The University of Nebraska–Lincoln, chartered by the Legislature in 1869, is that part of the University of Nebraska system which serves as both the land-grant and the comprehensive public University for the State of Nebraska. Through its three primary missions of teaching, research and service, UNL is the state’s primary intellectual center providing leadership throughout the state through quality education and the generation of new knowledge. UNL’s graduates and its faculty and staff are major contributors to the economic and cultural development of the state. UNL attracts a high percentage of the most academically talented Nebraskans, and the graduates of the University form a significant portion of the business, cultural and professional resources of the State. The quality of primary, secondary and other post-secondary educational programs in the state depends in part on the resources of UNL for curricular development, teacher training, professional advancement and enrichment activities involving the University’s faculty, museums, galleries, libraries and other facilities. UNL provides for the people of the state unique opportunities to fulfill their highest ambitions and aspirations, thereby helping the state retain its most talented youth, attract talented young people from elsewhere and address the educational needs of the non-traditional learner.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has been recognized by the Legislature as the primary research and doctoral degree granting institution in the state for fields outside the health professions. UNL is one of a select group of research universities that hold membership in the American Association of Universities (AAU). Through its service and outreach efforts, the University extends its educational responsibilities directly to the people of Nebraska on a statewide basis. Many of UNL’s teaching, research and service activities have an international dimension in order to provide its students and the state a significant global perspective.

UNL enrolls approximately 22,000 (FTE) students, consisting of nearly 18,000 undergraduates and more than 4,000 graduate and professional students.