

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION\ACADEMIC AND PERSONNEL

***ACTION:* RHOP Agreement and Program Standards**

Per Board Policy 7015, which requires Board action for approval of academic agreements, the Nebraska State Colleges request approval of the 2023 Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) Agreement. This agreement extends the current partnership between the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and the Nebraska State Colleges for an additional five years, to ensure continued educational pathways for NSCS students interested in pursuing a variety of healthcare careers.

The System Office recommends approval of the RHOP Agreement and Program Standards.

ATTACHMENTS:

- RHOP Agreement_FINAL_3.20.23 (PDF)
- Attachment A RHOP Program Standards FINAL 2023 (PDF)
- Attachment B RHOP Pathway Program Info FINAL 2023 (PDF)

RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (“RHOP”) AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
d/b/a University of Nebraska Medical Center

AND

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES
d/b/a Chadron State College, Peru State College, and Wayne State College

This Rural Health Opportunity Program Agreement (“Agreement”) is made and entered into on this ____ day of _____, 202__ (“Effective Date”) by and between the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, a corporate public body and governing body of the University of Nebraska, by and on behalf of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (“UNMC”) and the Program identified in Attachment A, attached hereto, and the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges (“NSC”). UNMC and NSC are each a “party” and collectively, the “parties”.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the purpose of RHOP is to recruit and educate individuals from Rural Areas (as hereinafter defined) who intend to return to underserved Rural Areas to practice in their professional field;

WHEREAS, UNMC offers a degree program in the field(s) of dental hygiene; dentistry; medical laboratory science; medicine; nursing; occupational therapy; pharmacy; physical therapy; physician assistant; and, radiography (each, a “Program”);

WHEREAS, NSC offers undergraduate degree programs through Chadron State College, Peru State College and Wayne State College (each, a “State College”); and

WHEREAS, certain students attending a State College are eligible to apply for provisional admittance to the Program through RHOP.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. TERM; TERMINATION. The term of this Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and continue in effect for five (5) years (“Term”). The Term may be renewed upon the written approval of the parties. The Agreement may be terminated by either party upon one hundred eighty (180) days’ written notice to the other party. If such written notice is given, this Agreement shall terminate (a) at the end of such 180-day period or (b) when all students enrolled in RHOP have been admitted to the Program, whichever event last occurs. Termination of the Agreement will not impact students who have been provisionally admitted to the Program.
2. THE PROGRAM.
 - a. RHOP has two phases: (i) the first phase is a specifically designed curriculum at the undergraduate level at the applicable State College; and (ii) the second phase is the completion of the applicable professional Program at UNMC.

b. Each UNMC Program will consider RHOP applications from NSC students on an annual basis in conjunction with appropriate parties at the applicable State College(s) to fill the maximum number of spots per partner institution as indicated in Attachment B.

c. The requirements for RHOP with each UNMC Program are set forth in Attachment A, and any changes to the requirements shall be provided to NSC no later than January 1st to be effective the fall of the following academic each year.

d. Students accepted into RHOP will be given provisional admittance to the applicable professional Program at UNMC. Alternates selected for the Program will be granted the benefits afforded students accepted into RHOP with the exception of provisional admittance and tuition coverage.

3. CONSIDERATION FOR ADMITTANCE TO RHOP. For consideration for admittance into RHOP, applicants must:

a. Apply to at least one State College and upon acceptance, enroll as a student at the State College;

b. Demonstrate academic achievement indicative of the ability to succeed in the applicable UNMC Program;

c. Currently attend or be a graduate of an accredited Nebraska senior high school in a Rural Area, or received an equivalent of a high school diploma in Nebraska and was a legal resident a Rural Area of Nebraska, as defined below; and

d. Demonstrate a commitment to practicing in the Rural Areas of Nebraska as validated by interview questions. The following cities, towns, and census-designated places are not considered “rural areas” and are therefore not eligible for RHOP: Omaha, Ralston, Boys Town, Elkhorn, Lincoln, Bellevue, Papillion, La Vista, Chalco, and Offutt Air Force Base.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS.

a. Applicants must submit an application for acceptance into the UNMC Program by the established Program deadline of December 1st. Any changes to the application deadline shall be determined in consultation with NSC.

b. Representatives from both the State College and the applicable UNMC Program shall interview applicants in January following the application deadline.

c. The applicable UNMC Program will review the applications and may approve applicants for acceptance into RHOP with accompanying provisional admittance into the Program, or offer an alternate position.

5. PROVISIONALLY ADMITTED STUDENTS.

a. Each provisionally admitted student attending a State College will be appointed a faculty advisor specific to each Program from the State College and a faculty advisor

from the Program at UNMC. Advisors will counsel the student on career development matters. The advisors will be assisted by staff of the applicable UNMC Program's Office of Academic Affairs in advising provisionally admitted students about RHOP requirements and in assuring that each student understands and meets all requirements for progression in RHOP. Faculty advisors from the Program at UNMC will meet with students during visits to the University of Nebraska Medical Center campus during campus visits and will be available for advising students at other times via telephone, email or video conference.

b. Provisionally admitted students are expected to complete all Math and all Science courses required for their program at the State College. Science credits taken during high school as dual credit courses will not be accepted for students entering the program after Academic Year 2022.

c. Provisionally admitted students must meet all Program requirements for satisfactory progress in RHOP, including any requirements contained in Attachment A. Failure to meet the requirements may result in withdrawal of the offer of provisional admittance to the applicable Program at UNMC.

d. Students must exhibit professional and personal behaviors that reflect positively on them, UNMC and the NSC. At all times, students in RHOP are expected to comply with all campus standards of conduct as described in the undergraduate student handbook, as well as RHOP standards, which include attending classes as scheduled, promptness, exhibiting respect towards fellow students and faculty and displaying initiative and leadership skills. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from RHOP. To maintain good standing in the Program, students will obey all laws. Failure to comply can prevent them from getting a license to practice their profession.

e. Based on each student's performance at the State College and no later than June 1st of the year of anticipated matriculation to the professional Program at UNMC, the Program will provide each provisionally admitted student with an offer to matriculate to the Program or the rationale for withdrawing the offer of provisional acceptance.

f. Requirements for matriculation into the applicable UNMC Program for provisionally admitted students shall be reviewed annually by the Program and communicated to the State College no later than March 1st of each year to be effective the fall of the following academic year. Requirements will be based upon current entrance requirements for the Program and special requirements for RHOP. Updates for application requirements and procedures for the Program will be posted on each State College RHOP website.

g. For any applicable UNMC Program in which the student does not graduate with a Bachelor's degree prior to their matriculation to UNMC, UNMC will send the respective State College a final UNMC transcript for that student, so that courses completed at UNMC may be used to meet requirements for completion of a Bachelor's degree from the State College, if applicable.

6. STUDENT TUITION.

- a. NSC students who have been accepted into RHOP shall have all tuition covered from the State College for their years as a student at the State College. The institution may use a variety of funding sources to ensure this. Tuition coverage does not apply to courses taken during the summer, nor does it apply to Alternate students. Students are responsible for all other associated fees, charges, books, etc.
- b. All UNMC Program tuition, fees, charges, books, etc. shall be the responsibility of the student. Students may be eligible to apply for UNMC scholarships.

7. POLICIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE PHASE.

- a. Academic Probation. Each UNMC Program will establish policies for academic probation.
- b. Semester Review Policy. The applicable State College Program advisor will meet with each RHOP student to conduct a semester academic review, including the review of transcripts for course load, grades earned and grade point average attained, and inform the applicable Program at UNMC of the same. If a student has not completed a semester's (or summer's) course work successfully as set forth in the Academic Standards detailed in Attachment A, the RHOP Coordinator at the State College shall confer with the applicable professional Program at UNMC. Following the review at the end of each semester, a letter reviewing the student's status will be sent to all students being placed on academic probation, with a copy to the applicable Program at UNMC.
- c. Dismissal Policy. Dismissal constitutes formal action initiated by the applicable State College in consultation with the applicable Program at UNMC. Each UNMC Program will establish policies for dismissal as detailed in Attachment A. Should a student be dismissed from RHOP, they may continue to complete a pre-professional program at the State College and apply to a professional program as a non-RHOP student if they fulfill the requirements of the State College and pre-professional program.
- d. Appeals Procedure. Any student who has been dismissed from RHOP who believes an evaluation of the student's academic progress or performance was conducted in an arbitrary or capricious manner may appeal the dismissal decision. An appeal must be made in writing within two (2) weeks of receiving notification of dismissal. The student should submit the appeal to the applicable State College Program Advisor, who will follow the procedures established at the applicable State College. In the appeal, the student must present reasons for believing that the evaluation that led to the dismissal was arbitrary or capricious. Any decision regarding a student's appeal at the State College shall be communicated with the Program at UNMC for consideration as it may relate to matriculation of the student to the professional Program at UNMC.
- e. Leave of Absence Policy. Any student wishing to request a leave of absence from RHOP must first discuss the reason for the request with the applicable RHOP Program Advisor. The request should then be made in writing with copies to the applicable State College's Program Advisor and the UNMC Program. A decision will be made

jointly by the UNMC Program and the State College granting or denying the leave of absence. If a leave is granted, the Program will stipulate the time and conditions under which the student may re-enter RHOP. If possible, the student should continue to take classes, take examinations and quizzes and fulfill other class assignments until informed in writing that the leave has actually been granted.

f. Resignation Procedure. Should a student choose to resign their position in RHOP, a formal letter of resignation must be filed with the applicable State College Program Advisor as well as the professional Program at UNMC.

g. Open Seat Policy. In the event an RHOP seat opens for a Program, the State College in consultation with the applicable UNMC Program, shall fill that seat with an identified Alternate student prior to the start of the student's final year at the State College, should there be one. If not, the State College may open an application period at any time during the academic year to allow current students enrolled at the State College who are not Alternates to apply to RHOP to fill the open seat and receive provisional admittance into the Program. In such an event, the student(s) must complete the application process outlined in this Agreement, and the State College will work with the applicable UNMC Program to review applications, conduct interviews, and determine whether to offer provisional admittance for said seat.

h. Should a seat at the State College open for which there is no Alternate, and a provisionally admitted student wishes to change programs (e.g., from Medicine to Pharmacy), they must resign from their current Program and apply for the new Program during the open application process as all other applicants within the State College would be required.

8. ANNUAL VISIT. UNMC will be responsible for costs associated with hosting identified State College students, including Alternates, and accompanying faculty/staff during each annual visit to UNMC. Costs covered by UNMC include meals during the visit agenda while on campus and lodging expenses, as coordinated by UNMC, for students, as well as accompanying faculty and staff. Each State College is responsible for transportation costs, including transport costs for students, faculty and staff, parking-related charges, per diem, and other costs outside of those identified above to and from UNMC.

9. BREACH; TERMINATION. If either party breaches the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the other party has the right to terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notice to the other party. Termination of this Agreement may occur for a single State College currently included in this Agreement, or for individual Program(s) currently offered at a State College, rather than termination of the Agreement in its entirety. Upon termination of this Agreement, no additional students will be admitted to the Program through RHOP. Students provisionally admitted into the Program through RHOP but who have not yet matriculated to the Program shall retain their provisional admittance status while at the State College contingent upon their meeting Program requirements.

10. NOTICES. All notices, consents, approvals, demands, requests or other communications required or permitted to be given under any provisions of this Agreement will be in writing and will be sent to the person(s) and address(es) set forth below via certified mail, hand delivery, overnight courier or email (to the extent an email address is set forth below and a copy is also sent by one other method as proscribed herein). All such notices shall be effective when received.

Program:

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11. RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES. No agency, partnership or joint venture is created by this Agreement. The parties affirmatively disclaim any intent to form such relationship.

12. ASSIGNMENT. This Agreement is non-assignable and non-transferrable. Any attempt by either party to assign its obligations hereunder shall be void.

13. GOVERNING LAW; FORUM. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Nebraska, without regard for its conflicts of laws provisions. Any legal actions brought by either party hereunder shall be instituted in the state or federal court located in Lancaster County, Nebraska. It is understood and agreed that any legal action by Provider in relation to this Agreement may only be instituted in accordance with the provisions of the State Contract Claims Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-8,302 to 81-8,306), as amended.

14. SEVERABILITY. The terms of this Agreement are severable. If any term or provision is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal, void or unenforceable, the remainder of the provisions shall continue to be valid and enforceable.

15. WAIVER. A waiver of any term or provision of this Agreement by a party shall not be deemed to be a waiver of such provision on any subsequent breach of the same or any other provision contained in this Agreement. Any such waiver must be in writing in order to be effective, and no such waiver(s) shall serve to establish a course of performance between the parties contradictory to the terms hereof.

16. CONFLICTS. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the terms of this Agreement and those of Attachment A, the terms of Attachment A shall control.

17. NON-DISCRIMINATION; FERPA. The parties agree that neither of them shall discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment to be employed in the performance of this Agreement with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions or privilege of employment because of race, color, religion, sex, disability or national origin of the employee or applicant. Both parties agree to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 governing the privacy of student records.

18. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.** The parties shall abide by the requirements of 41 CFR 60-1.4(a), 60-300.5(a) and 60-741.5(a). These regulations prohibit discrimination against qualified individuals based on their status as protected veterans or individuals with disabilities and prohibit discrimination against all individuals based on their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin. Moreover, these regulations require that covered parties take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or veteran status.

19. **COUNTERPARTS.** This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, including by way of electronically scanned or emailed signatures, each of which shall be an original and which together shall constitute a single document.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representative(s) of the parties have duly executed this Agreement.

Chancellor, University of Nebraska Medical Center, for The University of Nebraska Board of Regents

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Chancellor for The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

ATTACHMENT A

RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP) PROGRAM STANDARDS for the DENTAL PROGRAM Participants and Alternates

PARTICIPATING NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES:

Chadron State College
Peru State College
Wayne State College

COURSE WORK

1. Each student and alternate (hereafter referred to collectively as student (s)) must follow a curriculum designed for the RHOP Dentistry Program. Each student, in consultation with their undergraduate institution Pre-Dental Academic Advisor, will choose an academic major and a program of study will be designed for that major that includes all the Pre-Dentistry required courses.
2. Each student must complete courses in a timely manner. Alternates must be prepared to move into a participant position should one become available and participants and alternates must be prepared to enter professional school at the end of four years (at least eight consecutive semesters) of academic work and obtain their bachelor's degree at the one of the applicable Nebraska State Colleges.
3. Each student must obtain approval from their undergraduate institution's Pre-Dental Academic Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Students Must Maintain: Cumulative GPA \geq 3.50

Math & Science GPA \geq 3.50

1. Each student with a GPA below the requirement may be placed on academic probation. Academic probation and the probation terms will be assigned by the Program Director for the Dentistry Program at UNMC and the individual that coordinates the RHOP program at their undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Dental Academic Advisor. Students on probation will be monitored for progress to meet RHOP standards for no longer than one academic year resulting in either dismissal or a return to good standing in the RHOP program.
2. Each student is required to file a mid-semester grade report with the undergraduate institution's RHOP coordinator when requested.
3. Each student is required to consult with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Dental Academic Advisor on a regular basis, at least once per semester.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Each student must visit the University of Nebraska Medical Center on the regularly scheduled RHOP trips, as arranged by UNMC and their undergraduate institution's RHOP Coordinator. RHOP students are also expected to attend and participate in all RHOP activities including meetings, hospital field trips, speakers, tours, volunteer activities, and all other events sponsored by RHOP.

ENTRANCE OF PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

In order for a participant to enter the Dentistry Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the student must have:

1. Met all academic standards.
2. Submitted a COMPLETE application to the UNMC College of Dentistry no later than October 1st.

3. Achieve a minimum of 18 on the Dental Admission Test (DAT) by October 1st.
4. Submit the required letters of reference.
5. Consistently demonstrate professional and personal behaviors and attitudes that would only enhance their ability to practice Dentistry as well as their reputation and performance as a dentist in rural Nebraska during their time in RHOP.
6. Understanding that students in the RHOP program are expected to enter the UNMC's Dentistry program for their professional school training.

DISMISSAL POLICY

1. Failure to meet probation expectations may be grounds for dismissal from RHOP.
2. Dismissal will be determined by the Director of Admissions at the UNMC College of Dentistry and the individual that coordinates the RHOP program at the undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Dental Academic Advisor.
3. Illegal and/or unprofessional behavior may result in immediate dismissal from the Program as determined by the Director of Admissions at the COD and individual that coordinates the RHOP program at the undergraduate institution.
4. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the undergraduate institution will be shared with the Director of Admissions at the UNMC COD.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

In the event that any of the candidates selected as participants in this class and in the RHOP Dentistry Program decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the RHOP Interview Team may select a replacement from among the alternates in this class and program. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum and participation in professional development activities as described in the Program Standards will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview by the RHOP Interview Team may be requested. Each alternate maintains their alternate status as long as they are enrolled at the undergraduate institution, have not started their last year at their undergraduate institution, and met all of the course work, academic, and professional development requirements of the RHOP Dentistry Program. The alternate status ends at the beginning of the senior year for each class because the alternate(s) will be applying for admission into a college of Dentistry through the traditional admission process at that time.

RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP) PROGRAM STANDARDS for the DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM Participants and Alternates

PARTICIPATING NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES:

Chadron State College
Peru State College
Wayne State College

COURSE WORK

1. Each student and alternate (hereafter referred to collectively as student (s)) must follow a curriculum designed for the RHOP Dentistry Program. Each student, in consultation with their undergraduate institution Pre-Dental Hygiene Academic Advisor, will choose an academic major and a program of study will be designed for that major that includes all the Pre-Dental Hygiene required courses.
2. Each student must complete courses in a timely manner. Alternates must be prepared to move into a participant position should one become available and participants and alternates must be prepared to enter professional school at the end of two years of academic work at the one of the applicable Nebraska State Colleges.
3. Each student must obtain approval from their undergraduate institution's Pre-Dental Hygiene Academic Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Students Must Maintain: Cumulative GPA \geq 3.33

Math & Science GPA \geq 3.0

1. Each student with a GPA below the requirement may be placed on one semester of academic probation. Academic probation and the probation terms will be assigned by the Program Director for the Dental Hygiene Program at UNMC and the individual that coordinates the RHOP program at their undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Dental Hygiene Academic Advisor. Students on probation will be monitored for progress to meet RHOP standards for no longer than one academic year resulting in either dismissal or a return to good standing in the RHOP program.
2. Each student is required to file a mid-semester grade report with the undergraduate institution's RHOP Coordinator when requested.
3. Each student is required to consult with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Dental Hygiene Academic Advisor on a regular basis, at least once per semester.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Each student must visit the University of Nebraska Medical Center on the regularly scheduled RHOP trips, as arranged by UNMC and their undergraduate institution's RHOP Coordinator. RHOP students are also expected to attend and participate in all RHOP activities including meetings, speakers, tours, volunteer activities, and all other events sponsored by RHOP.

ENTRANCE OF PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

In order for a participant to enter the Dentistry Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, he/she must have:

1. Met all academic standards.
2. Submitted a COMPLETE application to the UNMC College of Dentistry in a timely manner.
3. Submit the required letters of reference.
4. Complete an on-campus Interview with the UNMC College of Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee to evaluate the student's readiness for professional study at UNMC.

5. Consistently demonstrate professional and personal behaviors and attitudes that would only enhance their ability to practice dental hygiene as well as their reputation and performance as a dental hygienist in rural Nebraska during their time in RHOP.
6. Understanding that students in the RHOP program are expected to enter the UNMC's Dental Hygiene program for their professional school training.

DISMISSAL POLICY

1. Failure to meet probation expectations may be grounds for dismissal from RHOP.
2. Dismissal will be determined by the Director of Admissions at the UNMC College of Dentistry and the individual that coordinates the RHOP program at the undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Dental Academic Advisor.
3. Illegal and/or unprofessional behavior may result in immediate dismissal from the Program as determined by the Director of Admissions at the COD and individual that coordinates the RHOP program at the undergraduate institution.
4. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the undergraduate institution will be shared with the Director of Admissions at the UNMC COD.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

In the event that any of the candidates selected as participants in this class and in the RHOP Dental Hygiene Program decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the RHOP Interview Team may select a replacement from among the alternates in this class and program. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum and participation in professional development activities as described in the Program Standards will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview by the RHOP Interview Team may be requested. Each alternate maintains their alternate status as long as they are enrolled at the undergraduate institution, have not started their last year at their undergraduate institution, and met all of the course work, academic, and professional development requirements of the RHOP Dental Hygiene Program. The alternate status ends at the beginning of the senior year for each class because the alternate(s) will be applying for admission into a dental hygiene program through the traditional admission process at that time.

RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP) PROGRAM STANDARDS for the MEDICINE PROGRAM

Participants and Alternates

PARTICIPATING NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES:

Chadron State College
Wayne State College

COURSE WORK

1. Each participant and alternate (hereafter referred to collectively as student(s)) must follow a curriculum designed for the RHOP Medicine Program. Each student, in consultation with his/her undergraduate institution Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor, will choose an academic major and a program of study will be designed for that major that includes all of the Pre-Medicine required courses.
2. Each student must complete courses in a timely manner. Alternates must be prepared to move into a participant position should one become available, and participants and alternates must be prepared to enter professional school at the end of four years (at least eight consecutive semesters) of academic work and obtain their bachelor's degree at one of the applicable Nebraska State Colleges.
3. Each student must obtain approval from the undergraduate institution's Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Students Must Maintain:

Cumulative GPA ≥ 3.50

Math & Science GPA ≥ 3.50

1. Each student with a GPA below the requirement may be placed on academic probation. Academic probation and the probation terms will be assigned by the Admissions Dean at UNMC COM and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor. Students on probation will be monitored for progress to meet RHOP standards for not longer than two semesters, resulting in either dismissal or a return to good standing in the RHOP program.
2. Students may receive a written warning up to one semester prior to being placed on probation if there are extenuating circumstances that are precluding them from meeting Academic Standards or Professional Standards. The warning terms will be assigned by the Admissions Dean at University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine (UNMC COM) and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor.
3. A copy of the probation or warning notice and terms provided to the student by the Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor at the undergraduate institution will be shared with the Admissions Dean at UNMC COM.
4. Each student is required to consult with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor on a regular basis, at least once per semester.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Each student must visit UNMC on the regularly scheduled RHOP trips, as arranged by UNMC and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the undergraduate institution. RHOP students are also expected to attend and participate in all RHOP activities

including meetings, hospital field trips, speakers, tours, volunteer activities, and all other events sponsored by RHOP.

ENTRANCE OF PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

In order for a participant to enter the College of Medicine Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, they must:

1. Meet GPA standards by January 1st of the scheduled matriculation year.
2. Achieve a minimum of 500 on the MCAT by March 1 of the scheduled matriculation year. No more than 3 attempts to achieve the MCAT minimum will be accepted.
3. Submit a verified AMCAS application to the UNMC College of Medicine in a timely manner.
4. Submit a letter of reference by the Pre-Medicine Advisory Committee at the NSC.
5. Maintain professional attributes expected of the discipline.
6. If there are extenuating circumstances that are precluding the student from achieving the GPA and MCAT deadlines, exceptions may be considered on an individual basis by the Admissions Dean at UNMC COM in consultation with the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the undergraduate institution. Exceptions must be requested in writing prior to the deadlines noted above. A copy of the decision notice and terms provided to the student will be shared with the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the undergraduate institution.

DISMISSAL POLICY

1. Failure to meet probation expectations may be grounds for dismissal from the program.
2. Dismissal will be determined by the Admissions Dean at UNMC and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor.
3. Illegal and unprofessional behaviors may result in immediate dismissal from the Program determined by the Admissions Dean and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination.
4. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor at the undergraduate institution will be shared with the Admissions Dean at UNMC.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

In the event that any of the candidates selected as participants in the RHOP Medicine Program decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the Admissions Dean at UNMC and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the undergraduate institution may select a replacement from among the alternates in the class and program. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum and participation in professional development activities as described in the Program Standards will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview by Admissions Dean at UNMC or their representative will be required. Each alternate maintains their alternate status as long as they are enrolled at the undergraduate institution and have met all of the course work, academic and professional development requirements of the RHOP Medicine Program. The alternate status ends March 1 of the cohort's scheduled matriculation year.

OPEN SEAT POLICY

If an RHOP seat opens for which there is no alternate, the Admissions Dean at UNMC and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the undergraduate institution may open an application period at any time during the academic year to allow current students enrolled at the undergraduate institution who are not Alternates to apply to RHOP to fill the open seat and receive provisional admittance into the Program. In such an event, the student(s) must complete the application process and the Admissions Dean at UNMC will work with the applicable undergraduate institution to review applications, conduct interviews, and determine whether to offer provisional admittance for said seat. Open seats may only be

filled through this process prior to the start of the 3rd academic year. Alternates may also be added prior to the start of the 3rd academic year through this process.

RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP) PROGRAM STANDARDS for the MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE OPTION Participants and Alternates

PARTICIPATING NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES:

Chadron State College
Peru State College
Wayne State College

COURSE WORK

1. Each participant and alternate (hereafter referred to collectively as students) must complete required coursework and earn a minimum of 77 semester hours. The current course prerequisites are listed on the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) Program website at <https://www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth/education/mls/admission/index.html>.
2. Students are required to complete the designated course of study to earn a minimum of 77 semester hours towards a bachelor's degree in three academic years (at least six semesters of continuous study). Any exception to this time schedule must be approved by the State College MLS Advisor and the MLS Program Director.
3. Students must obtain approval from the State College MLS Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

To remain in good standing and continue in the NSC phase of the RHOP MLS Option, the following Academic Standards will apply:

1. Students must earn a "C-" or better in the **required courses**.
2. Students must maintain:
 - **cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher and**
 - **science GPA of 2.5 or higher and/or GPA for last 20 science hours of 2.5 or higher.**

ACADEMIC PROBATION

RHOP academic probation is allowed for only *one* semester. Probation is recommended and communicated by the State College MLS Advisor. The State College MLS Advisor, in consultation with the MLS Program Director, will determine what the student must do to improve their academic performance to be removed from RHOP academic probation. RHOP academic probation results if a student:

1. Earns less than a "C-" in a **required** course. The course must be retaken and the student will be placed on RHOP academic probation the following semester.
2. Does not maintain a cumulative GPA of a 2.5 or higher.
3. Withdraws from one or more classes which results in dropping below the required full-time academic enrollment status (12 credit hours per semester).
4. Withdraws from all classes without prior approval of the State College MLS Advisor and the MLS Program Director.

DISMISSAL

Dismissal from RHOP constitutes formal action by the UNMC MLS Program in consultation with the NSC institution. Reasons that may lead to dismissal from the RHOP program include failure to:

1. comply with the terms of academic probation.
2. complete all the recommendations for improving academic performance.
3. obtain a grade of “C-” or better in a required course that has been retaken.
4. raise their cumulative GPA to a 2.5 or higher after one semester of remediation.
5. satisfactorily complete the NSC phase coursework as defined by the academic standards for good standing.
6. satisfactorily complete the professional development requirements.

Immediate dismissal from RHOP may result from illegal or unprofessional behavior. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the NSC (undergraduate) institution will be shared with the MLS Program Director.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE NSC PHASE

1. Students are strongly encouraged to visit/shadow a medical/clinical laboratory.
2. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in activities conducted by UNMC and/or the NSC institution for RHOP participants.
3. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in activities that foster professional skills.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE NSC PHASE

CHANGING DATE OF ENTRY PROCEDURE

Any RHOP student wishing to change the date of admission into the professional phase of the program must petition in writing to both the State College MLS Advisor and the MLS Program Director. The petition should state the reasons for the requested change, the proposed new date of admission, and what academic preparation will continue for entry into the UNMC MLS Program. A decision to approve the change will be made as soon as possible after the request submission.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

In the event that any of the candidates selected as participants in this class and in this option decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the MLS Program Director and the NSC institution may select a replacement among the alternates in the same matriculating cohort. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum, and participation in professional development activities will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview by the MLS Program may be requested. Each alternate maintains their MLS alternate status as long as they are enrolled full-time in the undergraduate program, and have met all of the academic, course work and professional development requirements.

ENTRANCE INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PHASE

While successful completion of the requirements for the NSC phase of the MLS option will normally guarantee admission to the UNMC professional phase of the program, participants must demonstrate their successful completion by means of a formal application during the undergraduate final year. Prior to matriculation into the professional phase, the participant must:

1. Meet all academic standards and professional development expectations throughout the undergraduate phase.
2. Meet all admission requirements for the UNMC MLS Program.

3. Complete UNMC's MLS admission process by the designated deadlines of their junior year to include submitting an online application and interview.

As a routine practice, students applying via RHOP are assigned a primary clinical practicum site outside of Omaha and Lincoln.

12/6/22

RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP) PROGRAM STANDARDS for the NURSING PROGRAM Participants and Alternates

PARTICIPATING NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES:

Chadron State College
Peru State College
Wayne State College

COURSE WORK

1. Each student and alternate (hereafter referred to collectively as student (s)) must follow a curriculum designed for the RHOP Nursing Program. Each student, in consultation with their undergraduate institution Pre-Nursing Academic Advisor, will choose an academic major and a program of study will be designed for that major that includes all of the Pre-Nursing required courses.
2. Each student must complete courses in a timely manner. Alternates must be prepared to move into a participant position should one become available and participants and alternates must have completed coursework to make themselves eligible to enter professional school at the end of two years of academic work at one of the applicable Nebraska State Colleges, even if they choose to complete a degree prior to entering UNMC.
3. Each student must obtain approval from their Pre-Nursing Academic Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Students Must Maintain:

Cumulative Prerequisite GPA ≥ 3.3

1. A student must earn a "C+" or better in each required course. If the undergraduate institution does not use the +/- system, a "B" will be required. If a student earns below the required grade in a required course, he/she may be placed on academic probation and must repeat the course as soon as possible. Failure to receive the required grade in a repeated course may result in the dismissal of the student from the RHOP program. Consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Nursing Academic Advisor is required.
2. Each student with a GPA below the requirement will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation and the probation terms will be assigned by the Program Director for the Nursing Program at UNMC and the RHOP Coordinator at their undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Nursing Academic Advisor and UNMC Student Services representative. Students on probation will be monitored for progress to meet RHOP standards for no longer than one academic year resulting in either dismissal or a return to good standing in the RHOP program.
3. Each student is required to file a mid-semester grade report with the undergraduate institution's RHOP Coordinator when requested.
4. Each student is required to consult with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Nursing Academic Advisor on a regular basis, at least once per semester.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Each student must visit the University of Nebraska Medical Center on the regularly scheduled RHOP trips, as arranged by UNMC and the RHOP Coordinator. RHOP students are also expected to attend and participate in all RHOP activities including meetings, hospital field trips, speakers, tours, volunteer activities, and all other events sponsored by RHOP.

ENTRANCE OF PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

In order for a participant to enter the Nursing Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, he/she must have:

1. Met all academic standards.
2. Submitted a COMPLETE application to the UNMC College of Nursing, including all required supporting documents by the application deadline.
3. Consistently demonstrate professional and personal behaviors and attitudes that would only enhance their ability to practice Nursing as well as their reputation and performance as a nurse in rural Nebraska during their time in RHOP.
4. Understanding that students in the RHOP program are expected to enter the UNMC's Nursing program for their professional school training.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

In the event that any of the candidates selected as participants in this class and in the RHOP Nursing Program decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the RHOP Interview Team may select a replacement from among the alternates in this class and program. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum and participation in professional development activities as described in the Program Standards will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview by the RHOP Interview Team may be requested. Each alternate maintains their alternate status as long as they are enrolled at the undergraduate institution, have not started their last year at their undergraduate institution, and met all of the course work, academic, and professional development requirements of the RHOP program. The alternate status ends at the beginning of the senior year for each class because the alternate(s) will be applying for admission into a college of Nursing through the traditional admission process at that time.

**RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP)
PROGRAM STANDARDS for the OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST (OT) OPTION
Participants and Alternates**

PARTICIPATING NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES (NSC):

Chadron State College
Peru State College
Wayne State College

COURSE WORK

Participants and alternates are hereafter referred to collectively as “students”. Students must

1. Must complete all prerequisites courses for UNMC Occupational Therapy (OT) Education, listed under the UNMC Division admissions website.
2. Must complete a course of study culminating in a bachelor’s degree in four academic years. Any exception to this time frame must be approved by both the State College Occupational Therapy Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC OT RHOP Committee.
3. Obtain approval from the undergraduate State College Occupational Therapy Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The following Academic Standards apply to remain in good standing and continue in the Nebraska State College (NSC) phase of the RHOP OT Option. Students must

1. Earn a "C-" or better in the required prerequisite courses (see UNMC Division website).
2. Maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) and a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

RHOP academic probation will be allowed for only *one* semester. Probation is recommended and communicated by the designated State College Occupational Therapy Advisor responsible for monitoring student performance. The State College Occupational Therapy Advisor, in consultation with the Chair of the UNMC OT RHOP Committee, will determine student requirements to improve academic performance to be removed from RHOP academic probation. RHOP academic probation results if a student:

1. Earns less than a “C-” in any course. The course must be retaken and the student will be placed on RHOP academic probation the following semester.
2. Cumulative or semester GPA falls below 3.0.
3. Withdraws from one or more classes which results in dropping below the required full-time academic enrollment status (defined as 12 credit hours per semester)
4. Withdraws from all classes without prior approval of the State College Occupational Therapy Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC OT RHOP Committee.

DISMISSAL

Dismissal from RHOP constitutes formal action by the UNMC OT RHOP Committee in consultation with the NSC institution. The student will be dismissed from the RHOP Program if the student does not:

1. Comply with the terms of an academic probation.
2. Complete all the recommendations for improving academic performance.
3. Obtain a grade of “C-” or better in a required course that has been retaken.
4. Raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 or higher after one semester of remediation.
5. Satisfactorily complete the NSC coursework as defined by academic standards for good standing.
6. Satisfactorily complete the professional development requirements.

Immediate dismissal from RHOP may result from illegal or unprofessional behavior. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the NSC institution will be shared with the Chair of the OT RHOP Committee.

ATTACHMENT A

UNMC College of Allied Health Professions
RHOP Occupational Therapy Option Requirements (11.12.2021)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE NSC PHASE

A student who chooses the RHOP OT Option is expected to be dedicated to a career in rural practice. To enhance their understanding and knowledge of the field, students are expected to:

1. Log professional development using the Discovering Occupational Therapy format (see UNMC Division website). Some of the experiences must be relate to rural Nebraska so the student develops significant knowledge of occupational therapy practice in rural Nebraska.
2. Logs must be submitted electronically to the State College Occupational Therapy Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC OT RHOP at the end of each semester.
3. Attend required events conducted by UNMC for RHOP participants.
4. Visit UNMC at the Omaha or Kearney campus during regularly scheduled RHOP trips.
5. Visit, work, or volunteer with persons across a variety of age ranges in a variety of settings (school, hospital, community center, camp, clinic, day care, nursing home, health screen, etc.).
6. Participate in on-campus activities that enhance their ability to interact with people.
7. Write a reflection paper summarizing their professional development across semesters. Submit this as part of the application materials for admission to the UNMC Professional Program.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DURING THE NSC PHASE

PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING DATE OF ENTRY

Any RHOP student wishing to change the date of admission into the professional phase of the program must petition in writing to both the undergraduate State College Occupational Therapy Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC OT RHOP Committee. The petition should state in detail the reasons for the requested change, the proposed new date of admissions, and what academic preparation will continue for entry into the OT professional program at UNMC. A decision whether to allow the change or not will be made as soon as possible after the submission of the request.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

In the event that any of the candidates selected as participants in this class and in this option decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the RHOP admissions interview team from UNMC and the undergraduate institution may select a replacement from among the alternates in that class. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum, and participation in professional development activities as described in the Program Standards will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview may be requested.

ENTRANCE OF PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

While successful completion of the requirements for the NSC phase of the Occupational Therapy Option will normally guarantee admission to the UNMC professional phase of the program, students must also complete the formal application and interview process during their final undergraduate year. Prior to matriculation into the professional phase, the student must:

1. Meet all academic and professional development standards and personal behavior requirements according to the RHOP Agreement and Standards.
2. Apply through the Occupational Therapist Central Application Service (OTCAS) following designated deadlines of the senior year.
3. Submit a reflection paper (noted above) before the interview summarizing his/her professional development through Discovering Occupational Therapy activities.
4. Interview with the UNMC Occupational Therapy Education Admissions Committee to evaluate the student's readiness for professional study at UNMC.

Students failing to demonstrate adequate professional development, in the judgment of the UNMC Occupational Therapy Education Admissions Committee, will be denied admission to the Professional Program.

ATTACHMENT A

UNMC College of Allied Health Professions
RHOP Occupational Therapy Option Requirements (11.12.2021)

CAMPUS ASSIGNMENT

The UNMC OT Program has two campuses, Omaha and Kearney. RHOP participants, upon successful completion of the NSC Phase, are eligible to attend either campus. Campus assignments will be made by the OT Program with every attempt to honor the applicant's preference. Priority for campus assignment preference is based on the strength of the application and the OT program interview per the UNMC Admissions Committee procedures for all applicants. Applicants with quality direct patient care experience, shadowing and patient care hours above the minimum requirements, high grades in required pre-requisite coursework, and a strong interview are most likely to receive their preferred campus assignment. Final campus assignments are at the discretion of the UNMC OT Program.

**RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP)
PROGRAM STANDARDS for the PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA) OPTION
Participants and Alternates**

PARTICIPATING NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES (NSC):

Chadron State College
Peru State College
Wayne State College

COURSE WORK

1. Each participant and alternate, herein referred to as “student”, is required to follow a curriculum designed for this option of RHOP. A designated program of study for this option is attached and considered a part of these Requirements and Policies. The student following this program of study will earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology-Human Biology Option (CSC), a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science in one of the following Options: Disease and Human Health, Biological Science or Biochemical Science (PSC), or a Bachelor of Science degree in Life Sciences/Biology with a Biology concentration in the Biomedical Track from the Biology Department (WSC). The completion of the degree is required.
2. Students will be required to complete the designated course of study in four academic years (eight semesters of continuous study). Any exception to this time schedule must be approved by both the State College Physician Assistant Advisor and the UMMC PA RHOP Committee.
3. Each student must obtain approval from the State College Physician Assistant Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

To remain in good standing and continue in the NSC Phase of the RHOP Program, the following Academic Standards will apply:

1. The student must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher.
2. The student must attain a grade of C or higher in all coursework.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Academic probation is recommended and communicated by the designated State College Physician Assistant Advisor responsible for monitoring student performance. The State College Physician Assistant Advisor, in consultation with the Chair of the UNMC PA RHOP Committee, will determine what the student must do to improve their academic performance to be removed from RHOP academic probation. A student will automatically be placed on academic probation if they withdraw from all classes without prior approval of the State College Physician Assistant Advisor and the UNMC PA RHOP Committee or if they drop below the required full-time academic enrollment status.

The following probationary consequences will be in effect for a student failing to achieve both of the Academic Standards in a given semester:

1. Must meet with their academic advisor.
2. Repeat any course in which a grade below C was obtained. A grade of C or higher must be obtained in the repeated course.
3. Will be placed on automatic academic probation for the following semester. Should a student be enrolled during a summer session prior to the next semester following a failure, the student will be on probation for both the summer session and the following semester.

The student must achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0 during the period of probation and may not receive a grade below C in any course during that period. Should the student not attain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and/or receive a grade below C in any course during the period of probation, the student will be dismissed from the RHOP Program. The student may not exceed more than one probationary period during the NSC phase. A second failure to meet any of the standards for academic progress in any subsequent semester will result in dismissal from the RHOP Program.

DISMISSAL

Dismissal from RHOP constitutes formal action initiated by the UNMC PA RHOP Committee in consultation with the NSC institution. The student will be dismissed from the RHOP program for any of the following:

1. Failure to comply with the academic requirements listed under “ACADEMIC STANDARDS.”
2. Failure to comply with imposed “ACADEMIC PROBATION” terms and failure to complete all the recommendations for improving academic performance.
3. Failure to comply with undergraduate coursework and/or professional development requirements.
4. Failure to satisfactorily complete the NSC phase coursework as defined by the academic standards for good standing.

Immediate dismissal from RHOP may result from illegal or unprofessional behavior, a breach of academic integrity, or other violations of the NSC Code of Conduct policies. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the NSC (undergraduate) institution will be shared with the Chair of the UNMC PA RHOP Committee.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE NSC PHASE

1. The student must keep an RHOP journal chronicling activities that illustrates their understanding of the art and practice of medicine that explains the motivation for them to become physician assistants practicing in rural Nebraska and that contributes to their professional development. The student is also expected to record their reactions to and their perceptions of the required RHOP activities. The Chair of the UNMC PA RHOP Committee will provide each NSC Physician Assistant Advisor with required journal guidelines at the beginning of every fall semester. The journals must be completed on a computer so that copies can be printed upon request. A copy of the journal must be submitted to the NSC Phase RHOP Office at the end of each semester and the Chair of the UNMC PA RHOP Committee at the end of each academic year in May. The journal will be read by the State College Physician Assistant Advisor and the faculty at the Physician Assistant Program at UNMC. The journal is an important personalized chronicle documenting a student’s involvement and development in the NSC Phase of the RHOP program. Therefore, failure to adequately complete this requirement may be cause for dismissal from the program.
2. During the student’s enrollment in the NSC Phase, every RHOP student is required to shadow (or follow) in clinical settings physician assistants for a minimum of 32 hours. Shadowing hours must be completed by September 1 of the senior year and documented on the CASPA application and must include the following: date, name of PA, location, type of practice (area of medicine, clinic vs. hospital, etc), and number of hours. The student’s impressions of the experience should be recorded in their journal. Half of the 32 hours shadowing must occur in rural Nebraska, enabling the student to develop a significant understanding of what it is like to practice as a PA in rural Nebraska. This requirement can be completed during the summer, school vacations, or during the school term. The student is encouraged to develop a professional association with a practicing PA in rural Nebraska in order to higher facilitate and broaden their understanding of rural practice.
3. The student must enroll or attend any required RHOP credit and non-credit classes, workshops, and video conferences conducted by the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Experiences with and perceptions of these activities should be recorded in the journal.
4. During his or her enrollment in the NSC Phase, every RHOP student is required to obtain direct patient care experience of at least 300 hours through volunteering, health care training (e.g. CNA, CMA, EMT, phlebotomy), or part-time employment at a health facility. This may include helping with activities such as

Rural Health Screening Days for Rural Schools and Immunization Clinics for Children. Each experience must be completed prior to the CASPA application period closing and documented on the CASPA application. Shadowing experiences are not considered direct patient care experience and may not be included in this activity.

5. The student must participate in on-campus activities that help develop their ability to interact with people. This would include meetings with health care providers, helping with RHOP interviews, participating in student government, or the specific activities associated with each institution below.

Chadron State College: Health Professions Club and Health Professions Day.

Peru State College: Rotaract, American Red Cross Club or Peru State

College Science Club. Serve as a Peru State TeamMate Mentor in an area school or, alternatively, a Resident Assistant.

Wayne State College: Pre-PA Club

The requirements for professional development as detailed above are extremely important for admission to the UNMC Professional Phase of the RHOP Program and should not be minimized by the student. The student's CASPA application and submission of other requested materials for admission to the UNMC Professional Phase during the senior year of the NSC Phase must demonstrate adequate compliance with the Professional Development Requirements for the NSC Phase. A student failing to demonstrate adequate Personal Behaviors and Professional Development based on the Professional Development Requirements, will be denied admission to the UNMC Professional Phase of the Program or be deferred for additional academic work or experiential activity for a period of time determined by the UNMC PA Admissions Committee.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DURING THE NSC PHASE

SENIOR YEAR APPLICATION TO THE PA PROGRAM

In addition to completing the requirements of the NSC phase, the student must demonstrate evidence of their personal maturity, professional development, and academic preparedness for the UNMC Phase of the PA Program. Participants and alternates will be required to submit a CASPA application and participants will complete an interview with UNMC at one of the scheduled PA Program interview sessions during the senior year of the NSC Phase of the RHOP Program. Alternates' eligibility to interview will be determined based on the general criteria of all UNMC PA Program applicants. The application will contain a summation of the compliance with the requirements of the NSC Phase (over the 4 years) and the interview will assess the student's readiness for professional study at UNMC. If the student has a UNMC Code of Conduct Violation or substantial concern during the interview when reviewed and assessed by the UNMC PA Admissions Committee, the student may be denied entry to the UNMC PA Program at the decision of the Committee.

CHANGING DATE OF ENTRY PROCEDURE

Any RHOP student wishing to change the date of admission into the Physician Assistant Program on the UNMC campus must petition in writing to both the State College Physician Assistant Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC PA Committee. The petition should state in detail the reasons for the requested change, the proposed new date of admission, and what academic preparation will continue for entry into the PA Program at UNMC. A decision to allow the change or not will be made as soon as possible after the submission of the request.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

In the event that any of the candidates selected as participants in this class and in this option decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the UNMC PA RHOP Committee and the NSC institution may select a replacement among the alternates in the same matriculating cohort prior to the student's senior year. Alternates will be ranked during initial admission to RHOP and will be accepted in that order for freshman year matriculation only should full participants decline to accept a position. Academic

accomplishments, progress within the curriculum, and participation in professional development activities will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy that occurs after initial freshman year matriculation. A second interview will be required by the UNMC PA RHOP Committee. Each alternate maintains their PA alternate status as long as they are enrolled full-time in the undergraduate program and have met all the academic, course work and professional development requirements.

ENTRANCE OF THE PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PHASE

In order for a participant to enter the UNMC Professional Phase at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, he/she must have:

1. Met all academic standards, enrollment requirements, and professional development requirements throughout his/her enrollment in the NSC Phase and received a bachelor's degree.
2. Met all UNMC PA Program pre-requisite coursework and requirements.
- ~~3.~~ A complete application submitted through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) during the open application period between the junior and senior year.
4. Documentation of required direct patient care experience in the CASPA application.
5. Documentation of required PA shadowing hours in the CASPA application.
- ~~6.~~ An interview at the UNMC PA Program during the senior year.
7. Consistently demonstrated professional and personal behaviors and attitudes as stipulated in the Personal Behavior Requirements.

CAMPUS ASSIGNMENT

The UNMC PA Program has two campuses, Omaha and Kearney. RHOP participants, upon successful completion of the NSC Phase, are eligible to attend either campus. Campus assignments will be made by the PA Program with every attempt to honor the applicant's preference, which will be declared by the applicant on the CASPA application.

Rev 12/18/22

RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP) PROGRAM STANDARDS for the PHARMACY PROGRAM

Participants and Alternates

PARTICIPATING NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES:

Chadron State College
Peru State College
Wayne State College

COURSE WORK

1. Each student and alternate (hereafter referred to collectively as student (s)) must follow a curriculum designed for the RHOP Pharmacy Program. Each student, in consultation with their undergraduate institution Pre-Pharmacy Academic Advisor, will choose an academic major and a program of study will be designed for that major that includes all the Pre-Pharmacy required courses.
2. Each student must complete courses in a timely manner. Participants and alternates from should be prepared to enter professional school at the end of their 3rd year.
3. Each student must obtain approval from their undergraduate institution's Pre-Pharmacy Academic Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Students Must Maintain:

Cumulative GPA \geq 3.50

1. Each student with a GPA below the requirement may be placed on one semester of academic probation. Academic probation and the probation terms will be assigned by the Program Director for the Pharmacy Program at UNMC and the individual who coordinates the RHOP program at their undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Pharmacy Academic Advisor. Students on probation will be monitored for progress to meet RHOP standards.
2. Courses will not be considered toward prerequisites if graded less than C-, incomplete, withdrawal or audit.
3. Each student is required to file a mid-semester grade report with the undergraduate institution's RHOP Coordinator when requested.
4. Each student is required to consult with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Pharmacy Academic Advisor on a regular basis, at least once per semester.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Each student must visit the University of Nebraska Medical Center on the regularly scheduled RHOP trips, as arranged by UNMC and their undergraduate institution's RHOP Coordinator. RHOP students are also expected to attend and participate in all RHOP activities including meetings, hospital field trips, speakers, tours, volunteer activities, and all other events sponsored by RHOP.

ENTRANCE OF PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

For a participant to enter the Pharmacy Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the student must have:

1. Met all academic standards.
2. Submitted a COMPLETE application to the UNMC College of Pharmacy in a timely manner.

3. Completion of an On-Campus Interview with the UNMC College of Pharmacy Admissions Committee, is encouraged but not required, to evaluate the student's readiness for professional study at UNMC.
4. Consistently demonstrate professional and personal behaviors and attitudes that would only enhance their ability to practice Pharmacy as well as their reputation and performance as a pharmacist in rural Nebraska during their time in RHOP.
5. Understanding that students in the RHOP program are expected to enter the UNMC's Pharmacy program for their professional school training.

DISMISSAL

1. A student may be dismissed from the RHOP Pharmacy program if they are unable to meet the academic probationary requirements and/or uphold the professional and personal conduct expectations.
2. The decision to dismiss a student from the program will be in conjunction with the Director for the Pharmacy Program at UNMC and the individual who coordinates the RHOP program at their undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Pharmacy Academic Advisor.
3. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the individual who coordinates the RHOP program at the undergraduate institution will be shared with the Director for the Pharmacy Program at UNMC.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

If any of the candidates selected as participants in this class and in the RHOP Pharmacy Program decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the RHOP Interview Team may select a replacement from among the alternates in this class and program. Alternates will be rank ordered following the interview, with the sequential alternate transitioned to participant status. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum and participation in professional development activities as described in the Program Standards will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. Each alternate maintains their alternate status as long as they are enrolled at the undergraduate institution, have not started their last year at their undergraduate institution, and met all of the course work, academic, and professional development requirements of the RHOP Pharmacy Program.

**RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP)
PROGRAM STANDARDS for the PHYSICAL THERAPIST OPTION
Participants and Alternates**

PARTICIPATING NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES:

Chadron State College
Peru State College
Wayne State College

COURSE WORK

1. Each participant and alternate (hereafter referred to collectively as “students”) must complete the required coursework to earn a bachelor’s degree. The current course prerequisites are listed under the general track on the admissions website for UNMC Physical Therapy Education.
2. Students will be required to complete the designated course of study to culminate in a bachelor’s degree in four academic years. Any exception to this time schedule must be approved by both the State College Physical Therapy Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC PT RHOP Committee.
3. Students must obtain approval from the undergraduate State College Physical Therapy Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

To remain in good standing and continue in the Nebraska State College (NSC) phase of the RHOP PT Option, the following Academic Standards will apply:

1. Students must earn a "C-" or better in the required courses (see UNMC Division website for current prerequisites).
2. Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) and a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

RHOP academic probation will be allowed for only *one* semester. Probation is recommended and communicated by the designated State College Physical Therapy Advisor responsible for monitoring student performance. The State College Physical Therapy Advisor, in consultation with the Chair of the UNMC PT RHOP Committee, will determine what the student must do to improve their academic performance to be removed from RHOP academic probation. RHOP academic probation results if:

1. Student earns less than a “C-” in any course. The course must be retaken and the student will be placed on RHOP academic probation the following semester.
2. Student does not maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher or a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher.
3. Student withdraws from one or more classes which results in dropping below the required full-time academic enrollment status (defined as 12 credit hours per semester)
4. Student withdraws from all classes without prior approval of the State College Physical Therapy Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC PT RHOP Committee.

DISMISSAL

Dismissal from RHOP constitutes formal action by the UNMC PT RHOP Committee in consultation with the NSC institution. The student will be dismissed from the RHOP Program if the:

1. Student does not comply with the terms of an academic probation.
2. Student does not complete all of the recommendations for improving academic performance.
3. Student does not obtain a grade of “C-” or better in a required course that has been retaken.
4. Student does not raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 or higher after one semester of remediation.

ATTACHMENT A

UNMC College of Allied Health Professions
RHOP Physical Therapy Option Requirements (11-16-2022)

5. Student does not satisfactorily complete the NSC phase coursework as defined by the academic standards for good standing.
6. Student does not satisfactorily complete the professional development requirements.

Immediate dismissal from RHOP may result from illegal or unprofessional behavior. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the NSC institution will be shared with the Chair of the PT RHOP Committee.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE NSC PHASE

A student who chooses the RHOP PT Option is expected to be dedicated to a career in rural practice. To enhance their understanding and knowledge of the field, students are expected to do the following:

1. Write a journal chronicling the professional development activities and perceptions at the end of each semester. The journals must be submitted electronically to the State College Physical Therapy Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC PT RHOP Committee at the end of each semester. The journal serves as a record of the students' shadowing and other activities that enhance their professional development.
2. Shadow physical therapists. Some of the shadowing experiences must be in rural Nebraska so the student develops significant knowledge of physical therapy practice in rural Nebraska.
3. Attend required events conducted by UNMC for RHOP participants.
4. Visit UNMC at the Omaha or Kearney campus during the regularly scheduled RHOP trips at the designated times.
5. Visit, work, or volunteer to help with patient care in hospitals, clinics, or nursing homes.
6. Participate in on-campus activities that enhance their ability to interact with people.
7. Write a reflection paper summarizing their professional development and submit this as part of the application materials for admission to the UNMC Professional Program.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DURING THE NSC PHASE

PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING DATE OF ENTRY

Any RHOP student wishing to change the date of admission into the professional phase of the program must petition in writing to both the undergraduate State College Physical Therapy Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC PT RHOP Committee. The petition should state in detail the reasons for the requested change, the proposed new date of admissions, and what academic preparation will continue for entry into the PT professional program at UNMC. A decision whether to allow the change or not will be made as soon as possible after the submission of the request.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

In the event that any of the candidates selected as participants in this class and in this option decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the RHOP admissions interview team from UNMC and the undergraduate institution may select a replacement per the Open Seat Policy outlined in the Pathways Programs Executed Agreement. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum, and participation in professional development activities as described in the Program Standards will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview may be requested.

ENTRANCE OF PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

While successful completion of the requirements for the NSC phase of the Physical Therapist Option will normally guarantee admission to the UNMC professional phase of the program, students must demonstrate their successful completion by means of a formal application and interview process during the final year. Prior to matriculation into the professional phase, the student must:

ATTACHMENT A

UNMC College of Allied Health Professions
RHOP Physical Therapy Option Requirements (11-16-2022)

1. Meet all academic and professional development standards and personal behavior requirements according to the RHOP Agreement and Standards.
2. Complete an application through the Physical Therapist Central Application Service (PTCAS) by the designated deadlines of the senior year.
3. Complete the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) no later than September 1 of the senior year and designate the scores to be reported to UNMC. RHOP students are expected to score within a competitive range that is comparable to other applicants.
4. Complete an on-campus interview with the UNMC Physical Therapy Education Admissions Committee to evaluate the student's readiness for professional study at UNMC.
5. Submit a reflection paper before the interview summarizing his/her professional development that has been chronicled in the journals.

Students failing to demonstrate adequate professional development, in the judgment of the UNMC Physical Therapy Education Admissions Committee, will be denied admission to the Professional Program.

RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP) PROGRAM STANDARDS for the RADIOGRAPHY OPTION

Participants and Alternates

PARTICIPATING NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES (NSC):

Chadron State College
Peru State College
Wayne State College

COURSE WORK

1. Each participant and alternates (hereafter referred to collectively as students) must follow a curriculum designed for the Radiography option of RHOP. A suggested program of study to be completed at the state college will be provided. The Radiography professional curriculum can be located on the UNMC Radiography website.
2. Students must complete the program of study within two academic years. Any exception to this time schedule must be approved by the State College Radiography Advisor and the Radiography Program Director.
3. Students must obtain approval from the State College Radiography Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

To remain in good standing and continue in the NSC phase of the RHOP Radiography Option, the following Academic Standards will apply:

1. Students must earn a "C-" or better in the **required courses**.
2. Students must maintain a **cumulative grade point average (GPA) of a 2.5 or higher**.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

RHOP academic probation is allowed for only *one* semester. Academic probation is recommended and communicated by the designated State College Radiography Advisor responsible for monitoring student performance. The State College Radiography Advisor, in consultation with the Radiography Program Director, will determine what the student must do to improve their academic performance to be removed from RHOP academic probation. RHOP academic probation results if:

1. Student earns less than a "C-" in a **required** course. The course must be retaken and the student will be placed on RHOP academic probation the following semester.
2. Student does not maintain a cumulative GPA of a 2.5 or higher.
3. Student withdraws from one or more classes which results in dropping below the required full-time academic enrollment status (defined as 12 credit hours per semester).
4. Student withdraws from all classes without prior approval of the State College Radiography Advisor and the Radiography Program Director.

DISMISSAL

Dismissal from RHOP constitutes formal action by the UNMC Radiography Program in consultation with the NSC institution. The student will be dismissed from the RHOP Program if the:

1. Student does not comply with the terms of academic probation.
2. Student does not complete all of the recommendations for improving academic performance.
3. Student does not obtain a grade of "C-" or better in a required course that has been retaken.

4. Student does not raise their cumulative GPA to a 2.5 or higher after one semester of remediation.
5. Student does not satisfactorily complete the NSC phase coursework as defined by the academic standards for good standing.
6. Student does not satisfactorily complete the professional development requirements.

Immediate dismissal from RHOP may result from illegal or unprofessional behavior. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the NSC (undergraduate) institution will be shared with the Radiography Program Director.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE NSC PHASE

1. Students are strongly encouraged to visit/shadow a radiography department.
2. Students must participate in activities conducted by UNMC for RHOP participants.
3. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in activities that foster professional skills.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DURING THE NSC PHASE

CHANGING DATE OF ENTRY PROCEDURE

Any RHOP student wishing to change the date of admission into the professional phase of the program must petition in writing to both the State College Radiography Advisor and the Radiography Program Director. The petition should state the reasons for the requested change, the proposed new date of admission, and what academic preparation will continue for entry into the Radiography Program at UNMC. A decision to allow the change or not will be made as soon as possible after the submission of the request.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

In the event that a candidate selected as an RHOP participant decides not to accept a position, withdraws after entering the program, or is dismissed from the program prior to the next RHOP application window, the Radiography Program Director and the NSC institution may select a replacement among the alternates in the same matriculating cohort. Prior interview performance and ranking, academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum, and participation in the suggested professional development activities will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview by the Radiography Program may be requested. Each alternate maintains their Radiography alternate status if they are enrolled full-time in the undergraduate program, and have met all the academic, course work, and professional development requirements.

ENTRANCE OF THE PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PHASE

In order for a participant to enter the UNMC professional phase at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, he/she must have:

1. Meet all academic standards, enrollment requirements, and professional development expectations throughout the NSC phase.
2. Meet all admission requirements for the UNMC Radiography program.
3. Complete UNMC's Radiography admission process by the designated deadlines timed appropriately to the completion of the NSC phase to include an online application and an interview.

As a routine practice, students applying to the Radiography program via RHOP are assigned to a campus location outside of Omaha.

Rev 10/26/22

ATTACHMENT B

UNMC Rural Pathway Programs

AGENDA ITEM: 2.2
MEETING DATE: April 5, 2023

UNMC Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP)

Number of student seats allotted per program

* CSC- Chadron State College, PSC – Peru State College, WSC – Wayne State College

Program	Partner Institutions Offering	Max Spots per Partner Institution Annually, not including alternates	Breakdown of Years Partner Inst./UNMC
Dental Hygiene	CSC, PSC, WSC	CSC- 2 PSC – 2 WSC – 2	2 years/2 years
Dentistry	CSC, PSC, WSC	CSC – 3 PSC – 2 WSC – 3	4 years/4 years
Medical Laboratory Science	CSC, PSC, WSC	CSC – 3 PSC – 3 WSC – 4	3 years/1 year
Medicine	CSC, WSC	CSC – 5 WSC – 5	4 years/4years
Nursing	CSC, PSC, WSC	CSC – 5 PSC – 4 WSC – 6	2 years/2 years
Occupational Therapy	CSC, PSC, WSC	CSC- 2 PSC – 2 WSC – 2	4 years/3 years
Pharmacy	CSC, PSC, WSC	CSC – 3 PSC – 3 WSC – 6	3 years/4 years
Physical Therapy	CSC, PSC, WSC	CSC – 2 PSC – 2 WSC – 2	4 years/3 years
Physician Assistant	CSC, PSC, WSC	CSC – 3 PSC – 3 WSC – 3	4 years/28 months
Radiography	CSC, PSC, WSC	CSC – 2 PSC – 2 WSC – 3	2 years/2 years