Welcome

Welcome from the Dean

Welcome to the 2017-2018 graduate catalog for the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).

For more than 100 years, UNO has helped professionals advance their careers through a wide array of award-winning graduate programs. We focus our attention, expertise and resources on our most important responsibility—our students.

There are more than 75 graduate programs, at all levels, to explore in this catalog. UNO has numerous opportunities for you.

UNO is located in the heart of Nebraska’s largest city and is regarded as a forward-thinking, metropolitan university with premier graduate programs. UNO is recognized as a Carnegie Doctoral Research University for our specialized doctoral programs and comprehensive range of master’s degrees and certificates. Our graduate faculty represents the very best in their fields, earning national teaching awards, and they are dedicated to individual student instruction and mentoring.

A graduate degree from UNO will give you an important edge in a competitive marketplace, command higher earnings throughout your career, and prepare you to be a leader in your community.

Our Graduate Studies office and the faculty in all of our programs are here to assist you as you explore graduate school, and we are here to support you when you choose UNO.

So, use this catalog as a resource to help you prepare to develop new professional skills through a graduate degree.

If you have any questions or need advice, please contact the Office of Graduate Studies.

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Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Dean for Graduate Studies

Mission Statement

The Mission of Graduate Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha is to develop, enhance, and promote outstanding graduate education; to ensure a rich environment for learning, creative activity, and the discovery and communication of new knowledge; and to be recognized for excellence in regional, national, and global engagement and contributions.

GOAL A: UNO Graduate Studies will develop, enhance, and promote outstanding graduate education.

OBJECTIVE 1: UNO Graduate Studies will continually enhance UNO’s existing graduate education programs.

OBJECTIVE 2: UNO Graduate Studies will develop outstanding new graduate education programs.

OBJECTIVE 3: UNO Graduate Studies will promote graduate education opportunities at UNO.

GOAL B: UNO Graduate Studies will ensure a rich environment for learning, creative activity, and the discovery and communication of new knowledge.

OBJECTIVE 1: UNO Graduate Studies will foster a culture and environment that positively acknowledges and rewards creative endeavors.

OBJECTIVE 2: UNO Graduate Studies will promote and nurture the dissemination of scholarship.

GOAL C: UNO Graduate Studies will be recognized for excellence in regional, national, and global engagement and contributions.

OBJECTIVE 1: UNO Graduate Studies will be recognized for excellence in engagement.

OBJECTIVE 2: UNO Graduate Studies will support students’ success in their internships, training, and other community centered opportunities for learning.

Graduate Studies Organization

In 1971, at the direction of the Board of Regents, the Graduate College of the University of Nebraska (UNL and UNMC) and the Graduate College of the University of Nebraska at Omaha were merged to form one University-wide Graduate College with one Graduate Faculty. The ultimate academic authority for all graduate programs within the University is vested in the approximately 1700 members of the Graduate Faculty.

The Bylaws of the Board of Regents state that the Executive Vice President and Provost of the University of Nebraska shall serve as Dean of the University-wide Graduate College and as presiding officer of the Graduate Faculty and councils thereof. The legislative and academic authority of the Graduate Faculty is vested in the Executive Graduate Council, comprised of eight members elected by the graduate faculty. Specific responsibilities of the Dean and of the Executive Graduate Council can be found in the University of Nebraska Graduate College Governance document.

On each campus of the University in which graduate programs are housed, there is a campus Dean for Graduate Studies, a campus Graduate Faculty and a campus Graduate Council. The UNO Dean for Graduate Studies administers graduate programs and policies on that campus; serves as presiding officer of the UNO Graduate Faculty and the UNO Graduate Council; and forwards to the Dean of the Graduate College matters which are of University-wide concern. The UNO Graduate Faculty consists of those members of the University-wide Graduate Faculty administratively assigned to UNO. The UNO Graduate Council acts as an advisory body to the UNO Dean for Graduate Studies, coordinates the graduate studies on the UNO campus and recommends to the Executive Graduate Council actions affecting students and programs on more than one campus. This Council consists of 22 elected or appointed faculty members and two graduate student members. Specific responsibilities of the Dean for Graduate Studies and of the UNO Graduate Council may be found in the document “Organization of Graduate Studies: University of Nebraska at Omaha”.

Historical View

For over 100 years since its founding in 1908, UNO has provided Omaha, the state of Nebraska and the nation with men and women of sound intellectual training and preparation for life. Its goal for its students, “To earn a living and live a cultured life not as two processes, but as one” has been its guide over the years.

The University of Omaha was founded in 1908 as a private, nonsectarian college. The University awarded its first master’s degrees in 1919 by special vote of the Board of Trustees. In 1960 the Board of Regents of the University authorized the Specialist in Education degree, and in 1965 they authorized the Master of Business Administration degree. In 1983 the University of Omaha became the Municipal University of Omaha; in that same year the Master of Arts and the Master of Science degrees were authorized.

In 1968 the Municipal University of Omaha was merged with the University of Nebraska System and became the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In 1971 the Graduate College of the University of Nebraska was formed to govern graduate studies throughout the University of Nebraska. Since 1968, the University of Nebraska at Omaha has been authorized to offer additional professional master’s degrees. In 1974 the cooperative program with UNL leading to the PhD in three areas of psychology was approved. In 1992 the Board of Regents and the Coordinating Commission
for Higher Education approved a joint EdD in Educational Administration degree program (UNL and UNO). In 1993, the PhD in Criminal Justice was approved, and in 1994 the PhD in Public Administration was approved. In 2004, the PhD in Information Technology was approved. In 2005, the Master of Arts in Language Teaching was approved. In 2011, the Master of Arts in Athletic Training was approved. In 2012, the PhD in Exercise Science, and the Master of Science in Information Assurance were approved. In 2013, a Master of Science and PhD in Biomedical Informatics was approved. In 2015, a Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking and the Executive Master of Science in Information Technology were approved. During the 2016-17 academic year, the PhD in Gerontology was moved from UNL to UNO, and the Computer Science Education MS and certificate were approved.

Graduate studies provide more advanced education than the undergraduate work upon which all graduate programs are based. At UNO graduate students:

- Work toward the various graduate certificates and/or degrees offered by the University;
- Earn graduate credit for the issuance or renewal of certificates for teachers, administrators and educational psychologists; and
- Obtain personal or professional enhancement.

To enable the student to attain these objectives, the Graduate Faculty at the University of Nebraska at Omaha provide graduate courses, workshops, institutes, seminars, practica, research and special problems courses, and the supervision of theses or special projects. Thus, they promote the spirit of free investigation in the various disciplines and, at the same time, serve to unite the various branches of the University in advancing human knowledge and providing intelligent, capable leadership for society.