Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

Meeting Date**: June 11, 2026**

Agenda Item: **2.19**

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

Committee: **Academic & Personnel Committee**

Action Item: **Addition of a Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration - PSC**

The Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration is an online reduced-credit baccalaureate degree that offers a cohesive curriculum aligned with the management, leadership, and technology needs of business and industry. The degree offers two distinct curricular tracks designed to support the development of applied, workforce-ready professional competencies: 1) Leadership and Management, and 2) Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer Management Information Systems (CMIS). Coursework in ethics, cyber security, human resources, project management, data analytics, and employee training supplement the practical application of leadership, management, artificial intelligence, and computer management information systems for students seeking career advancement or accelerated entry into the workforce.

The System Office recommends approval of the Addition of the Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration at Peru State College.

ATTACHMENTS:

- New Program Proposal - Reduced Credit Degree Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration - PSC

Peru State College
Proposal to Add:
Reduced-Credit Bachelor of Science Degree
Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration

1. Descriptive Information

A. Name of Institution: Peru State College

B. Name of Program: Applied Business Administration

C. Degrees/credentials to be awarded graduates of the program: Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration

D. Other programs offered in this field by the institution: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration

BS/BA Options in Accounting; Business Finance; Business, Marketing and Information Technology (BMIT); Computer and Management Information Systems; Healthcare Business Administration; Human Resources and Risk Management; Management and Leadership; Marketing; Public Administration; Sports and Community Leadership & Operations.

E. CIP code: 52.0200

F. Administrative units for the program: School of Professional Studies

G. Proposed delivery site(s) and type(s) of delivery, if applicable: Peru State College | Online Delivery

H. Proposed date (term/year) the program will be initiated: Fall 2027

I. Description of Program:
The Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration is an online reduced-credit baccalaureate degree that offers a cohesive curriculum aligned with the management, leadership, and technology needs of business and industry. The degree offers two distinct curricular tracks designed to support the development of applied, workforce-ready professional competencies: 1) Leadership and Management, and 2) Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer Management Information Systems (CMIS). Coursework in ethics, cyber security, human resources, project management, data analytics, and employee training supplement the practical application of leadership, management, artificial intelligence, and computer management information systems for students seeking career advancement or accelerated entry into the workforce.

The Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for the Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration are as follows:

PLO 1: Students learn to effectively apply core management theories to real-world organizational challenges, including operations management, project management, and human resources management.

PLO 2: Students develop the ability to use data, information systems, and critical thinking to make informed, ethical, and strategic decisions that drive organizational success.

PLO 3: Students acquire and then apply strong interpersonal, written, and verbal communication skills, which provide the ability to lead and motivate diverse teams, manage conflict, and facilitate organizational change.

PLO 4: Students develop innovative and creative problem-solving and strategic skills, which prepare them to adapt to a dynamic business environment committed to continuous improvement.

Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration | Degree Requirements: 90-91 Credits
The Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration offers an academically rigorous and flexible pathway for students to earn a high-quality degree using the institution's existing courses.

Option 1 – Leadership and Management
The Leadership and Management Option is an academic specialization designed to prepare graduates for entry and mid-level supervisory and management positions. This option equips students with practical management skills, professional competencies, and hands-on learning applicable across business and industries.

Option 2 – Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer Management Information Systems (CMIS)
The Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer Management Information Systems (CMIS) Option prepares professionals for high-demand careers by combining advanced technology development with effective information systems management. Graduates gain skills in AI, data analysis, systems management, and business integration, positioning them for long-term success in a technology-driven economy.

Degree Requirements: 90-91 Credits

I. General Studies Requirements – 30 Credits

Effective Communication	6-9 credits
Quantitative Learning	3-6 credits
Technology and Its Application	3 credits
Perspectives on Values, Thought and Aesthetics	3-6 credits
Methods of Inquiry and Explanatory Schema	6-7 credits
Cultural Literacy, Diversity and Equity	3 credits

II. Business Administration Core Requirements – 33 Credits

ACCT 231 Principles of Financial Accounting	3 credits
ACCT 232 Principles of Managerial Accounting	3 credits
BUS 214 Introduction to Business Quantitative Methods	3 credits
BUS 251 Legal Environment and Contract Law	3 credits
BUS 328 Principles of Marketing	3 credits
BUS 335 Production Operations Management	3 credits

BUS 339 Business Finance	3 credits
BUS 373 Organizational Behavior	3 credits
BUS 480 International Business	3 credits
BUS 495 Business Policy	3 credits
CMIS 300 Information Systems Management	3 credits

III. Options (27 Credits Each)

OPTION 1

Leadership and Management – 27 Credits

BUS 260 Entrepreneurship	3 credits
BUS 331 Risk Management	3 credits
BUS 353 Organizational Ethics	3 credits
BUS 365 Leadership Theory and Practice	3 credits
BUS 380 Human Resources Management	3 credits
BUS 381 Employee Training and Development	3 credits
BUS 390 Project Management	3 credits
BUS 493 Team Design & Performance	3 credits
CMIS 340 Foundations of AI in Business	3 credits

OPTION 2

Artificial Intelligence and Computer Management Information Systems – 27 Credits

BUS 253 Organizational Ethics	3 credits
BUS 390 Project Management	3 credits
CMIS 210 Essentials of Computer Programming	3 credits
CMIS 310 Network Administration and Implementation	3 credits
CMIS 340 Foundations of AI in Business	3 credits
CMIS 360 Cyber Security	3 credits
CMIS 410 Web Page Development and Programming	3 credits
CMIS 420 Database Development and Programming	3 credits
CMIS 430 Data Analytics in Business	3 credits

IV. Prior Learning Course – 1 Credit

Within both Options, students can further accelerate degree completion through the College 201 Prior Learning/Life Experience Portfolio course, which awards academic credit for documented professional experience in business and industry.

PROGRAM COURSES & DESCRIPTIONS

All Business Administration Core Courses, Option Courses, and the Prior Learning Course are pre-existing.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION CORE REQUIREMENTS | COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ACCT 231 Principles of Financial Accounting | 3 Credit Hours

Students are introduced to accounting as an information system that provides reports to stakeholders about the economic activities and condition of a business. Students learn about the complete accounting cycle, accounting systems and internal controls, and balance sheet accounts cash, receivables, inventories, fixed and intangible assets, and current liabilities.

ACCT 232 Principles of Managerial Accounting | 3 Credit Hours

Students continue their preparation in accounting by studying the accounting process for partnerships and corporations - partnerships and limited liability, organization, capital stock

transactions, and dividends; income and taxes, stockholders' equity, investments in stocks; and bonds payable and investments in bonds. Other topics studied include the statement of cash flows, financial statement analysis, and managerial accounting concepts and principles. Prerequisite:

BUS 214 Introduction to Business Quantitative Methods | 3 Credit Hours
This course introduces basic business quantitative concepts to students. Basic business math, banking practices, trade discounts, markups and markdowns, breakeven analysis, payroll, credit installment purchases, mortgage finance vs. refinance, simple and compound interest calculations, annuities and sinking funds, interpretation of financial reports, depreciation, inventory, taxation, insurance, and an understanding of the elements of the stock market are included in the course. Students are introduced to basic business statistics and the use of advanced Excel in the course.

BUS 251 Legal Environment and Contract Law | 3 Credit Hours
This course examines the sources and origins of law and the legal system, legal processes, and fundamental legal principles, with an emphasis on the obligations of parties to a contract.

BUS 328 Principles of Marketing | 3 Credit Hours
Students learn the buying, selling, transporting, and storing functions involved in marketing, with an introduction to retailing, wholesaling, and marketing management.

BUS 335 Production Operations Management | 3 Credit Hours
This course explores a wide variety of production and operations management topics. Topics include operations strategy and competitiveness, product design, process selection, quality management, capacity management, Just-in-Time (JIT) production systems, facility location and layout, supply chain management, operations scheduling, and the production planning process. Prerequisites: ACCT 232, STAT 210

BUS 339 Business Finance | 3 Credit Hours
Students examine the sources and management of funds used to finance assets. Strategies and tools are presented in the areas of financial analysis and planning, working capital management, capital budgeting, and long-term financing. Prerequisite: ACCT 232

BUS 373 Organizational Behavior | 3 Credit Hours
This course presents the foundations of the history, theory, and applications of organizational behavior in the areas of personality, stress, motivation, job design, goal setting, learning theory, behavior modification, group behavior, power, leadership, organizational structure, decision-making, and control.

BUS 480 International Business | 3 Credit Hours
Students learn contemporary business and management practices in multi-national market environments with emphasis on cultural, financial, and marketing differences.

BUS 495 Business Policy | 3 Credit Hours
This course requires students to demonstrate the ability to analyze a firm's internal and external environments and to apply concepts, theories and analytical models related to the formulation and implementation of business-level and corporate-level strategies through critical thinking and problem solving. The student communicates solutions to case scenarios both in writing and through oral 279 presentations. The influence of other functional areas on strategic thinking

emphasizes teaching students the linkage between strategic problems, management interpretations, solutions, and firm performance. This senior level seminar is the capstone experience and senior competency course for Business Administration students and should be taken in the last year of study. Prerequisite: Senior Standing

CMIS 300 Information Systems Management | 3 Credit Hours
This course introduces concepts of systems management from a business viewpoint and an information systems viewpoint. Students utilize graphical tools including flowcharts to examine business and information systems processes. Fundamental programming concepts are introduced including algorithms, data types, control structures and Boolean logic. An overview of project management including critical path and dependencies is introduced.

OPTION 1: LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT | COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BUS 260 Entrepreneurship | 3 Credit Hours
This course is designed for individuals interested in starting a small business. The areas covered include writing a small business plan, researching markets, raising money, analyzing accounting records, and using information technology.

BUS 331 Risk Management | 3 Credit Hours
This course introduces students to the study of risk management and insurance.

BUS 353 Organizational Ethics | 3 Credit Hours
This course applies ethical concepts and principles to moral issues in business: corporate responsibility, discrimination, advertising, competition, whistleblowing, trade-secrets, multinationals, environment, workers' rights, government regulation, investment, bribes, product liability, and consumerism.

BUS 365 Leadership Theory and Practice |3 Credit Hours
This course offers a theoretical view and practical approach to studying leadership. Conceptual-based aspects will include introducing various leadership styles, tactics, and theories. For practical application, students will also have the opportunity to learn more about their own tendencies in leadership scenarios and/or experiences based upon case study work and leadership assessments.

BUS 380 Human Resources Management | 3 Credit Hours
Students will gain an understanding of the basic concepts associated with human resource management and learn how to plan and implement strategies for efficient management of a firm's most critical resources - employees. Recruiting, selecting, evaluating, developing, and compensating employees is emphasized, while legal issues, managing in a union environment and contemporary issues in human resources management will also be covered.

BUS 381 Employee Training and Development | 3 Credit Hours
This course is designed to assist students in the study of corporate training. Topics include needs assessment, relevant education theories and program design, transfer of training, traditional training methods, use of new technologies in training, and follow-up and evaluation of costs and benefits of training.

BUS 390 Project Management | 3 Credit Hours
This course focuses on concepts, strategies and software associated with project management and the use of project management in the organizational environment.

BUS 493 Team Design & Performance | 3 Credit Hours
This course examines the design and performance of work and decisional teams including team composition, authority, communication, roles, support, and leadership. This course will prepare the student to be a successful team member and leader by exploring team evolution, self-management, and conflict resolution.

CMIS 340 Foundations of AI in Business | 3 Credit Hours
This course explores the basics of artificial intelligence and machine learning with applications in business. Topics include supervised and unsupervised learning, neural networks, natural language processing, computer vision, robotics, and ethical considerations. Students will engage in hands-on learning using widely adopted industry tools to build and evaluate AI models and applications.

OPTION 2: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND COMPUTER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (CMIS) | COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BUS 353 Organizational Ethics | 3 Credit Hours
This course applies ethical concepts and principles to moral issues in business: corporate responsibility, discrimination, advertising, competition, whistleblowing, trade-secrets, multinationals, environment, workers' rights, government regulation, investment, bribes, product liability, and consumerism.

BUS 390 Project Management | 3 Credit Hours
This course focuses on concepts, strategies and software associated with project management and the use of project management in the organizational environment.

CMIS 210 Essentials of Computer Programming | 3 Credit Hours
This course provides an introduction to programming and algorithm development using contemporary programming language with elements of program structure and subprogram usage. Problem-solving techniques, including stepwise refinement, are applied to problems in mathematics and business with algorithms for searching, merging, and sorting introduced. Contemporary issues associated with programming are also presented to students. Prerequisite:

CMIS 310 Network Administration and Implementation | 3 Credit Hours
This course covers the fundamental principles of data communication and connectivity. Topics include network and protocol architectures, communications media and hardware, networking analysis, and management of network systems. Other areas of study include wireless and mobile networks. Network security is addressed.

CMIS 340 Foundations of AI in Business | 3 Credit Hours
This course explores the basics of artificial intelligence and machine learning with applications in business. Topics include supervised and unsupervised learning, neural networks, natural language processing, computer vision, robotics, and ethical considerations. Students will engage in hands-on learning using widely adopted industry tools to build and evaluate AI models and applications.

CMIS 360 Cyber Security | 3 Credit Hours
Fundamentals of information security are addressed. Current issues as well as historical incidents will be examined to assess vulnerabilities and provide solutions and countermeasures. Topics include identification and authentication, access control, security models, and operating

system integrity. Security is considered from macro and micro scales and from virtual to physical intrusions. Costs, potential liabilities, and other issues with data leakage are explored. This course is designed so students of any major with an interest in Cyber Security may take the course. Prerequisite: CMIS 101

CMIS 410 Web Page Development and Programming | 3 Credit Hours
This course facilitates the development of skills in designing complex web sites. Current issues and design trends are considered as well as the fundamentals of web servers and browsers, and HTML and XHTML. Client side and server-side programming and database connectivity over a web-based connection are explored. Web security and evaluation procedures for websites are covered.

CMIS 420 Database Development and Programming | 3 Credit Hours
This course is a study of the methods used to store and access data. Database models are developed using various software platforms including the usage of Microsoft Access as a RAD (Rapid Application Development) tool. Other topics include a data security, normalization, and database design for Internet interaction.

CMIS 430 Data Analytics in Business | 3 Credit Hours
This course provides an introduction to the principles and applications of business analytics, emphasizing data-driven decision making in organizational settings. Students will examine core analytical techniques including descriptive statistics, data visualization, regression analysis, forecasting, optimization, simulation, and data mining. Through hands-on experience with industry-standard tools, students will learn to analyze real world business data and derive actionable insights. Students will be prepared to apply analytical methods to solve complex business challenges and support strategic decision-making processes.

PRIOR LEARNING CLASS | COURSE DESCRIPTION
COLL 201: Prior Learning/Life Experience Portfolio Development | 1 Credit Hour
Experienced non-traditional students with significant prior learning through workplace experiences have the opportunity to take COLL 201: Prior Learning/Life Experience Portfolio Development, a one-credit class. This course allows students to document their prior learning acquired through experiences, which in turn creates an opportunity to be granted academic credit after faculty review of the respective student's portfolio.

2. Centrality to Role and Mission

The Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration program at Peru State College is grounded in the institution's mission to *"provide students of all backgrounds access to engaging educational experiences to strengthen and enrich communities, Nebraska, and the world."* The Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration is central to this mission by providing an accessible, flexible and high-quality degree option that prepares students for success in their communities and in the workforce. In alignment with this mission and the Nebraska State College System's priorities of accessibility, efficiency, and workforce responsiveness, the program is designed to prepare students for meaningful, impactful careers in business and related fields.

Consistent with the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education's (CCPE) Comprehensive State Plan for Postsecondary Education, the degree reflects Peru State College's response to changing academic, workforce, economic, and community development needs. Peru State College has been a longstanding provider of business education and continues to play

a vital role in meeting regional workforce needs. The proposed program emphasizes both academic rigor and practical skill development, ensuring graduates enter the field with a solid understanding of management and leadership, professional ethics, and evidence-based practices.

3. Evidence of Need and Demand

A. Need for the Program:

The Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration is a fully online pathway for aspiring business professionals seeking career advancement or accelerated entry into the workforce. The 90-91 credit program demonstrates Peru State College's commitment to degree accessibility, student success, and a relevant, intentional program suitable for business professionals prepared to advance into management and leadership roles in the workforce. The program is ideal for working professionals seeking an efficient and flexible route to complete a bachelor's degree in applied business administration while maintaining rigorous academic standards. Graduates of the program will be prepared for local, regional, and national employment opportunities.

Option 1 – Leadership and Management

Multiple labor market studies and official reports highlight the critical need for qualified professionals to fill entry- and mid-level management positions in Nebraska. Data from state and industry sources consistently indicate a shortage of managers in business and manufacturing sectors, underscoring the importance of the Leadership and Management Option as it prepares students for management and leadership roles.

As of early 2026, data from the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) indicates high demand for management roles due to both growth and replacements. "General and Operations Managers" were ranked as one of the top H3 (High Wage, High Skill, High Demand) occupations with an estimated employment of 22,330 for the 2022-2032 period. Management occupations are expected to have more openings from replacements (due to retirements) than from new growth. IT management positions are expected to grow by more than 15% nationally between 2024-2034, with strong demand locally, according to industry analyses (https://neworks.nebraska.gov).

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment in business and financial occupations nationally is projected to grow faster than the average for all occupations from 2024 to 2034. About 942,500 openings are projected each year, on average, in these occupations due to employment growth and the need to replace workers who leave the occupations permanently (https://www.bls.gov).

Option 2 – Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer Management Information Systems (CMIS)

Careers in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer Management Information Systems (CMIS) are in high demand as organizations need professionals who can both develop advanced technologies and manage information systems effectively. Graduates with skills in AI, data analysis, systems management, and business integration are well positioned for long-term career growth in a technology-driven economy. The AI and CMIS Option is a timely, data-informed response to high-growth employment sectors and potential economic impact.

Employment in information technology fields is projected to grow significantly faster than average, with hundreds of thousands of annual job openings and high earning potential, particularly in leadership roles (Computer and Information Systems Managers Artificial

Intelligence Growth Statistics | 2026 Edition). At the same time, AI-related careers are experiencing rapid expansion due to widespread adoption across industries. High-demand roles in data science, machine learning, and AI development are growing at rates exceeding 25–30%, with employers offering salary premiums for candidates with these skills (US Job Market 2026: AI, Salary Growth & Future Skills AI Engineer Job Outlook 2026: Trends, Salaries, and Skills – 365 Data Science).

Regionally, Nebraska's ongoing labor shortages and increasing reliance on automation and data-driven decision-making further reinforce the need for graduates with expertise in AI and information systems. Employers are adopting these technologies to improve efficiency and address workforce gaps, creating additional demand for skilled professionals (Nebraska Data & AI Summit 2026).

B. Demand for the Program:

The demand for reduced-credit, career-focused bachelor's degrees reflects broad shifts in higher education rather than traditional measures of student demand. This alternative degree structure better serves the needs of today's learners by emphasizing affordability, flexibility, and workforce alignment. As such, student demand will likely increase as more reduced-credit degree programs are approved and implemented nationally.

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration program does not replace the 120-credit Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Business Administration; rather, it adds an accelerated, fully online pathway for aspiring professionals seeking career advancement or expedited entry into the workforce.

Current enrollment in the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree program is 329. Of this population, 194 are on campus students. The remaining 135 are online students, many of whom are working professionals. Because the proposed program is designed for working professionals, some online students are expected to shift from the traditional pathway to the accelerated option. An estimated 10% of the current Business Administration student body may be affected, primarily the online students already employed who may find the 90-credit program better aligned with their needs and goals.

Current Enrollment in the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration program: 329

- On Campus Students: 194
- Online Students: 135

The program is fully viable and ready for implementation, with all courses already established and sufficient enrollment capacity. Qualified full-time and part-time faculty are in place and prepared to deliver the curriculum. With adequate marketing and promotion, enrollment in the program is anticipated to increase significantly in the next five years:

Academic Year	Expected Total Enrollment in the Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration Degree
2026/27	5 students
2027/28	20 students
2028/29	30 students
2029/30	40 students
2030/31	50 students

4. Adequacy of Resources

A. Faculty and Staff Resources:
There is no need for additional faculty or staff to implement the Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration degree. Business Administration courses in the proposed program are taught by nine full-time business faculty and several part-time faculty. Academic advising will be provided by full-time faculty and the online academic advisor in the School of Professional Studies.

B. Physical Facilities:
Since this program is offered fully online, there are no anticipated costs related to physical facilities.

C. Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources:
Instructional equipment and informational resources necessary for the proposed online program are already in place and available. Examples include instructor computers and laptops, Internet access and connectivity, a learning management system (Canvas) for course delivery, IT/Computer Services support, and assistance from the Academic Technology department.

D. Budget Projections for the first five years of program:
This new degree offering represents an expansion of Peru State College's academic portfolio; however, the Business Administration major is already established as a traditional baccalaureate program. The reduced-credit format leverages existing coursework, faculty expertise, and institutional resources. With the exception of inflation, salary increases, and marketing costs to be determined, minimal budgetary impacts are expected. Projected enrollment targets for the next five years are expected to promote steady and sustainable program growth.

5. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication

Wayne State College recently obtained Board approval for a Bachelor of Arts/Science in Applied Business Administration; however, the WSC degree and the proposed PSC degree each offer unique and different opportunities to students. Within the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), Upper Iowa University recently launched an online 90-credit Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree. Yavapai College in Arizona offers an online 92-credit Bachelor of Applied Science in Business degree.

6. Program Differentiation (to be completed if a traditional pathway for the major already exists):

The traditional Business Administration degree provides an engaging learning environment that promotes inquiry and prepares students to think critically, communicate compellingly, and act ethically as knowledgeable business leaders. In contrast, the proposed Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration degree focuses on applied, workforce-aligned learning outcomes structured to meet the needs of working professionals and adult learners.

The proposed degree centers on the experiential application of management and leadership skills, explicitly focusing on using core management theories to address actual organizational challenges. It places a strong emphasis on data literacy, information systems, AI foundations, cyber security, and analytics, preparing students to make ethical and strategic decisions informed by technology and data. The proposed program elevates communication and leadership expectations by specifying competencies in interpersonal communication, conflict management, team motivation, and organizational change – all practical skills required for supervisory roles. The proposed curriculum

includes a dedicated focus on innovation, creative problem-solving, adaptability, and continuous improvement as essential workplace competencies. Collectively, these distinctions demonstrate that the Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration degree is intentionally streamlined to support immediate workplace performance and advancement while the traditional program maintains a wider academic scope designed for general undergraduate preparation.

Program competencies are streamlined through 33 credit hours of Business Administration Core Requirements, 30 credit hours of General Studies Requirements, and 27 hours of Option Courses. Students can further accelerate degree completion through the College 201 Prior Learning/Life Experience Portfolio option, which awards academic credit for documented professional experience in business and industry.

7. **Accreditation, Quality Assurance, and Regulatory Considerations**

The Business Administration Program at Peru State College is institutionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and does not require separate programmatic accreditation. The proposed reduced-credit bachelor's degree meets all applicable HLC standards and adheres to the same quality assurance processes as the traditional program.

By emphasizing applied management, data-informed decision-making, and essential business technologies, the Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration enhances students' preparation for professional certification pathways aligned with current workforce expectations. The proposed degree is a solid pathway to the 120-credit Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Business Administration with the completion of 30 additional credit hours.

8. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education

The proposed program demonstrates direct alignment with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education by advancing statewide goals related to educational attainment, cost-effectiveness, and access to high-quality postsecondary learning opportunities.

As an additional educational opportunity, the proposed Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Administration program at Peru State College supports Nebraska's Educational Attainment Goal that at least seventy percent of 25- to 34-year-old Nebraskans have a degree, certificate, diploma, or other postsecondary or industry-recognized credential with economic value by 2030 (Legislative Resolution 335, 107th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2022).