Graduate studies at UNL are organized and conducted according to the rules and bylaws of the Graduate College of the University of Nebraska. The UNL Dean for Graduate Studies is responsible for coordinating and administering graduate-level programs and policies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This Dean also maintains a close liaison relationship with the Executive Dean of the Graduate College of the University of Nebraska.

The governance of graduate programs that are principally lodged at UNL is by and through the graduate program committees and the UNL Graduate Council, in accordance with the policies and regulations of the University-wide Graduate College. The UNL Graduate Council serves as an advisory body to the Dean for Graduate Studies. The Council is composed of eight Graduate Faculty and two graduate students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.