

**R**ural  
**H**health  
**O**pportunities  
**P**rogram

*Celebrating 20 years of educating  
rural Nebraska students  
to become health care professionals  
for rural communities.*

Deadline to apply is December 1



Revised October 2009

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is it?

RHOP was designed to address the special needs of rural Nebraska by encouraging rural residents to pursue a career in the health care fields. Those selected are guaranteed admission to the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) contingent upon full compliance with all requirements in their memorandum of understanding and successful completion of their pre-professional studies at Chadron State College (CSC) or Wayne State College (WSC).

## Who should apply and when?

Students from rural Nebraska communities may apply to the RHOP program at the same time they apply for admission to either CSC or WSC. Nontraditional students who are willing to begin their work at CSC or WSC as freshmen regardless of previous education are also encouraged to apply. All application materials must be received by CSC or WSC no later than December 1 for application consideration the following academic year.

## How will students be selected?

RHOP was designed for rural Nebraska students interested in practicing in small communities throughout Nebraska. The selection is based on, but not restricted to an applicant's:

- residency in a rural Nebraska community.
- academic potential.
- commitment to practice in rural Nebraska.

## What should I expect?

Your selection to RHOP is a joint investment of time and effort. You will be expected to complete the necessary academic requirements of the program. All science and math courses must be taken at CSC or WSC. UNMC, CSC, or WSC will provide additional opportunities to sustain your long-term goal to practice in rural Nebraska including:

- Exposure to health care settings and practices.
- Interaction with other students interested in the health professions.
- Exposure to practical experiences in rural health.
- Visits and contact with UNMC, the college of your health profession, its alumni and students.
- Some tuition waivers are available at CSC or WSC depending upon the career track.

## Where can I get an application?

RHOP applications are available from the health professions offices at CSC or WSC or can be downloaded from these Web sites:

For programs at CSC, go to: [www.csc.edu/sci/rhop](http://www.csc.edu/sci/rhop)

For programs at WSC, go to: [www.wsc.edu/schools/nss/RHOP/](http://www.wsc.edu/schools/nss/RHOP/)

## Application guidelines

- Students must submit an application for admission to CSC or WSC along with the RHOP application.
- You may apply to only one program CSC or WSC.
- You may apply for only one professional field.
- Once accepted through RHOP, if you decide to pursue a different health profession, you will lose your RHOP status.
- All materials must be received by CSC or WSC no later than December 1<sup>st</sup> for application consideration for the following academic year.
- Alternates are also chosen in the event that students with guaranteed positions do not successfully complete their studies at WSC or CSC; however, the alternates do not receive guaranteed admission or a tuition waiver.

## Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

**What programs participate? How long does it take? How many RHOP positions are available?**

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>UNMC DEGREE</u>	<u>LENGTH OF EDUCATION</u>		<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>	
		<u>COLLEGE</u>	<u>UNMC</u>	<u>CSC</u>	<u>WSC</u>
Clinical Laboratory Science	Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science	3 years	1 year	4	3
Dental Hygiene	Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene	2 years	2 years	1	2
Dentistry	Doctor of Dental Surgery	4 years	4 years	3	3
Medicine	Doctor of Medicine	4 years	4 years	5	5
Nursing	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> years	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> years	6	n/a
Pharmacy	Doctor of Pharmacy	3 years	4 years	3	3
Physical Therapy	Doctor of Physical Therapy	4 years	3 years	3	2
Physician Assistant	Master of Physician Assistant	4 years	28 months	4	4
Radiography	Bachelor of Science in Radiation Science Technology	2 years	2 years	2	1

### What do graduates say about the RHOP experience?

*“Practice in rural Nebraska provides me with opportunities that would not have been available in the city. This includes owning my own practice and providing a diversified number of procedures to patients who would otherwise have to drive over 60 miles for these services. Patients are very appreciative to have local services.”*

**Chris Wenberg, D.D.S.**  
Ord Cosmetic and Family Dentistry  
Hometown: Beaver City

*“Working in a small community allows me to get to know entire families, which in turn allows me to provide treatments that are more specifically catered to their personal goals and lives. I wouldn’t trade serving in such a wonderful and supportive community for any city in the world!”*

**Kristi Kleinsasser, DPT, physical therapist,**  
Howard County Community Hospital (St. Paul)  
Hometown: Murdock

*“The RHOP Program gave me immediate direction towards a career in the health professions. From high school to my graduation day at UNMC, it was a great experience. Now I’m very proud to share my skills with the communities of small town Nebraska! “*

**Kristal Dowse, PharmD, pharmacist**  
Good Samaritan Hospital (Kearney)  
Hometown: Taylor

*“Caring for people in rural areas is so rewarding. People are so appreciative of everything you do. You definitely develop a close relationship with these people compared to relationships in larger areas.”*

**Teresa Hodgson, PA-C, physician assistant**  
Community Hospital (McCook) and Trenton Medical Clinic (Trenton)  
Hometown: Elwood

# Programs available through Chadron State College and Wayne State College

## Medicine

Upto 10 RHOP Positions (5 at CSC and 5 at WSC)

- You gain acceptance into UNMC's College of Medicine located in Omaha upon satisfactory completion of a four-year undergraduate program at WSC or CSC.
- Upon successful completion of medical school, you receive your Doctor of Medicine degree. To become certified to practice medicine, you would then complete a residency program.
- Accepted medical fields are: family medicine, general internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, general surgery and psychiatry.
- You receive a tuition waiver during the four years at WSC or CSC

### For further information, contact:

Jeffrey W. Hill, M.D., Assoc. Dean for Admissions and Students  
UNMC College of Medicine  
985527 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-5527  
(402) 559-2259 or Email: [jwhill@unmc.edu](mailto:jwhill@unmc.edu)  
Web Address: [www.unmc.edu/UNCOM](http://www.unmc.edu/UNCOM)

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## Clinical Laboratory Science

7 RHOP Positions (4 at CSC and 3 at WSC)

- Upon successful completion of the three-year undergraduate program at CSC or WSC, you will enter the CLS program and spend 11 weeks in student lab sessions followed by two semesters in a clinical laboratory setting.
- You will receive the remaining nine months of your clinical education at one of the following sites: Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Norfolk, or North Platte.
- The use of Web-based course material enables students off campus to receive the same lectures and experiences as those students in Omaha. This arrangement enables students to complete all of their clinical education at a site serving a rural community.
- Upon completion of the program, you will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Laboratory Science from UNMC and be eligible to take the national certifying examinations.
- You receive a tuition waiver during the two years at WSC only.

### For further information, contact:

UNMC Division of Laboratory Sciences  
984010 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-4010  
(402) 559-7810 or Email: [lmdonner@unmc.edu](mailto:lmdonner@unmc.edu)  
Web Address: [www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth](http://www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth)

## Dentistry

6 RHOP Positions (3 at CSC and 3 at WSC)

- Upon satisfactory completion of a four-year undergraduate program at WSC or CSC, you will enter UNMC's College of Dentistry located in Lincoln
- Upon successful completion of dental school, you receive your Doctor of Dental Surgery degree.
- You receive a tuition waiver during the four years at WSC or CSC.

## Dental Hygiene

3 RHOP Positions (1 at CSC and 2 at WSC)

- You gain acceptance into UNMC's College of Dentistry dental hygiene program located in either Lincoln or Gering upon the satisfactory completion of the two-year undergraduate program at CSC or WSC.
- After successfully completing two years in the dental hygiene program, you receive your Bachelor of Science degree from UNMC.
- You receive a tuition waiver during the two years at WSC only.

### For further information, contact:

Curtis Kuster, D.D.S., M.S., Director of Admissions  
UNMC College of Dentistry  
40th & Holdrege Sts.  
Lincoln NE 68583-0740  
(402) 472-1328 or Email: [ckuster@unmc.edu](mailto:ckuster@unmc.edu)  
Web Address: [www.unmc.edu/dentistry](http://www.unmc.edu/dentistry)

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## Pharmacy

6 RHOP Positions (3 at CSC and 3 at WSC)

- Contingent upon satisfactory completion of the three-year undergraduate program at WSC or CSC, you will enter UNMC's College of Pharmacy in Omaha.
- A Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) degree will be awarded upon successful completion of four years at UNMC's College of Pharmacy.
- Your fourth year will be experience-based education through clerkships in a variety of clinical settings.
- You receive a tuition waiver during the three years at WSC only.

### For further information, contact:

Charles H. Krobot, PharmD, R.P., Assoc. Dean for Student Affairs  
UNMC College of Pharmacy  
986000 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-6000  
(402) 559-4333 or Email: [ckrobot@unmc.edu](mailto:ckrobot@unmc.edu)  
Web Address: [www.unmc.edu/pharmacy](http://www.unmc.edu/pharmacy)

# Programs available through Chadron State College and Wayne State College

## Physical Therapy

Upto 5 RHOP Positions (3 at CSC and 2 at WSC)

- You must submit ACT scores as part of your application.
- Upon satisfactory completion of a four-year undergraduate degree at CSC or WSC, you will enter UNMC's physical therapy education program in Omaha.
- You gain clinical experience in a variety of settings, including small rural communities.
- Your clinical instruction will be provided in the following settings: hospitals and medical centers, home health care, private clinics, and specialized practices in sports medicine and pediatrics.
- Upon successful completion of a three-year program at UNMC, you will receive a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree and be eligible to take the national licensure exam. UNMC's graduates have consistently performed better than the national average on the licensure exam.
- You receive a tuition waiver during the four years at WSC only.

### For further information, contact:

Division of Physical Therapy Education  
984420 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-4420  
(402) 559-4259 or E-mail: [ptedu@unmc.edu](mailto:ptedu@unmc.edu)  
Web Address: [www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth](http://www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth)

## Physician Assistant

Upto 8 RHOP positions (4 at CSC and 4 at WSC)

- You gain acceptance to UNMC's physician assistant program in Omaha upon satisfactory completion of the prescribed, four-year undergraduate program at CSC or WSC.
- At UNMC, you will experience 13 months of basic medical science and pre-clinical courses followed by 15 months of supervised clinical education with physicians in rural Nebraska.
- Upon successful completion of the program, you will receive a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree from UNMC.
- You receive a tuition waiver during the four years at WSC only.

### For further information, contact:

Diane Landon, Admissions Coordinator  
Physician Assistant Program  
984300 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-4300  
Telephone: (402) 559-2232 or Email: [dklandon@unmc.edu](mailto:dklandon@unmc.edu)  
Web Address: [www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth](http://www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth)

## *Program only available through Chadron State College*

## Nursing

Upto 6 RHOP positions at CSC

- You gain acceptance into the College of Nursing upon satisfactory completion of 64 hours of prerequisites at CSC.
- You attend UNMC classes at the College of Nursing, West Nebraska Division located in Scottsbluff for 2 ½ years.
- You receive your clinical experiences in a variety of settings, including small rural communities.
- You will participate in interdisciplinary activities at CSC and UNMC College of Nursing, West Nebraska Division.
- Upon successful completion of the nursing program, you will receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from UNMC and be eligible to take the R.N. (registered nurse) licensure examination after graduation.

### For further information, contact:

Susan Wilhelm, RNC, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and  
Assistant Dean  
College of Nursing, West Nebraska Division  
4502 Ave. I  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
(308) 632-0412 or Email: [slwilhel@unmc.edu](mailto:slwilhel@unmc.edu)  
Web Address: [www.unmc.edu/nursing](http://www.unmc.edu/nursing)

## Radiography

3 RHOP positions (2 at CSC and 1 at WSC)

- Following the successful completion of the two-year program at CSC or WSC, you will enter the radiography program at UNMC.
- You will have 21 months in basic health sciences and clinical study at UNMC.
- Portions of your clinical experience are offered at one or more clinical sites in rural Nebraska during the summer term of the curriculum.
- Upon successful completion of the program, you will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in radiation science technology and are eligible to apply for the national certification exam for radiographers.
- You receive a tuition waiver during the two years at WSC only.

### For further information, contact:

James Temme, M.P.A., R.T., (R) (QM), Assoc. Director  
Radiation Sciences  
984545 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-4545  
Telephone: (402) 559-6954 or Email: [jtemme@unmc.edu](mailto:jtemme@unmc.edu)  
Web Address: [www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth/rste](http://www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth/rste)

# The Partners

**Chadron State College** is located in Chadron, a northwest Nebraska town of 5,700 located about 20 miles from South Dakota and about 60 miles from the Wyoming border. Chadron State students capitalize on individualized attention in a close-knit campus and community atmosphere. Founded in 1911, the college has a rich history of academic and extracurricular excellence including:

- 97 full-time equivalent faculty members
- Enrollment of approximately 2,850 students represents a diverse range of social and economic backgrounds
- Liberal arts, pre-professional and graduate studies curricula
- Active health professions club is among the dozens of clubs and organizations for students
- Varsity/intramural sports, abundant outdoor recreational opportunities and countless other extracurricular activities
- Internet in residence hall rooms and wireless access at locations across campus

Health Professions Office  
1000 Main St.

Chadron, NE 69337

Web address: [www.csc.edu/sci/healthprofessions/](http://www.csc.edu/sci/healthprofessions/)

(308) 432-6278

(888) 293-2293

Email: [hpoffice@csc.edu](mailto:hpoffice@csc.edu)

**Wayne State College** is located in Wayne, a northeast Nebraska town of 5,600 located about 35 miles from the South Dakota border and about 35 miles from the Iowa border. Academic excellence in a small, personalized setting has been the hallmark of Wayne State College (WSC) since its founding in 1891. It has a strong commitment to both academics and extracurricular excellence including:

- 140 full-time equivalent faculty members
- Enrollment of approximately 3,300 students
- PC-wired rooms in all residence halls and WiFi throughout campus; e-mail accounts and access for all students
- A variety of opportunities in varsity and intramural sports, activities and clubs; active health profession and other science clubs, student government and student life activities.

Health Professions Office  
1111 Main St.

Wayne, NE 68787

Web Address: [www.wsc.edu/schools/nss/rhop](http://www.wsc.edu/schools/nss/rhop)

(402) 375-7329

(800) 228-9972

Email: [preprof@wsc.edu](mailto:preprof@wsc.edu)

## University of Nebraska Medical Center

UNMC is the only public health science center in the state. Its educational programs are responsible for training more health professionals practicing in Nebraska than any other institution. Through their commitment to education, research, patient care and outreach, UNMC and its hospital partner, The Nebraska Medical Center, have established themselves as one of the country's leading centers in cancer, transplantation biology, bioterrorism preparedness, neurodegenerative diseases, cardiovascular diseases, genetics, biomedical technology and ophthalmology.

### UNMC by the numbers:

- 4 campuses across Nebraska, including the Omaha location that's home to the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Public Health and Nursing. The College of Nursing also has divisions in Lincoln, Kearney and Scottsbluff. The College of Dentistry is located in Lincoln.
- 7 academic units — College of Dentistry, College of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, College of Public Health, School of Allied Health Professions and Graduate Studies program.
- 120+ years of preparing students to become knowledgeable, skilled caregivers.
- UNMC's research funding from external sources now exceeds \$100 million annually and has resulted in the creation of more than 2,400 highly skilled jobs in the state.
- UNMC's physician practice group, UNMC Physicians, includes 513 physicians in 50 specialties and subspecialties who practice primarily in The Nebraska Medical Center.

Rural Health Education Network (RHEN Office)

986660 Nebraska Medical Center

Omaha, NE 68198-6660

Web Address: [www.unmc.edu/RHEN](http://www.unmc.edu/RHEN)

(402) 559-3398

Email: [akraft@unmc.edu](mailto:akraft@unmc.edu)