Universities are scholarly communities dedicated to the discovery, integration, application, teaching and dissemination of knowledge. As a comprehensive (Master's) university, UNK embraces this mission at the graduate and undergraduate levels. The University of Nebraska at Kearney emphasizes learning, by both students and faculty, and both within and outside the traditional classroom, lab, or studio. Basic and applied research, and the ennobling of the human condition through creative activity, provide a basis for graduate education at UNK and have a place in every program.

The Office of Graduate Studies and the UNK Research Services Council (RSC) promote student research, scholarship, and creative activity conducted in collaboration with faculty. These activities provide graduate students the opportunity for scholarly exploration and discovery and are viewed as a vital component of a graduate education at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Financial support is provided by the RSC for supplies and other material needed for the completion of graduate student research and creative projects. Theses, Field Studies, and Scholarly Studies are eligible for support through the student research programs, with funds being provided for the academic year and summer sessions. In addition, students are encouraged to present their work at professional conferences, and the Graduate Office provides partial funding in support of the associated travel. Interested graduate students should contact a UNK faculty member or the Office of Graduate Studies.

Additional opportunities for research experience may be gained through the graduate assistantship program. Several departments offer research assistant experiences, with funding often coming from internal and external grants. Such appointments provide excellent opportunities to work collaboratively with faculty in a mentoring relationship. Students should contact their academic department about research assistantships.