



**NEBRASKA'S**  
COORDINATING COMMISSION  
FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

To: Governor Jim Pillen  
Brandon Metzler, Clerk of the Legislature

From: Dr. Michael Baumgartner, Executive Director  
Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Date: December 1, 2025

RE: Nebraska Career Scholarships Report – Community Colleges

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In 2020, the Nebraska Legislature and Governor Ricketts created the Nebraska Career Scholarship for community college students through passage of LB1008, an appropriations act. The scholarship provides financial assistance to students pursuing degrees in programs of study leading to high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand careers. The program was administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED).

In 2022, through LB902, the Nebraska Career Scholarship was codified, and private, non-profit colleges and universities were added to the program.

In 2024, the passage of LB1392 transferred authority to administer the programs from DED to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE). Fiscal year 2025 was the first year of CCPE administration. As required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §85-3005, enclosed you will find the annual report for the community colleges. Should you have any questions regarding this information please do not hesitate to contact me at [mike.baumgartner@nebraska.gov](mailto:mike.baumgartner@nebraska.gov) or 402.471.0029.



**NEBRASKA'S**  
COORDINATING COMMISSION  
FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

**Nebraska Career Scholarships Annual Report  
Community & Tribal Colleges  
2024-25 Year-end Report**

**Statutory Authority Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-3005**

**Committee Draft  
November 20, 2025**

**Nebraska Career Scholarship Program  
Participating Institutions**

Central Community College  
Little Priest Tribal College  
Metropolitan Community College  
Mid-Plains Community College  
Northeast Community College  
Southeast Community College  
Western Nebraska Community College

**Data Element A(1):** The total number of students enrolled in the program in the prior academic year, and the total number of students enrolled in the program as of the most recent census date.<sup>1</sup>

Academic Program	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
Architecture & Engineering	418	394
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	3,487	3,149
Computer & Technology Assistance	1,794	1,497
Construction & Extraction	1,215	1,274
Education	472	360
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	596	623
Healthcare, Practitioners & Technical	6,539	6,109
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	2,257	2,180
Production	789	774
Transportation & Material Moving	200	139
Totals	17,767	16,499

**Data Element A(2):** The total number of scholarship recipients in the program as of the most recent census date.<sup>1</sup>

Academic Program	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
Architecture & Engineering	12	18
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	57	62
Computer & Technology Assistance	32	18
Construction & Extraction	38	35
Education <sup>2</sup>	0	3
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	31	18
Healthcare, Practitioners & Technical	95	93
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	101	91
Production	45	34
Transportation & Material Moving	4	2
Totals	415	374

<sup>1</sup> Totals were derived by adding the data from each of the institutions. Not all institutions awarded NCS to students in all academic programs.

<sup>2</sup> NCS became available to education students at community & tribal colleges for the first time during the 2025-26 academic year.

**Data Element B:** The 2025-26 retention rate of 2024-25 new scholarship recipients for all eligible programs of study as compared to the college's overall 2025-26 retention rate of 2024-25 first-year students as reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).<sup>3</sup>

Academic Program	First-time NCS Recipients	All First-year Students
Architecture & Engineering	82.9%	80.6%
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	68.2%	47.9%
Computer & Technology Assistance	47.6%	58.7%
Construction & Extraction	76.4%	72.0%
Education <sup>2</sup>	N/A	50.9%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	64.7%	90.5%
Healthcare, Practitioners & Technical	59.8%	51.8%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	79.0%	52.1%
Production	75.4%	51.3%
Transportation & Material Moving	100.0%	Not Available <sup>4</sup>

**Data Element C:** The total number of first-time freshman scholarship recipients who complete the program of study by earning the certificate, diploma, or degree that signifies completion and a comparison of the on-time completion rate for scholarship recipients to the overall on-time completion rate for all first-time freshman students.<sup>3</sup>

Academic Program	2022-23 Program Completion		
	First-time NCS Recipients	Percent of First-time Recipients	Percent of all First-time students
Architecture & Engineering	8	63.0%	77.0%
Business, Financial & Administrative Operations	16	78.3%	24.7%
Computer & Technology Assistance	21	55.8%	47.6%
Construction & Extraction	23	61.4%	63.3%
Education <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	5	66.5%	45.0%
Healthcare, Practitioners & Technical	31	42.6%	35.6%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	84	69.0%	54.4%
Production	36	69.8%	67.6%
Transportation & Material Moving	27	90.0%	Not Available <sup>4</sup>
Totals	251		

<sup>3</sup> Percentages are an average of the information reported by the institutions. Not all institutions awarded a NCS to students in a specific program of study and, therefore, are not included in the retention percentage. Central and Southeast Community Colleges did not report IPEDS completion and retention data.

<sup>4</sup> This information was not provided by the colleges.

**Data Element D:** The number of scholarship recipients obtaining employment in the state within five fiscal quarters of completion of an eligible program of study using Nebraska Department of Labor (DOL) data.

Of the Career Scholarship recipients who graduated between July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024, 175 students, or 89.3%, obtained employment in the state of Nebraska within five fiscal quarters of completion.