

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA – LINCOLN

STUDENT LIFE ***STRATEGIC PLAN***

2021-2026

FALL 2024 VERSION



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Student Life at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is comprised of 22 units with more than 700 staff members and 1,500 student employees. Actively contributing to the academic mission of the university, Student Life is dedicated to enhancing the personal, professional, and academic development and safety needs of all students. We strive to ensure that every student not only succeeds but thrives in the collegiate environment and develops the necessary skillset for beyond college.

OUR MISSION

Foster POWERful experiences and communities fundamental to student success.

OUR VISION

A campus where all Huskers can co-create the path to achieve their goals.

OUR VALUES

These serve as guiding principles in daily operations and interactions.

Collaborate: We initiate campus partnerships that advance student learning, maximize resources and facilitate civic engagement.

Connect: We promote a sense of belonging through our programs, words and behaviors, and model advocacy and social justice in all our actions.

Cultivate: We nurture growth, learning and well-being in a campus environment that encourages kindness, offers support, honors compassion, builds relationships and connects faculty, staff, and students.

Include: We foster diverse, accessible and caring communities that promote full and equal participation and respect each individual's personal stories.

Innovate: We seek new and creative solutions to challenges facing our campus and community.

Lead: We provide inclusive leadership opportunities that are challenging and rewarding, fostering the development of ethical, responsible, and collaborative leaders.

The objectives originally outlined in 2021 were reviewed and modified in 2023. The changes reflect additional prioritization, alignment with work being done internal and external to the division, and reframing a small number of objectives as strategies. This document reflects all changes.

PREFACE

This plan defines goals and objectives for Student Life at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from 2021 through 2026 to demonstrate our commitment to serving current and future students. Recognizing that a strategic plan must be nimble to meet unforeseen needs, Student Life leadership will review this framework periodically to assess, continuously improve and establish ongoing tactical goals for the division and its units. A review in 2023 resulted in modifications to the objectives to reflect additional prioritization, align with work being done internal and external to the division and reframe some objectives as strategies. It is expected that units will find meaningful ways to apply their shared goals and integrate this plan into their daily operations.

The following terminology should help guide in the understanding of this plan:

Goals Our goals are broad, overarching, directional statements that guide our focus and help to prioritize resource allocation. These will remain constant through the planning period.

Objectives Our objectives can be short or long-term in nature and help define what we will accomplish.

Strategies Our strategies are the specific actions that are measurable in nature and individually contribute toward our greater array of student and developmental outcomes.

GOAL ONE *Establish and enhance programs and initiatives to improve student access, retention, engagement, persistence, and completion.*

The university is committed to enrolling, retaining and graduating students in a timely manner who are prepared to be successful in their chosen field, impacting the state, the nation and our world. Student Life designs and implements purposeful programs, resources and services to enhance the university's educational mission. Our work cultivates student success through engagement – whether on campus or beyond – which develops a sense of belonging, inclusiveness and cohesiveness.

1. Increase affordability of a Nebraska Education through intentional programs and effective use of resources.
2. Increase community engagement of students as reflected in N2025 Strategic Plan.
3. Expand leadership development opportunities for students.
4. Explore and implement holistic practices that provide opportunities for students to learn from their mistakes and demonstrate a commitment to change.
5. Increase engagement and support resources to address equity gaps for underserved, nontraditional, and transfer students.
6. Design, develop, and implement intentional learning programs and opportunities to support student success.

This goal supports the N2025 Strategic Plan by offering innovative **student experiences** that prepare graduates to be life-long learners and contributors to the workforce in Nebraska and around the world.



GOAL TWO

Collaborate with campus and community partners to promote a culture of health, resilience and well-being.

Creating and supporting a healthy campus environment that promotes and strengthens students' health and well-being is key to meeting our campus goals for student success. The link between health, wellness, well-being and academic performance cannot be ignored. Students who are physically healthy and active, who have lower levels of psychological distress, and who feel connected to the campus are more satisfied with their college experience, are more likely to stay in school, have higher GPAs, and tend to graduate on time.

1. Help students manage non-academic responsibilities that impact academic success.
2. Expand mental health outreach programs and services to fill unmet needs of the campus community and underserved populations.
3. Build campus capacity for sexual misconduct prevention.
4. Support activities that help students build active and well-balanced lives.
5. Develop and enhance programs and services that address high-risk drug and alcohol use.
6. Expand and support a robust suicide prevention program.

This goal supports the N2025 Strategic Plan by offering innovative **student experiences** that prepare graduates to be life-long learners as well as by creating a climate at Nebraska that emphasizes, prioritizes and expands **inclusive excellence and diversity**.



GOAL THREE

Foster a culture that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion through belonging and engagement.

Student Life strives to create an environment where students feel welcomed and valued. We are committed to addressing racist policies and long-standing practices that perpetuate inequities on our campus. To improve ourselves and the community we create, we are committed to listening, supporting and advocating for what is right to confront racism and to promote racial justice, inclusion and equity.

1. Address systemic racism issues by cultivating an environment of inclusivity and respect in which all students can access opportunities that offer a holistic and complete Husker experience.
2. Increase at-risk students' sense of belonging and mattering on campus.
3. Identify and close access and equity gaps in Student Life's programs and resources.
4. Deliver a consistent commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion through communications.
5. Cultivate a supportive campus environment by increasing staff members' abilities to build capacity for diversity, equity and inclusion.

This goal supports the N2025 Strategic Plan by creating a climate at Nebraska that emphasizes, prioritizes and expands **inclusive excellence and diversity**.



GOAL FOUR

Invest in a sustainable infrastructure that advances the work of Student Life.

Student Life is dedicated to being good stewards of our financial and human resources in order to serve students efficiently and effectively. We will continue to explore new and innovative approaches to finance programs and initiatives. We will continue efforts to maximize shared services (technology, marketing, business operations, assessment, etc.) to provide units with the resources needed to provide quality programs, facilities, activities, and services for students.

1. Develop and maintain cutting-edge facilities that enhance the student experience.
2. Identify and implement on-going efficiencies to avoid some or all required increases (salaries, benefits, utilities).
3. Identify opportunities to create and enhance income streams through Student Life.
4. Ensure consistent and strategic investment in Student Life staff.

By investing in a **sustainable infrastructure**, this goal supports the core aims of the N2025 Strategic Plan.



GOAL FIVE

Commit to the professional development, engagement and retention of Student Life staff at all levels.

Our staff are committed educators who seek to enhance the learning and development of our students while also attending to their own development. We will invest in the people who work in Student Life by providing opportunities for personal and professional growth.

1. Provide ongoing, curriculum-based professional development opportunities to prepare and support staff to enhance student success.
2. Provide a consistent onboarding experience for all staff new to Student Life.
3. Increase opportunities for cross-functional staff collaborations that advance the mission of Student Life.
4. Recognize and reward staff professional development accomplishments.

This goal supports the N2025 Strategic Plan by **prioritizing participation and professional development** for all Nebraska students, staff and faculty.



GOAL SIX

Demonstrate and communicate Student Life's impact on the UNL student experience.

Continuous evaluation, reinvention and outreach is critical to developing and sustaining partnerships, recognizing programmatic achievements and providing accolades for student success. Recognizing that students develop not only intellectually during their time at Nebraska, but also physically, socially and emotionally, Student Life serves as a critical partner in connecting learning to life. We prepare students to positively impact their communities through bold and inclusive actions.

1. Develop assessment capacity across Student Life that maximizes resources and amplifies student and staff learning.
2. Increase use of existing data to for data-driven decision making and to gain greater insight into critical aspects of student life.
3. Increase knowledge within the campus community for Student Life's programs, services and expertise.
4. Develop an intentional and comprehensive communications plan to provide guidance for internal and external communication.

By demonstrating the impact of Student Life as a whole, this goal supports the core aims of the N2025 Strategic Plan and will show how **every person and every interaction matters**.



STUDENT LIFE UNITS: WHO WE ARE

As a division, Student Life includes 22 units/program areas, each of which has a specific purpose and strategic goals that guide their programs, services, and assessment. While each unit is unique, contributing to the academic mission of the university is central to their purpose, including student retention, success, and completion.

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN)

The student government body at UNL which includes elected student leaders and administrative support staff.

Business Services

Provides accounting, budget, HR, and IT support for all of Student Life.

Campus Recreation

Provides excellent recreation program, services, and facilities to promote the educational experience and lifelong wellness.

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)

Provide quality mental health services that meet the needs of a diverse student body by providing a safe, welcoming and affirming environment during students' educational journey.

Center for Advocacy, Response, & Education (CARE)

Provide advocacy and support for students, faculty and staff who have experienced sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, harassment and other crimes.

Children's Center

Provides high-quality childcare services to the University community. Nearly 90% of the families are faculty/staff.

Daily Nebraskan

An independent student publication the provides news for the university community.

Dining Services

Provides a variety of high-quality and nutritional dining options to meet the needs of the the campus community.

Fraternity & Sorority Life

Provides support and oversight of fraternities and sororities through advising chapters and the four leadership councils (IFC, Panhellenic, NPHC, and MGC).

Gender & Sexuality Center

Supports a more inclusive understanding of gender and sexuality through education, outreach and leadership development opportunities.

Marketing & Communications

Provides strategic communications, photography, videography, social media support and website development for all of Student Life.

Nebraska Unions

Provides high-quality facilities that support engagement throughout the University community. (Operations for Nebraska Union, Nebraska East Union, Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center; Coordinates event services.)

Office of Academic Success & Intercultural Services (OASIS)

Provide support for academic excellence, social engagement, and cross-cultural skill development.

Residence Life

Provide educational services and experiences guided by the the Nebraska Residential Experience. The goal is to develop engaging communities where residents can have transformational experiences, connect to campus resources and create relationships.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Facilitate equal and integrated access to the academic, social, cultural and recreational programs offered at the university and to foster independent decision-making skills necessary to achieve personal and academic success.

Student Advocacy & Support

Collaborates with campus and community partners to support the safety, health, and well-being of students experiencing personal hardships and/or health-related concerns or emergencies.

Student Conduct & Community Standards

Supports the University community through investigation and administration of violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

Student Leadership, Involvement, & Community Engagement

Provides support for Recognized Student Organizations and leadership, involvement, democratic engagement and service opportunities.

Student Legal Services

Offers free legal advice and/or representation to registered UNL students.

TRIO

Federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services to eligible students from disadvantaged backgrounds enrolled in select Lincoln Public Middle and High schools, and undergraduates from all majors and degrees at the university.

University Health Center

Through a partnership with Nebraska Medicine, the clinic offers quality health services for UNL students.

University Housing

Provides high-quality, well-maintained housing options to support students in their educational goals.

HUSKER S

POW



PURPOSE

Discover Your Why

You are here for a reason and we're here to support you. Your purpose is unique and evolves as you do. Whether your purpose is tied to a major, an identity, your communities, a career goal, or a cause, reflecting on your purpose will help you craft and personalize your UNL experiences. And if you haven't figured out your purpose, that's okay, too. We are here to help you explore your why throughout your journey.



OWNERSHIP

Own Your Experience

Your UNL experience belongs to you. Our faculty and staff are here to support you every step of the way, but you are responsible for putting in the work. Owning your experience involves engaging in your courses and learning from and with others in the Husker community. Ownership also means taking advantage of campus resources and planning for opportunities that you want to experience. We are excited to help you make the most of your experience, but you are the owner.



WELL

Balance Your

Well-being is the state that allows their full potential physical, emotional and social factors you feel and experience prioritizing your well-being to build a support yourself and your

STUDENT

WELL-BEING ENGAGEMENT RELATIONSHIPS

WELL-BEING

Well-Being Your Whole Self

Optimal and dynamic environments help people to achieve their goals. Well-being includes physical, mental, academic, and social factors that impact how you experience your life. By taking care of your whole self, you help create a positive environment for yourself and your fellow Huskers.

ENGAGEMENT

Engagement Get Involved

Engagement takes place in and outside of the classroom. Within the classroom, engagement includes actively listening, learning, and participating. Outside the classroom, engagement can mean joining clubs and organizations, attending campus events, undertaking undergraduate research, campus employment, internships, or study abroad, and networking with alumni. Engagement connects you with a diverse range of friends, mentors, professionals, and advocates and enriches your overall well-being. Engagement helps you to be part of something bigger than yourself.

RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships Grow Your Communities

At UNL, we believe every person and every interaction matters. Your faculty, staff, and peers are committed to your success. Building intentional relationships will equip you to be successful in and beyond the classroom. By the time you graduate, you'll be part of a strong Husker community and will have friends, faculty, staff, and community members who care about you and are here to support you.



IN OUR
GRIT
OUR
GLORY.

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