University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Nursing Facility, Lincoln Division

The Lincoln Division of the UNMC College of Nursing has had long-standing facility inadequacies resulting in large numbers of qualified applicants turned away each year.

Meanwhile, Nebraska’s nursing shortage widens just as the overall acuity of medical care increases and a growing population of elderly requires more care. Nebraska’s R.N. shortage of 9 percent is expected to grow to 20 percent by 2020, with rural areas hardest hit. A nationwide faculty shortage is a principal reason behind the U.S. nursing shortage. Not only are teachers in short supply, many are also approaching retirement age.

UNMC College of Nursing – Lincoln Division
- Initiated in 1974
- Approximately 31 faculty, 8 staff
- Admitting student GPA – 3.6 - 3.8
- **Up to 60 percent of qualified BSN applicants turned away annually**
- Division preferred by largest percent of BSN applicants due to its collegiate environment
- Total annual enrollment: approximately 250. Total projected enrollment with new facility: 314.
- Roughly 80 BSN graduates per year, 15-18 MSN graduates, and 1-2 PhD; majority of graduates employed in Lincoln area
- Master’s and Ph.D. graduates become the future faculty workforce for Lincoln area nursing colleges.
- Annual budget: $2.7 million, with 98 percent from state general funds and the remainder from research and faculty nursing practices.

Lincoln facilities
- The college is currently housed in leased space in downtown Lincoln.
- The current facilities lack adequate space for classrooms and conference rooms, computer labs and faculty offices.
- Roughly half of the Lincoln faculty are Ph.D.-prepared and active researchers, bringing in NIH and other grants agency dollars (and new employees) to the region. Research activities are limited by space limitations.
- The building is on a mixed usage block occupied by bars, retail, and other businesses with pedestrian traffic not compatible with a college mission. This commercial environment draws frequent objections from parents, especially NU alumni, who want their sons and daughters to experience traditional college campus life.
Q: What would be different in a new building?

A: A new building would increase space for teaching, research and administration; space will be configured to maximize the functional relationships between and among faculty, students, teaching space, and research space. The five existing classrooms would be replaced with six classrooms and six seminar rooms sized to accommodate varying course enrollments, resulting in better space utilization.

Expanded enrollment is the focus, allowing the Lincoln division to accept more qualified applicants. An increase in enrollment of 64 more students by 2020 is projected. Expansion would especially focus on the Lincoln area’s greatest need, which is for masters and doctorally prepared nurses to take roles in advanced clinical specialization and as educators in the area’s nursing education programs.

Better faculty offices and improved research space would aid in national recruitment of new faculty.

Q: Are adequate clinical sites available in the Lincoln area?

A: We enjoy collegial cooperation with other nursing programs in the area in negotiating use of clinical sites. Additionally, we will work with local hospitals and community-based clinical agencies to develop innovative clinical learning experiences that respond to new trends emerging from health care reform and concerns for health promotion, illness prevention, and chronic care management. In addition to acute and critical care learning experiences, community-based clinical learning will provide students with interprofessional learning experiences that help them learn to manage care transitions for people with chronic illnesses, and to promote health and prevent illness. We will supplement clinical training with high-technology clinical simulation labs.