

Exceptional Learning

Digitally Delivered

2023-2025 E-LEARNING IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

Contents

- 03** Message from the Interim Vice Chancellor
- 04** E-Learning at a Glance
- 06** By the Numbers
- 08** Faculty Impact
- 10** Student Impact
- 12** Cohort 13
- 16** Cohort 14
- 20** E-Learning Resources & Technology
- 22** E-Learning Technology
- 24** EZStudio
- 26** Externally Funded Projects
- 28** Noncredit Learning
- 30** uBEATS
- 32** Biennial Achievements in E-Learning Success
- 33** Office of Interactive E-Learning Team
- 34** Thanks and Acknowledgments

A Message from the
Interim Vice Chancellor



“E-learning supports diverse learning styles and paces, allowing individuals to tailor their educational experiences to their unique needs. It empowers learners and educators, fosters collaboration and innovation, and provides opportunities for continuous professional development.”

This biennial report highlights the accomplishments of the Office of Interactive E-Learning over the past 12 years and reflects our commitment to advancing digital education and preparing the next generation of science and health care professionals in Nebraska and beyond.

E-learning has revolutionized how UNMC educators approach teaching, empowering them to deliver interactive experiences that ensure a workforce that is future-focused and competitive.

For learners, it has transformed their experience to make learning more dynamic, adaptive and accessible, breaking down barriers and fostering lifelong learning.

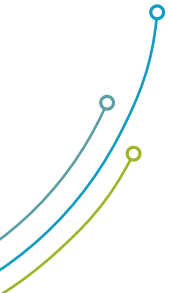
I extend my deepest appreciation to the E-Learning team, led by Peggy Moore, for their dedication, and to our E-Learning Steering Committee, Interim Chancellor and E-Learning Champion H. Dele Davies, MD, and all Deans and Directors for their ongoing support.

As you explore this report, join me in celebrating 12 years of innovation, excellence and enduring partnerships. Together, we are making a difference and shaping a vibrant future.

Jane Meza, PhD
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Reimagining Education Through Digital Innovation

UNMC E-Learning continues to transform the way educators approach digital instruction and enhance the educational experience for students. Our work has made digital learning at UNMC interactive, adaptive and integrated with emerging technologies — each designed to meet the evolving needs of all learners.



Our mission is to inspire, guide and support faculty, staff and student collaborators in creating engaging digital experiences for a variety of audiences. **Our vision** is to elevate health science education through extraordinary digital experiences.





"It's amazing to see how widespread this program has become. Students from so many different colleges are using e-learning to create innovative content for the curriculum. I was impressed by the use of 3D images, animation and other engaging features. What I constantly heard from students was that, by creating these modules, they gained a much deeper understanding of the topic."

H. Dele Davies, MD, MS, MHCM
Interim Chancellor

Advancing UNMC Through Four Key Areas

Academic innovation

E-modules integrated into the UNMC curriculum to improve retention, assessment and patient outcomes.

Externally funded projects

E-modules created in collaboration with external organizations for local, national or global audiences.

Noncredit learning and microcredentials

Short, targeted training that equips learners with in-demand skills they can apply immediately.

uBEATS: Pathways to health professions

E-modules for middle and high school students to spark future STEM and health science careers.

BY THE NUMBERS

KEY METRICS 2013-2025:

Growth and Achievements

821

participants
in the funded
program



321

e-modules
created

with many of the
teams developing
multiple modules as
part of their project



183

projects funded
since 2013



30%

of participants
return for two or
more cohorts
highlighting the
program's lasting
impact and value




“This program is a great way to bring together student-faculty teams. It capitalizes on the strengths of the faculty while magnifying the creativity of the students, resulting in something that is both educational and enjoyable for future generations of students.”

Matthew Vilburn, DC

Associate Professor, College of Medicine
Faculty Developer, Cohort 13

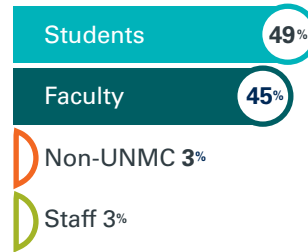




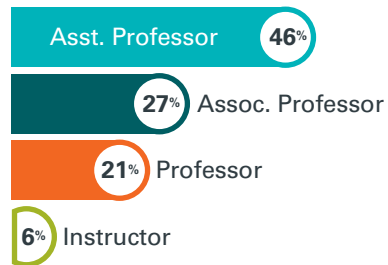
Developers across all UNMC campuses, colleges and institutes drive groundbreaking e-learning experiences.

Participant BREAKDOWN

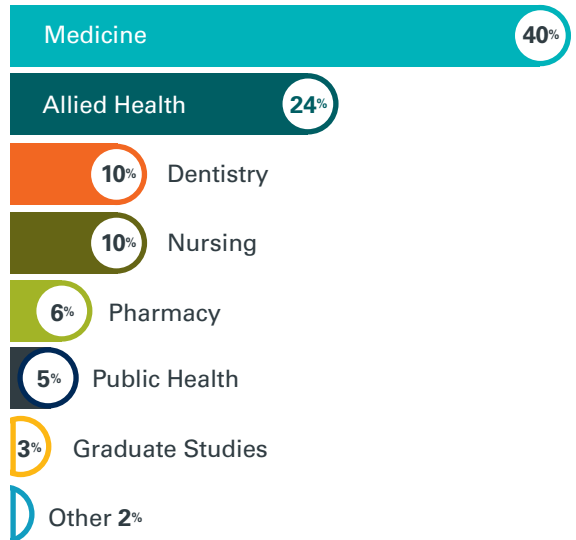
Participants



Faculty by Rank



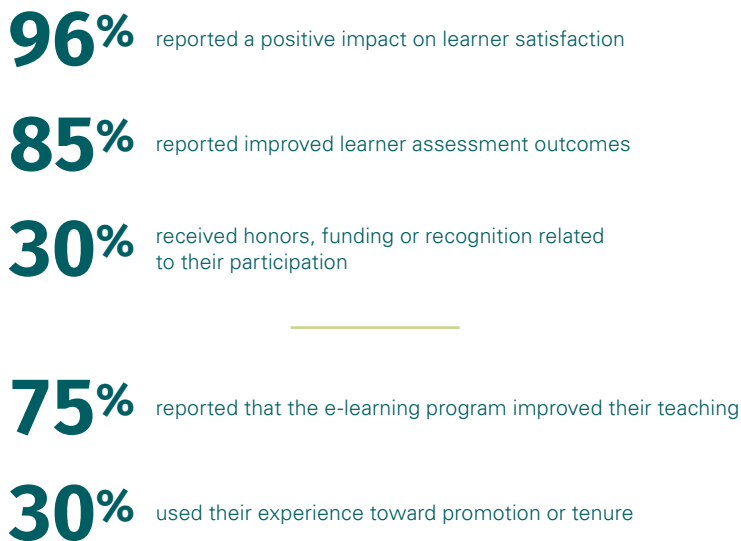
College



Faculty: Guiding Tomorrow's Leaders Through Meaningful Mentorship

Collaboration is a key foundation of e-learning's success and a driving force behind the program's achievements. Faculty champion the projects by integrating e-modules into their courses and leading content direction. Students complement this effort through active engagement, thoughtful insight and creative ideas.

Faculty Impact at a Glance



I am glad I applied and was able to work with a team to create something that can help our students. I am so proud of our e-module and we couldn't have done it so well without this program."



Nicole Baker, RDH, MHPTT
*Assistant Professor,
College of Dentistry—Scottsbluff
Faculty Developer, Cohort 13*



It has been very rewarding to see medical students interest in augmenting the established curriculum by creating this module. They have done a fantastic job at drafting, developing, and troubleshooting their module. I am eager to see the implementation of this module, and exploring research opportunities."



Faruq Pradhan, MBBCh, FRCPC
*Assistant Professor, College of Medicine—
Omaha, Faculty Developer, Cohort 14*

Surgeon to Steering Committee: Championing E-Learning

When Abbey Fingeret, MD, PhD, MHPTT, FACS a practicing surgeon and associate professor, first explored e-learning module development, she didn't anticipate how profoundly it would influence her teaching, research and professional growth. She created her first module in 2020 and now chairs the UNMC E-Learning Steering Committee.

Her experience has fostered interprofessional collaboration and broadened her perspective on digital education. "The ability to observe learner engagement provided valuable insights that informed both my teaching and research efforts," she said.

Getting Started with E-Learning

Developing effective e-learning modules can be a rewarding experience, but Dr. Fingeret emphasizes the importance of setting clear, measurable learning objectives. "Effective e-learning is not simply uploading materials; it involves crafting a cohesive and interactive learning journey," said Dr. Fingeret.



"Technology should serve pedagogy, not overshadow it; the focus must remain on creating meaningful learning experiences."

TIPS FOR NEW DEVELOPERS

- ⇒ *Break content into manageable segments.*
- ⇒ *Incorporate interactive elements.*
- ⇒ *Understand accessibility guidelines.*
- ⇒ *Test all components before launch.*
- ⇒ *Thoroughly document the development process.*

Looking Ahead

As digital education continues to evolve, Dr. Fingeret and the E-Learning Steering Committee remain committed to technology that complements the human connection in education, paving the way for dynamic, meaningful learning experiences.

STUDENT IMPACT

Students: The Catalyst for Success

While faculty guide the projects as subject matter experts, student developers bring creativity, technical proficiency and a learner-centered viewpoint. They are integral to streamlining the development process, enabling faculty to focus on creating high-quality, engaging educational content.



#1 reason students chose to participate in the program was a desire to improve or contribute to the curriculum.

100% of students found value in participating in the program and improved mastery on the curriculum topic.

“

Helping students understand the amount of time and effort it takes just to develop a single short module is beneficial, especially for those who intend to be in academia in the future.”

Andy Lim

*Student Developer, College of Nursing-Omaha,
Cohort 13*





Marissa Baker, College of Medicine, Cohort 14, is congratulated by Dr. Jane Meza, interim vice chancellor for Academic Affairs.

top 3

Benefits Students Received:

- Increased knowledge on the e-module topic
- Improved e-learning authoring skills
- Enhanced relationship with faculty



“I loved the opportunity to develop something that will be useful to learners and can be quickly and easily integrated into the curriculum.”

Grace Murray, MD

Fellow Developer, College of Medicine-Omaha, Cohort 13

COHORT 13

Bridging Ideas and Action to Advance Health Sciences

This year's cohort marked the introduction of 360-degree tour technology and included the first faculty director from Scottsbluff. Several of the modules addressed nationally relevant topics, including telehealth best practices and strategies for building positive relationships with pediatric patients with autism.



60

faculty, students, staff
residents and fellows



13

teams



9

colleges and
institutes



4

campuses



PEDIATRIC IRON DEFICIENCY ANEMIA

Faculty Member

Dr. Jenna Allison
College of Medicine–Omaha

Resident/Fellow Members

Dr. Kelsey Anderson
Dr. Brenton Bussinger
Dr. Grace Murray
College of Medicine–Omaha

DENTAL INJECTIONS: RETRACTIONS AND FULCRUMS

Faculty Members

Nicole Baker – Scottsbluff
Gina Kissel – Lincoln
College of Dentistry

Student Members

Emma Betts
Mikayla Kiefel
College of Dentistry–Lincoln

STANDARDIZED TELEHEALTH WORKFLOW DESIGN FOR THE PRIMARY CARE SETTING

Faculty Member

Dr. Lynne Buchanan
College of Nursing–Omaha

Student Members

Katie Messner – Kearney
Katie Vail – Omaha
College of Nursing

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE: GERM LAYERS AND THEIR DERIVATIVES

Faculty Member

Dr. Keely Cassidy
College of Medicine–Omaha

Student Members

Alexandria Anding
Ali Camero
Graduate Studies–Omaha

INTRODUCTION TO BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH MODALITIES

Faculty Members

Dr. Jesse Cox
Dr. Kari Nelson
College of Medicine–Omaha

Student Members

Colman Freel
Rebekah Rapozo
Troy Suwondo
Wenxian Zhou
College of Medicine–Omaha

LET’S TALK ABOUT SEX (AND GENDER)!

Faculty/Staff Members

Dr. Beth Culross
Dr. Marcia Shade
College of Nursing–Omaha

Dr. Catherine Medici-Thiemann
CAPS Outreach, Access, and Resources–Omaha

Student Members

Kyle Hughes – Lincoln
Andy Lim – Omaha
College of Nursing

Lou Townsend
College of Medicine–Omaha

SODIUM AND WATER BALANCE OF IV FLUIDS

Faculty Member

Dr. Paul Dobesh
College of Pharmacy—Omaha

Student Members

Gabe Codling
Bria Tomlin
Carissa Wilson
College of Pharmacy—Omaha



STRATEGIES TO BUILD THERAPEUTIC RAPPORT WITH CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AND COMPLEX COMMUNICATION NEEDS

Faculty Member

Dr. William J. Higgins
Dr. Alice Shillingsburg
Munroe-Meyer Institute—Omaha

Fellow Members

Dr. Meral Koldas
Dr. Juliana Oliveira
Munroe-Meyer Institute—Omaha

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION TESTING GUIDE: THE RIGHT TEST FOR THE RIGHT PATIENT AT THE RIGHT TIME

Faculty/Staff Members

Kevin McGuire
Loany Ryder
College of Allied Health Professions—Omaha

Dr. Sara Hurtado Bares
Dr. Jim Medder
Dr. Jonathan Ryder
College of Medicine—Omaha

Student Members

Julio Esteban Martinez
Taeler Gee
College of Allied Health Professions—Omaha
Priya Verbik
College of Medicine—Omaha



HEPATITIS B VIRUS AND INTERPRETATION OF SEROLOGY IN CLINICAL COURSE

Faculty Member

Dr. Justin Mott
College of Medicine—Omaha

Student Members

Noelle Pick
Keland Pottthoff
College of Medicine—Omaha



ERGONOMICS IN DENTAL PRACTICE: A PATH TO HEALTHIER CAREERS

Faculty Members

Dr. Amanda Ribeiro Wobido
College of Dentistry—Lincoln

Dr. Stacy Smallfield
College of Allied Health Professions—Omaha

Student Members

Kenedi Holck
Nori Khalaf
College of Dentistry—Lincoln

Payton Swanson
College of Allied Health Professions—Omaha



BEYOND THE WAVES: A GUIDE TO THERAPEUTIC ULTRASOUND

Faculty Members

Dr. Kait Uwazurike – Omaha
Dr. McKenzie Behrendt – Kearney
College of Allied Health Professions

Student Members

Grace Blusys
Brooke Horner
Madeleine Hubka
Kyle Ott
College of Allied Health Professions—Omaha

UNDERSTANDING HYPOTHESIS TESTING, SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL, POWER AND SAMPLE SIZE

Faculty Members

Dr. Lynette Smith
Dr. Su Chen
College of Public Health—Omaha

Student Members

Gaurav Kumar
Dr. Aislinn Rookwood
College of Public Health—Omaha



"I learned so much throughout the process — leadership, teamwork, multimedia presentation and effective e-curriculum design."

Rebekah Rapoza

*Student Developer,
Graduate Studies—Omaha,
Cohorts 13 & 14*

COHORT 14

New Microcredential Highlights Digital Learning Skills and Excellence

The 14th Cohort introduced a new microcredential in e-learning, recognizing participants' advanced skills in designing engaging, multimedia-rich educational content that enhances health sciences learning. Thirty-five percent of developers earned the new microcredential, demonstrating new competencies and knowledge needed to create interactive modules.



62

faculty and students



13

teams



7

colleges and
institutes



5

campuses



“My goal was to develop tools to use in my course, but this turned into a great experience guiding students how to teach difficult concepts. I appreciated the opportunity to work closely with students outside the classroom setting as we developed the module together.”



Gwen Reiser, MS, CGC
 Assistant Professor,
 Munroe-Meyer Institute,
 College of Allied Health
 Professions-Omaha,
 Cohorts 12 & 14

**FOOT & ANKLE DYNAMICS:
 A VISUAL APPROACH TO
 ORTHOTIC SELECTION**

Faculty Members

- Dr. Stacie Christensen – Kearney
- Dr. Megan Frazee – Omaha
- College of Allied Health Professions*

Student Members

- Abigail Aplaca
- Chailey Bollens
- Felicia Sheil
- College of Allied Health Professions–Kearney*

**PHARMACOGENETIC
 TESTING INTERPRETATION IN
 PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT**

Faculty Member

- Dr. Nick Guenzel
- College of Nursing–Lincoln*

Student Members

- Dominic Gliko – Omaha
- Haylie Krone – Omaha
- Jordan Isabella Witte – Kearney
- College of Nursing*

**SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED
 INFECTIONS: A GUIDE TO
 TREATMENT**

Faculty Members

- Dr. Jennifer Davis
- Dr. Richard Hankins
- Dr. Jim Medder
- Dr. Jonathan Ryder
- College of Medicine–Omaha*

Dr. Kevin McGuire

College of Allied Health Professions–Omaha

Dr. Shawnalyn Sunagawa

College of Pharmacy–Omaha

Student Members

- Emily Evans
- Carissa Wilson
- College of Pharmacy–Omaha*
- Rose McCoy
- Priya Verbik
- College of Medicine–Omaha*



**CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS
 DEBRIEFING IN HEALTH CARE
 EDUCATION**

Faculty Members

- Dr. Rachel Kunkle – Omaha
- Dr. Alyson Hanish – Omaha
- Dr. Lisa Walters – Norfolk
- College of Nursing*

Student Members

- Holly Hansen – Omaha
- Kelsey Miller – Scottsbluff
- College of Nursing*

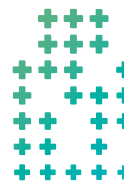
**PREVENTATIVE CARE
 GUIDELINES IN THE PRIMARY
 CARE SETTING**

Faculty Member

- Dr. Mindy Lacey
- College of Medicine–Omaha*

Student Members

- Noelle Pick
- Keland Potthoff
- College of Medicine–Omaha*



DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF RADIOLUCENT PERICORONAL LESIONS

Faculty Members

Dr. Kavya Shankar Muttanahally

Dr. Nagamani Narayana

College of Dentistry—Lincoln

Student Members

Cole Baeder

Joseph Dworak

College of Dentistry—Lincoln

PORTAL HYPERTENSION: A SYSTEMIC DISEASE

Faculty Member

Dr. Faruq Pradhan

College of Medicine—Omaha

Student Members

Marissa Baker

Taylor Pitzl

College of Medicine—Omaha

HEREDITARY NEUROENDOCRINE TUMORS: GENETIC COUNSELING AND MOLECULAR TESTING

Faculty Members

Gwen Reiser

*Munroe-Meyer Institute
and College of Allied Health Professions—Omaha*

Sierra Clark

Munroe-Meyer Institute—Omaha

Student Members

Morgan Blood

Anna Boatman

Ashley Parde

Caroline Stokes

College of Allied Health Professions—Omaha

MASTERING ECG INTERPRETATION: A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO ARRHYTHMIA RECOGNITION

Faculty Member

Dr. William Schleifer

College of Medicine—Omaha

Student Members

Megan Doehner

Reid Sindelar

College of Medicine—Omaha

ELECTRIC INSIGHTS: ELECTROTHERAPY PROCEDURES FOR PT & OT

Faculty Members

Dr. Kait Uwazurike

Dr. Michael Rosenthal

College of Allied Health Professions—Omaha

Student Members

Jessica Grace

Kelsey Larsen

Tanner Ruda

Spencer Wagner

College of Allied Health Professions—Omaha



ARE YOU POSITIVE THIS RESULT IS POSITIVE?

Faculty Member

Dr. Dawn M. Venema

College of Allied Health Professions—Omaha

Student Members

Hannah Hessler

Nicole Kleffman

Tristan Larson

Carrie Oaklund

College of Allied Health Professions—Omaha

THE NEURAL PATHWAYS OF OPIOID USE

Faculty Member

Dr. Matthew Vilburn
College of Medicine—Omaha

Student Members

Allison Daro
Cierra Wegner
College of Medicine—Omaha
Rebekah Rapoza
Graduate Studies—Omaha



CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITOR (CGM) BASICS

Faculty Members

Dr. Jessica Witt
Dr. Caressa Trueman
College of Pharmacy—Omaha

Student Members

Emily Jinings
Jackson Stensgard
College of Pharmacy—Omaha



Since I am not located on the Omaha campus, I rarely have an opportunity to meet faculty or students I regularly interact with online. I appreciated the opportunity to interact in person."

Jordan Isabella Witte

*Student Developer
College of Nursing—Kearney, Cohort 14*



POWERING PROGRESS:

Tools that Redefine Education

UNMC's E-Learning program continues to evolve through improved tools, flexible media and thoughtful design. The E-Learning Lab, housed in the Leon S. McGoogan Health Sciences Library, provides accessible equipment such as HD video cameras, microphones and dedicated audio-video recording spaces as well as software for creating polished digital content. The E-Learning team offers collaborative, expert instructional design to assist students, staff and faculty in creating adaptable, learner-centered digital education. New technologies including artificial intelligence are being offered to streamline development and deliver real-time personalization and feedback. Together, these innovations make e-learning more accessible, engaging and effective.



E-Learning Lab Comes to Kearney

UNMC is set to launch a new e-learning dedicated multimedia development space that will feature two audio recording booths and an EZStudio for DIY green screen video production to provide high-quality resources to faculty and students.



The addition of the new E-Learning Lab and EZStudio in Kearney will mirror the resources offered in Omaha, allowing greater ease to create innovative educational assets to support our UNMC learners here."

Teresa Cochran, DPT, PhD, FNAP

*Associate Dean, College of Allied Health Professions,
Health Sciences Education Complex (Kearney)*

E-GALLERY: DYNAMIC CONTENT at YOUR FINGERTIPS

E-GALLERY AT A GLANCE

499,922

page views since January 2017

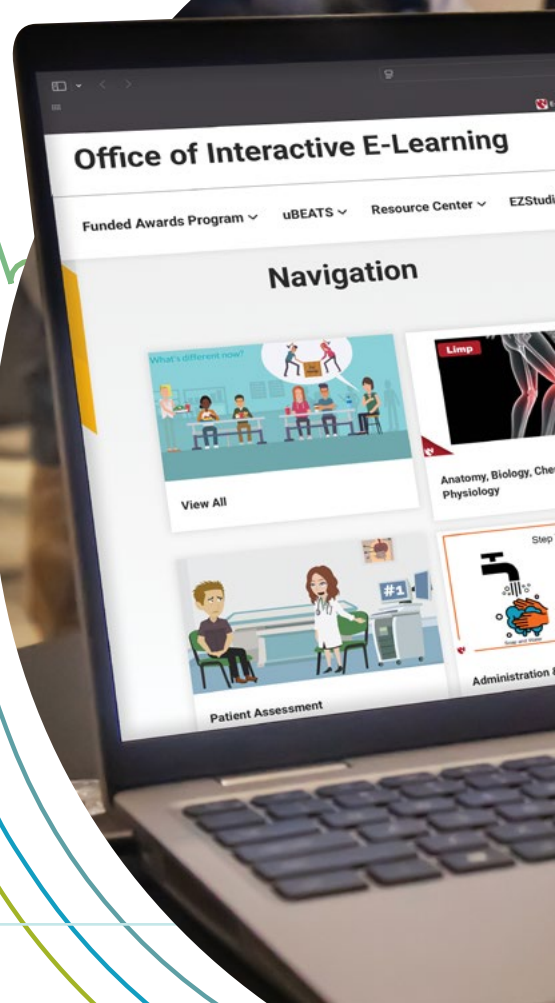
From **197** countries

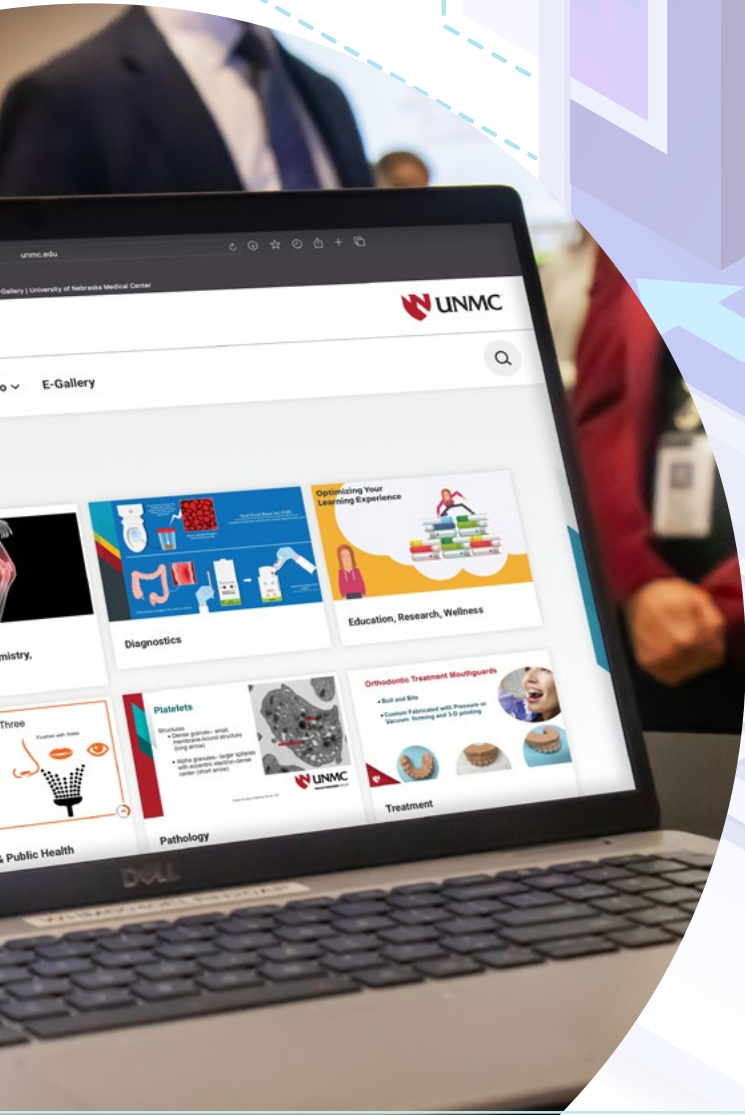
76,094

new users since 2023

430

modules are housed on the E-Gallery





unmc.edu/egallery

How the EZStudio Helped Pharmacy Amplify Its Voice

When Donald Klepser, PhD, MBA, assumed the role of interim dean of the College of Pharmacy in January 2025, he faced a challenge: maintaining strong communication without relying on weekly meetings.

The solution was unconventional yet effective — a podcast. Klepser pitched the idea to Interactive E-Learning, and soon, the first episode of The Fun Zone was live. Co-hosted by Klepser and Mandi Fishler, student services coordinator, the podcast became the first of its kind produced by E-Learning for the College of Pharmacy.

Each 15-minute episode kicks off with lively banter and college news, transitions to a guest segment featuring students, faculty or alumni, and wraps up with upcoming events. The goal is simple — keep it short, fun and informative while fostering a sense of community.

“It has to be ‘edutainment’ at least. It can’t be a lecture,” said Klepser, interim dean of the UNMC College of Pharmacy.

“In education, the podcasting trend grew from lecture capture and mobile audio into a flexible microlearning format that fits Universal Design for Learning and communication with students,” said Tuggen Even, E-Learning production specialist. “It supports flipped and hybrid models by delivering short, commute-friendly coverage before class while continuing instructor presence.”

Early episodes required extra effort, but the production process quickly evolved. E-Learning invested in the Rode Podcaster Pro II recording machine and dynamic microphones. “Once the recording is completed, the product is ready for distribution,” said Even.

Fishler agreed: “From the first one to now, it has become easier to do the recording and the editing. It’s condensed and got a lot easier.”

Templates and streamlined editing now allow episodes to be recorded in a single take, polished with intro and outro music and distributed through Spotify and social media.

The Fun Zone has grown steadily, thanks to student involvement and word of mouth. Guests share behind-the-scenes stories, personal experiences and research highlights, creating a conversational tone that connects with listeners.

With new technology available, Klepser encourages others to consider podcasting. “If you’re interested in podcasting, don’t be afraid or intimidated,” he said. “It’s been a positive thing for the college — and a lot of fun.”



go.unmc.edu/funzone





EZSTUDIO: High-Quality Media Made Simple

The EZStudio allows developers to produce professional, high-quality videos and podcasts with ease. The state-of-the-art space features professional-grade cameras and mics, ceiling-mounted lights, green and gray screens and an automated teleprompter.

“The EZStudio and the colleagues who manage it have been invaluable to my work. I am grateful to have such an accessible space and knowledgeable people who make the process seamless.”



Kat Hamilton, MSM
Staff Developer
Associate Director, UNMC Alumni
Association



Beyond UNMC: Advancing Health Science

THROUGH STRATEGIC E-LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS

From 2023 to 2025, the e-learning team supported a diverse portfolio of externally funded initiatives that advanced education, strengthened research engagement and expanded access to high-quality training across Nebraska. These collaborations demonstrate the growing demand for innovative digital learning.

Parents Helping Parents for Youth Vaping Cessation

Led by Daisy Dai, PhD, College of Public Health, and funded through the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Cancer Institute (NCI) and National Health Institute (NHI), this module supports families navigating vaping prevention and intervention.



“The team helped turn our ideas into engaging, interactive modules, broadening our reach and strengthening our ability to deliver eye-catching content.”

Daisy Dai, PhD, *College of Public Health*

Nebraska Collaborative Investment in Nurses

Health care institutions are high-risk organizations for critical incidents, which can significantly impact providers’ well-being. These modules, developed by Alyson Hanish, PhD, MSN, RN and Rachel Kunkle, PhD, MHA, RN, GERO-BC and funded through the federal Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and DHHS, educate nurses on critical incident stress response and equip providers with practical techniques to reduce and cope with stress.



“The value of this program has been immeasurable and reached far beyond UNMC. It has been shared with nursing colleges across the U.S. for implementation with their students and faculty.”

Alyson Hanish, PhD, MSN, RN,
College of Nursing

Care Coordination NEP-MAP

This module, funded through Nebraska DHHS and led by Sarah Swanson, MPH, at the Munroe-Meyer Institute, helps families navigate health care decisions and improve access to pediatric mental health services for children aged 0-21.



Sarah Swanson, MPH
Munroe-Meyer Institute

Pediatric Patient Engagement Overview

Developed by Dr. Shinobu Watanabe-Galloway and funded through PCRG, this module helps researchers strengthen patient-centered approaches specific to the pediatric population.



“Researchers who gain more understanding of patient-engaged research become more interested in engaging patients and their caregivers. In return, their research becomes more meaningful.”

Shinobu Watanabe-Galloway, PhD
College of Public Health

Measuring and Transferring Liquids

This module introduces elementary school learners to basic laboratory skills and demystifies the lab to broaden early interest in biomedical science. It was developed by Erin McIntyre, research coordinator at the Pediatric Cancer Research Group (PCRG) and Don Coulter, MD and funded through the Child Health Research Institute.



“Without the expertise of E-Learning, the module would not exist and would not be such a powerful tool to introduce science to young learners.”

Don Coulter, MD
College of Medicine

Direct Service Professional Training

This module expands online learning for adult learners supporting individuals with disabilities. It was led by Mark Shriver, PhD, BCBA-D of the Munroe-Meyer Institute and Whitney Strong-Bak, PhD of Children’s Nebraska, and funded through Nebraska DHHS.



“The E-Learning team brought expertise, collaboration and a supportive spirit to our team. They took the time to understand the purpose and goals of our project and understand our targeted student audience.”

Mark Shriver, PhD, BCBA-D
Munroe-Meyer Institute



Cultivating a Future-Ready Workforce for Tomorrow's Opportunities

Interactive e-learning is an integral part of UNMC's initiative, together with the Office of Noncredit Learning to strengthen workforce development, meet fast-changing industry needs and drive revenue for education providers.

Leveling Up Online Learning

One of the Office of Noncredit Learning's most popular courses is Teaching Online: Graduate Course Design, Delivery and Teaching Presence. The four-week, fully online format models modern asynchronous learning environments while equipping participants with forward-thinking, inclusive and flexible teaching strategies.

Led by Analisa McMillan, PhD, MEd, director of the Office of Teaching and Learning at the College of Public Health, this course functions as a training pipeline for emerging and current instructors. Participants experience firsthand the structures, engagement strategies and delivery methods that support successful online learning. Offered three times a year, this noncredit course strengthens instructors' confidence and competence and helps UNMC and other institutions cultivate innovative, adaptable educators to meet evolving student needs.



"This course helps strengthen UNMC's talent pipeline by supporting the people

who teach and train others. When educators are better equipped to design and facilitate online learning, students and participants have a more engaging, supportive experience."

Analisa McMillan, PhD, MEd
College of Public Health

What are Noncredit Courses?

Hosted on NU Advance, these courses feature short, focused content for learners seeking job-ready skills and knowledge to prepare for fast-changing industry needs.



Noncredit by the Numbers

- **13** courses developed for noncredit learning
- **Over 400** learners enrolled with lifetime enrollments of 3,662
- **3** digital badges created:
 - Munroe-Meyer Institute
 - College of Public Health
 - College of Medicine
- **\$147,000** in lifetime funding awarded to support noncredit course development

The courses featured have successfully met grant obligations and are available on NU Advance.

Harm Reduction Principles and Strategies for Health Professionals

In 2025, the College of Public Health launched e-learning modules to prepare health professionals to address the opioid crisis. Developed by Nicole Kolm Valdivia Valdivia, PhD, MPH, CHES and MD/PhD student Sarah Uhm, the course delivers evidence-based strategies for treating opioid use disorder and supporting community advocacy.

"These strategies don't just save lives; they build trust, heal communities and create lasting change."

Sarah Uhm

College of Graduate Studies



Financial Wellness for Medical Trainees

Developed by Dustin Krutsinger, MD, MSCE, ATSF, assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine, the Financial Wellness for Medical Trainees features 10 e-learning modules to support financial literacy among medical trainees. Collaboration with E-Learning ensured strong instructional design, and learners reported highly positive experiences.

"Partnering with E-Learning was essential for my module development. The project is top quality and highly rated."

Dustin Krutsinger, MD, MSCE, ATSF

College of Medicine



2023-2025 GRANTS AWARDED

Internal grants provided by the Office of Noncredit Learning from the NU System to support course development and setup in NU Advance

Medium Grant (up to \$14,000)

- Foundations of Program Evaluation, Nishank Varshney, PhD, Munroe-Meyer Institute
- Teaching Online: Graduate Design, Delivery and Teaching Presence, Analisa McMillan, PhD, MSEd, College of Public Health

Large Grant (up to \$20,000)

- Harm Reduction Principles and Strategies for Health Professionals, Nicole Kolm Valdivia, PhD, MPH, CHES College of Public Health
- uBEATS, Heidi Kaschke, High School Alliance
- Introduction to Advanced Biomedical Research Technologies, Heather Jensen-Smith, PhD, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research
- Financial Wellness for Medical Trainees, Dustin Krutsinger, MD, MSCE, ATSF, College of Medicine

Foundations of Program Evaluation

This five-module course introduces key concepts and methods in program evaluation. Developed by Nishank Varshney, PhD, at the Munroe-Meyer Institute, it equips learners to confidently understand and interpret evaluation findings.

"The qualitative feedback from learners who have completed the course has been encouraging."

Nishank Varshney, PhD

Munroe-Meyer Institute





LEADING THE WAY IN HEALTH SCIENCE PATHWAYS

Now in its fifth year, UNMC's uBEATS program is reaching new levels of growth as a nationally recognized and celebrated STEM and health science resource for middle and high school students.

uBEATS is endorsed by and a member of the National Consortium for Health Science Education. To earn this designation, uBEATS team members aligned each module to national health science standards and gained verification from NCHSE.

uBEATS digital content spans areas such as cancer, genetics, microbiology and pathology, pharmacology and public health. Modules are regularly added; recent additions include behavioral health, medical terminology and an expansion of health careers content.

A collaboration of UNMC's Interactive E-Learning and the University of Nebraska Omaha, uBEATS relies on donations to keep the program accessible for teachers and students.

101,145

total users

Users in all

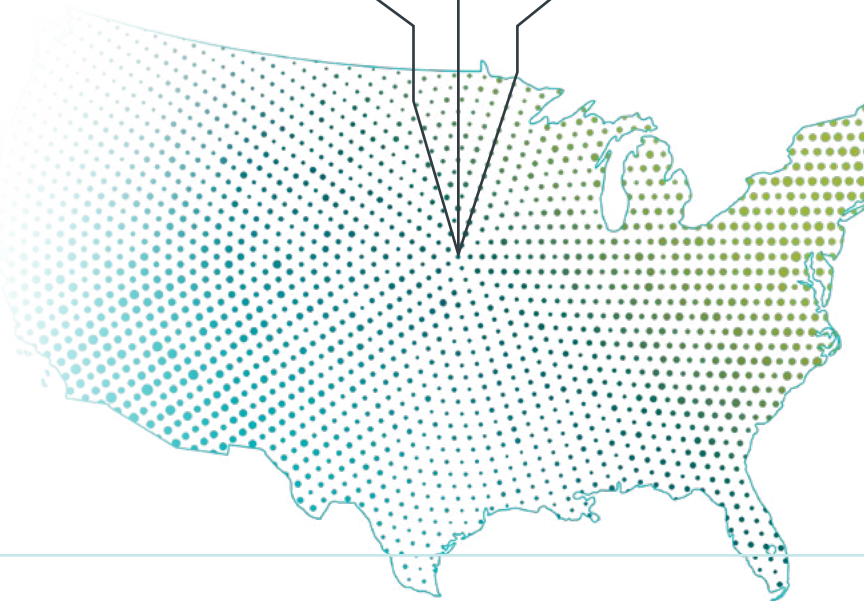
50

states

105

modules across

9 topics



Building Progress through Digital Badging

In 2024, uBEATS added digital badges for students who complete specific module progressions. These microcredentials are fast becoming a résumé-quality stamp of approval students can share on their résumés and social profiles.



727

badges awarded in

DENTISTRY

GENETICS

HEALTH CAREERS

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

NURSING

PHARMACY

PUBLIC HEALTH



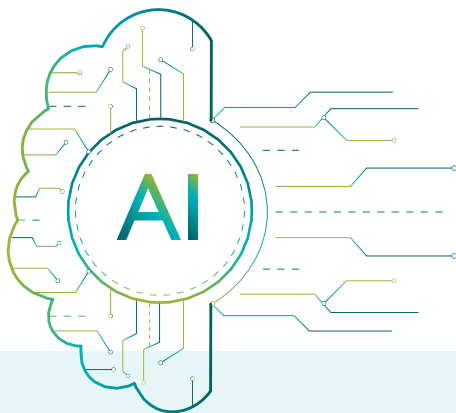
uBEATS Nationally Honored for Academic Excellence

In July 2025, uBEATS and Interactive E-Learning Director Peggy Moore were recognized as the first-place Transformative Program in teaching and learning through the Instructure Academic Excellence Awards.

Instructure is an educational technology company that supports educators, institutions and learners and is the parent company of Canvas.

Instructure recognized Moore's leadership in "growing uBEATS into a nationwide force" and applauded uBEATS for "delivering free, life-changing science and health education to over 95,000 students while illuminating pathways to meaningful health care careers."

The Transformative Program Award recognizes initiatives that shift educational practices within institutions or communities, and finalists were selected from a competitive global pool of nominees.



Bridging Classroom and Clinic with AI

In collaboration with E-Learning and funded through an IAE research grant, the College of Dentistry developed a generative AI-powered chatbot designed to strengthen students' ability to diagnose and manage oral lesions. Integrated directly into the learning module, the chatbot offers a secure, interactive environment where learners can practice describing lesions in everyday language, receive immediate feedback and reinforce key clinical concepts. This effort illustrates how AI can meaningfully support the transition from classroom instruction to clinical application.

Details of the project are presented in the study "Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Diagnosis of Oral Lesions: A Pilot Study," led by Nagamani Narayana, DMD, MS, in partnership with E-Learning's Peggy Moore, director, and Steph Langel, instructional designer. Their work was selected as the keynote presentation for the Interprofessional Academy of Educators' 2025 Spotlight on Scholarship showcase, underscoring its significance within the academic community.

The E-Learning staff demonstrate leadership through impactful contributions in instructional design, digital learning and faculty support. Their accomplishments reflect a high standard of excellence and commitment to advancing UNMC's educational practice.

HIGH HONORS *for the* E-LEARNING TEAM

uBEATS and Peggy Moore, MEd

1st Place Transformative Program
2025 Instructure Excellence Awards

Kristan Lester, MS

Joanne Loch Memorial Award (2024)

Recognizes a staff member in UNMC Academic Affairs who has demonstrated perseverance, thoughtfulness, encouragement, adaptability and teamwork

Tuggen Even, MEd

Silver U (2024)

Awarded to staff whose overall performance is above and beyond the scope of their position.

Use of Generative AI in Clinical Diagnosis of Oral Lesions: A Pilot Study

2025 Spotlight on Scholarship
Keynote Presentation

*Peggy Moore, MEd; Steph Langel, MA, MEd;
Nagamani Narayana, DMD, MS*

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Instructional Technologist



Kristan Lester, MS
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Special

THANKS

We express our gratitude to E-Learning leaders and partners for their strategic vision and commitment to advancing e-learning in UNMC culture and beyond.

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