



Community College Gap Assistance Program

December 2020

OVERVIEW

The Community College Gap Assistance program was established by the Nebraska Legislature in 2015 to address identified skilled workforce shortages. The program provides financial aid to low-income community college students enrolled in credit or non-credit programs of study that prepare them for jobs in high-need fields but are not eligible for Pell or state Nebraska Opportunity Grants, which serve only students enrolled in for-credit courses leading to certificates or degrees. The Gap Assistance program addresses an identified affordability and workforce preparation “gap.”

WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED?

Currently, a diverse list of over 316 non-credit and credit programs are available. The full list is available on the CCPE website at ccpe.nebraska.gov/gap.

Examples: OSHA, Welding, A+ Certification, Accounting and Finance, Paralegal, Bookkeeper, Medical Coding and Billing, Pharmacy Technician, Certified Nursing Assistant, Renewable Energy, EMT, Commercial Truck Driving.

WHAT CAN GAP COVER?

Partial or full amounts for tuition, required books and equipment, and fees (including industry testing).

WHERE DO STUDENTS APPLY?

In-person or online depending on the community college. Applicants should check with their community college contact person.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM FUNDED?

Funding for the Gap Assistance program is provided through a quarterly transfer of 9% from the Education Improvement fund, which receives 44.5% of lottery proceeds - about \$1.8 million each year.

BY THE NUMBERS

<i>Training Status (as of September 2020)</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>
Number of Completed Applications	803
Number of Approved Participants	734
Status of Approved Participants	
Waiting to Participate	11
Enrolled, not completed	139
Completed Training	509
Completion Rate	79%
Did Not Complete Training	134

COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONTACTS

Central Community College

Dr. Kelly Christensen
Ph: 308-338-4002
kchristensen@cccneb.edu

Northeast Community College

Amy Kaiser
Ph: 402-844-7245
amyk@northeast.edu

Metropolitan Community College

Alex Lovrien
Ph: 531-622-2110
allovrien@mcneb.edu

Southeast Community College

Heather Bloomquist
Ph: 402-323-3394
hbloomquist@southeast.edu

Mid-Plains Community College

Sharon Kircher
Ph: 308-345-8123
kirchers@mpcc.edu

Western Nebraska Community College

Doug Mader
Ph: 308-630-6556
maderd@wncc.edu