

INTRODUCTION

The Nebraska Career Scholarships program, implemented in January 2021 after the passage of LB1008 (2020), is a collaboration between the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) and Nebraska community colleges. This program provides scholarships to students pursuing degrees in programs of study that lead to careers in identified shortage areas, or in-demand skilled trades related to the shortage areas, that meet the workforce needs of Nebraska.

In 2020, Governor Pete Ricketts said, "Connecting the next generation of Nebraskans to great opportunities in our state is key to helping our kids make Nebraska their home. These scholarships will help to equip young Nebraskans to enter careers in fields with high demand for new talent, such as engineering, healthcare, and IT. This adds to the pipeline we've been building to connect young Nebraskans with great-paying careers so that they can enjoy the Good Life. Now, students will also have the opportunity to apply for a Career Scholarship as they prepare for to enter fields where our state has a workforce shortage."

Scholarships are awarded to first-time students and transfer students and may be up to \$5,000 per year. Students must be enrolled in an eligible program, which is one that leads to careers in identified shortage areas or in-demand skilled trades related to the shortage area, as determined by DED. Identified shortage areas and related in-demand skilled trades all fall within the following nine categories:

1. Business, Financial & Administrative Operations
2. Computer & Technology Assistance
3. Architecture & Engineering
4. Healthcare Practitioners & Technical
5. Farming, Fishing, & Forestry
6. Construction & Extraction
7. Installation, Maintenance, & Repair
8. Production
9. Transportation & Material Moving

DED is directed to allocate the General Funds among Nebraska community colleges and report information to the Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor each year. The Nebraska community colleges are directed to determine eligibility of scholarship recipients; receive and process applications for awards to individual scholarship recipients; disperse awards directly to eligible scholarship recipients during the fiscal year; and collect information on each scholarship recipient and report to DED.

DISBURSEMENTS

Five million dollars in aid has been awarded to the Nebraska community colleges since February 2021 for the purposes of the NE Career Scholarship program.

	Aid Award Feb 2021	Aid Awarded Fall 2021	Aid Awarded Fall 2022	Aid Awarded Fall 2023
Central Community College	\$143,300	\$286,600	\$442,900	\$614,700
Little Priest Tribal College	\$0	\$664,200	\$42,300	\$42,700
Metro Community College	\$332,000	\$136,400	\$962,100	\$1,195,100
Mid-Plains Community College	\$68,200	\$244,800	\$223,900	\$346,800
Northeast Community College	\$133,600	\$22,400	\$383,800	\$557,100
Southeast Community College	\$251,500	\$502,900	\$725,800	\$919,200
Western Community	\$71,400	\$142,700	\$219,200	\$324,400

REPORT

Legislative Reporting Requirement 1: Total number of students enrolled in each eligible program of study in the prior academic year and such program's enrollment as of census date each year thereafter.

Reporting notes:

- Enrollment reflects total program enrollment, regardless of individual student scholarship eligibility.
- Enrollment could include a duplicated headcount if a student is enrolled in more than one program category.
- Enrollment in for-credit programs includes number of students enrolled on October 15; enrollment in non-credit programs includes total students enrolled in programs that began within the fall term's beginning and end dates.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	2758	2544	1234	1975	1307
Computer & Technology Assistance	1463	1645	481	714	1072
Architecture & Engineering	423	381	275	342	225
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	3286	3197	870	2192	2781
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	306	305	183	218	462
Construction & Extraction	879	899	438	494	792
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	1538	1535	757	1250	1042
Production	695	618	298	498	510
Transportation & Material Moving	101	101	39	129	54
Total	11449	11245	4575	8136	8605

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Degree Programs	5975	5792	3983	5788	6883
Diploma Programs	626	520	455	494	505

For-Credit Certificate Programs	525	485	112	239	365
Non-Credit Certificate Programs	2164	2254	68	1179	928
Total	9290	9051	4618	7700	8681

Legislative Reporting Requirement 2: The number of scholarship recipients in each program.

Reporting notes:

- Count of scholarship recipients is deduplicated across terms and programs of study (if a scholarship recipient is enrolled in more than one program of study a primary program of study is identified).

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	0	10	21	24
Computer & Technology Assistance	15	40	53	10
Architecture & Engineering	0	21	6	4
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	4	40	43	17
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	0	10	3	7
Construction & Extraction	12	90	73	30
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	6	59	104	36
Production	0	33	56	36
Transportation & Material Moving	11	20	30	0
Total	48	323	389	164

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Degree Programs	37	276	301	144
Diploma Programs	0	20	30	28
For-Credit Certificate Programs	11	27	38	0
Non-Credit Certificate Programs	0	0	26	0
Total	48	323	403	172

Legislative Reporting Requirement 3: The total number of first-time freshman scholarship recipients retained in year two and a comparison of the retention rate of first-time freshman scholarship recipients to the overall retention rate for first time freshmen.

Reporting notes:

- Scholarship recipients who are enrolled in an eligible program as of the census date of the following academic year's fall term are considered retained.
- Data includes only first-time students; it does not include transfer students.

The number of first-time student scholarship recipients retained.

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	0	3	13

Computer & Technology Assistance	1	15	35
Architecture & Engineering	0	5	5
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1	5	35
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	0	0	3
Construction & Extraction	1	20	47
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	1	14	73
Production	0	6	31
Transportation & Material Moving	0	0	0
Total	3	68	242

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Degree Programs	3	58	227
Diploma Programs	0	8	11
For-Credit Certificate Programs	0	2	4
Non-Credit Certificate Programs	0	0	0
Total	3	68	242

The retention rate of first-time student scholarship recipients.

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	0	25%	66%
Computer & Technology Assistance	7%	74%	72%
Architecture & Engineering	0	21%	28%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	0%	40%	73%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	0	0%	33%
Construction & Extraction	8%	55%	76%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	17%	100%	63%
Production	0	39%	55%
Transportation & Material Moving	0%	0%	0%

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Degree Programs	8%	53%	76%
Diploma Programs	0	43%	58%
For-Credit Certificate Programs	0	50%	37%
Non-Credit Certificate Programs	0	0	0

The retention rate of all first-time students (including scholarship recipients and non-scholarship recipients).

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	25%	44%	45%
Computer & Technology Assistance	10%	64%	64%
Architecture & Engineering	0	60%	50%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	37%	57%	57%

Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	0	35%	61%
Construction & Extraction	54%	64%	75%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	44%	63%	63%
Production	42%	40%	50%
Transportation & Material Moving	0	0%	17%

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Degree Programs	37%	61%	66%
Diploma Programs	83%	49%	54%
For-Credit Certificate Programs	100%	38%	58%
Non-Credit Certificate Programs			1%

The difference in the retention rate of first-time student scholarship recipients and the retention rate of all first-time students (including scholarship recipients and non-scholarship recipients).

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	0	-8%	29%
Computer & Technology Assistance	3%	24%	-2%
Architecture & Engineering	0	3%	2%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	13%	-20%	9%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	0	22%	8%
Construction & Extraction	12%	26%	8%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	-13%	1%	15%
Production	0	20%	33%
Transportation & Material Moving	0	0	0

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Degree Programs	6%	1%	10%
Diploma Programs	0	27%	-5%
For-Credit Certificate Programs	0	13%	11%
Non-Credit Certificate Programs	0	0	0

Legislative Reporting Requirement 4: The total number of first-time freshman scholarship recipient completers (certificates, diplomas, degrees) and a comparison of the on-time award completion rate of scholarship recipients to the overall on time completion rate for all first-time freshman students.

Reporting notes:

- On-time completion for this report means full-time and part-time students completing a for-credit program of study within 150% of normal time and/or the completion of a non-credit certification.
- The on-time completion rate compares on-time completers to all students, including students who drop out or stop out.

- Data does not include scholarship recipients enrolled in programs that have not reached the on-time completion definition above.
- Data includes only first-time students; it does not include transfer students.

A. The number of first-time student scholarship recipients that have completed their eligible program of study.

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	0	0	0
Computer & Technology Assistance	1	6	0
Architecture & Engineering	0	4	0
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	0	1	0
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	0	0	0
Construction & Extraction	2	15	2
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	3	5	6
Production	0	6	11
Transportation & Material Moving	10	19	28

B. The rate of first-time student scholarship recipients who completed their eligible programs of study on time, out of all first-time student scholarship recipients who began their eligible program in the same term.

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	0	0	0
Computer & Technology Assistance	7%	34%	4%
Architecture & Engineering	0	25%	0
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	0	14%	0
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	0	0	0
Construction & Extraction	17%	23%	4%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	50%	8%	4%
Production	0	0%	37%
Transportation & Material Moving	90%	95%	47%

C. The rate of first-time students (including scholarship recipients and non-scholarship recipients) who completed their eligible program of study on time, out of all first-time student scholarship recipients who began their eligible program in the same term.

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	31%	10%	3%
Computer & Technology Assistance	42%	30%	
Architecture & Engineering	75%	46%	
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	31%	6%	7%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	50%	19%	1%
Construction & Extraction	62%	23%	19%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	38%	33%	23%
Production	49%	78%	53%

Transportation & Material Moving	0	43%	75%
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D. The difference in the on-time completion rate of first-time student scholarship recipients and the on-time completion rate of all first-time students (including scholarship recipients and non-scholarship recipients)

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	0	0	-2%
Computer & Technology Assistance	35%	26%	
Architecture & Engineering	0	-16%	
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	11%	-8%	4%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	0	0	
Construction & Extraction	19%	10%	10%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	-15%	14%	5%
Production	0	53%	-9%
Transportation & Material Moving	0	-95%	-45%

Legislative Reporting Requirement 5: The number of scholarship recipients obtaining jobs in Nebraska within five quarters of completing the program of study using Department of Labor data.

Reporting notes:

- Data includes scholarship recipients who obtained a job in Nebraska within five quarters after the quarter in which they completed their program of study or as of September 30 each year, whichever is sooner.
- Due to the timing of the report, this may not include all program completers where five quarters after the quarter in which they completed the program of study have not passed.

Data not available yet. The Department is currently working towards working with DOL to provide this data.

Legislative Reporting Requirement 6: The average salary of scholarship recipients, as determined by the Department of Labor, for the fifth quarter following program of study completion.

Reporting notes:

- Data includes scholarship recipients who completed their program of study and five quarters have passed after the quarter in which they completed their program of study by September 30.
- Due to the timing of the report, this may not include the salaries of all program completers where five quarters after the quarter in which they completed the program of study have not passed by September 30.

Data not available yet. The Department is currently working towards working with DOL to provide this data.

Legislative Reporting Requirement 7: The number of students in each program of study participating in an internship, apprenticeship, clinical position, or major-related field of employment during enrollment and comparing participation rates for scholarship and non-scholarship recipients.

A. The number of scholarship recipients currently participating in a career-related work experience.

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	0	1	1
Computer & Technology Assistance	0	7	2
Architecture & Engineering	0	5	5
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	0	3	1
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	0	0	0
Construction & Extraction	2	20	21
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	3	7	10
Production	0	6	12
Transportation & Material Moving	0	0	1

B. The rate of scholarship recipients who participated in a career-related work experience.

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations		8%	7%
Computer & Technology Assistance		44%	34%
Architecture & Engineering		32%	42%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical		27%	6%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry		0%	0%
Construction & Extraction	17%	55%	72%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	50%	23%	25%
Production		50%	83%
Transportation & Material Moving			

C. The rate of non-scholarship recipients that participated in a career-related work experience.

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2023-2022
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	8%	12%	11%
Computer & Technology Assistance			8%
Architecture & Engineering		14%	5%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	0%	49%	31%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry		2%	1%
Construction & Extraction	78%	48%	18%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	32%	37%	24%
Production		5%	4%
Transportation & Material Moving		50%	100%

D. The difference in the career-related work experience participation rate of scholarship recipients and of non-scholarship recipients.

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations		1%	-1%
Computer & Technology Assistance		44%	26%
Architecture & Engineering		36%	68%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical		-40%	-41%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry			
Construction & Extraction	-17%	0%	36%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	-50%	-5%	-1%
Production		-28%	36%
Transportation & Material Moving			

The Department will update this report with information from Department of Labor for Legislative requirement 5 and 6 on this report.