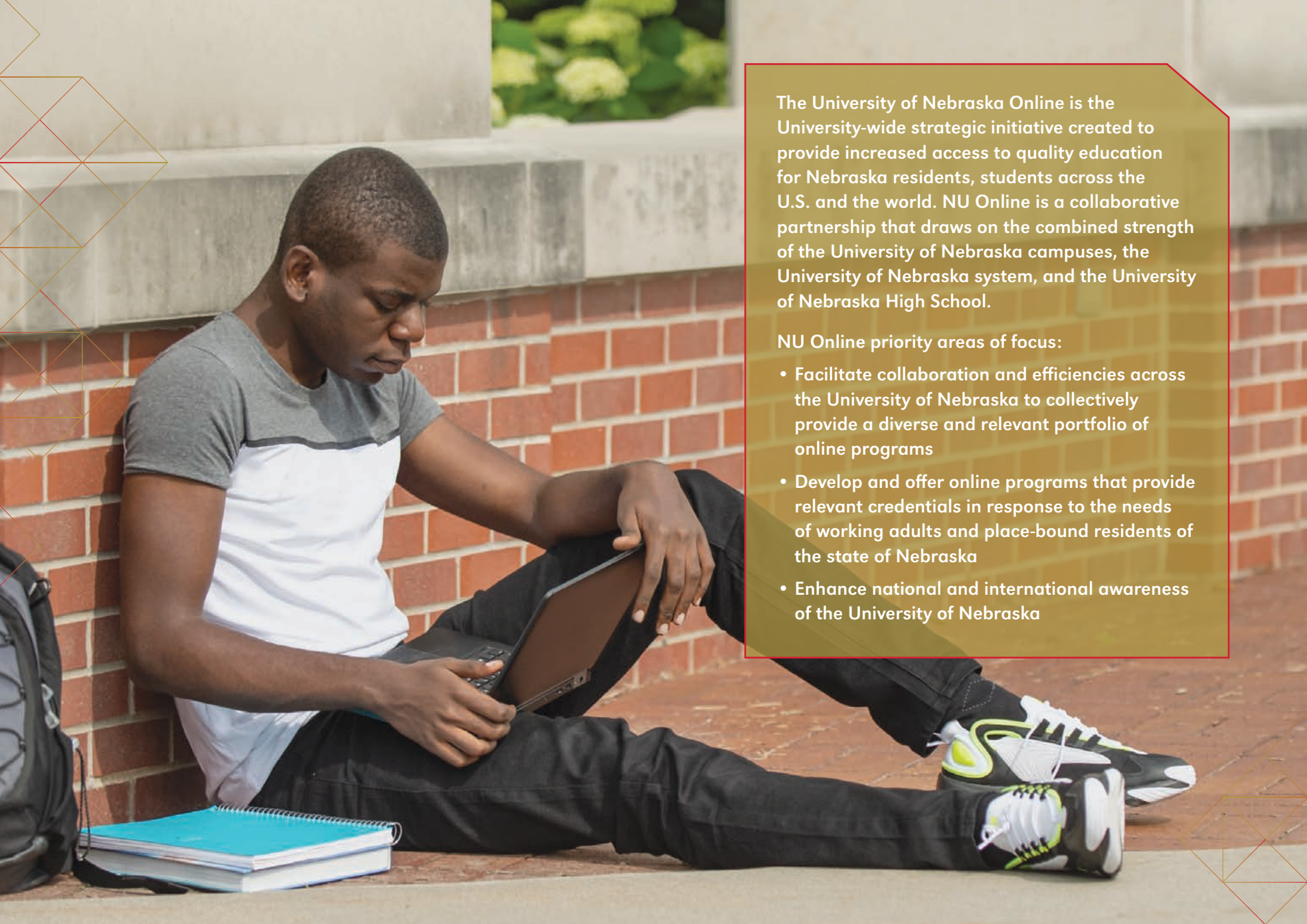
Annual Report 2018-2019

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Online

KEARNEY | LINCOLN | OMAHA | MEDICAL CENTER

online.nebraska.edu





The University of Nebraska Online is the University-wide strategic initiative created to provide increased access to quality education for Nebraska residents, students across the U.S. and the world. NU Online is a collaborative partnership that draws on the combined strength of the University of Nebraska campuses, the University of Nebraska system, and the University of Nebraska High School.

NU Online priority areas of focus:

- Facilitate collaboration and efficiencies across the University of Nebraska to collectively provide a diverse and relevant portfolio of online programs
- Develop and offer online programs that provide relevant credentials in response to the needs of working adults and place-bound residents of the state of Nebraska
- Enhance national and international awareness of the University of Nebraska

Message From the Director



MARY NIEMIEC

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

Welcome to the NU Online Annual Report for academic year 2018-2019. It is once again my pleasure to provide this glimpse into the system-wide collaborative efforts to meet the needs of adult learners, place-bound students and workforce needs across our state.

The information provided and the individuals you will meet throughout these pages tell the story of the evolution of our land grant mission, our metropolitan mission and our public service mission. Technology advances have provided tools allowing us to reach and teach more students in meaningful and engaging ways. We have the increased opportunity to improve access for students, create affordable pathways to valuable credentials and impact our state economy through education.

The portfolio of more than 140 online programs NU offers because of this strategic partnership provides a depth of choice to meet the needs of our students who are working, place-bound or need flexibility. Our collective strength is in our unrelenting commitment to student success.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Mary Niemiec in a gold color, located at the bottom right of the message text.



Growing the Good Life

Early pioneers were drawn to Nebraska as a land of potential and economic opportunity. Today, Nebraskans still seek these goals. As is true across the country, jobs in Nebraska increasingly require some post-secondary education. In fact, regional demand for bachelor's-level professionals increased 30 percent between 2014-2015 and 2017-2018.* And securing employment in high-growth, high-wage positions frequently requires a bachelor's degree or higher.

Business and civic leaders across Nebraska are aligned in their desire to position the state for a prosperous future. As the state's only public university, the University of Nebraska (NU) is a key partner in providing access to quality education for all who seek it, supporting a strong and vibrant workforce. Through its online programs, NU is meeting Nebraskans where they are with flexible, workforce-driven degrees that set them and the state up for success.

** 2018 EAB Global, Inc., Burning Glass Labor/Insight™*





HANK M. BOUNDS

President, University of Nebraska

In the years ahead, Nebraska will have 34,000 annual openings in the high-skill, high-demand, high-wage jobs that are key to our future prosperity. Two-thirds of these jobs will require higher education. The needs exist from the eastern part of the state to the panhandle. NU's digital education strategy plays a vital role in our state's economy.





JOEY CADEK, GRADUATE

Family Studies, BS & Gerontology, Undergraduate Certificate
University of Nebraska at Kearney & University of Nebraska at Omaha

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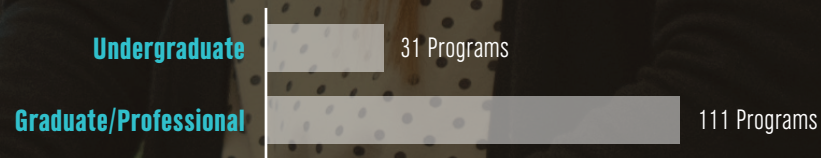
Registering for my final semester of college at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, my adviser told me about the Certificate in Gerontology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. I could earn the certificate online while completing my undergraduate degree – the professors were very accommodating, and the one-on-one interaction was great. Now I’m working with seniors in a nursing home, helping them adapt to their new life, and the skills I gained from my certificate coursework have enabled me to be a better social worker. I’m doing what I wanted to do.



Online Programs

Collectively UNK, UNL, UNO and UNMC offered 142 fully or primarily online programs during academic year 2018-2019.

At the University of Nebraska, our four campuses are our strength. From these diverse institutions come programs that range from business to nursing to creative writing and more. We provide our students a breadth and depth of offerings nearly unrivaled across the country.



12 new online programs and 14 new areas of study were added to the NU Online website during AY 18-19.

Curriculum & Instruction, MA Ed (Montessori – Early Childhood) – UNK
Curriculum & Instruction, MA Ed (Montessori – Elementary) – UNK
Curriculum & Instruction, MA Ed (School Librarian) – UNK
Curriculum & Instruction, MA Ed (Transitional Certification) – UNK
Educational Administration, Supervisor of Special Education Endorsement – UNK
Engineering Management, Graduate Certificate – UNL
Entrepreneurship, Minor – UNK
Fine Arts, BGS – UNK
General Studies, BGS – UNK

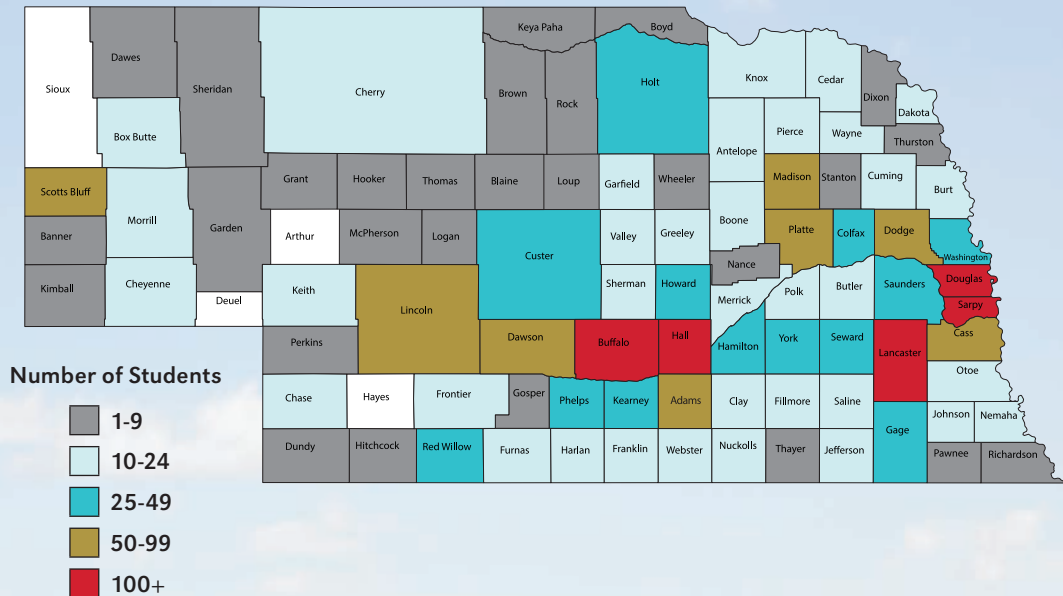
Gerontology, BS – UNO
Gerontology, BS with Concentration in Administration – UNO
Gerontology, Graduate Minor – UNO
Gerontology, Undergraduate Minor – UNO
Global Peace & Security Studies, Undergraduate Minor – UNK
History, BS – UNK
Humanities, BGS – UNK
Long-Term Care Management, MS – UNK
Professional Studies, BGS – UNK
Public Health, Certificate (Maternal & Child Health) – UNMC

Public Health, MPH Maternal & Child Health – UNMC
Public History, MA – UNK
Social Science, BGS – UNK
Special Education Functional Academic Skills & Independent Living Specialist, Supplemental Endorsement – UNK
Special Education Generalist K-12, Endorsement – UNK
Special Education Inclusive & Collaboration Specialist, Supplemental Endorsement – UNK
Work-Based Learning, Undergraduate Endorsement – UNK

Serving Our State

People are Nebraska's most precious resource. To maintain and grow a strong economy, it's imperative that our workforce be ready for the needs of the future. Very soon, 70 percent of all jobs in Nebraska will require post-secondary education. Nearly 300,000 Nebraskans have completed some college credit but have not yet earned a degree. This population is an important focus for degree completion efforts through online programs, and Nebraskans are responding to this call. Fully online undergraduate resident enrollment increased 6.4 percent over the prior academic year.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, 5,232 Nebraskans studied entirely at a distance.





SUSAN FRITZ

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

We have a workforce crisis in our state. Our graduates are needed now more than ever. Our online programs are one way the University of Nebraska creates pathways for our students to degrees and careers.



Partnering to Meet Nebraska's Needs

The University of Nebraska Medical Center's online RN to BSN program is making strides to meet the urgent demand for registered nurses in central and west central Nebraska. University of Nebraska Medical Center's (UNMC) College of Nursing, in partnership with Great Plains Health and Mid-Plains Community College, offers students who enroll as part of the partnership the opportunity to complete the online RN to BSN program as a group in 12 months. Along with the online program, students have face-to-face access to UNMC faculty members in North Platte once a month for support and supplementary class discussion.



LOUISE M. LAFRAMBOISE

Interim Assistant Dean, UNMC Nursing
University of Nebraska Medical Center

The key benefit to this partnership is fostering accessibility for our students while providing resources and support to navigate the process of admission to graduation as a BSN-prepared nurse.





PEGGY MOORE

Director of E-Learning
University of Nebraska Medical Center



The UNMC E-Learning Program hosted an OLC Collaborate in partnership with University of Nebraska Online. This regional conference focused on solving challenges in online health science education.

As a result of OLC Collaborate Nebraska; UNMC, Mayo Clinic and George Washington University have continued to meet — looking for a multi-institutional common project across institutions, professions and health professions roles. The group has presented at the OLC Accelerate conference in 2018 and 2019 and works to promote the multi-institutional collaboration required for a “community of practice” focused on evidence-based use of instructional technology in health professions education.





CHRIS KNOELL

Chair of Teacher Education
University of Nebraska at Kearney

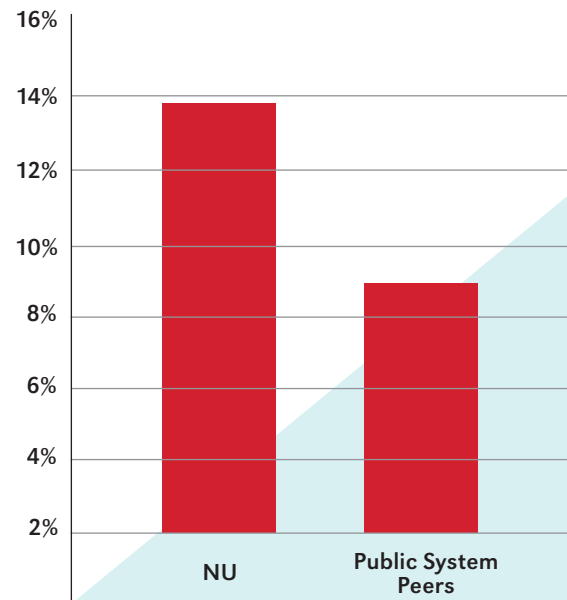
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The need for teachers in the world is immense. They have to take on many different roles and it's important to prepare future teachers for that responsibility. We have students and teachers all over the state, it's not always convenient or even possible for them to commute to campus for classes. With many of our master's programs being offered online, it makes it easier for students to access high quality instruction, learning and opportunities.

A Strategy for Success

Prospective online students have more choices than ever before as online programs become increasingly ubiquitous. Due in part to the University of Nebraska's strategic system-wide effort, the majority of Nebraskans studying online do so with an in-state institution, demonstrating an effective means to meet the needs of our state.

NU surpasses public system institution peers in growth of resident students studying entirely at a distance.



Change in resident headcount from Fall 2017 to Fall 2018.*

*Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

JAIME RISTOW, STUDENT

Master of Engineering Management (MEM)
University of Nebraska–Lincoln



I earned my undergrad in engineering and had a strong technical background, but knew I would need more exposure to business and operations concepts if I wanted to strengthen my engineering career. The online MEM program through the University of Nebraska–Lincoln offered the perfect opportunity to customize my learning experience and broaden my perspective, all with the flexibility I needed as a working professional. I was able to directly apply what I learned from the courses into my daily work life. As a result, I have become a more well-rounded engineer right here in Nebraska.



NU Students Studying at a Distance

34 is the average age

29 for undergraduate

35 for graduate

37 for professional

69% are in graduate programs

64% are women

69% are Nebraskans

86% attend part-time*

*Fall 2018

Collaboration and Professional Growth

Innovation in Pedagogy & Technology Symposium

Hosted annually in the spring by NU Online and Information Technology Services, the Innovation in Pedagogy and Technology Symposium focuses on the latest pedagogical practices and uses of technology to teach and support the academic mission.

This system-wide faculty and staff development opportunity brings together nearly 600 attendees, with plenary and extended workshop sessions led by nationally-recognized speakers and NU-led sessions highlighting effective practices in a variety of areas and time for sharing across the institution.

Campus Conversations

Offered multiple times each year, Campus Conversations provide faculty and staff with professional development opportunities on key online learning topics. In collaboration with NU Online, each campus tailors these on-site and webcast 'lunch and learn' sessions to issues of central importance to their campus, bringing in a range of expert speakers from across the country.

Instructional Design Summit

NU Online brings together instructional designers from across the four campuses to share ideas and effective practices through collaborative events. Every summer, a rotating in-person session showcases the host campus's instructional design efforts and provides these professionals across the system an opportunity to learn from their peers.

Women Advance IT

Each fall, NU Online co-sponsors with University of Nebraska–Lincoln Information Technology Services, the Women Advance IT leadership conference focused on how change is made in organizations, companies and campuses. Conference presentations center on encouraging inclusiveness and continued education in improving diversity and inclusion, growing future leaders and adding more women in IT.





SYDNEY BROWN

Assistant Director for Innovative Instructional Design
University of Nebraska–Lincoln



Good design helps everyone know where they're going and gives feedback along the way so adjustments can be made. Consequently, course design should be thought of as an iterative process where we learn something every time the course is taught that helps inform continuous improvement.





RICHARD BISCHOFF

IANR Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty and Academic Leader Success, Gwendolyn A. Newkirk Professor of Leadership in Child, Youth and Family Studies and Department Chair
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

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With online education, you are not only teaching students in the United States, but students around the world. The International Family Studies program is innovative and cutting edge because it helps advance the field of family studies around the world. Family studies, as a mature discipline does not exist globally, so this is an opportunity for students to really understand families and advance families worldwide.



Quality in Online Education

The University of Nebraska has a rich tradition of distance education, with its first correspondence courses dating back to 1909. As technology has evolved, programs embraced new methods for reaching students. Some NU programs were among the first in

their disciplines to launch online. Today, many online programs are recognized by U.S. News & World Report, a global authority in education rankings, for excellence in student engagement, faculty credentials and student services and use of technology.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY



#25

in Best Online Graduate Education Programs

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA—LINCOLN



#9

in Best Online Graduate Education Programs



#28

in Best Online Graduate Engineering Programs

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA



#1

in Best Online Criminal Justice Programs



#42

in Best Online Bachelor's Programs



#26

in Best Online MBA Programs



#49

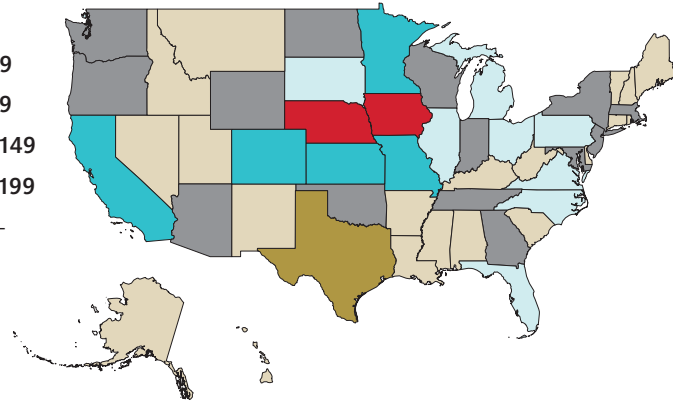
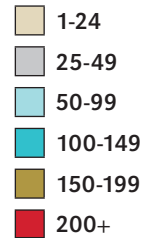
in Best Online Bachelor's Programs

Enrollment Growth

Over the last several years, more and more higher education institutions have recognized the importance of flexible programs as a key strategy for enrollment growth and meeting workforce needs. Nationwide, online-only enrollment continues to grow, even while overall higher education enrollment is flat or decreases slightly. To be competitive, schools must respond to student drivers whether they be cost, scheduling formats, faculty, institutional supports or other features. NU is proud to offer a broad array of affordable, quality online programs. During the 2018-2019 academic year, students enrolled entirely at a distance grew 4.4 percent.

Students enroll in online programs from NU in every state.

Number of Students



APRIL SHAW, STUDENT

Library Science, BMS
University of Nebraska at Omaha



What made a difference for me was how the University of Nebraska at Omaha went out of their way to make sure that I could use all of my previous credits. As a result, I transferred in as a senior. I have been an avid reader and enthusiastic supporter of libraries since childhood and UNO's online Library Science program has allowed me to work and go back to school without adding to my already lengthy daily commute in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The program is as varied as the field itself and is empowering creative, intelligent people and giving them the tools to share their knowledge and creativity with their communities.



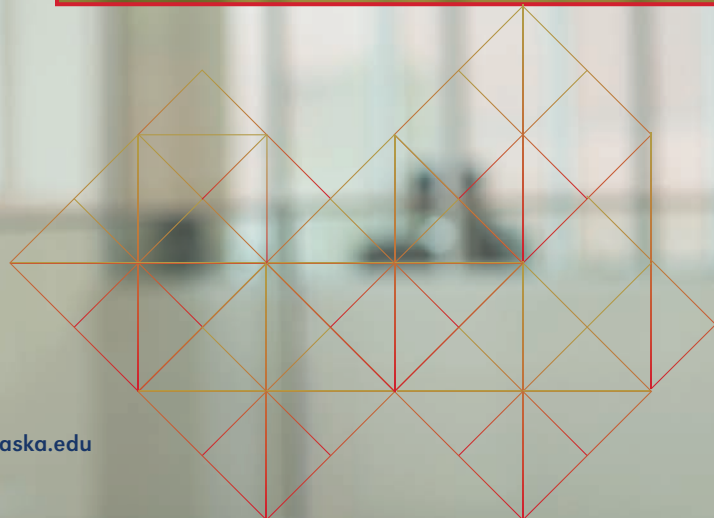


ALEX ZATIZABAL BORYCA

Online Program Recruitment Specialist
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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My role is dedicated to being the primary contact for online students and providing a connection to the campus. We see the most student success when using a team approach where key departments and program coordinators work together. In this way, we are able to provide students a personalized group of experts and multiple connections to the campus that helps demystify challenging processes and address their sense of belonging.




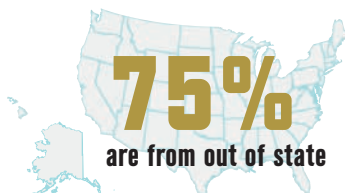
online.nebraska.edu

To most effectively reach prospective online students searching for programs, NU Online maintains a comprehensive website of all online programs offered

across the system. Prospective students are able to view NU's full range of programs and request additional information with a click of their mouse.

Who's interested in online programs at NU?


35%
report not yet having
earned a bachelor's degree


75%
are from out of state

TOP STATES for non-resident searches

1. California
2. Texas
3. Iowa
4. New York
5. Kansas


8%
are military


7%
are international

10%
of requests for
information
click 'Apply Now' 

34%
increase in unique
prospective inquiries **???**

Collaborating for Student Success

NU is committed to its role in supporting young people in their transition from high school to college and beyond. Rooted firmly in the University's mission of access, the University of Nebraska High School (UNHS) has a long tradition of offering Nebraska students, and others around the world, access to quality high school courses at a distance.

Online Options for High School Students

In partnership with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, qualified students have the opportunity to earn college credit for select UNHS courses. Students may earn credit equal to their first year of college, which provides significant cost savings to families and contributes to a timely, and sometimes even accelerated, college graduation.

Accreditation

UNHS has been accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education since 1967 and is recognized as a Special Purpose School in accordance with Rule 10. UNHS also carries regional accreditation by AdvancED since 1978.



**Complete High School Courses.
EARN COLLEGE CREDIT.**

**DUAL
ENROLLMENT**

- 📖 AP Calculus AB 1 & 2
- 📖 AP Comparative Government & Politics
- 📖 AP Computer Science A 1 & 2
- 📖 AP Environmental Science
- 📖 AP U.S. History 1 & 2
- 📖 Psychology
- 📖 Sociology

KAMYA, GRADUATE

University of Nebraska High School
Illinois



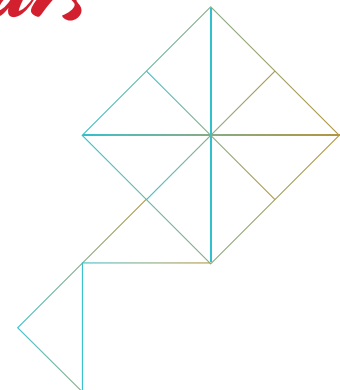
I chose UNHS because of its high academic rankings, the option of dual enrollment, and the ability of having a flexible schedule. UNHS also provided me an opportunity to graduate early. I learned how to be a self-motivated, hard-working individual, and also how to manage my time wisely. I really enjoyed working at my own pace. The curriculum was easy to follow, and I was able to complete my courses at a rate that was suitable for me.



Delivering Academic Opportunities for 90 Years

Since 1929, the University of Nebraska High School (UNHS) has contributed to college attendance by offering students access to quality high school courses at a distance. Now, nearly 120 courses are available online ranging from career and technical education to NCAA-approved and AP® selections.

Students can enroll with UNHS any day of the year and pursue self-paced study within a flexible time frame ranging from five to 52 weeks to complete a course. Students can earn a full diploma from UNHS or take courses for transfer credit as a supplement to a local school.



90 years...



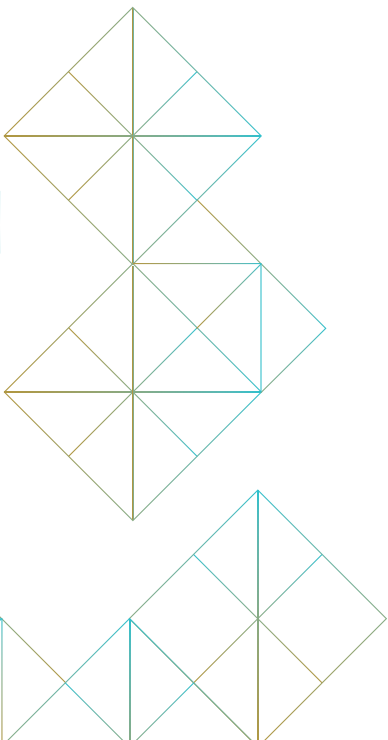
and counting.





TIM BROWN, TEACHER
University of Nebraska High School

UNHS provides students with many benefits that contribute to their successful matriculation into higher education or into the world of work. Some of these are time management and organizational skills, along with mastering the high quality content presented in the courses.



Being from a rural Nebraska area, I can attest firsthand to the benefit of UNHS courses. In high school, I was an accelerated math student, a unique situation in my local school. During my senior year, I needed a course that my school didn't offer. My school district suggested I take a math course through the University of Nebraska High School. This allowed me to continue with my math sequence and gave me everything I needed to be successful. Now, as an educator myself, I'm proud to celebrate 20 years of teaching with UNHS. Through every interaction I have with my students, I see the positive impact of our flexible education.



AMY RUISINGER, TEACHER
University of Nebraska High School



Meeting a Need in Nebraska Schools



In support of Nebraska schools and students, UNHS established the Nebraska Virtual Scholars (NVS) program in 2011 to offer schools throughout the state the funds necessary to enroll in UNHS courses at no cost to local schools or families. To date, the NVS program has provided nearly 1,000 scholarships, serving more than 200 schools and 600 students across both rural and urban regions of Nebraska.

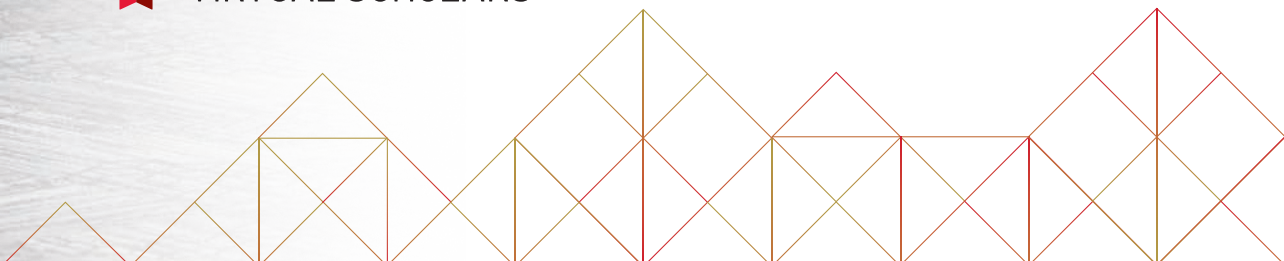
The NVS program has revealed a strong demand for upper-level STEM and AP® courses, but need has also been expressed for world languages, English and language arts and career education courses.

UNHS responds to curriculum needs cited by students and educators by continuously improving course content, and in the 2018-2019 year alone updated more than a dozen existing courses and introduced brand new courses such as Earth Science and Medical Imaging and Therapeutic Sciences.

Through NVS, schools are able to provide UNHS courses to their students to address a variety of issues such as diversifying course offerings, keeping students on the path to graduation, accelerating students in their coursework, addressing teacher shortages, and in many instances, solving budget constraints.



NEBRASKA
VIRTUAL SCHOLARS



Online Courses to Fit Any Schedule and Time Zone

Serving Nebraskans is central to the mission of the University of Nebraska High School, but the reach and impact of UNHS is experienced throughout the world. During the 2018-2019 academic year, UNHS served students in 48 U.S. states and 84 countries globally.

UNHS Students

2,100

live in the U.S.

1,053

are international

10,751

course enrollments



Governance and 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.



2018-2019 Steering Committee Members

Christine Arcari, Associate Dean, Academic & Student Affairs,
College of Public Health
University of Nebraska Medical Center

John Bartle, Dean, College of Public Affairs & Community Services,
Professor, Public Administration
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Renee Batman, Assistant Vice Chancellor & Chief
Administrative Officer
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Mark Ellis, Dean, Graduate Studies
University of Nebraska at Kearney

Amy Goodburn, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor &
Dean of Undergraduate Education
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Jaci Lindburg, Director, Digital Learning Faculty,
Women's & Gender Studies
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Tawnya Means, Assistant Dean, College of Business
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Juliann Sebastian, Dean & Professor, College of Nursing
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Jan Tompkins, Assistant Professor, Assistant Dean, Academic Affairs,
Director, Health Professions Teaching & Technology Program,
College of Allied Health Professions
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Gloria Vavricka, Director, eCampus
University of Nebraska at Kearney

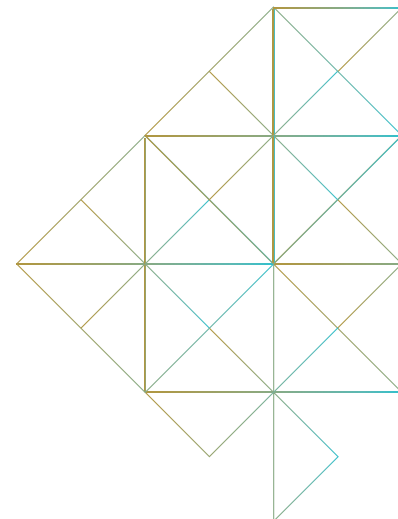
For More Information

[University of Nebraska Online](#)

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mniemiec@nebraska.edu

[University of Nebraska High School](#)

Barbara Shousha, Associate Director, University of Nebraska
Online & Director, University of Nebraska High School
bshousha@nebraska.edu





ANDREA HOOPMAN, GRADUATE

Science/Math Education, MS Ed
University of Nebraska at Kearney

As an educator in rural Nebraska, my community has benefited from the knowledge and skills I have been able to bring back to my classroom. I have always been a life-long learner, but as a single mother of two daughters, I needed a program that would work with my schedule and my interests. Pursing my degree online with the University of Nebraska allowed me to work full-time, stay in my community and still take classes. It also helped me make connections with other students across the state. I liked taking courses where I could learn and directly apply new information to use in my own classroom. I plan to use my degree to support student learning, not only through the information I learn and am able to pass on, but also through opportunities for my students to take college courses while still in the high school setting.

online.nebraska.edu

