



Student Trustee Guide – Why Apply

Written by 2025-26 Student Trustees Robynne McMaster (WSC), Austen Janssen (PSC), and Samantha Hill (CSC)

The purpose of this guide is to provide you with information on the roles and experiences of a Student Trustee. If you are applying, are considering applying, or know someone who would excel in this role, this is for you!

What Does it Mean to be a Student Trustee for the Nebraska State College System (NSCS)

This position allows you to be a liaison between the Nebraska State College System and the college that you attend.

You are the bridge between the college system and your college. You have the opportunity to share what is occurring on campus with the Board Members who manage and change policies that affect the State Colleges.

What Is the Role of a Student Trustee

Advocate:

The NSCS system exists to support the three State College communities. Your position allows you to advocate for change for the betterment of students across the entire system. Identifying issues, breaking them down, and sharing your ideas with your fellow Student Trustees and board members is a massive part of your role.

Changemaker:

Being in this role gives you an opportunity to work with your fellow Student Trustees to propose your own initiative to improve the State College system. Student Trustee initiatives can include offering your input on existing policies, encouraging board members and staff with the NSCS to adopt a new policy, or an initiative that does not involve policy changes but brings awareness to an issue.

Representative:

Beyond policy, what might be considered your most important role is to provide a firsthand account of the student experience for the board through your report on the college's well-being and events.

Why Should You Apply

You should apply if you are interested in being involved in the college community at your institution, aiding the student population, and making connections across the state. All these things come from this position. You can grow as a leader and individual within this role. It is our recommendation that you deeply consider applying, as the benefits are abundant.

Testimonials



I loved everything regarding the Student Trustee Position. I have learned a significant amount about the State College System, and how my sister colleges function. This role has helped me develop as a student leader, while also creating new relationships and contributing back to Peru State College. Life is all about opportunities, and if you don't take advantage of an amazing opportunity like this, you're missing out!

Austen, 2025-26 Student Trustee



The opportunity to serve as a Student Trustee cannot be fully encompassed in a couple of sentences. It has taught me what it means to collaborate with people who keep you accountable while pushing you to do your best. It taught me to balance professionalism and the overall enjoyment of the process. Furthermore, it has taught me to trust myself, find new avenues when obstacles present themselves, and enjoy every moment; the year you spend in this position is fleeting but overwhelmingly impactful.

Robynne, 2025-26 Student Trustee



Being a Student Trustee has allowed me to become more confident and professional. I have gained a lot of knowledge about CSC but also about the other colleges in the system. I have appreciated the relationships I have built, experiences I have gained, and the new-found confidence I must approach my professional career with. If you are looking to jump forward in your academic career and build life-long skills, this opportunity is going to be the best option to do so.

Samantha, 2025-26 Student Trustee

How to Apply

- ◆ Complete an application. Available at: <https://www.nscs.edu/board/student-trustee>
- ◆ Provide three (3) faculty, students, or administrators (not including the president or senior student affairs officer).
- ◆ Submit a one-page statement addressing: What contributions do you believe a Student Trustee should make to their College and the Nebraska State College System, and why do you want to be a Student Trustee?

What to Know About the Process

Once you have submitted your application to the Vice President of Student Affairs (VPSA) or Dean of Student Affairs, all that you will have to do is wait.

- ◆ A committee will be formed by the current Student Trustee to review all applications and rank the top three applicants based on the committee's discussion of which individual best represents the college.
- ◆ After all applicants are ranked, the Student Senate will review and approve the ranking.
- ◆ Once approved, the VPSA or Dean of Student Affairs will submit the top three applications to the Nebraska State College System office.
- ◆ The System Office submits the applications to the Governor for selection.
- ◆ If chosen, your term will begin in the following May. In preparation for your term, you will attend all the weekly meetings of the Student Senate (depending on your Student Association Constitution), all Board of Trustees Meetings, and the Senators' Conference immediately after your appointment.

Benefits of being a Student Trustee

- ◆ Annual stipend of \$1,000.
- ◆ Travel expenses covered when attending Board Meetings.
- ◆ Networking opportunities with Board Members, policymakers, and stakeholders.

Questions

Many individuals, including those at the system office, your respective Dean of Student Affairs, and Student Trustees, would love to help you. Below are some of them who would be happy to guide you through the process.

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