

# Student Information

## RP-5.2.1 Admission Standards

### 1. Overview of Entrance Requirements

Entrance requirements have been divided into two sections described in detail below. The first deals with core course requirements. In addition to being graduates of an accredited high school, or equivalent, all students must take a core of selected high school courses spread over a number of disciplines. Additionally, students are required to meet performance criteria by being in the top half of their graduating class or meet certain performance criteria, based on scores on national examinations. The entrance requirements incorporate a process for admitting students who do not meet one or more of the admission criteria, yet show promise of academic success.

### 2. Core Course Requirements

Note: Material presented to the Board of Regents in tabular format has been converted to text in this section.

- a. English - 4 units - All units must include intensive reading and writing experiences. Innovative interdisciplinary courses and courses in speech and journalism may be substituted if they include substantial amounts of reading and writing.
- b. Mathematics - 3 units - Algebra I, algebra II and geometry.
- c. Social Studies - 3 units - One unit drawn from American and/or world history; one additional unit drawn from history, American government, and/or geography; and a third unit drawn from any social science discipline.
- d. Natural Sciences - 3 units - At least two units selected from biology, chemistry, physics, and earth sciences. One of the above units must include laboratory instruction.
- e. Foreign Language - 2 units - Both units must be in the same language. Students who are unable to take two years of foreign language in high school may still qualify for admission. Such students will be required to take two semesters of foreign language at the University of Nebraska. These students are still required to complete 16 units of academic courses for admission.
- f. Additional Academic Requirements - 1 unit  
For UNK and UNO, unit can be chosen from any academic discipline.  
For UNL, must be a Mathematics unit that builds on a knowledge of algebra. It is not required that all students take a trigonometry or pre-calculus course for their fourth unit of mathematics. Other mathematics courses that build on two years of algebra

(courses in statistics or discrete mathematics for example) may be taken to satisfy this requirement.

- g. Total Units - 16 total units required - A unit is a Carnegie Unit, comprising high school study for a period of one year. Equivalent requirements or competencies may be substituted, with the approval of the appropriate University campus.

### **Core Course Equivalencies by High School**

Our list of [Nebraska high schools](#) links to the courses offered by each school that have been identified as meeting University of Nebraska core course requirements. All of the University of Nebraska campuses offering undergraduate education--UNK, UNL, and UNO--agree to use the identified core courses as a foundation for the admissions process. The Lincoln campus is the reporting institution for the University of Nebraska system, and updates the course lists as necessary.

### **3. Performance Requirements**

In addition to meeting the above core course requirements, students seeking admission to the University on any campus shall:

- a. Be ranked in the 50th percentile or higher of their graduating class in an accredited high school; or
- b. Have received an ACT composite score of 20 (enhanced) or greater; or
- c. Have received an SAT total score of 950 or greater.

### **4. Admission of Students**

Students seeking admission to any campus of the University will have their academic records reviewed. These reviews will result in one of the following decisions:

- a. Assured Admission of Students. High school graduates who meet the above criteria (successful completion of the 16 units of core courses and satisfaction of the performance requirement) will be assured of admission as an undergraduate to UNL, UNO, or UNK.
- b. Admission of Students on the Basis of Special Merit. Applicants who do not qualify for assured admission by meeting all entrance criteria will automatically be considered for full admission to the University on the basis of special merit. The process by which these students are considered and admitted to a given campus is the responsibility of that particular campus. However, each campus will assure that the process will make provisions for a variety of circumstances, including allowance for the special consideration to be given to: non-traditional students; returning adult students; students educated at home schools; students who do not meet the required

performance criteria but who have performed at a high level of accomplishment towards the conclusion of their high school careers (sometimes called "late bloomers"); students who can provide evidence of special talents, such as outstanding musical performers; those with unique educational experience or career achievements, etc. Such students will be encouraged to provide evidence of their ability to do university level work. In addition, special consideration will be given to members of under-represented groups who present evidence of being able to succeed. Such applications will be considered by University admissions personnel of the cognizant campus following policies and procedures established by the appropriate faculty committees. It must be emphasized that students once admitted through this process will be considered fully admitted and will not be considered by the University to have a provisional status. However, some students may have to complete specific University courses to compensate for having not completed all of the required core courses or equivalent educational attainments. It is anticipated that no more than 25 percent of the first-time traditional freshman students would be admitted in this way.

- c. Admission of Transfer Students. Students who transfer to the University of Nebraska will be expected to have met the core course requirements, either in high school or in their previous postsecondary studies, unless exempted by the campus. Those who do not fully meet these requirements may still qualify for admission on the basis of special merit. Each campus will determine how deficiencies in the prior record of these students will be made up.
- d. Deferred Admissions. Some students may need additional preparation prior to attending the University of Nebraska. These students will have their admission deferred and will be encouraged to attend another postsecondary institution, such as a community college, in order to deal with deficiencies identified in their prior academic preparation.