

**UNK** UNIVERSITY  
OF NEBRASKA  
KEARNEY

**Chancellor**



**UNK**



## About UNK

The University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) is a public, student-centric university committed to being one of the nation's premier undergraduate institutions. It is part of a prestigious state-wide university system, where the UNK campus is renowned for exceptional undergraduate education, innovative and applied scholarship, and impactful public service.

UNK stands at the forefront of higher education by offering nearly 6,000 students a supportive learning environment where faculty and staff know them by name while providing them with all the resources of a large university. UNK is well-known for:

- **Exceptional Academics and Experiential Learning:** Providing students with engaging academic experiences and hands-on learning opportunities.
- **Affordable Premier Education:** Offering financially accessible, high-quality education to all students.
- **Genuine Care and Support:** Investing deeply in the well-being and success of students.
- **Dynamic and Involved Community:** Encouraging student engagement in university life and the Kearney community.

Located in the heart of the Midwest in central Nebraska, UNK has three colleges, offers 81 undergraduate majors, 23 pre-professional programs and 32 graduate majors. The campus is a model for undergraduate research, with over 30% of UNK students doing research outside of the classroom and presenting at academic conferences. Approximately 75% of full-time faculty have the highest degrees in their fields, embodying a commitment of academic excellence. UNK delivers a world-class education to Central Nebraska, fostering economic development and equipping students for the regional and national workforce.

The University of Nebraska at Kearney was originally founded by the Nebraska Legislature in 1903 as a “normal school,” referring to schools that trained high school graduates to become teachers. From 1921 to 1962 the college served as the Nebraska State Teachers College at Kearney. In 1963 it joined the Nebraska state college system as Kearney State College and officially entered the University of Nebraska system in 1991.

**Economic Impact - \$446,537,335**

**State Tax Impact - \$12,250,036**

**Job Impact - 3,663**



## The University of Nebraska System

The University of Nebraska has more than 49,000 students and 16,000 employees; the four universities included in the system are: an R1 flagship land-grant university, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; an academic medical center, the University of Nebraska Medical Center; a metropolitan university, the University of Nebraska at Omaha; and a regional undergraduate university, the University of Nebraska at Kearney.





## Mission

**The University of Nebraska at Kearney is a public, residential university committed to being one of the nation's premier undergraduate institutions with excellent graduate education, scholarship, and public service.**

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## Vision

**The University of Nebraska at Kearney will achieve national distinction for a high quality, multidimensional learning environment, engagement with community and public interests, and preparation of students to lead responsible and productive lives in a democratic, multicultural society.**

**Key to such improvement will be a clear focus on mission imperatives, fidelity to historic core values, and continuous and rigorous self-appraisal or assessment of outcomes.**

## UNK Academics

UNK has three colleges, 81 undergraduate majors, 23 pre-professional programs and 32 graduate majors. UNK focuses on the undergraduate experience while becoming an international destination for some key graduate and online programs. With a new University of Nebraska Medical Center Rural Health Education Building, pre-med and allied health professions majors are finding increased opportunities for education and practical experience in Kearney.

## College of Arts & Sciences

The [College of Arts & Sciences](#) is the intellectual foundation of the University of Nebraska at Kearney, offering students a top-notch liberal arts education in the humanities, social sciences and sciences.

## College of Business & Technology

The [College of Business and Technology](#) emphasizes experiential learning. The college's mission is to provide transformational career-focused programs dedicated to extraordinary student experiences and regional economic development in Nebraska. Various programs lead to professional careers, and many boast a 100% job placement rate.

## College of Education

UNK is a leading university for teacher education. The mission at the [College of Education](#) is to prepare, inspire, and support students to become caring, reflective, and competent professionals in a democratic, multicultural society. The technology-rich COE building is home to many outstanding programs.

## UNK Online

[UNK Online](#) offers the same University of Nebraska degree online as students would receive on-campus. With small class sizes and instruction from credentialed full-time faculty who are committed to quality teaching, students gain access to a valuable, personalized education.

## Graduate Studies

The Office of [Graduate Studies](#) elevates the status of UNK graduate education, making it more visible on campus, in the community, and across the state and beyond through expanded graduate program opportunities, enhanced experiences for graduate students and graduate faculty, and via community engagement.

# CAMPUS UPGRADES

## UNK JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER!



**DOUGLAS KRISTENSEN RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION BUILDING**  
TO OPEN 2026 - \$95 MILLION



**ARMSTRONG HALL – SORORITY HOUSING**  
COMPLETED JANUARY 2024 - \$32.6 MILLION  
(TOTAL INCLUDES FRATERNITY HOUSING)



**MARTIN HALL – FRATERNITY HOUSING**  
OPENED JANUARY 2023 - \$32.6 MILLION  
(TOTAL INCLUDES SORORITY HOUSING)



**CALVIN T. RYAN LIBRARY RENOVATION**  
COMPLETED FALL 2024 - \$25 MILLION



**REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER**  
COMPLETED 2024 - \$15.6 MILLION

**13:1**

**UNK boasts a 13:1 student-faculty ratio.**

**75%**

**~75% UNK full-time faculty with terminal degrees in their field.**

**15**

**15 individual academic programs are nationally accredited.**

**43%**

**43% of students are first generation in their families to go to college.**

**60%**

**UNK has a five-year graduation rate near 60% and retention rate ranging from 75% to 80%.**

**top  
10%**

**Their online Master's in education is in the top 10% nationally.**



**For more than a decade, UNK has ranked in the Top 10 of Midwest Public Regional Universities in the US News & World Report ranking and is at #6 in the Fall 2024 rankings.**



**With relatively low cost of attendance and strong student outcomes, UNK is ranked #5 in value in the Midwest by US News & World Report.**



# Student Life

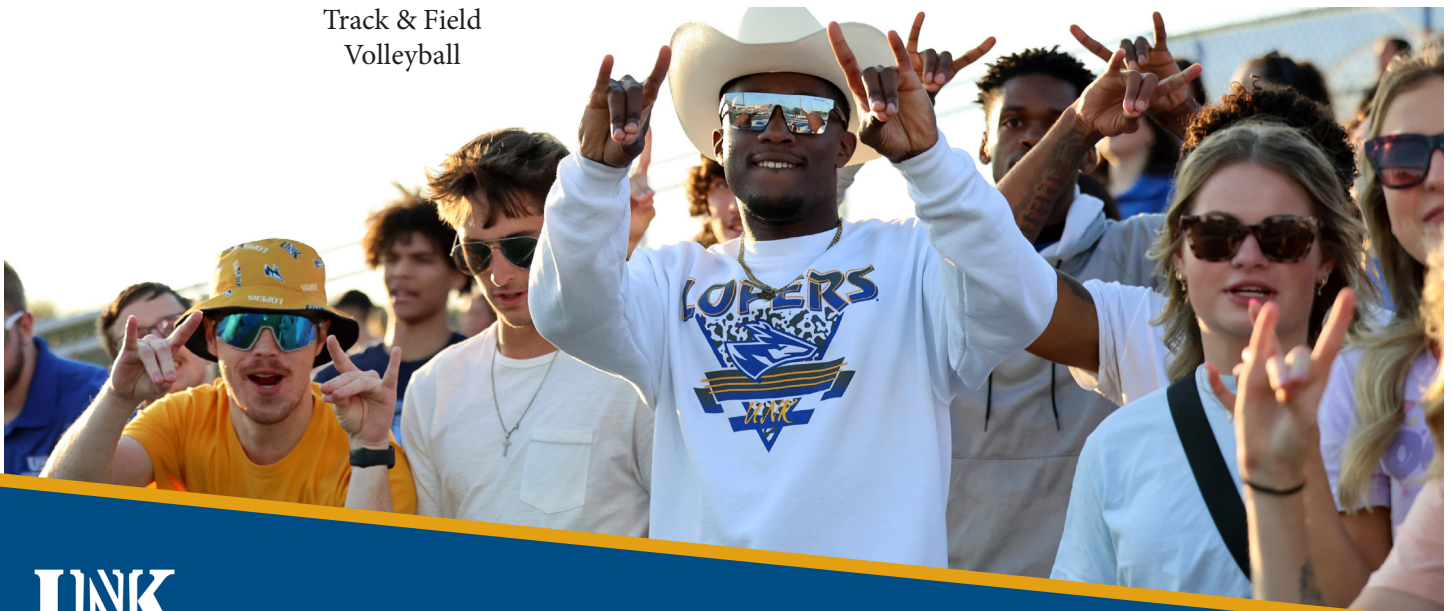
Student success is central to UNK's mission. The university offers a supportive environment where students connect, grow and thrive through more than 180 organizations, fraternity and sorority life, campus recreation, the First-Gen Trailblazer Academy, Honors Program, Study Abroad and Loper Success Hub, which centralizes academic services. A member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, 14.9% of UNK's first-time freshmen in 2024 were Hispanic. Students represent all 93 Nebraska counties, 47 states and 58 countries.

## Women's

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Softball
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball

## Men's

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Football
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Wrestling





## Partnerships

UNK has cultivated a long-standing, positive relationship with the City of Kearney and the broader south-central region of Nebraska. UNK employees are deeply involved in community service organizations, contributing their time and talents to enhance the quality of life in the area. At the institutional level, UNK collaborates extensively with local government, school systems, and the private sector, exemplifying a commitment to community development through innovative projects like [University Village](#) - a model of creative and impactful public-private partnership.

UNK also benefits from strong collaboration within the University of Nebraska system. Since 1999, the university has played a critical role in developing medical researchers through the NIH-funded [INBRE](#) program. This initiative identifies promising undergraduates in their sophomore year, engaging them in a series of experiences designed to hone their research skills and inspire a passion for graduate-level research.

UNK's successful collaboration with the State of Nebraska earned the state's support for their partnership with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), which resulted in the Health Sciences Complex on the UNK campus. This state-of-the-art facility opens in 2026 and will support UNMC's programs while expanding health science opportunities for students and the community.



## Community

The City of Kearney, home to approximately 34,000 residents, is situated in one of Nebraska's few counties experiencing consistent population growth. This vibrant community boasts a well-rounded economy driven by agriculture, health care, hospitality, and higher education—sectors that collectively ensure both growth and stability.

UNK plays a pivotal role in supporting the region's economic needs by offering academic programs tailored to local industries, such as health care, supply chain management, and education. In return, these thriving sectors provide strong support for the university, creating a dynamic partnership that benefits both the campus and the broader community.

Kearney also offers rich cultural and civic amenities, including the Museum of Nebraska Art, the Merryman Performing Arts Center, more than 600 acres of parks, including a 12-acre botanical garden, and 25 miles of hike/bike trail, and a robust Chamber of Commerce that fosters local business growth and community engagement.



# The Opportunity

Reporting directly to the President of the University of Nebraska, Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., the next Chancellor of UNK will serve as the chief administrative officer of UNK, providing visionary leadership to guide it into a new era of growth, innovation, and impact. As a peer and partner to the chancellors of the University System's three other campuses, the Chancellor will collaborate across the system to strengthen the collective mission while championing UNK's unique contributions.

The Chancellor will play a pivotal role in addressing critical needs in rural health, business, education, and workforce development, positioning UNK as a leader in advancing Nebraska's economic vitality and quality of life. As the chief institutional ambassador, the Chancellor will foster meaningful partnerships with public and private organizations at the local, state, and national levels, enhancing UNK's visibility, influence, and impact.

This is a transformative opportunity for a dynamic leader to further UNK's mission of student success, academic excellence, and community engagement while driving initiatives that respond to the evolving needs of the region and beyond.

## Responsibilities

The Chancellor will oversee all aspects of campus administration at UNK, including academic affairs, student success, athletics, and business and finance. The successful candidate will provide visionary leadership, foster innovation, and ensure the university's continued excellence and impact. Key responsibilities include:

### Student Success

- Ensure access to quality education and promote student success, empowering students to achieve their full potential.
- Cultivate strong connections with students (undergraduate, graduate, professional, and part-time/adult learners) and alumni, equipping them for lifelong learning, well-being, and meaningful contributions to Nebraska and beyond.

## Strategic Leadership

- Lead and manage the operations of a large, complex university with a focus on innovation and excellence.
- Develop and execute strategic resource management plans that align with the university's mission and priorities.
- Anticipate and respond proactively to critical and disruptive forces in higher education.
- Partner effectively with the University of Nebraska President as part of an integrated governance team.
- Develop policies and procedures that advance the institution's goals while aligning with the other three NU-system campuses.
- Build and sustain a collaborative and high-performing campus leadership team to drive institutional success.

## Community Relations and Fundraising

- Actively engage alumni and donors to cultivate philanthropic support and build resources for the university's strategic priorities.
- Serve as a visible and engaged advocate for UNK, strengthening partnerships with local, regional, and state stakeholders.
- Collaborate with industry, government, and community leaders to address regional challenges and drive economic and social progress.

## Advocacy

- Represent and advocate for UNK within the University of Nebraska system and to external audiences, highlighting unique strengths and contributions.
- Foster collaboration across the University of Nebraska campuses to share resources, advance research, and promote system-wide success.





## Academic and Administrative Oversight

- Ensure academic programs are responsive to student and regional workforce needs, emphasizing innovation and workforce development.
- Support college-level and academic program-level accreditation standards and reporting requirements.
- Oversee financial and budgetary operations, ensuring fiscal accountability and optimal resource utilization.
- Recruit, retain, and support exceptional faculty and staff to advance UNK's mission and academic excellence.

## Innovation and Collaboration

- Articulate a compelling vision for UNK, particularly in addressing challenges related to complex budgets, new revenue streams, and enrollment management.
- Foster a campus culture that embraces innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaborative problem-solving.
- Support faculty research and creative activities and ensure the institution remains at the forefront of innovation and scholarship.
- Take bold, strategic risks to challenge the status quo and advance the institution's mission.

# Qualifications and Requirements

## Education

- A terminal degree from an accredited institution is strongly preferred. An equivalent combination of education and experience that demonstrates the ability to lead a complex academic institution will also be strongly considered.

## Skills

- *Visionary Leadership:* The ability to inspire and motivate faculty, staff, and students to foster a positive campus culture and drive institutional goals.
- *Strategic Vision:* A proven ability to think strategically and develop innovative solutions to address complex challenges and opportunities.
- *Advocacy:* The ability to serve as a strong advocate for and champion of UNK, fostering relationships with state leaders, the University System, and external stakeholders.
- *Fundraising:* Demonstrated ability to build trust and foster long-term relationships with donors, community partners, and philanthropic organizations.
- *Financial Acumen:* A clear understanding of budgeting, finance, and resource allocation to effectively manage the institution's financial health and budget challenges.
- *Governance:* A solid understanding of and respect for shared governance, including the roles and responsibilities of faculty in institutional decision-making.



- *Collaboration*: Demonstrated skill in building partnerships with diverse constituencies and fostering a collaborative, inclusive environment.
- *Communication*: Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with a transparent and approachable leadership style.
- *Crisis management*: The ability to handle emergencies and make decisions under pressure, ensuring stability and safety.
- *Adaptability*: The capability to embrace change and navigate evolving educational landscapes.



## Attributes

- *Student-Centered Focus*: A strong commitment to the student-centered, experiential approach to higher education, emphasizing student success and academic excellence.
- *Regional Understanding*: A deep appreciation for the values, culture, and people of Nebraska and the Midwest.
- *Rural Expertise*: A genuine understanding of the importance of rural health, business, education, and entrepreneurship to the university's mission and the state's prosperity.
- *Civic-Minded*: A desire to actively contribute to the broader community through outreach and advocacy.
- *Collaborative Spirit*: A willingness to work with others, build consensus, and foster teamwork across campus, within the NU system, and in the community.
- *Cultural Acuity*: Understanding and respecting UNK's unique culture and special role in the NU system, the Kearney community, and Nebraska.



# Applications and Nominations

Although applications will be accepted until the time that a new Chancellor is appointed, candidates should submit application materials consisting of a curriculum vitae or resume and a letter of interest addressed to the Chancellor Search Advisory Committee by January 31, 2025, for most favorable consideration.

Nominations, expressions of interest, and applications should be submitted to [UNKChancellor@carterbaldwin.com](mailto:UNKChancellor@carterbaldwin.com). All candidate names will be kept confidential.

Inquiries concerning this search may be directed to:



Andrea McDaniel Smith  
Partner  
(678) 448-0004  
[asmith@carterbaldwin.com](mailto:asmith@carterbaldwin.com)

Gerri Williams, EdD  
Associate Partner  
(678) 293-7458  
[gwilliams@carterbaldwin.com](mailto:gwilliams@carterbaldwin.com)

Jake Hooper  
Research  
[jhooper@carterbaldwin.com](mailto:jhooper@carterbaldwin.com)

Beth Miller  
Search Coordinator  
[bmiller@carterbaldwin.com](mailto:bmiller@carterbaldwin.com)

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