After initially searching for an MBA program close to home, an Ohio bank executive enrolled in the Distance Program offered by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) College of Business Administration. As the mother of a child with special needs, being able to balance work, home life and academic studies was important.

"Universities near where she lived didn’t fit her schedule," says Gordon Karels, Ph.D., associate dean and director of MBA Programs. "She chose Nebraska because of the link between our campus MBA program and our Distance Program. It’s the same faculty and courses, but with greater flexibility."

The Distance Program is designed for working individuals who seek a high-quality, affordable, AACSB accredited MBA, regardless of whether they live across town or across the country. The 16-course, 48-hour program can be completed online in two to four years, depending on individual needs. Like Nebraska’s other MBA programs, the Distance Program prepares tomorrow’s business leaders by instilling the problem-solving, team-building and leadership skills that are important to running successful companies.

For students who prefer a face-to-face or cohort-based experience, UNL offers several outstanding MBA programs, including:

• On-Campus Master of Business Administration – With approximately 135 students, this traditional MBA gives students more personal interaction with faculty than is possible at many larger schools. It offers the same core curriculum as the Distance Program, but with more elective choices. Students may attend full-time or part-time.

• UNL Gallup MBA/MA in Executive Leadership – Offered in partnership with the Gallup Organization, this program is designed primarily for executives within sponsoring companies desiring to increase their leadership capabilities. Courses emphasize leadership, strategic thinking, and ethical decision making. Students receive face-to-face contact with top business leaders in classroom sessions around the world. Week-long meetings are held at Gallup Organization headquarters in Washington, D.C., at Toyota University in California, and an international university site such as Oxford University, in combination with online coursework.

• Nebraska’s MBA programs – as well as its highly recognized Undergraduate Program – are taught by the highest-qualified professors, many of whom have lived and worked around the world, which provides an international perspective that helps prepare students for leadership in today’s global economy. The UNL College of Business Administration helped establish the first MBA program at the University of Tirana in Albania. The Nebraska at Oxford Study Abroad program is available to undergraduate as well as MBA students. Additionally, Nebraska offers numerous study abroad opportunities for all students and maintains close associations with schools throughout Asia.

UNL offers the conveniences of a modern, urban campus amid a tranquil, park-like atmosphere, with its many trees, flowers and open green space. On campus or online, the MBA experience at UNL is as rewarding for students as it is for the professors.

"This is a very collegial place," Dr. Karels says. "I love the satisfaction that comes from making a difference in a student’s life, knowing that we’ve played a part in their success."

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"Invest as much in yourself as you can; you are your own best asset by far. Then follow your passion."

— Warren Buffett

Bill Gates and Warren Buffett visit the UNL business students in September 2005.