Visionary, student-centered and exceptionally comprehensive.

As one of the nation's top health science universities, UNMC offers a comprehensive nursing curriculum from baccalaureate to master's to doctoral through postdoctoral plus continuous education programs.

THE ADVANCES INTERVIEW WITH THE PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Q. What things about the BSN program set it apart?
A. Our faculty is outstanding — great stability, long tenure, broad and deep expertise, extraordinary ability to connect with students. As a group, they're creative, innovative, highly adaptable and open to new ideas that enhance education. The environment is student-centered, with interactive, problem-based electronic options that foster independent learning, critical thinking and decision-making.

Q. How do you help RNs advance their education? In a large, rural state like Nebraska, they often live far from the closest UNMC campus.
A. We’ve created a friendly, all-distance RN to BSN curriculum. All coursework and clinical requirements can be completed in the student’s home community or one nearby. Coursework is designed specifically for RN students. If they’re already completed certain courses as part of their ADN degree, they need only 20 credits to earn a BSN. Most RNs complete all requirements with 24 credits.

Q. What lies ahead for the undergraduate program?
A. We're freshening the curriculum to reflect the Institute of Medicine's care quality and patient safety recommendations — a convergence of evidence-based practice, patient-centered care, informatics, interprofessional education and care collaboration. We’re also expanding the accelerated program to ease the nursing shortage.

Q. U.S. News ranks the graduate program in the top 8% in the U.S. What sets it apart?
A. Exceptional education begins with exceptional faculty — teachers who inspire students, who make learning dynamic. We have remarkable faculty breadth and depth of specialty expertise. Many are known nationally in their field. We’ve been a leader in distance education, and we’re expanding delivery of virtual classrooms and clinics across the state, nation and globe.

Q. Where is the master’s program headed?
A. We’re enhancing the program to increase flexibility, efficiency and core competencies. As throughout the College, we’re embedding the visionary guidelines set forth by the Institute of Medicine for care quality and patient safety. We strive for best-practices leadership in education focused on evidence and outcomes.

Q. What does draws students to the UNMC PhD program in nursing?
A. Doctoral students are drawn here by the reputation of the faculty and their leading-edge research. They’re also attracted by UNMC’s national reputation as a top health science research center. Our faculty offers a wide range of specialties and research interests, and that’s appealing. Our distance program is a draw, especially for far-away students who only need to be on campus once a semester.

Q. You offer a Fast-Track BSN to PhD program. Who is it intended for?
A. It’s for academically strong BSN graduates who want to be educators and researchers. Full-time students can finish in 4-1/2 years without all the clinical requirements of the MSN program.

Q. Are scholarships and financial aid available for full-time PhD students?
A. Scholarships are available from the federal government, professional organizations and private donors through the College. UNMC also offers student loans. A popular way to support doctoral education is a graduate fellowship, which covers tuition and provides a monthly stipend.

Q. What things are ahead for the doctoral program?
A. Our primary focus has been to prepare nurse researchers. With the national shortage of qualified nursing faculty, we’ll increase our efforts to prepare teachers. Our intent is to develop nursing leaders as educators, researchers and public policy advocates.