

KHOP

KEARNEY HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM



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 are the rural residency status eligibility guidelines for the KHOP/RHOP Programs as determined by the Office of UNMC Recruitment and Student Engagement.

*The following cities, towns and census designated places **ARE NOT** considered rural and therefore not eligible to apply to KHOP/RHOP: **Douglas County:** Omaha, Ralston, Boys Town, and Elkhorn **Lancaster County:** Lincoln **Sarpy County:** Bellevue, Papillion, La Vista, Chalco, and Offutt Air Force Base.*

*The following cities, towns and census designated places **ARE** considered rural and therefore eligible to apply to KHOP/RHOP:*

***Douglas County:** Bennington, Valley, and Waterloo **Lancaster County:** Hickman, Waverly, Bennet, Davey, Denton, Firth, Hallam, Malcolm, Panama, Raymond, Roca, and Sprague **Sarpy County:** Gretna, Springfield, and Richfield*

PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS & APPROXIMATE TIMELINE

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

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

Each participant will:

- Receive a full tuition scholarship for coursework at UNK.
- 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.



APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE

- Students must submit an online application for admission to the UNK Undergraduate Admissions Office.
- Students may apply for only ONE professional field within the KHOP program.
- The KHOP application link can be found at the following web address: unk.edu/healthsciencescholarships
- The following items are required for the application to be considered complete:
 - Application
 - 3 References (Two must come from the school the applicant is attending and one of those must be from a Math and/or Science teacher) contact information only - letters are not required.
 - Official High School Transcript
 - ACT/SAT scores (may be included on your official high school transcript)
 - **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.

The following, while not requirements for application, are **ADDITIONAL FACTORS** that may be considered in student selection:

- Individual is from an environment of economic disadvantage.
- Individual will be a first generation college student.
- Individual demonstrates an active involvement in communities and neighborhoods where opportunities are diminished, especially those opportunities to receive the benefits of healthcare.
- Proficiency in languages spoken in underserved communities with healthcare needs.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews will take place after the initial review of applications. The interviews will be held on the UNK campus in January. The interviews will be approximately 20-30 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.

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 the KHOP Program, 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. Partial room waiver scholarships are available. The Learning Community is co-sponsored by the Central Nebraska Area Health Education Center.

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:

Gwen Hlava, RDH, MS, Program Director
Email: ghlava@unmc.edu Phone: 402-472-1433

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. Merlyn Vogt, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs & Admissions Director

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.
- Accepted medical fields are: family medicine, general internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, general surgery and psychiatry.

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 \geq 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:

Hilary Christo, Student Services Coordinator
Email: hchristo@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
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For UNMC – OTD HOP information contact:

Leah M. Stade, OTD, OTR/L
Academic Fieldwork Coordinator/Assistant Professor
Email: leah.stade@unmc.edu Phone: 308-865-1144

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 \geq 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:

Kathleen Volkman, Associate Director and Associate Professor

Email: kvolkman@unmc.edu Phone: 402-559-5014

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:

Annie Wildermuth, MMS, PA-C, RD Admissions KHOP Director

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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:

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

For UNMC Radiography information contact:

Dr. Tammy Webster, Program Director and Associate Professor,
Radiography, CVIT, and CT
Email: tammy.webster@unmc.edu Phone: 402-559-3846

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The University of Nebraska at Kearney does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs, activities or employment.

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FOR HEALTH
SCIENCES
UNK SHOULD
BE YOUR FIRST
CHOICE
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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.



University of Nebraska Kearney

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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