

## UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 1, 2025

The Honorable Jim Pillen  
Governor of Nebraska  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

Mr. Brandon Metzler  
Clerk of the Legislature  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Governor Pillen and members of the Nebraska Legislature:

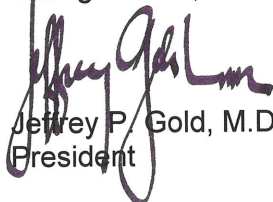
On behalf of the University of Nebraska, thank you for your continued support of the Nebraska Career Scholarship program. This vital investment strengthens our ability to prepare students for careers in high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand fields that are essential to Nebraska's economic competitiveness.

In Fall 2025, 908 students across our campuses received the Nebraska Career Scholarship, including 213 new recipients pursuing degrees in critical workforce areas such as healthcare, engineering, and information technology. Retention among full-time, first-time Career Scholars continues to outpace the university-wide rate, underscoring the effectiveness of this targeted support.

The program's graduates are making meaningful contributions to Nebraska's workforce. Of the recipients who graduated during the prior calendar year, 76.1% were employed in Nebraska or continued their education at the University of Nebraska, an encouraging indicator of the program's long-term workforce impact.

Enclosed, you will find the University's responses to the reporting requirements outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §85-3004. Once again, thank you for your vision and support of this important scholarship program.

With gratitude,



Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.  
President

JPG/ekc

Enclosure

# Nebraska Career Scholarship Annual Report 2025

## Overview

The University of Nebraska System submits this annual report pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §85-3004. The Nebraska Career Scholarship program continues to advance the state's workforce pipeline by supporting students pursuing high-demand, high-wage fields identified as essential to Nebraska's economic vitality.

## (a) Enrollment in Eligible Programs

Enrollment across eligible academic programs increased from 15,688 in Fall 2024 to 15,817 in Fall 2025, an increase of approximately .08%. Engineering and Health Care remain the largest fields, collectively representing more than three-fourths of all eligible program enrollment.

Program	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
Computer Information Systems	1951	1847
Engineering	3617	3821
Health Care	9186	9241
Math	542	549
Special Education	392	356

Engineering and Health Care programs remain among Nebraska’s High-Demand (H3) occupational areas, aligning enrollment growth with statewide workforce needs. (Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, “Nebraska Workforce Trends,” March 2025)

### (b) Scholarship Recipients in Eligible Programs

In Fall 2025, 908 students received the Nebraska Career Scholarship across eligible academic programs. Of those 908 students, 213 were newly awarded recipients. The highest concentrations were in Health Care (408 students) and Engineering (285 students), reflecting statewide demand for professionals in these areas.

Program	New Recipients	Total Recipients
Computer Information Systems	18	155
Engineering	70	285
Health Care	115	408
Math	10	57
Special Education	0	3

Recipients continue to be clustered in sectors where Nebraska faces widespread workforce shortages, particularly Health Care and Engineering. *(Source: Nebraska Department of Labor H3 High-Demand Occupation List)*

### (c) Retention of Newly Awarded Scholarship Recipients

Career Scholars who began as full-time, first-time freshmen in Fall 2024 were retained at a rate of 95% to Fall 2025. This exceeds the 83% retention rate among the general NU freshman population, demonstrating strong persistence among scholarship recipients.

Higher retention among Career Scholars is consistent with national patterns showing that financial support improves retention in degree programs. *(Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Undergraduate Retention Data)*

#### **(d) Graduation Rates of Scholarship Recipients**

In the prior academic year, 259 Career Scholars completed degrees at an NU campus. Since the program's inception, 365 recipients have graduated. Among the first four-year cohort (Fall 2021), 57% graduated within four years, compared to 46% among all NU students in the same cohort.

Career Scholars graduate at rates that exceed systemwide averages, reflecting trends seen nationally for students receiving targeted academic and financial support. *(Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Graduation Rate Benchmarks)*

#### **(e) Employment Outcomes of Scholarship Recipients**

Of the Career Scholars who graduated during the prior calendar year, 76.1% were employed in Nebraska or continued their education at NU. This demonstrates strong in-state retention of degree earners in critical workforce fields.

A strong share of Career Scholar graduates are working in Nebraska, contributing to H3 fields where the state continues to experience sustained workforce need. *(Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, "Nebraska Workforce Trends," March 2025)*

### **Conclusion**

The Nebraska Career Scholarship program continues to support strong student outcomes, including higher retention and graduation rates and strong in-state employment. The University of Nebraska remains committed to partnering with the State to strengthen Nebraska's workforce pipeline.