

STATE OF NEBRASKA  
COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

*This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.*

**APPLICATION FOR A RECURRENT AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE A  
POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION IN NEBRASKA**

**For Institutions Applying to Establish an Administrative Office**

**Procedures for Submitting the Application**

1. Send the application form and all supporting materials to:

Executive Director  
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
P.O. Box 95005  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5005

OR

Submit the application via email to Kathleen Fimple at:  
[Kathleen.fimple@nebraska.gov](mailto:Kathleen.fimple@nebraska.gov) with the fee sent by U.S. mail.

2. A non-refundable [application fee](#) for the Commission's administrative costs shall be submitted with each application. Make checks payable to "Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education."
3. All sections shall be clearly marked for easy location by the reviewer.
4. The Commission may request additional information deemed necessary for an appropriate determination of compliance with the evaluation criteria.

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COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

**APPLICATION FOR A RECURRENT AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE A  
POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION IN NEBRASKA**

**For Institutions Applying to Establish an Administrative Office**

**Date:** December 4, 2022

**Name of Institution:** Osiri University

**Street Address:** 2737 N. 49<sup>th</sup> Street,

**City/State/Zip Code:** Lincoln, NE, 68504

**Name of Owner of Institution:** John Kalu Osiri

**Owner's Mailing Address (if  
different from above):** \_\_\_\_\_

John Kalu Osiri

**Name of Contact person:** \_\_\_\_\_

Founder

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** 206-371-3132

**Fax Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** jkosiri@gmail.com

**Web Site for Institution:** www.osiriuniversity.org

2737 N. 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68504

**Proposed location in Nebraska:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed offerings:**  Course/s only (list courses below)  Program/s  
(please provide a copy of the institutional catalog) See Exhibit A

**Course/s:**  
(if not offering a program)

See Exhibit A

**Programs to be offered and  
Awards to be conferred:**

**Legal Status of the Institution:**

- a.  Nonprofit (please provide documents of incorporation, and if available §501(c)(3) status documentation, that provide business name and address; names, titles, and business addresses of all principals in the business)
- b.  For-profit (please provide documents of incorporation or other legal documents that provide business name and address; names, titles, and business addresses of all principals in the business)

Is ownership:  proprietorship,  partnership,  corporation?

Has the business, a principal officer in the business, or a shareholder with 25% or more ownership interest in the business filed for bankruptcy during the preceding five years?  yes  no

Please provide the following information in a narrative format. Include copies of pertinent documents where appropriate.

Each numbered, italicized item is a standard identified in state statute. Statutes charge the institution to “demonstrate that it can be maintained and operated in accordance with such standards.” (Neb. Rev. Stat. §85-2406) Each bulleted item should be addressed. Additional information under each numbered item may be included as appropriate to the application.

Institutions applying to offer courses only (not a complete degree program) need only respond to starred (\*) items.

**1. The financial soundness of the institution and its capability to fulfill its proposed commitments and sustain its operations**

- **The most recent audited financial statements and a copy of the management letter\* If available, financial statements for the past three years**

Since Osiri University is waiting to receive authorization from the State of Nebraska’s CCPE, it has not commenced operation. After one year of operation, Osiri University will generate financial history and produce audited financial statements annually.

- **Tuition and fees for the most recent academic year or term\***

Osiri University is proposing to tentatively commence teaching in August of 2023. Tuition is \$250 per course (for all the proposed master’s degree and certificate programs).

- **Proposed annual budget identifying all sources of income and all categories of educational and general expenditures for the programs**

The proposed budget for the first year (2023/2024) operation is as follows:

<b>Annual Budget* (2023/2024)</b>		
<i>People</i>	<b>Naira (₦)</b>	
Administration	6,200,000	
Mukurus/Staff (Marketing)	1,320,000	
Mukurus/Staff (Student Affairs)	1,200,000	
Mukurus/Staff (IT)	240,000	
Malamai/instructors (130 courses or sections)	6,500,000	
Annual people cost (total)	5,460,000	or US\$37,253.00
Additional provision (people) for growth		\$30,000.00
<i>Monthly subscriptions (Drive, Zoom, Hosting, etc.)</i>		\$2,400.00
<i>Accreditation</i>		\$6,000.00
<i>Marketing and branding</i>		\$15,000.00
<i>Mortgage payments</i>		\$27,256.56
<i>Car payments</i>		\$6,912.00
Miscellaneous costs		\$5,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>US\$127,421.56</b>

*\*Budget based on a lean operation that would ensure affordable tuition for students. Budget is also based on graduate programs only because Osiri will begin as a graduate-only university and plans to introduce its doctoral and undergraduate degree programs as soon as possible after it commences operation.*

To successfully launch Osiri University, Dr. JK Osiri transferred personal funds to the newly created Osiri University bank account at a Lincoln, Nebraska branch of Wells Fargo.

We estimate a modest enrollment of about 200 students in the first year of Osiri University's operation. Given the unique nature, approach, and mission of Osiri University and the hunger for knowledge by students in Africa, the African diaspora, and beyond, we believe that we can easily double our enrollment over the first three years or so. Hence, we will use a modest goal of a 100% annual increase in student enrollment. Thus, we project **200** students, **400** students, and **800** students to be enrolled in the first, second, and third years, respectively.

To better fulfill its mission, Osiri University intends to avoid having large class sizes. Osiri University intends to distinguish itself through small sizes in order with a relatively low student to faculty/instructor ratio. Research shows that class sizes (20 students or less) are associated with improved academic achievements, and with the effects strongest among low-income students. Students also learn faster in small class environments, receive greater engagement, participate more in learning, and communicate more with instructors.

The following table shows Osiri University's projected income for the next three years assuming each student takes three (3) courses per year, fees of \$250 per course, 1<sup>st</sup> year expenses are 85% of fees, and expenses increase by 50% per year.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Projected Enrollment</b>	200 students	400 students	800 students
<b>Projected income per annum (fees)</b>	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$600,000
<b>Projected expenses</b>	\$127,500	\$191,250	\$286,875

- ◆ **Explanation of how the interests of students will be protected if the institution were to discontinue its offerings**

Before deciding to discontinue a course, the number of students enrolled or waiting to register would be considered. Where possible, Osiri University would ensure that new students are not enrolled in a course that would be discontinued one semester before the course is terminated. If a course is to be discontinued, an alternative will be developed or identified to ensure that the discontinuity of the course does not hamper students' plans or progress in a program. If a decision is made by the university leaders to discontinue a program, new students will no longer be accepted. Furthermore, Osiri University will ensure that students who are already enrolled in the program have the opportunity to complete it. Students enrolled in courses associated with a program that is slated for future termination and who decide to leave a program, even though they have the option to complete the said program, would be fully reimbursed for the courses.

- **Student loan default rate and financial responsibility composite score from the U.S. Department of Education (if applicable)**

This is not applicable. Since part of Osiri University's mission is to offer quality education that is affordable, we will encourage students to work to pay their tuition, pay with their savings, and/or find a financial sponsor.

## 2. **The quality and adequacy of teaching faculty, library services, and support services**

- **Agreements with online libraries or data sources**

We believe that high quality education does not have to be cost prohibitive. Therefore, we plan to leverage the power of the internet and our network to make content copiously available to students. Additionally, instructors will develop course-specific content for students to ensure rigor and excellence. Here is a list of the learning resources that would be accessible to future students.

- a) **The Open Library (openlibrary.org)** is a virtual open source library available to students and faculty. All fields are represented in the Open Library, and students need to create a library account in order to access the books. Open Library is open to anyone; students can borrow books from the Internet Archive collections.
- b) Other library sources are **Project Gutenberg** (<https://www.gutenberg.org/>) and **Universal Library** (<http://ulib.isri.cmu.edu/>)
- c) The **osiriuniversity.org** website and the **LearnDash** learning management platform will allow faculty members to house content, which students can access with permission.
- d) We have access to various open source **journals** such as <https://jose.theoj.org/>, <https://glocalismjournal.org/> and <https://doaj.org/> that our students can access
- e) Our email platform, databases (e.g. dedicated **Google Drive**) and apps (e.g. dedicated **Zoom**) will allow for ease of communication among Osiri University faculty, staff, and students.
- f) The **office building** located at 2737 N. 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68516, USA, will serve as our administrative office, and will house a physical library, two arts studios, a computer lab, two computer rooms for workstations (for research and data storage) and graphics, and a video recording room. These are resources for our people in Lincoln, Nebraska, or anyone who visit our administrative office.
- g) The cohesiveness of our **talented global leadership team** as well as our global network of instructors and supporters represent a unique asset from which students can learn are sources of information.
- h) Our ability to envision and create an **inclusive curriculum for all peoples** sets us apart and also provides a unique source of information. Our instructors would develop materials (text and videos) for student consumption. They would be able to refine their material every semester to adapt to the changing industry landscape and needs of students.

- **Support services for students such as academic or career advising\***
  - a) Support services include: 1) Navigating the online course space, 2) Curriculum and graduation planning, 3) Resume and portfolio building, and 4) Career advising
  - b) Dr. Agatha Mpaire (USA), Dr. Benita Bulle (USA), Nina Orji (Nigeria), and Yasmine Diawara (Ivory Coast) will lead our student support services.
  - c) Other team members who work in support services are Emile Osiri, Ugomma Akwari, Cyril Azubuine, and Elie Konan.
  - d) Faculty members will provide advising to students as well. For this reason, advising training will be included in the faculty training.
  - e) Our virtual start-up incubator is a platform that will allow students to get business mentorship and funding to jumpstart their businesses. Entrepreneurship program such as the Lion's Roar and Unleash Yourself will provide a direct pathway for the public to participate in our business mentorship program. Our entrepreneurship mentorship program is steered by three professionals with extensive business experiences: Lorenzo Ball (Vice President-IT at Ameritas), Kevin Valentine (Partner at Aliso Ventures), and Napa Onwusa (Head of Marketing at Google Africa).
- **Number of faculty teaching in the program/s (course/s\*)**

There are 60 faculty who will be teaching in the programs at Osiri University

- **Qualifications of each faculty member (vitae, resume, or other biographical information)\***

The vitae, resumes or bios of the faculty are included in an attached folder.

**3. *The quality of the programs offered, including courses, programs of instruction, degrees, any necessary clinical placements, and the institution's ability to generate and sustain enrollment***

- **Curriculum description/s including a list of required and optional courses**

\*\*\*See Exhibit A\*\*\*

- **Any licensure or certification requirements for the field/s and the way in which the institution will meet them**

\*\*\*This is not applicable because we are not offering any medical programs that result in clinical placement. However, Osiri University is pursuing a collaboration with CertNexus, a US-based global IT organization. This collaboration would allow our graduates to be certified or be on the path towards getting certified as practitioners in various IT fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Data Science, or Internet of Things. This is yet another way we would ensure that our graduates are employment ready. \*\*\*

- **Assurance that the institution will be able to secure clinical placements for students in programs that require them**

\*\*\*This is not applicable because we are not offering medical programs that result in clinical placements. However, for the all our master's degree programs, Osiri University is making efforts to ensure that students are equipped with cutting-edge, relevant industry knowledge and are highly competitive in the job market upon graduation. Specifically, Osiri University is working to enable master's degree graduates to receive professional certifications in their industry or become certification-ready.\*\*\*

- **Relationship between the hours of instruction and the credits awarded\***

Osiri University will follow the conventional virtual learning format in which students consume content by watching videos and reading text and making posts or submissions to demonstrate their understanding. These posts are then reviewed and graded by instructors who will provide feedback. This conventional learning format is asynchronous. However, in addition to this virtual format, we will require instructors to offer synchronous meetings during the course period. Students will spend between 30 and 45 contact hours on the content for a 3 credit hour course.

#### ***4. The specific locations or planned locations for the administrative office***

- **Description of the facility\***

Our administrative office will be located at 2737 N. 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE. It is equipped with office rooms, a physical library, two arts studios, a computer lab, two computer rooms for workstations (for research and data storage) and graphics, and a virtual reality room. Additionally, Osiri University has offices in Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria.

- **Copies of leases or facility use agreements\***

\*\*\*This is not applicable. Instead of lease, proof of purchase has been provided instead. The building purchase of the administrative office at 2737 N. 49<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln, Nebraska, was financed by Nebraska Bank of Commerce. The property is registered in the name of John Kalu Osiri as shown in the attached title insurance.\*\*\*

#### ***5. Assurances regarding transfer of credits earned in the program to the main campus of such institution [if applicable] and clear and accurate representations about the transferability of credits to other institutions located in Nebraska and elsewhere***

- **Any articulation agreements with Nebraska postsecondary institutions\***
- **Any other affiliations with Nebraska postsecondary institutions regarding the transfer of credits, joint use of faculty or facilities, or other supportive relationships\***

There are no agreements or affiliations with postsecondary institutions since Osiri University has not received authorization to begin operation.



**6. *Whether such institution and, when appropriate, the programs, are fully accredited, or seeking accreditation, by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education***

Osiri University has initiated accreditation and achieved Initial Eligibility Status with The Higher Learning Commission. See attached letter and proof of payment.

- **Name of the body that accredits the institution\***

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC)

- **Status of institutional accreditation, including the date of the most recent accreditation and any required reports or actions\***

Osiri University achieved Initial Eligibility Status on September 16, 2022.

- **List of all programmatic accreditations related to the proposed program or courses\***

There are no programmatic accreditations. However, each program is pursuing or establishing an option for students to get an industry certification. See program descriptions in Appendix A.

- **Status of all programmatic accreditations, including the date of the most recent accreditation and any required reports or actions\***

Osiri University has no programmatic accreditations. Nonetheless, it has started exploring preparing students for professional certifications and affiliation programs for all six master's degree programs.

**7. *The institution's policies and procedures related to students, including, but not limited to, recruiting and admissions practices***

- **Admission requirements for the institution and programs (if different)\***

Students must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university. However, admission requirements for various programs will vary depending on the program, in terms of the type of bachelor's degree preferred. To ensure student success, courses or programs that require a specific bachelor's degree prerequisite will be monitored over time. With the exception of the two MS degree programs below, admission into any master's degree program requires a bachelor's degree.

The admission requirement into the MS in Data and Information Systems program is a bachelor's in computer science, information systems, or a related field. Students seeking admission into this program who do not have the preferred bachelor's must demonstrate the required proficiency in the computer or information systems (e.g. course work, minor, certificate in addition with a bachelor's degree).

The admission requirement into the MS in Smart Manufacturing program is a bachelor's in engineering, physics, computer science, or a related field. Students seeking admission into this program who do not have the preferred bachelor's

degree must demonstrate the required proficiency in the basic understanding of engineering, manufacturing, etc. (e.g. course work, minor, certificate in addition with a bachelor's degree).

There is no bachelor's degree requirement for admission into the Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) program.

- **Anticipated methods of recruiting students in Nebraska\***

Osiri University's marketing strategy will include online channels such as YouTube, testimonials from students, staff, and faculty, the university website, social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, email messaging, and LinkedIn. Secondly, Osiri University plans to engage with a Lincoln-based advertising agency, RedThread, to assist with recruitment. Thirdly, Osiri University has engaged a consultant to target high-achieving, young leaders (e.g. Mandela Washington Fellows and Young African Leaders Initiative) to enroll in any one of the six master's degree programs. Lastly, Osiri University will connect with various communities based in Nebraska, including the African communities, Latino communities, Nebraskans living in rural areas, etc.

- **Loan procedures**

Osiri University will make tuition affordable but will not provide students with loans or credit for attending any of the programs.

**8. *The tuition refund policy for an institution that does not participate in federal financial aid programs described in Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 as such act existed on January 1, 2011***

- **Copy of the Title IV Program Participation Agreement with the US Department of Education (for institutions participating in federal financial aid programs) or a copy of the tuition refund policy if not participating in Title IV\***

This does not apply since Osiri University is not participating in federal programs.

Osiri University's tuition fee refund policy will be explicit and will be communicated to students. Students will be given the option to withdraw from courses during the first week of class and receive a 75% tuition refund. After two weeks, students who withdraw from the course will be refunded 50% of their tuition fees. Students who withdraw after the second week will not receive a refund. Osiri University courses will be offered for five or eight weeks.

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