Studies at UNK

After you successfully complete the English Language Institute and meet the requirements for admission, you will be admitted as a full-time student to the University of Nebraska at Kearney at either the under-graduate or graduate level.

UNK is an affordable, student-centered regional hub of intellectual, cultural and artistic excellence that has been a prominent part of Nebraska’s higher education landscape.

It offers:
- Access to all the opportunities and choices of a major public university
- A wide range of academic programs that lead to exciting careers
- Nationally-renowned faculty
- A rich and diverse campus life
- The best place to learn English
- Experience traditional American culture while learning the standard English used by the national news media and television

UNK is committed to providing an outstanding education in a small and personal setting. It is a university that quickly transforms nearly 7,200 students from across the globe into a close-knit, supportive community of friends; it is a place they will forever call “home”.

Curriculum

Students in the University of Nebraska at Kearney English Language Institute take courses designed on an intensive immersion schedule of eighteen class hours per week. The program is centered around the four language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students are tested on the first day of the semester to determine their appropriate level of study.

There are six different course levels:
- 100 A
- 100 B
- 200
- 300
- 400
- 500

In each level, the following courses are taught:
- Conversation
- Listen & Speak*
- Grammar
- Writing
- Reading
- Vocabulary

*At the 500 level, Speech is taught, rather than Listen & Speak.

To access more information about ELI please visit unk.edu/eli
The University of Nebraska at Kearney

UNK is a small state university with nearly 7,200 students, over 600 of whom are from other countries. The university offers over 70 degree programs at the undergraduate level, over 20 at the master’s level, and 4 at the specialist’s level. The English Language Institute, a part of the Office of International Education, welcomes students from around the world to be part of a dynamic, student centered institution.

Life in Kearney

Kearney is a vibrant, growing community of 31,000 and is located 1,733 miles from Boston and San Francisco. Kearney lies in the Great Plains, the heartland of America, and has many advantages for students wishing to study English:

• Nebraska is a standard English speaking state (unlike New York, California, or Florida, which have regional English accents or large immigrant populations)
• safety (very low crime rate)
• extremely affordable
• campus environment
• friendly people
• regional activities
• beautiful parks
• relaxed atmosphere

Services for International Students

All ELI students have full use of all university facilities including the UNK library, computer centers, health care center, recreation areas, counseling center, career services, the Student Union, and the cafeterias.

Housing

About 2,000 students live on campus in eight traditional residence halls and two apartment-style complexes. Each housing facility is supervised by a live-in hall director and is staffed by live-in resident advisers on each floor. Most residence facilities feature several lounges, study areas, state of the art computer labs, and recreational space for student interaction and involvement.

International Friendship Program

Kearney families are interested in meeting international students. Our host family program permits students to become friends with an American family and learn first hand about American culture.

Classes

Students spend eighteen hours per week in classes organized around the skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, while focusing on grammar difficulties and vocabulary expansion. Classes are small with approximately twelve students per class. Students are tested on the first day of the session to determine the appropriate level of study and to allow instructors to individualize the student’s program of study.

ELI students also participate in both Conversation Partners and Conversation Table.

Conversation Partners pairs an ELI student with an American UNK student and they meet for casual conversation a minimum of six times during a sixteen week semester to establish a committed partnership.

English Conversation Table meets for one hour a week for six weeks and it is open to everyone on campus and in the community to converse with a variety of people of all ages.

The application procedure is described on the following website unk.edu/eli/apply