



Nebraska

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact brings together leaders from 12 Midwestern states to strengthen postsecondary education and promote regional economic vitality.



MHEC leverages the knowledge and expertise of postsecondary leaders to generate collaborative solutions to challenges in higher education.



MHEC's contracts and programs save colleges, universities, and students in its member states valuable time and millions of dollars annually.



MHEC research and policy initiatives support workforce readiness and improve the quality, accessibility, and affordability of postsecondary education.

About the Compact



MHEC was established in the early 1990s through the enactment of legislation recommended by the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments. MHEC is funded by member state commitments, program income, and foundation grants. Member states are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Nebraska enacted authorizing legislation in 1991 to join MHEC.

Nebraska Commissioners + Alternates



Matthew Blomstedt
University of Nebraska System



John Cavanaugh
Nebraska Legislature



Deborah A. Frison
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education



Jana Hughes
Nebraska Legislature



Grant Latimer
State of Nebraska



Michael Baumgartner
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
(alternate)



Paul Turman
Nebraska State College System
(alternate)

How MHEC Benefits Nebraska

Nebraska received a 37-fold return on its MHEC membership commitment of \$115,000 in 2024-2025.

Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA) for distance education savings	\$3,350,813
Technology savings	\$895,594
Master Property Program dividends	\$92,561
Capacity building support (state grants, convenings, scholarships and travel grants)	\$27,388
TOTAL	\$4,366,356

New Upcoming Savings & Financial Opportunities

- Each member state is eligible for a Strategic Impact and Innovation Grant of up to \$250,000 over two years from MHEC to advance innovative ideas and solutions in higher education.
- MHEC will produce an estimated \$1.9 million in savings for the region in 2025-26 on student health insurance due to participation growth in a contract with UnitedHealthCare – StudentResources. Four Nebraska institutions are participating in MHEC’s contract: University of Nebraska at Kearney, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, University of Nebraska – Medical Center, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Additional Savings for Nebraska Students & Families

The Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) has helped students and families save millions of dollars by making it more affordable for non-resident students to attend out-of-state colleges and universities. This program is currently being reviewed in response to changes in tuition reciprocity practices across the region.



Nebraska Engagement with MHEC Policy Initiatives & Capacity-Building Opportunities

Open Educational Resources (OER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MHEC provided a \$5,000 grant for the Nebraska Library Association to host the first-ever statewide OER convening as part of the 2026 NLA College & University/Technical Services Round Table spring meeting. ▪ MHEC also provided a \$5,000 sub-grant to the University of Nebraska—Lincoln to support instructors seeking to replace textbooks with OER. ▪ Six Nebraska OER leaders participated in MHEC’s OER summit.
Dual Enrollment	<p>Nine Nebraska higher education leaders participated in MHEC’s July State Policy Workshop to advance dual enrollment efforts in the state. MHEC is also providing additional research to support goal benchmarking.</p>
Access & Affordability	<p>Leaders from the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, EducationQuest Foundation, Nebraska Department of Education, University of Nebraska campuses, and Nebraska State College System attended MHEC’s FAFSA Summit and other webinars to address issues and opportunities related to college access and affordability.</p>
Technologies Community	<p>Andrew Buker, assistant vice president infrastructure services, University of Nebraska System serves on the Technologies Community Executive Committee. Eight other technology leaders at Nebraska postsecondary institutions participated in MHEC’s Technologies Community.</p>

Research Requests

MHEC’s policy and research team provided detailed reports in response to requests from Nebraska legislators on the topics of:

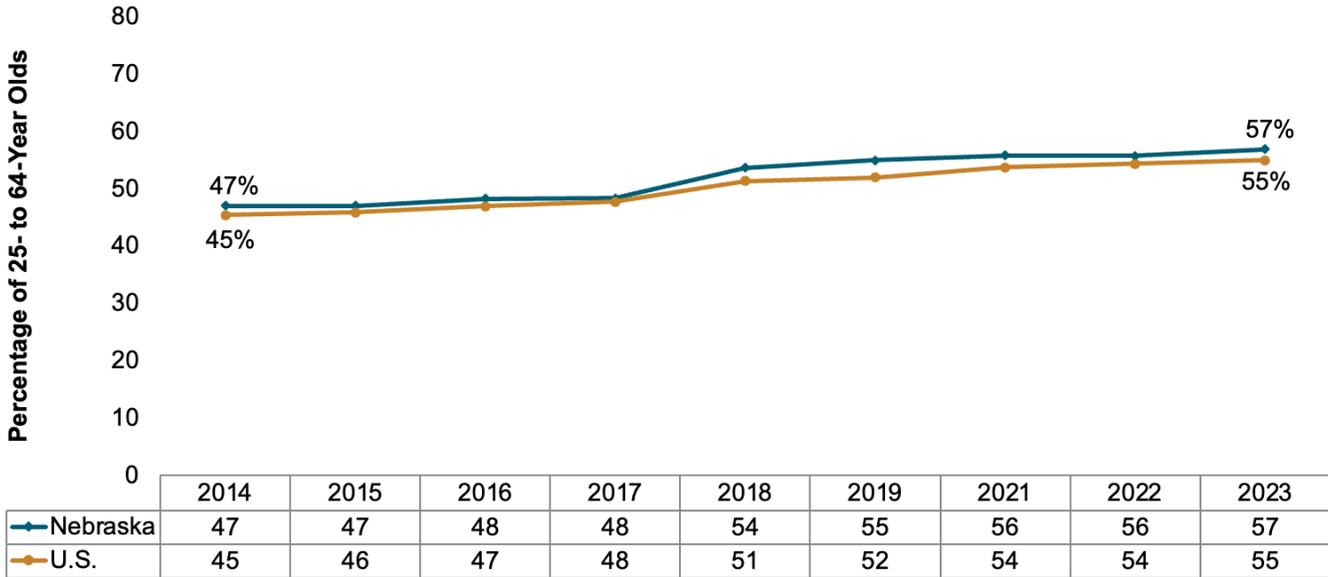
- Impacts of state-issued diplomas
- Impacts on foster-involved students
- Revenue streams for Nebraska colleges and universities



Key Indicators for Higher Education in Nebraska

ATTAINMENT: Nebraska has generally remained higher than the nation in attainment. About 57% of Nebraskans have a postsecondary certificate or higher, compared to 55% nationally.

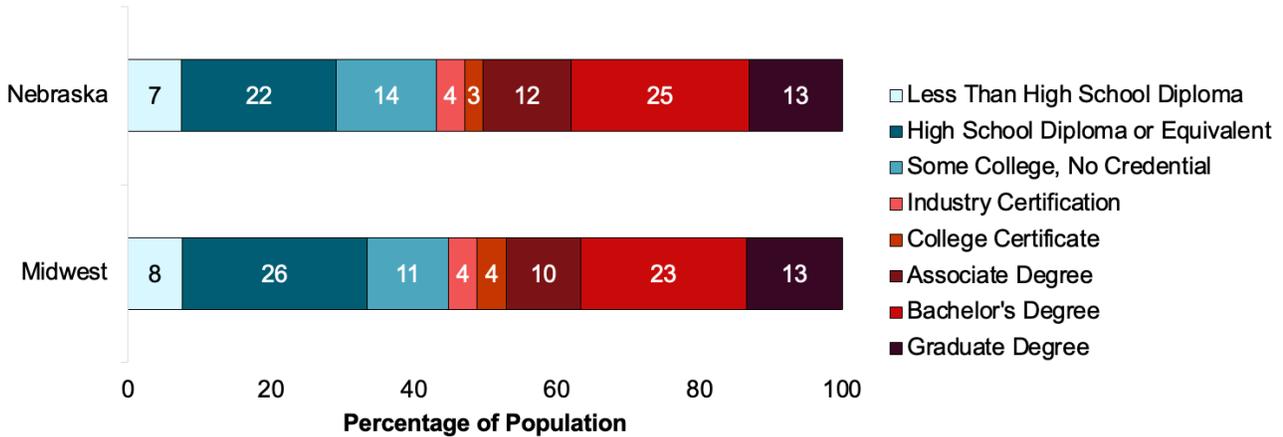
Percentage of 25- to 64-Year-Olds in Nebraska Who Have Attained a Postsecondary Credential



Source. Lumina Foundation. (2025). *A Stronger Nation*. Note. The attainment estimates include postsecondary certificates. Since 2018, the attainment estimate includes industry-recognized certifications. 2020 estimates are not available due to sampling problems that occurred during the 2020 administration of the American Community Survey. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

ATTAINMENT: Nebraska residents have attained various types of postsecondary credentials, ranging from industry certifications and college certificates to bachelor’s and graduate degrees; 43% of residents do not have a credential beyond high school.

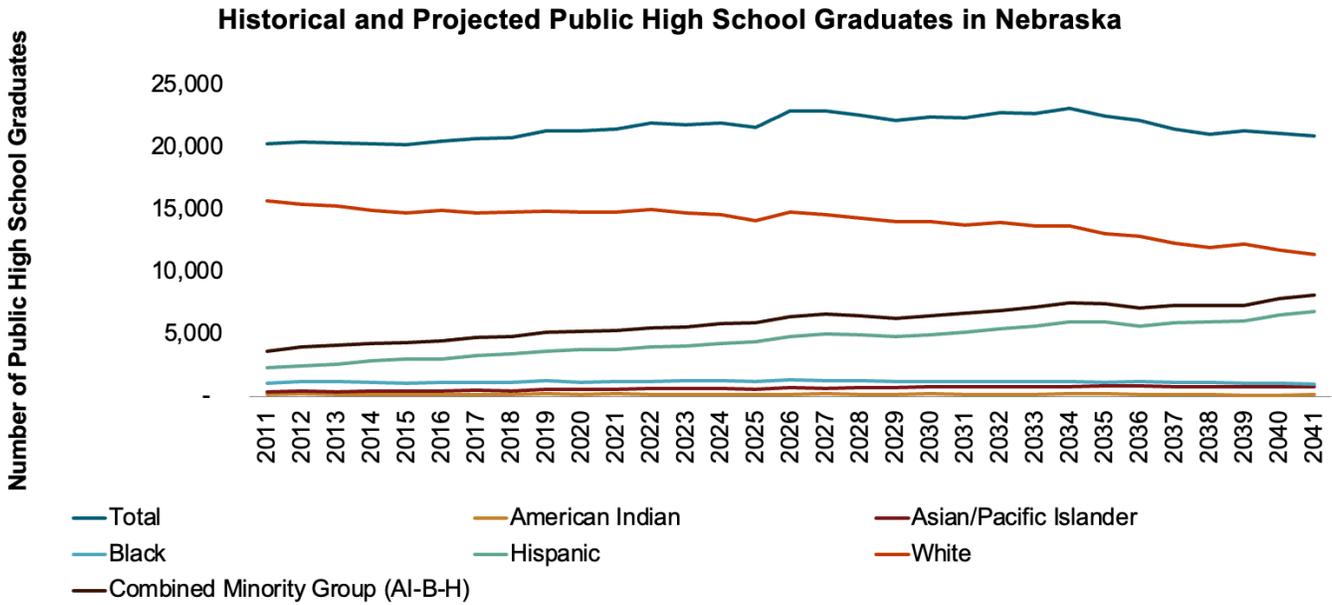
Educational Attainment Distribution of Nebraska Residents Ages 25-64, 2023



Source. Lumina Foundation. (2025). *A Stronger Nation*. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

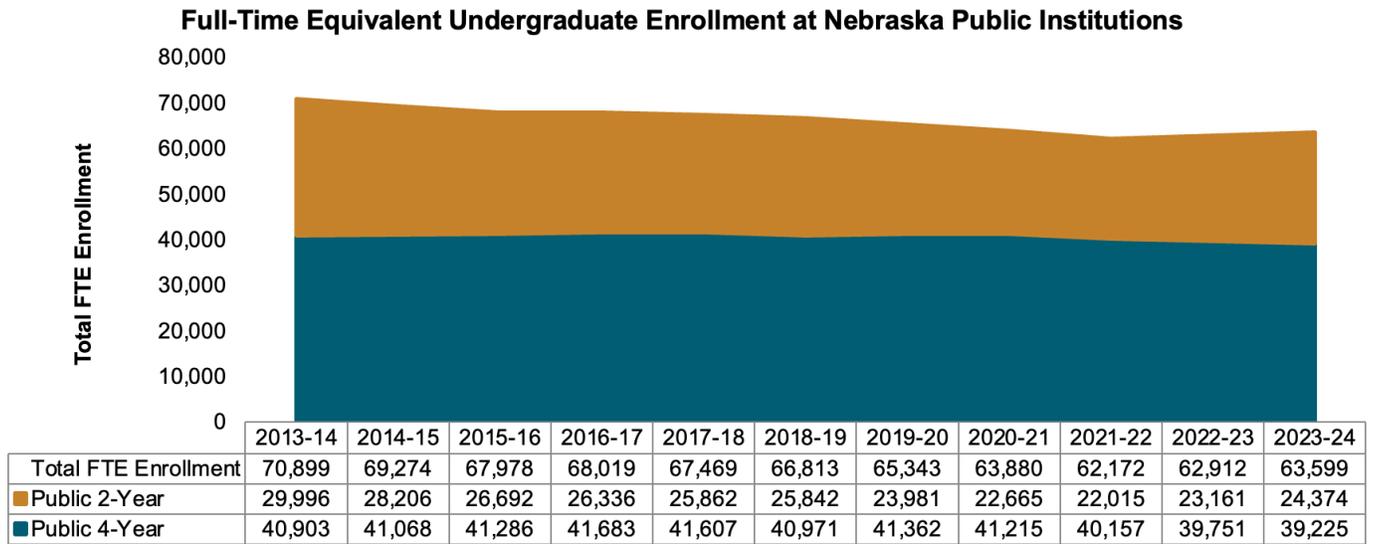


ENROLLMENT POOL: High school graduates are projected to remain relatively stable in Nebraska over the coming decade, with decreases for White graduates but increases in graduates in the combined minority group.



Source. WICHE. (2024). *Knocking at the College Door*. The combined minority group (AI-B-H) comprises American Indians, Blacks, and Hispanics. The estimates exclude home-schooled students. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

ENROLLMENT POOL: Undergraduate enrollment at Nebraska public two-year institutions recently increased after declining since 2013-14. Enrollment at public four-year institutions remained stable over the same time period.

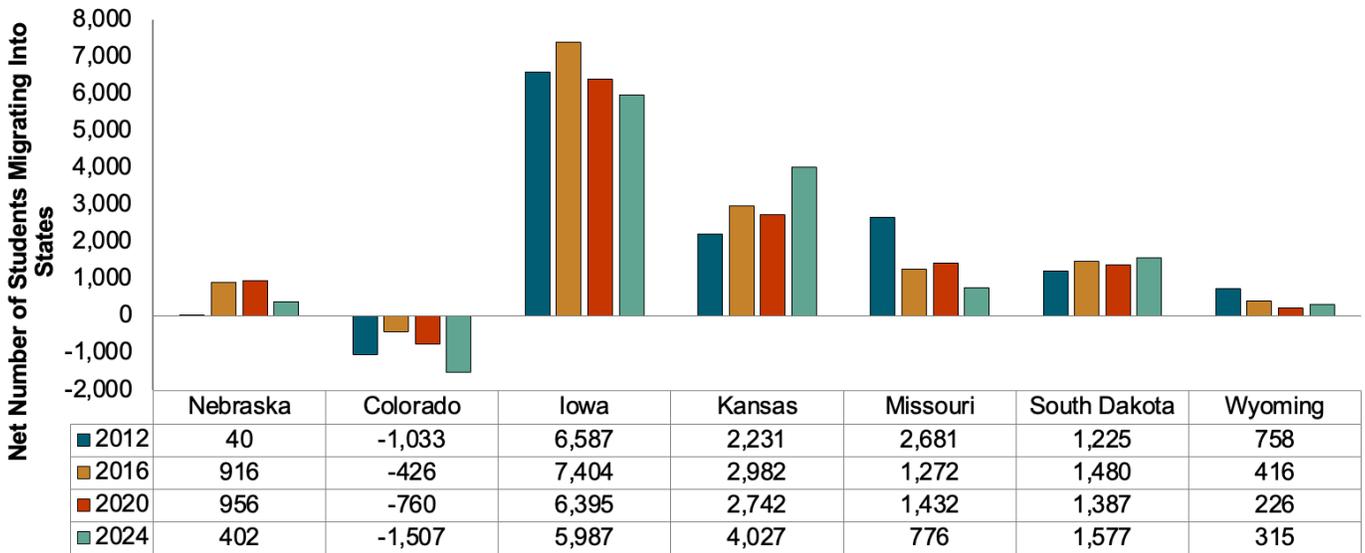


Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *12-month enrollment*. Enrollment estimates include on- and off-campus students, dual enrollment students, and students taking distance or online courses. Carnegie Classification was used to classify institutions. Institutions with mixed categories were classified according to their distribution of associate and bachelor's degrees awarded. Tribal colleges and universities are excluded. Categorizations may change over time. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



MIGRATION: More students migrate into Nebraska than migrate out.

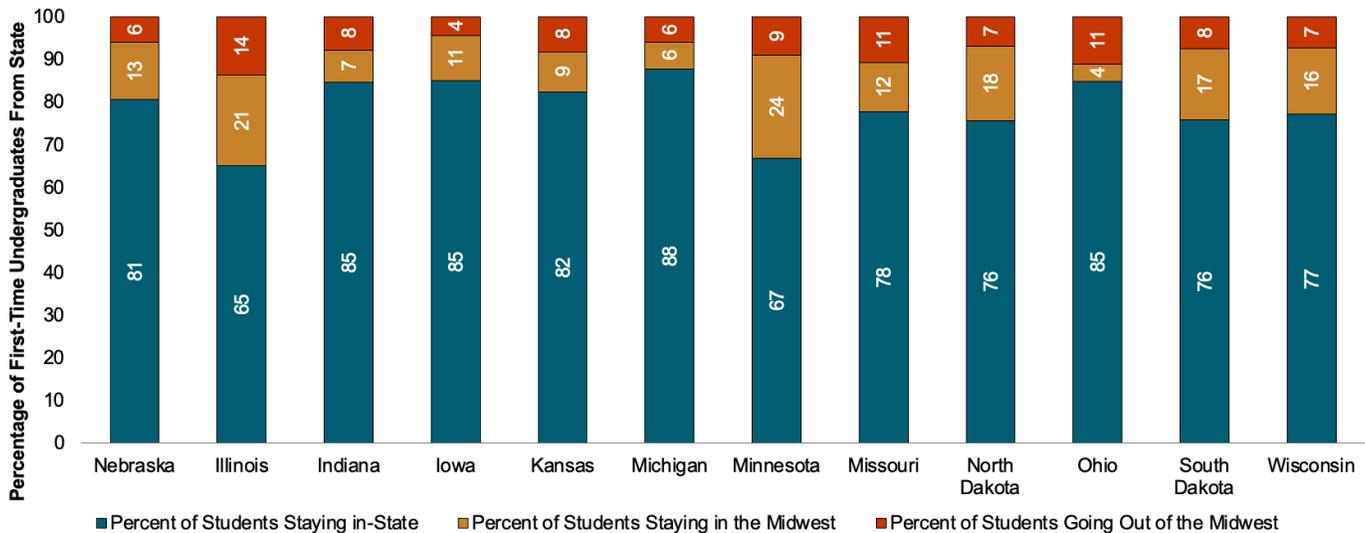
Net In-Migration of High School Graduates Who Enrolled in a Postsecondary Institution in the Fall Term Immediately Following High School Completion



Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *Fall enrollment*. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

ENROLLMENT LOCATION: Of first-time college students from Nebraska, 81 percent enrolled in state, 13 percent enrolled elsewhere in the Midwest, and 6 percent enrolled outside the Midwest.

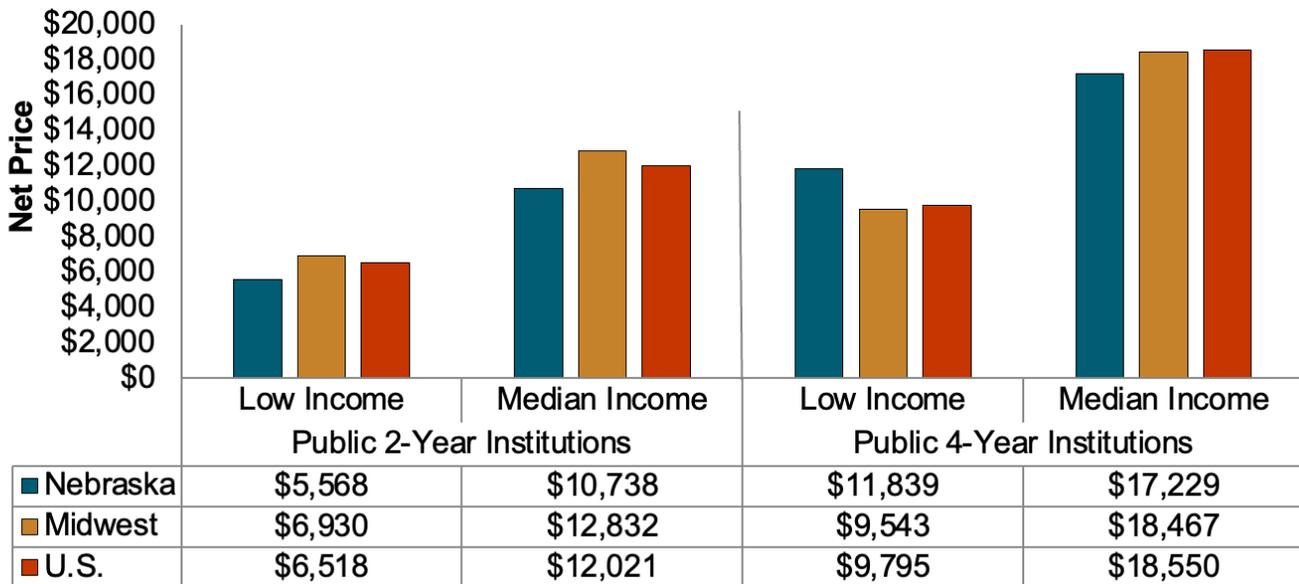
Regional Migration of High School Graduates Who Enrolled in a Postsecondary Institution In Fall 2024 Immediately Following High School Completion



Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *Fall enrollment*. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



COLLEGE PRICE: Average net price for low-income students is lower than the Midwest and national averages at Nebraska public two-year institutions but higher than those averages at public four-year institutions. The average net price for median-income students in Nebraska is lower than the Midwest and national averages.



Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *Net price*. U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). *American Community Survey one-year estimates, Table B19125: Median family income in the past 12 months by presence of own children under 18 years*. Estimates are weighted by income group of first-time/full-time students. Total price of attendance includes in-state tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, transportation, and other designated costs. Carnegie Classification was used to classify institutions. Institutions with mixed categories were classified according to their distribution of associate and bachelor's degrees awarded. Tribal colleges and universities are excluded. The net price of attendance for a median-income family represents the amount a family with an income of \$101,277 must pay for college. The net price of attendance for a low-income family represents the amount a family with an income of \$30,000 or less must pay for college. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).

Nebraska Technology Contract Usage



Total savings for institutions in Nebraska = \$895,594

Higher Education

Bellevue University
 Central Community College
 Chadron State College
 Creighton University
 Creighton University - Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library
 Creighton University - School of Medicine
 Creighton University - School of Pharmacy and Health Professions
 Mid-Plains Community College

Nebraska State College System
 Northeast Community College
 Northeast Community College - Central Receiving
 Peru State College
 University of Nebraska
 University of Nebraska Medical Center
 Wayne State College
 Western Nebraska Community College

K-12

Aquinas Catholic Schools
 Arthur County High School
 Aurora Public Schools
 Bishop Neumann High School
 Burwell Jr-Sr High School
 Centura Public Schools
 Chadron City Schools
 Chase County Schools
 Christ Lutheran Church and School
 Columbus Public Schools
 Creighton Preparatory School
 Educational Service Unit 3
 Educational Service Unit 7
 Educational Service Unit 10
 Educational Service Unit 15
 Humboldt Public Schools
 Leyton Public Schools

Lincoln Public Schools
 Lourdes Central Catholic School
 Minatare City Schools
 North American Martyrs School
 Omaha Christian Academy
 Parkview Christian School
 Saint John School
 Scottsbluff Public Schools
 Southern School District 1
 Sumner-Eddyville-Miller School District 101
 Thayer Central Community School
 Tri County Schools
 Villa Marie School
 Wauneta-Palisade Schools
 Waverly School District 145
 West Point Public Schools
 Zion Lutheran School

Government/Other

Adams County
 Cedar County Emergency Management
 Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District
 City of Fremont
 City of Imperial
 City of North Platte
 City of North Platte - Municipal Light & Water
 Diocese of Lincoln
 Douglas-Omaha Technology Commission
 Johnson County Sheriff's Office
 Kilgore Memorial Library
 Lewis and Clark Natural Resource
 Lincoln County
 Metropolitan Utilities District

Municipal Light & Water
 Nebraska State Education Association
 Pawnee County Clerk
 Phelps County District Court
 Phelps County Emergency Management
 Salt + Light Catholic Young Adult Community
 St. James Catholic Church
 St. Mary's Catholic Church
 St. Peter and St. Joseph Catholic Church
 St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church
 Transit Authority of Omaha
 Village of Republican City
 Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska



Nebraska Program Participation as of 12/10/25

When members identify the need for solutions to challenges in postsecondary education, MHEC explores whether a long-term, regional approach is beneficial. Programs born from this process offer enrolling institutions opportunities to save money, improve efficiency, and better serve their stakeholders.

Midwestern–State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M–SARA) for distance education

Bellevue University
 Bryan College of Health Sciences
 Central Community College
 Chadron State College
 Clarkson College
 College of Saint Mary
 Concordia University
 Creighton University
 Doane University
 Little Priest Tribal College
 Metropolitan Community College
 Mid-Plains Community College
 Midland University
 Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

Nebraska Indian Community College
 Nebraska Methodist College of Nursing and Allied Health
 Nebraska Wesleyan University
 Northeast Community College
 Peru State College
 Southeast Community College Area
 Union Adventist University
 University of Nebraska - Lincoln
 University of Nebraska at Kearney
 University of Nebraska at Omaha
 University of Nebraska Medical Center
 Wayne State College
 Western Nebraska Community College
 York University

*Approved SARA Institutions in Nebraska per <https://www.nc-sara.org/directory>

Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP)

Central Community College - Columbus, Grand Island,
 Hastings, and Kearney
 University of Nebraska at Kearney
 University of Nebraska at Lincoln

University of Nebraska at Omaha
 University of Nebraska Medical Center
 Wayne State College

*Access the most up-to-date list of participants at <https://msep.mhec.org>

Stone Arch Sponsored Cell Captive Insurance Program

Contact Breanne Hegg to learn about participating in this program, which allows higher education institutions and systems to manage risk by using cells in MHEC's wholly owned captive insurance company: breanneh@mhec.org.

Student Health Programs – UnitedHealthCare StudentResources

University of Nebraska - Kearney
 University of Nebraska - Lincoln

University of Nebraska - Omaha
 University of Nebraska - Medical Center

*Contact Breanne Hegg, vice president of programs, contracts, and communications, for updates: breanneh@mhec.org.



MHEC Resources

Nebraska member state page (with multiple downloadable documents)

<https://mhec.org/states/nebraska> or scan the QR code below



MHEC website

<https://mhec.org/>

Interactive dashboard (offering key data to boost educational attainment)

<https://mhec.org/mhec-interactive-dashboard/>

MHEC contracts

<https://mhec.org/what-we-do/contracts/>

MHEC news

<https://mhec.org/news/>

MHEC strategic plan

<https://mhec.org/about/strategic-plan/>

MHEC committees

<https://mhec.org/about/committees/>

MHEC commissioners

<https://mhec.org/about/commissioners/>

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes

<https://tinyurl.com/55nekm5j>

Contact

Susan G. Heegaard, President

mhec@mhec.org

(612) 677-2777

