

UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA at KEARNEY



KEARNEY HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM



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Kearney Health Opportunities Program (KHOP)

PROGRAM MISSION

The Kearney Health Opportunities Program (KHOP) is a cooperative program between the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). The purpose of the program is to recruit and educate students from rural Nebraska who are committed to returning to rural Nebraska to practice healthcare. This program represents a commitment and dedication to the education of Nebraskans and quality healthcare for citizens of the state.

WHO CAN APPLY

High school seniors from rural Nebraska who:

- Will receive a high school diploma or equivalent
- Have a sincere interest in becoming a healthcare provider
- Have a willingness to practice in rural Nebraska (see below for rural eligibility)
- Have scored a minimum ACT composite of 23 or above before the application deadline

RURAL RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

*The following cities, towns, and census-designated places **ARE NOT** considered “rural areas” and therefore not eligible for KHOP: Omaha, Ralston, Boys Town, Elkhorn, Lincoln, Bellevue, Papillion, LaVista, Chalco, and Offutt Air force Base.*

PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS & APPROXIMATE TIMELINE

PROGRAM	UNK/UNMC	POSITIONS
Dental Hygiene	2 years/2 years	Up to 3
Dentistry	4 years/4 years	Up to 2
Medical Laboratory Science	3 years/1 year	Up to 5
Medicine	4 years/4 years	Up to 7
Nursing	2 years/2 years	Up to 4
Occupational Therapy	4 years/3 years	Up to 2
Pharmacy	3 years/4 years	Up to 6
Physical Therapy	4 years/3 years	Up to 2
Physician Assistant	4 years/2.5 years	Up to 2
Public Health	4 years/2 years	Up to 3
Radiography	2 years/2 years	Up to 3

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

Each participant will:

- Receive a full tuition scholarship for coursework at UNK up to 120 credit hours.
- Follow a special curriculum and participate in professional development activities at UNK that will prepare them for their healthcare program at UNMC.
- Receive admission to their specified healthcare program at UNMC upon satisfactory completion of all requirements within the prescribed timeline.
- Participate in the KHOP Learning Community for freshmen that includes a room scholarship.



APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE

- Students must submit an online application for admission to the UNK Undergraduate Admissions Office. Once admitted, the KHOP application can be accessed through the MyBlue Student Portal.
- Students may apply for only ONE professional field within the KHOP program.
- The following items are required for the application to be considered complete:
 - Application
 - 3 References - contact information only - letters are not required.
(Two must come from the school the applicant is attending and one of those must be from a Math and/or Science teacher)
 - Official High School Transcript
 - ACT/SAT scores
 - **The application deadline is December 1st**

SELECTION GUIDELINES

Numerous factors are part of the selection process, however, special emphasis will be placed on applicants who:

- Score a minimum ACT Composite of 23.
- Demonstrate a desire to become a healthcare provider and show knowledge of the profession.
- Are from rural areas of Nebraska and who are committed to returning to rural Nebraska to practice.
- Demonstrate academic potential through their GPA, ACT/SAT scores, and references.

KHOP FINALISTS DAY

Finalists will be selected and notified by mid-December. Finalists and their parents will be invited to UNK for a KHOP Finalists Day in December to learn more about the program, visit with current students, and meet the faculty.

INTERVIEWS

Virtual interviews, via zoom, will take place in January after the initial review of applications. The interviews will be approximately 20 minutes in length and will be conducted by faculty from UNMC and UNK.

FINAL SELECTIONS

All applicants will be notified of their status as soon as possible after the interview process is complete, typically by early February.

PARTICIPANT POSITIONS

Qualified applicants will be selected to fill the participant positions and will receive the full benefits of the programs. ***Once accepted through KHOP, if a student decides to pursue a different health profession or major and/or fails to meet the requirements at UNK set forth in his or her KHOP contract, the student will be dismissed from KHOP.***

ALTERNATE POSITIONS

Additional applicants will be selected to fill the alternate positions. Alternates may be allowed to fill any vacancies that may develop in the respective class. Students named as alternates will maintain this status as long as they enroll at UNK, maintain the standards set forth by KHOP, and complete the appropriate pre-program curriculum. However, alternates will not receive guaranteed admission or a tuition scholarship through this program unless formally admitted following a vacancy.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All students accepted to the KHOP program must maintain the academic requirements set forth in the Program Standards. Students are also expected to participate in professional development activities. Failure to meet the requirements of the Program Standards may result in dismissal.

Learning Community

Students in KHOP, including alternates, will have the opportunity to live in a Learning Community in one of the residence halls. Students in this Learning Community will have common classes, mentors, academic success coaching, and developmental programming that allows them to continue to explore medical professions and issues in healthcare. All incoming freshmen in the KHOP program, including alternates, are **required** to live in the Learning Community with the only exceptions being students living in the Honors or Thompson Scholars Learning Communities. All students living in the KHOP Learning Community will receive a room scholarship from KHOP. Regardless of which Learning Community a student lives in, all KHOP students are required to participate in all KHOP Learning Community meeting and activities. The Learning Community is co-sponsored by the Central Nebraska Area Health Education Center.

ACADEMIC LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR KEARNEY HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (KHOP)

- All students in the KHOP program including alternates are required to live in the Learning Community.
- All KHOP students including alternates, will receive a partial room scholarship. This is a one-year scholarship, but students may continue to live in the Learning Community as an upperclassman.
- KHOP students will live together on one floor of the Centennial Towers residence hall.
- Students will take chemistry and one other course together.
- Students will participate in a mentoring program and a series of professional development opportunities.

BENEFITS OF THE KHOP LEARNING COMMUNITY:

- You will have a ready-made study group of people who are taking many of the same classes and with whom you share interests.
- Your Resident Assistant and KHOP Mentors will be involved in your community.
- Members of learning communities nationwide earn higher GPAs, and have a better chance of success than their peers!
- Opportunities to explore healthcare careers and participate in professional development.
- Receive academic success coaching.

Note: All KHOP students are required to live in the KHOP Learning Community unless they are living in the Thompson Scholars Community or Honors Learning Community. Students living in one of the other Learning Communities will still participate in the chemistry course, mentoring, and other KHOP Learning Community activities.

Program Information and Standards

Students selected for the Kearney Health Opportunities Program are required to adhere to the following program standards.

DENTAL HYGIENE

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Following completion of the two-year program at UNK (approximately 60 credit hours), students will enter the Dental Hygiene Program at UNMC West Division – Gering, Nebraska.
- Although already accepted, KHOP students must complete the application procedures including an on-line application.
- Students will complete five semesters of didactic and clinical training leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

- Earn a grade of “C” or better in each course and maintain the following:
Cumulative GPA ≥ 3.33
Cumulative Science GPA ≥ 3.00
- Follow the pre-dental hygiene curriculum and complete the courses as prescribed.
- All pre-requisite courses must be taken at UNK.
- Meet with the KHOP academic advisor every semester.
- Show evidence of:
 - participation in extra-curricular activities
 - leadership qualities
 - outstanding character
 - promise as a KHOP representative
 - knowledge of the profession
 - commitment to return to a rural area of Nebraska

For UNK KHOP information contact:

Peggy Abels, Director UNK Health Sciences
Email: abelsp@unk.edu Phone: 308-865-8260

For UNMC Dental Hygiene information contact:

Lisa Moravec, RDH, MS, Program Coordinator – West Division
Email: ljmoravec@unmc.edu Phone: 308-633-3368

DENTISTRY

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Students gain acceptance into UNMC's College of Dentistry, located in Lincoln, upon satisfactory completion of a four-year undergraduate program at UNK.
- Upon successful completion of dental school, students receive the Doctor of Dental Surgery degree.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

- Earn a "C" or better in each course and maintain the following:
Cumulative GPA > 3.5
Math & Science GPA > 3.5
- Follow the pre-dentistry curriculum and complete the courses in a timely manner.
- Complete the DAT not later than Oct. 1st of the final year at UNK. Students must obtain a minimum of 18 on the DAT as set forth by the UNMC College of Dentistry.
- Meet with the KHOP academic advisor every semester.
- Shadow dentists and gain knowledge of the profession.

For UNK KHOP information contact:

Peggy Abels, Director UNK Health Sciences

Email: abelsp@unk.edu Phone: 308-865-8260

For UNMC – College of Dentistry information contact:

Dr. Sarah Lowman, Assistant Director of Admissions

Email: slowman@unmc.edu Phone: 402-472-1479

Dr. Merlyn Vogt, Associate Dean of Student Affairs,
Admissions, and External Relations

Email: mvogt@unmc.edu Phone: 402-472-1479

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Students gain acceptance to the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions' Medical Laboratory Science Program contingent upon satisfactory completion of the three year undergraduate program at UNK.
- Students will experience 13 weeks of introductory clinical laboratory class at UNMC's campus in Kearney during the senior year.
- Students will receive the remaining nine months of their clinical education at one of the following sites: Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Norfolk, North Platte or Scottsbluff.
- The use of video conferencing and web-based course material enables students at all sites to interact with the course material, class peers and faculty in a standardized way. This arrangement enables students to complete all of their clinical education at a site serving a rural community.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

- Students must earn a "C-" or better in the required courses.
- Students must maintain:
 - cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher **and**
 - science GPA of 2.5 or higher and/or GPA for last 20 science hours of 2.5 or higher
- Follow the pre-medical laboratory science curriculum and complete the courses in a timely manner.
- Meet with the KHOP academic advisor every semester.
- Shadow medical laboratory scientists and gain knowledge of the profession.

For UNK KHOP information contact:

Peggy Abels, Director UNK Health Sciences

Email: abelsp@unk.edu Phone: 308-865-8260

For UNMC MLS information contact:

Karen Honeycutt, Program Director and Associate Professor

UNMC Division of Medical Laboratory Science

Email: khoneycu@unmc.edu Phone: 402-559-9045

MEDICINE

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Students gain acceptance into UNMC's College of Medicine, located in Omaha, upon satisfactory completion of a four-year undergraduate program at UNK.
- Upon successful completion of medical school, students receive the Doctor of Medicine degree. To become certified to practice medicine, students would then complete a residency program.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

- Earn a "C" or better in each course and maintain the following:
Cumulative GPA ≥ 3.5
Math & Science GPA ≥ 3.5
- Follow the pre-medicine curriculum and complete the courses in a timely manner.
- Complete the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test)
Students must obtain a minimum MCAT score of 500, as set forth by the UNMC College of Medicine, by March 1st of the planned matriculation year.
- Meet with the KHOP academic advisor every semester.
- Shadow physicians and gain knowledge of the profession.

For UNK KHOP information contact:

Peggy Abels, Director UNK Health Sciences

Email: abelsp@unk.edu Phone: 308-865-8260

For UNMC – College of Medicine information contact:

Lindsay Meyer, Admissions Director

Email: lindsay.meyer@unmc.edu Phone: 402-559-6140

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Following completion of the two-year pre-nursing prerequisites at UNK, students will enter the Traditional BSN Program at the College of Nursing-Kearney Division.
- Students will have 4 semesters of nursing curriculum courses and clinicals.
- Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and are eligible to apply for the NCLEX national licensing exam for registered nurses.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

- All pre-nursing pre-requisite courses must earn a grade of “C” or better and must maintain the following:
Cumulative GPA ≥ 3.3
- Must have a letter grade in the following prerequisites:
 - Human Anatomy & Physiology I and II
 - Chemistry
 - Statistics
 - Microbiology
 - Nutrition
 - College Algebra
- A maximum of 12 credit hours can be non-graded (e.g.: AP, CLEP, Dantes, P/NP).
- Follow the pre-nursing curriculum and complete the courses in a timely manner.
- Meet with the KHOP academic advisor every semester.
- Meet all other UNMC CON admission requirements.

For UNK KHOP information contact:

Peggy Abels, Director UNK Health Sciences

Email: abelsp@unk.edu Phone: 308-865-8260

For UNMC – College of Nursing information contact:

Sarah Jones, Student Services Coordinator

Email: sjones1@unmc.edu Phone: 308-865-8322

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Students gain acceptance into UNMC's College of Allied Health Professions' Occupational Therapy Program upon successful completion of a four-year undergraduate bachelor's degree at UNK as well as required prerequisites.
- Students accepted to the KHOP program will be expected to enter the UNMC Occupational Therapy Program at the Health Science Education Complex on the UNK campus.
- Upon successful completion of the Occupational Therapy Program, students receive a Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) degree and are eligible to sit for the national certification examination.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

- Receive a grade of C or better for each pre-occupational therapy required course.
- Earn a bachelor's degree of the student's choice.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA ≥ 3.00 on a 4.00 scale.
- Meet with the KHOP academic advisor each semester and participate in KHOP activities.
- Meet all College and Division admission requirements such as completion of journals, OTCAS application, interview, etc.

For UNK KHOP information contact:

Peggy Abels, Director UNK Health Sciences

Email: abelsp@unk.edu Phone: 308-865-8260

For UNMC – OTD HOP information contact:

Stacy Smallfield, DrOT, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA

Associate Program Director

Email: ssmallfield@unmc.edu Phone: 402-559-8419

PHARMACY

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Following successful completion of 90 hours of prerequisites, students will gain acceptance into UNMC's College of Pharmacy in Omaha.
- Students admitted through KHOP must complete the standard professional curriculum, but, in addition, students must participate in a special experiential program for rural students during their final professional year (four rotations are required vs. one for the standard program).
- Upon successful completion of pharmacy school, students receive the Doctor of Pharmacy degree and are eligible to sit for licensure examinations.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

- Follow the pre-pharmacy curriculum and complete the courses in a timely manner.
- Earn a "C" or better in each course and maintain the following:
Semester and Cumulative GPA ≥ 3.5
- Meet with the KHOP academic advisor every semester.
- Meet with the UNMC advisor annually during the fall semester visit.
- Meet all other UNMC College of Pharmacy admission requirements (e.g. completion of PharmCAS application, background check, etc.)
- Shadow pharmacists and gain knowledge of the profession.

For UNK KHOP information contact:

Peggy Abels, Director UNK Health Sciences

Email: abelsp@unk.edu Phone: 308-865-8260

For UNMC – College of Pharmacy information contact:

Amber Hawk, Recruitment and Admissions Specialist

Email: amber.hawk@unmc.edu Phone: 402-559-5366

PHYSICAL THERAPY

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Students gain acceptance into UNMC's College of Allied Health Professions' Physical Therapy Program upon satisfactory completion of a four-year undergraduate program at UNK that includes required prerequisites, as well as completion of a Bachelor's Degree.
- Students accepted to the KHOP program, will be expected to enter the UNMC Physical Therapy program at the Health Science Education Complex on the UNK campus.
- Upon successful completion of physical therapy school, students receive the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

- Earn a "C-" or better in each required course. Students must also maintain the following:
 - Cumulative GPA ≥ 3.0
 - Semester GPA ≥ 3.0
- Complete the pre-physical therapy requirements and a Bachelor's Degree of the student's choice in a timely manner
- Complete the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) before or during the fall semester of the senior year.
- Meet with the KHOP academic advisor every semester and participate in KHOP activities.
- Meet all of the other College and Division Admission requirements such as completion of journals, PTCAS application, interview, etc.

For UNK KHOP information contact:

Peggy Abels, Director UNK Health Sciences

Email: abelsp@unk.edu Phone: 308-865-8260

For UNMC – Physical Therapy information contact:

Tessa Wells, Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of Clinical Education

Email: tessa.wells@unmc.edu Phone: 308-865-1141

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Students gain acceptance into UNMC's College Allied Health Professions' Physician Assistant Program, upon satisfactory completion of a four-year undergraduate program at UNK that includes required prerequisites, as well as completion of a Bachelor's Degree.
- Students accepted to the KHOP program, will be expected to enter the UNMC Physician Assistant program at the Health Science Education Complex on the UNK campus.
- Upon successful completion of physician assistant school, students receive the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPA) degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

- Earn a "C" or higher in all coursework. Students must also maintain the following:
Cumulative GPA ≥ 3.0
- Follow the pre-physician assistant curriculum and complete the courses in a timely manner.
- Meet with the KHOP academic advisor every semester and participate in KHOP activities.
- Shadow physician assistant and gain knowledge of the profession.

For UNK KHOP information contact:

Peggy Abels, Director UNK Health Sciences

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For UNMC – Physician Assistant information contact:

Katharine West, PA-C Admissions KHOP Director

Email: katharine.west@unmc.edu Phone: 402-559-2928

PUBLIC HEALTH

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Students will gain acceptance into UNMC's College of Public Health, Master of Public Health program and one of its seven concentration areas: Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Environmental & Occupational Health, Emergency Preparedness, Maternal and Child Health, Health Promotion, Public Health Administration and Policy.
- Students will matriculate at UNMC upon successful completion of a four-year undergraduate bachelor's degree and any required prerequisites at UNK.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

- Receive a grade of C or better for each pre-public health required course.
- Earn a bachelor's degree of the student's choice.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA > 3.00 on a 4.00 scale.
- Meet with KHOP academic advisor each semester and participate in KHOP activities.
- Meet all College of Public Health admissions requirements.

For UNK KHOP information contact:

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For UNMC – PH HOP Information Contact:

Jessica Tschirren, PhD(c), MPA

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs

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RADIOGRAPHY

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Students gain acceptance into the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions' Radiography program upon satisfactory completion of the two year program at UNK that includes the required prerequisites.
- Students will have 21 months basic health sciences and clinical study through UNMC at a rural clinical training site.
- Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive a Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging and Therapeutic Sciences and are eligible to apply for the national certification exam for radiographers.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

- All courses must be required to earn a grade of "C-" or better and maintain the following:
Cumulative GPA ≥ 2.5
- Follow the pre-radiography curriculum and complete the courses in a timely manner.
- Meet with the KHOP academic advisor every semester.
- Shadow radiographers and gain knowledge of the profession.

For UNK KHOP information contact:

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For UNMC Radiography information contact:

Alisha Wright, BS, RT(R), Clinical Education Coordinator

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The Health Science Education Complex – is a partnership between the UNMC College of Nursing, UNMC College of Allied Health Professions and the University of Nebraska at Kearney to expand and deliver the education of health professionals on the UNK campus.



“ FOR HEALTH SCIENCES UNK SHOULD BE YOUR FIRST CHOICE ”



University of Nebraska Kearney

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

**2805 11th Avenue
Kearney, NE 68849
unk.edu**



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