



# A QUICK GUIDE ON RETURNING TO COLLEGE

## TOP 10 QUESTIONS ANSWERED

### 1. How will I pay for college?

The first step in paying for college is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) since this information is used to determine eligibility for federal, state, and university scholarships and grants.

- **Scholarships:** UNO has a General Application for scholarships, but you'll need to apply for admission to access the application site.
- **Financial Aid Resources:** EducationQuest Foundation is a great resource for helping you find financial aid sources, no matter what college you decide to attend.
- **Tuition Reimbursement:** You may also be eligible for tuition reimbursement through your employer. Check with your Human Resources Department to see if your employer offers this benefit.

### 2. How long will it take me to graduate?

**That depends.** If you have past college credit, standardized exam credit (like AP, IB, CLEP or DSST), and/or military credit or training, then you're already on your way to completing your degree.

How many classes do you plan to take each semester? Do you plan to take summer classes? We want to learn more about your plans so we can help you determine your path to degree. We recommend you meet with an academic advisor to discuss your past, your present, and your future to map out a degree completion plan that's uniquely yours.



### 3. Are there other students like me who attend UNO?

**Absolutely, 100%, yes!** A few numbers that might help:

- 1,400+ students enrolled this year in the Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies (BMS) program
- 25,000+ students have graduated from our program
- 25% are military-affiliated students
- 50% are first-generation students (the first in their family to go to college)

Our students represent a diverse, multi-generational population so there's no "one type" of student who enrolls in our program, which is what makes the college experience rewarding for you, your fellow students, and our faculty. We have students who decide return to school in their late 70s. We have students who take all of their classes online. We have students who mix and match online and on campus courses. It's never too late to pursue your goal of completing your degree.

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## 4. Will my past credits transfer?

### Did you know that transfer credits never expire?

Of course, there are a few exceptions to this rule (such as science courses if you're planning to pursue pre-med). Whether it's college courses you've taken in the past, standardized exams you've passed (like CLEP or DSST), or military training you've acquired, it likely applies to your degree program.

**Unofficial Transcript Evaluation:** The best way to find out if and how your credits transfer is to request an unofficial transcript evaluation. It's free to you. All you need to do is provide the documents so we can tell you exactly how your past credits apply to your program.

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## 5. Who will help me navigate my journey?

**We have a whole team of people dedicated to helping you succeed.** You'll be paired with a professional academic advisor who will help you navigate the college process. From your first contact with our office, to course selection, to accessing campus resources – we're here to help you get to the finish line!

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## 6. How do I juggle school with my other responsibilities?

**Great question! And one that many of our students ask when thinking about returning to college.** We want to get to know you and your specific situation so we can recommend the best approach to completing your degree.

- Perhaps it's starting off with a course or two to "get your feet wet" while juggling work and family.
- Perhaps it's taking a few classes online and a few in person to add flexibility to your schedule.
- Perhaps it's attending full-time to get you across the finish line faster.

Whatever your unique circumstances, we'll work with you to fit education into your life.

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## 7. Will I have to take an entrance exam?

**No.** We have an open admission policy, which means that tests like the SAT and ACT are not required. If you haven't taken a college-level English or math course, you will need to take a placement test after you've been admitted to our program, but don't worry, the placement test helps us ensure that you're set up for success and placed in the right class.

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## 8. What if I need help with my classes?

**It depends.** In addition to the faculty who teach your courses, we offer academic support services (like tutoring and writing assistance). Your academic advisor is always available to help connect you with assistance, so there's no need to figure it out on your own.

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## 9. What should I expect after graduation?

Graduates pursue a wide range of careers in fields that align with their focused content areas, previous work and life experiences, as well as the selection of courses taken within their program of study.

### Our 25,000+ BMS graduates have:

- Advanced in their current career
  - Transitioned to new career fields
  - Refreshed skills and knowledge
  - Pursued graduate degrees
  - Achieved personal fulfillment
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## 10. What's my next step?

**That's up to you.** If you're ready to get started, apply now. If you're still considering your options, we recommend requesting an unofficial transcript evaluation and/or meeting with an academic advisor who can answer your questions.

### Get in touch with us!

**Email:** [unodcs@unomaha.edu](mailto:unodcs@unomaha.edu)

**Phone:** 402.554.2370

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# YOU CAN GET THERE. WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW.



For more than 70 years, UNO's Division of Continuing Studies (DCS) has been committed to helping students, just like you, realize their dreams of completing a college degree. As the Director of DCS, my own educational journey was marked by ups and downs, sometimes within my control and sometimes outside of my control. As a first-generation college student, I didn't know what I didn't know, thus, navigating the

college process was completely unfamiliar. As a parent juggling school with commitments such as work, paying bills, and navigating the day-to-day demands of life, I was lost and overwhelmed. I didn't know a lot, but I did know that I liked learning and earning my degree would give me more career options – for myself and my family. My experiences fueled my commitment to foster a culture of support and advocacy for our students. I don't want you to “have to figure it out alone.”

Whether you choose to attend UNO or find an alternate institution that's a better fit, we understand that you need to make the best decision for you. So, together with my team of dedicated professionals in DCS, we created this Quick Guide to answer the top 10 questions we're asked by new students.

Our guiding philosophy in DCS is to meet our students where they are. Our team is looking forward to helping you reach your goal of returning to school and walking across the graduation stage. You can get there. We'll show you how.

## CHRISTINE BILLINGS

DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF CONTINUING STUDIES  
BACHELOR OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

# 30+

### AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

*Pursue an academic path that combines your past credits and experience with your career goals.*



### MULTIDISCIPLINARY DEFINED

*Combining or involving several academic disciplines or professional specializations in an approach to a topic or problem.*

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### FOCUS ON MILITARY FAMILIES

*UNO is among the best four-year public institutions for Military Friendliness. **Military Times, 2020***



### NATIONALLY RANKED ONLINE BACHELOR'S DEGREE

*The Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies degree is ranked in the Top 50 online degrees. **U.S. News & World Report, 2020.***