

UNK RESPONSE TO MEETING THE REGENTS' FOUR-YEAR GUARANTEE

The Board of Regents recognizes that it is important for University of Nebraska undergraduate students to be able to earn their bachelor's or first-professional degrees in timely fashion.

The University of Nebraska therefore commits itself to providing each student all assistance necessary to help them graduate within four years of entering, provided the student has appropriate high school preparation, pursues a course of study that is intended for four-year completion, and adheres to prudent practices in pursuing a degree.

These prudent practices include:

- Select a major early (by your third semester) in college and stay with that major.
- Fulfill the bachelor's degree requirements and general studies requirements as outlined in the academic catalog.
- Follow the four-year course of study plan published by your major and pass all required courses on the first attempt (no deficient grades as defined by your major).
- Meet with your advisor every semester and respond promptly to all communications from academic advisors, the registrar, and Advising and Career Services staff.
- Sign up for classes during each semesters priority period.
- Register for and complete at least 15 credit hours per semester for eight semesters with acceptable grades.
- When a required course is not available, notify the department chair in a timely fashion (one week).
- Not be subject to any disciplinary action per the Student Code of Conduct during your time as a student that restricts your academic progress.
- Apply for graduation by the deadline.

In turn, the university guarantees the student will be able to enroll in courses that permit graduation in four years. If that is not possible, the university will provide alternatives or substitutions. The mutual commitment by the university and the student outlined in this resolution will result in four-year graduation.

Adopted by the Board of Regents 6-25-21

Addressing the Regents' Guarantee that every undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska can be graduated within four years.

UNK is committed to assuring that institutional barriers do not prevent on-time graduation and that institutional mechanisms assist students in achieving timely graduation. Specific actions taken at UNK toward this goal are:

1. The Regents' Four-year Guarantee (<https://nebraska.edu/offices-policies/provosts-office/academic-affairs/graduation-guarantees/>) is routinely brought to the attention of prospective students by UNK Admissions Counselors, and communicated in publications and promotional materials.
2. UNK's strategic plan highlights the intentional strategy to mobilize and enable all program-completion capabilities on campus. The

strategic plan also highlights the importance of a comprehensive view of student success that integrates academic and nonacademic programming.

3. Student Engagement, particularly the Office of Student and Family Transitions, develops and executes programming designed to introduce students to university expectations and resources, and to increase retention and graduation rates. UNK works collaboratively with academic and student engagement departments to facilitate curricular and co-curricular experiences focusing on learning outcomes using a validating approach in which students take responsibility for their own education, and develop a strong sense of belonging to campus. Assessment shows that first year students participating in Student Engagement programs have a higher rate of success and retention to the institution.
4. Assessment is a part of our academic and student success programs. Better learning outcomes mean more student success, which translates to progress toward graduation.
5. The Academic Affairs Committee limits the number of credit hours that can be included in academic major and minor programs. In addition, "hidden prerequisites" are prohibited that would add to the length of a student's program.
6. At UNK, the General Studies Program is university-wide, so regardless of the college in which a student begins work toward a degree program, there will be no general studies impediments to changing a major to another college. This maximizes student flexibility and minimizes academic consequences of changing majors. This is particularly important because nationally, and in Nebraska, most students change majors several times before graduating.
7. UNK academic departments are committed to offering courses out of the planned sequence or providing alternate courses to assure that students who need a course to graduate can take it without adding time to their programs if they, through no fault of their own, find that a required course is not scheduled at a time that will permit graduating on time.
8. Every student is assigned an academic advisor and must see the advisor each semester to examine progress. Students are precluded from registering for classes until the advisor has lifted a flag indicating the advising requirement has been met.
9. The Academic Advising and Career Development Office provides additional advising to students seeking such advice, and to all students identified in the Early Academic Alert System. Once classes begin, faculty have the option of submitting an Early Academic Alert to the Academic Advising and Career Development Office, identifying any student who might be experiencing academic difficulty. These students are notified via email and offered assistance to help them complete their classes successfully.
10. The Writing Center helps all students, and the improved writing skill it imparts bolsters students' academic success in general.
11. To further support student success on progress toward graduation, UNK has several online tools such as the web-based degree audit system, available to students and advisors. The audit, in particular, is a powerful aid in monitoring progress toward the degree as it provides test scores for proper course placement, GPA breakdowns, and it tracks any substitutions approved by the department.
12. The Registrar's Office automatically runs degree checks each semester once a student earns 95 or more credit hours. This audit is a summary report of the student's progress toward graduation and it is automatically sent to the student's e-mail address and to the student's advisor(s) electronically.

13. Tutoring for most undergraduate courses is available to all students with an academic need.

Monitoring Student Progress Toward Graduation

At UNK, we take seriously the commitment to enabling students to be graduated in a timely manner. To this end, we monitor each student in several ways:

1. Every student is assigned an academic advisor and must see the advisor each semester to examine progress. Students are precluded from registering for classes until the advisor has lifted a flag indicating the advising requirement has been met. At that time, the progress of a student and any institutional barriers to that progress can be addressed.
2. The Academic Advising and Career Development Office provides additional advising to students seeking such advice, and to all students identified in the Early Academic Alert System. Once classes begin, faculty have the option of submitting an Early Academic Alert to the Academic Advising and Career Development Office, identifying any student who might be experiencing academic difficulty. These students are notified via email and offered assistance to help them complete their classes successfully.
3. UNK's web-based degree audit system, available to students and advisors, is a powerful aid in monitoring progress toward the degree as it provides test scores for proper course placement, GPA breakdowns, and it tracks any substitutions approved by the department.
4. The Registrar's Office automatically runs degree checks each semester once a student earns 95 or more credit hours. This audit is a summary report of the student's progress toward graduation and it is automatically sent to the student's e-mail address and to the student's advisor(s) electronically.