

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SYSTEM

NEBRASKA PROMISE

3/8/2024

How do I qualify for the Nebraska Promise?

If you meet the following criteria, you automatically qualify for the Nebraska Promise.

- Family income of \$65,000 or less (Adjusted Gross Income or AGI) or Pell Grant recipient. Family income will be measured as parent plus student AGI on the FAFSA.
- Nebraska resident
- Full-time (12 credits or more) undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska
- Maintain a 2.5 grade point average
- Annually complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the University's deadline (June 1)
- Meet Title IV eligibility [criteria](#)

I'm 18 and I don't live at home. I file my own tax returns and my parents don't claim me on their tax return. Do I use my income to qualify for the Nebraska Promise?

A student's dependency status for the purposes of Nebraska Promise is based on the FAFSA. The FAFSA uses various factors to determine whether a student is dependent or independent, which does not include whether or not a student is claimed on a federal tax return.

If a student is dependent based on the FAFSA, then family income includes the parent Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) plus the student AGI on the FAFSA. If a student is independent based on the FAFSA, then parent information is not included and the income determination is made based on the student's income (and spouse, if applicable).

I'm 29 and I never finished college. I want to come back and complete my undergraduate degree. Do I use my income to qualify for the Nebraska Promise?

As stated in the question above, a student's dependency status for the purposes of Nebraska Promise is based on FAFSA [criteria](#). If you were born before January 1, 1997, then you are considered independent. You can see other questions that determine your dependency status [here](#)



• **Do transfer students qualify?**

• Yes, a full-time undergraduate Nebraska resident transfer student with a family income of \$65k or less (AGI) or recipient of the Federal Pell Grant who maintains a 2.5 GPA qualifies for this program.

• **Do non-Nebraska residents qualify?**

• No. The program is designed for University of Nebraska students who are Nebraska residents.

• **Who is considered a Nebraska resident for the purposes of the Nebraska Promise?**

• The definition of a Nebraska resident, for the purposes of the Nebraska Promise, is based upon the University of Nebraska Board of Regents Policy 5.7.1, Residency Determination for Tuition Purposes ([p. 167](#)). If you believe that you have been incorrectly denied a resident tuition determination, you may appeal that decision through the individual campus you applied to.

• **Can I receive Nebraska Promise funding if I'm taking all of my classes online?**

• Yes. Nebraska Promise funding is available to students who are taking all of their classes online. Funding is determined by the Nebraska Promise.



credit hours per fall/spring semester to qualify. The Promise is not applicable over the summer.

• **Will I still be able to qualify for the Nebraska Promise if I start school in the spring instead of the fall?**

• Because the Nebraska Promise is applied for an entire academic year, if you don't start in the fall, there is not a guarantee you will receive the Nebraska Promise.

• **What are the admission requirements to be accepted at the University of Nebraska?**

• The University of Nebraska admissions requirements for UNK, UNL and UNO are as follows:

- 20 or higher on the ACT or ranking in the top 50 percent of the graduating class or have a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
- 16 core units must be completed:
 - 4 units English
 - 3 units math (Alg I and II and Geometry); UNL requires 4 units; the fourth unit must build upon concepts learned in Algebra II
 - 3 units of natural science
 - 3 units of social science
 - 2 units of the same foreign language
 - 1 academic elective from anything within the core area (UNK & UNO)

Students that do not meet the assured admission requirements may still be eligible for admission by review. Please contact the appropriate admissions office for more information.

University of Nebraska at Kearney

[Office of Admissions](#)

(308)-865-8526

admissions@unk.edu

University of Nebraska–Lincoln

[Office of Admissions](#)

(402)-472-2023

admissions@unl.edu

University of Nebraska at Omaha

[Office of Admissions](#)

(402)-554-2393

unoadmissions@unomaha.edu

• **Are the application process and admission requirements for undergraduate programs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center different than the requirements for undergraduate programs at UNK, UNL and UNO?**

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multiple campuses.

UNK, UNL and UNO application fees may be waived for students eligible for free/reduced lunch, or active military status and their dependents. Students should complete the applicable questions regarding their free/reduced lunch or military/dependent status.



• **Why am I still charged tuition if I qualify for the Nebraska Promise?**

• All students have tuition charges assessed to their university student billing account. Recipients of the Nebraska Promise will still see tuition charges assessed on their account.

The Nebraska Promise is a promise program that guarantees enough scholarships and grants to cover tuition charges for students who qualify. The Nebraska Promise commitment fulfills actual tuition charges for up to 15 credit hours per semester.

• **Does the Nebraska Promise program cover additional expenses outside of tuition?**

• Although the Nebraska Promise will cover the cost of tuition and be a boon for hundreds of college-going students and their families, it does not mean a university education is entirely free from cost. Students will still need to cover costs for fees, books or room and board.

Fortunately, the Nebraska Promise is just one of many financial aid options available for students. Those who receive Federal Pell Grants and Nebraska Promise funding may be eligible for assistance beyond tuition. For more details, contact the financial aid office at the campus you are interested in.

University of Nebraska at Kearney

[Office of Financial Aid](#)

(308)-865-8520

finaid1@unk.edu

University of Nebraska–Lincoln

[Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid](#)

(402)-472-2030



- UNK scholarship [site](#)
- UNL scholarship [site](#)
- UNMC scholarship [site](#)
- UNO scholarship [site](#)

• **What does free tuition mean? Will my Pell Grant and other federal aid now be applied to other charges on my student bill, like room and board?**

• To arrive at free tuition, the University of Nebraska first applies Pell Grant funds and other grants and scholarships to your tuition. After your Pell funds and other grants and/or scholarships are applied, the Nebraska Promise covers any gap that remains in paying your tuition—up to 15 credit hours per semester or 30 credit hours per academic year.

• **Where can I find financial aid information specific to the University of Nebraska's four campuses?**

• The financial aid office at each University of Nebraska campus can provide you with information on scholarships and other aid specific to that campus.

University of Nebraska at Kearney

[Office of Financial Aid](#)

(308)-865-8520

finaid1@unk.edu

University of Nebraska–Lincoln

[Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid](#)

(402)-472-2030

huskerhub@unl.edu

University of Nebraska Medical Center

[Office of Financial Aid](#)

(402)-559-4199

finaid@unmc.edu

University of Nebraska at Omaha

[Office of Financial Support](#)

(402)-554-2327

unofinaid@unomaha.edu

• **Why should I fill out the FAFSA?**

• The FAFSA stands for “Free Application for Federal Student Aid.” It determines a student’s eligibility for need-based federal financial aid for college, which may include grants, scholarships, work-study and loans. If you don’t fill out the FAFSA, you are likely leaving money on the table that you may have qualified for.

