Parent AND Family GUIDE

Northwestern
DEAR WILDCAT PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS,

On behalf of the whole Northwestern community, I express my heartfelt best wishes for the 2017–18 academic year and beyond. We anticipate that your Wildcat family pride will be great from the start, and our wish is that it lasts long after your student marches in Commencement ceremonies.

This fall the newest Wildcats embark on a journey—symbolically launched by the March through the Arch—that will affect their adult years in profound ways. All of us at Northwestern are committed to making that journey rewarding and fulfilling. As Wildcat family members, you are our full-time partners in this.

Whether this is the first or the fourth time you are sending a child to college, you and your family will have questions about the roles you and the University are expected to play. The goals of this Parent and Family Guide are to address some of those questions and to acquaint you more fully with our community.

As parents and as higher education professionals, my colleagues and I know that families can gain a valuable perspective on the University and its mission through active engagement. We encourage you to be involved members of the Northwestern family and to make the most of the relationships you gain here.

Wildcat families trust University administrators, staff, and faculty to make the Northwestern experience a vital touchstone in every student’s life. I am confident that together we can build a solid foundation for your child’s success and create possibilities now that will bring lifelong rewards.

Best Regards & Go ’Cats!

Patricia F. Hilkert
Director, New Student and Family Programs
A Big Transition

TRANSITION THEORY

Understanding transition theory is one way to understand and be helpful throughout your student’s transition to college. With a strong support system and a few coping strategies, students are likely to have a successful transition.

Schlossberg’s (1984) transition theory proposes that students in transition are affected by three central sets of variables: individual perceptions of the transition, the environments of the situation (both before and after the transition), and personal characteristics of the person experiencing the transition. The theory categorizes transitions by type, context, and impact. Although each student’s transition is unique, for most students, the transition to college is high impact, or very significant.

Additionally, Schlossberg’s transition theory refers to the four S’s of transition: situation, self, support, and strategies. These factors determine a student’s ability to cope with any adjustment, especially one as significant as the transition during the first year of college.

Every student experiences transition differently. For some students, the academic pressures of life at Northwestern may prove the biggest obstacle. For others, homesickness and changes in the social environment surrounding them will cause more anxiety. Others still may experience phases completely different than those mentioned here. While there are patterns, there is not one single correct way to navigate transition.

Regardless of the ways in which your student experiences transition, you can provide support simply by listening, offering encouragement, and reminding your student that change is difficult. Experiencing the ups and downs of the transition to college is not only acceptable, but it is also necessary and normal! Be patient with your students, and remind your students to be patient with themselves.
COMMON FIRST-YEAR CHALLENGES

Passage through distinct phases is part of the first-year experience for most Northwestern students, and most college students in general. Families who know the signs of these phases – the 10 most common are described here – are more likely to recognize when encouragement, straightforward talk, or tacit empathy is called for.

It is important to remember that every student is different. Some students may go through each of these phases in succession, while others will only experience some of the challenges associated with this transition.

Early-summer anticipation. Your high school senior has graduated and starts the summer with a mix of sadness, pride in past achievements, and anticipation.

Midsummer anxiety. When it dawns on students that in a few weeks they will be leaving their homes, families, and friends behind, feelings of sadness and insecurity may emerge.

Early-fall panic. Having plunged into Northwestern life during Wildcat Welcome, your student may feel overwhelmed on multiple fronts: a roommate (or two) to live with, a new setting to navigate, assignments to complete in record time, and a mostly unfamiliar social world.

The honeymoon. Students immerse themselves in the heady combination of new friends, newfound independence, and suddenly abundant opportunities for unsupervised fun. They take every chance to prove their worthiness to be at this institution and to enjoy their time here – academically and otherwise.

The honeymoon's over. Where did the time go? Where is all this hard work coming from? Especially for overextended students, the honeymoon ends when questions like these come up. Often, this anxiety may be mingled with regret and homesickness.

The grass is always greener. Now that the novelty of college has worn off and the hard work keeps coming, some students fantasize that transferring to a different school would solve all their problems.

You can't go home again. On their first visit home, students may be shocked to discover that ordinary family life – with its daily ups and downs and choices big and small – has gone on without them, as if their absence had no effect.
Coping behaviors. With fall quarter winding down, students finally figure out how to use the library and stay on top of their laundry. These exciting (if small) victories prove they know and can do whatever it takes to get by.

Realization. Around winter quarter, and possibly triggered by reaching another Reading Week (as the time before final exams and deadlines is known at Northwestern), students have a major realization: An enormous amount of hard work is ahead, not just between now and the end of the quarter or the end of the year. Their whole future, it seems, hinges on consistent academic success.

Putting it together. By the end of their first year, students start to see college as a total experience. They know that hard work and achievement must be priorities, but there must also be room for downtime and enjoyment of life. Your student commits to making the most of the Northwestern experience, and choosing the scenic route to take through it whenever possible.

Typical Student Worries

Below are seven broad issues that many first-time college students experience. Some students may feel pressure to report that “everything’s great,” even if that is not always true. Because many of these anxieties may be tough for students to vocalize openly, it helps when parents and family members are aware of these concerns.

Reasons for being in college: Why am I at Northwestern? Do I really want to be here? Or is it because others (parents or relatives, teachers, peers) expect me to be?

Separation fears: Can I survive on my own? Will I make new friends? What was I thinking when I chose a college this far from home?

Identity questions: Who am I really? How can I let myself “just be me” if the real me could alienate, disappoint, or even shock friends and family? Do I risk losing their esteem, or my own self-respect?

Social acceptance: How will I fit in? How am I supposed to act around my fellow students and my professors? Do I just follow the crowd when I don’t feel like deciding things for myself?
**Relating to strangers:** Will it be awkward to be with others whose race, class, or values differ from mine? How will I react to people who don’t share my religious beliefs? Is there a limit to how much difference I can tolerate?

**Academic achievement:** Will I excel at Northwestern despite not knowing my way around at first, taking tough courses, and making time to have a social life? What if I can’t keep up? Will professors be sympathetic if I’m struggling? Can I get help without jeopardizing my GPA?

**Figuring out the system:** How do grades work at Northwestern? Can I delay picking a major? Will navigating the financial aid process be a hassle?

**ROLES OF PARENTS AND FAMILIES**

Parental and family support can translate into powerful encouragement for a first-year student. This is the support that sends positive, reinforcing messages:

“**You have what it takes to be responsible.”**

“**You know how to take care of yourself.”**

“**No one knows your strengths and limits as well as you do, and we trust you to get help when you need it.”**
THESE ARE NORMAL GROWING PAINS.
WHEN THINGS DON’T GO AS PLANNED

Fall quarter is over, your student returns home for the holiday break, and the family is enjoying the reunion. For students with a superb academic performance under their belts and a pile of new friends and extracurricular activities to boast, the break feels great; but for those displeased with their grades or their overall Northwestern experience so far, the end of the quarter may seem like the end of the world.

If your student comes home in low spirits, use the break to examine why. You might hear some of the following reasons:

“The demands on my time piled up, while time itself kept slipping away.”

“The less-structured environment was hard to get used to.”

“Some big changes in relationships (with family, high school friends, a former or new romantic interest) caused a lot of stress.”

“Having a work-study job left less time and energy for coursework.”

“I realized my first choice of major was all wrong, and that was demotivating.”

“It’s hard to imagine Northwestern feeling like home. I’ve only finished one quarter, and four years feels like an unbelievably long time to be here.”

First-year students are more apt to view their fall-quarter performance as mediocre when they compare it with their high school record. Such comparisons overlook a simple reality: college-level work and the University’s grading system are more rigorous than any high school’s. It is unrealistic to think that a stellar GPA in high school guarantees similar success at Northwestern. In fact, at the college level, success cannot be measured by grades alone; its meaning expands to include much more than it ever did before.

If the fall was disappointing academically, socially, or otherwise, remember that January marks the beginning of a new quarter, with new opportunities to turn things around. By taking time during the break to plan constructive action – identifying the steps needed for improvement, committing to taking them, and turning plans into actions – your student can enhance the likelihood of a satisfying, successful winter.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Allow your student to figure out how to fit in. There is a wide range of what is normal or okay out there – a surprisingly wide range.

Remember that this is a time of transition. College students often change their minds, and that’s okay. Switching majors – even three or more times – is not uncommon.

Your student might fail at something. Poor performance in a course or rejection from a certain student group are things that happen. A student’s failure in one area may seem like the end of the world, but it is simply a piece of the Northwestern experience. Failure is an opportunity to learn, grow, and improve resilience.

Attempt regular communication, but don’t force it. Don’t be concerned if your student isn’t always responsive. Remember that asking about what’s going on at Northwestern in general is a way to show interest without seeming critical or meddling. Having everyday conversations may reveal specific points of concern more reliably than predetermining a set of talking points.

Expect some tough times. Learning to cope with new people, responsibilities, and ideas may cause your student confusion and discomfort. These are normal growing pains.
Recognizing the signs of a struggling student can be challenging, especially from a distance. To support your student as the next quarter gets underway, it’s important to show interest, which is something quite different from being demanding. Interest says, “I’d like to know what’s going on,” and not, “you owe me this information.” Showing interest in your student’s life affirms that you care, but also that you trust them to make responsible, adult decisions.

WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

At Northwestern, families are partners.

As a parent or family member, you are encouraged to be involved with Northwestern and stay informed all year long. Keeping up with news on the Northwestern home page and through social media, getting tickets to sports events, and attending Family Weekend are all great ways to keep in touch with the University.

New Student and Family Programs (NSFP) sends a quarterly e-newsletter, *Wildcat Family Focus*, and other news and content of interest via the Parent and Family Email List. Instructions for joining the list are found on the NSFP website at [NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ORIENTATION/FAMILIES](http://NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ORIENTATION/FAMILIES).

Each fall, Northwestern welcomes about 1,700 families to campus for Family Weekend. During Family Weekend, parents and families attend faculty lectures on topics ranging from 3D printing to Latino poetry. They have the opportunity to visit with campus leadership, to attend receptions hosted by the undergraduate schools, and to enjoy campus tours guided by the Family Ambassadors. Visitors may attend a football game and interest sessions hosted by campus partners, as well as enjoy various student performances, religious services, and the opportunity to learn more about the Northwestern community. Online registration is open now. Watch for announcements in the *Wildcat Family Focus*.

Northwestern’s website is the best starting point for finding information about the University. Other sources include the quarterly alumni magazine, *Northwestern*, which is mailed to all families of undergraduates, and the student newspaper, *The Daily Northwestern*, which can be found at [DAILYNORTHWESTERN.COM](http://DAILYNORTHWESTERN.COM).
Academics

All six of Northwestern’s undergraduate schools share a common priority – undergraduate teaching and learning – but the campus culture is decentralized, with each school setting the number and type of requirements for its specific degree programs, and with its faculty determining the curricula and approving new programs and courses. In every school, however, there are general education requirements as well as intensive coursework within a major. Cross-school collaboration among faculty and students is common and valued. The scholars and accomplished professionals who make up the faculty integrate their research and professional experience into classroom instruction. As a result, students are exposed to the latest perspectives and engage with professionals excited about their work. Each school also encourages independent student research or creative work with faculty. Field study, internship, and off-campus research opportunities are available during both the regular academic year and throughout the summer. Northwestern also encourages study abroad. Early planning should allow most students, regardless of school or major, to study abroad and still graduate within four years.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Upon arrival at Northwestern, your student belongs to a community of scholars who respect individual achievement and have a fundamental commitment to academic integrity. A statement about academic integrity appears on the University provost’s website at NORTHWESTERN.EDU/PROVOST/STUDENTS/INTEGRITY, and is available as a brochure in the dean’s office of each school. It gives examples of violations which include plagiarism, cheating, fabrication of data, etc., and describes the sanctions that may be imposed following a
violation (grade reduction, letter of reprimand, suspension, denial of honors, or permanent exclusion from Northwestern). Students charged with violations may not change their registration in a course in which a charge is pending or a finding of a violation has been made.

ACADEMIC ADVISING AND PLACEMENT

All new students choose their courses after consulting with an academic adviser. In addition to planning for course registration during advising sessions, students and their advisers take time to think carefully about academic interests and the breadth of opportunity at Northwestern. Placement tests in fields such as foreign languages, chemistry, and math are offered online and should be taken before the start of Wildcat Welcome. Some students may enter with Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate credit or with credit for completing college courses; such credits allow a student to begin with more advanced courses.

COURSE REGISTRATION

New first-year students register for fall classes during Wildcat Welcome, after they and their advisers have agreed on a course schedule. Course descriptions appear in the online Undergraduate Catalog, and quarterly class listings appear on CAESAR, the University’s student information portal at NORTHWESTERN.EDU/CAESAR.

ACADEMIC STANDING

Decisions about academic standing are the responsibility of the faculty of the school in which your student is registered. Academic probation constitutes notice of unsatisfactory performance and may be imposed when a student is not maintaining minimum standards for graduation. Academic probation is intended to be helpful, rather than punitive, and is not reflected on a student’s permanent academic record. The Undergraduate Education chapter of the Undergraduate Catalog – found on the registrar’s website at WWW.REGISTRAR.NORTHWESTERN.EDU identifies some circumstances that might lead to probation.

Students may be dismissed for academic deficiencies when their academic records do not improve significantly during the probation period. (See the online Undergraduate
Catalog for some circumstances that may lead to dismissal.) The cumulative academic record is considered in every case involving academic dismissal. As a matter of general policy, the probationary period for a first-year student may be extended to the third quarter of residence at Northwestern if that appears to be in the best interests of the student and of the University, but not if the student’s record clearly discloses lack of aptitude or flagrant neglect of work.

**UNDERGRADUATE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT**

The Undergraduate Registration Requirement applies to undergraduate students seeking a bachelor’s degree, and the requirement must be met in addition to the degree requirements established by the various school faculties. The URR is predicated on the principle that when a student receives a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern, the majority of the student’s academic work is completed at the University. Students should know all provisions of the URR; questions about their interpretation or permissible URR variances may be directed to the registrar at (847) 491-5234 or NU-REGISTRAR@NORTHWESTERN.EDU, and more information can be found on the website at WWW.REGISTRAR.NORTHWESTERN.EDU.

**GRADES**

The following system is used in computing the grade point average (GPA):

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A–</td>
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X  0.0 Failed to earn credit; missed final exam

Y  0.0 Failed to earn credit; work incomplete

Notations ignored in computing the GPA:

P  Pass with credit

N  No grade, no credit

K  In progress

S  Satisfactory (noncredit course)

U  Unsatisfactory (noncredit course)

W  Withdrawn by permission

If an X or Y is to be changed and credit established, the deficiencies must be made up before the end of the following quarter of attendance.
Examinations
Professors may schedule exams anytime during the quarter, with midterms most often occurring in the third through the fifth weeks; final exams are scheduled at the times indicated in the quarterly class schedule. Permission to be absent from the final examination is given by the instructor and the dean only for cause beyond the student’s control, and is usually secured before the exam date.

Dean's List
The quarterly GPA required for inclusion on a dean’s list varies by school, and ranges from 3.7 to 4.0. Students may inquire in their dean’s office for more information.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
Some first-time Wildcat parents and families whose natural impulse is to provide close oversight and protection find it hard to let their students spread
new wings and take flight... and occasionally lose altitude and/or fall
to earth! But parents and families who come to their student’s rescue at the
first sign of distress deny their child valuable life lessons about facing chal-
lengees and recovering from mistakes.

It is normal for families to wonder how first-year classes are going and to be curious about grades. The best way to get answers is to ask your student directly, phrasing questions pointedly but without prying. Instead of saying, “How’s everything going?” a family member might ask, “What do you like most about Northwestern so far? Has anything surprised you? What are your biggest challenges?”

Asking your students is, in fact, typically your only means of finding out about their academic performance. If you contact Northwestern staff to request information about your student’s grades or compliance with the University’s expectations, you will be overstepping bounds set by FERPA, the 1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. FERPA defines exactly what information in the records – such as grades, enrollment status, and billing for tuition and fees – Northwestern may share with third parties, including parents. In compli-
ance with FERPA, the University does not mail home grade reports; students are solely responsible for disclosing their grades to their family members. Students may download their quarterly grade reports or request they be mailed to them or to their family’s address. For a detailed explanation of FERPA, see WWW.REGISTRAR.
NORTHWESTERN.EDU.

TRANSMITTING BETWEEN SCHOOLS

A student who wishes to transfer from one Northwestern undergraduate school to another must follow guidelines set by the University and by the school. Assistance is available from the Office of the Registrar at (847) 491-5234 or NU-REGISTRAR@NORTHWESTERN.EDU.

TRANSMITTING COURSE CREDIT

Before taking courses at another institution in the summer or during the regular academic year, a student already enrolled at Northwestern must receive approval to transfer credits. Forms for obtaining approval are available in each school’s dean’s office and at WWW.REGISTRAR.
NORTHWESTERN.EDU.
WITHDRAWING FROM NORTHWESTERN

After registering for classes in any quarter, students who wish to withdraw from the University must immediately file a withdrawal form, obtainable from the registrar’s office or the dean’s office of each school. Withdrawal takes effect the day that the completed form, bearing the required signatures, is received by the registrar. Students who have taken the final exam in a course may not withdraw from that course and must take the grade they earned. Students who have withdrawn from the University and wish to reenter must file an application with the registrar a minimum of six weeks before reentry.

GRADUATION AND HONORS

Undergraduates must file a degree application one calendar year before their anticipated graduation. Students in the Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science must file with the school’s Undergraduate Engineering Office; students in the other schools file with the University registrar. An annual University-wide Commencement is held in June, and each school also hosts its own graduation convocation.

Graduation honors are determined by grades in all work at Northwestern. Students in the highest five percent of their undergraduate school class are awarded degrees summa cum laude; those in the next eight percent, magna cum laude; and those in the next 12 percent, cum laude. Graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding talent in connection with a research project or work of an integrative nature may receive departmental honors. Students are nominated by their departments, and the school’s faculty members make the final decisions. Students are selected for membership in certain honorary societies for superior scholarship or other outstanding achievements. The annual Commencement program announces new members of Phi Beta Kappa (arts and sciences); Zeta Phi Eta (communication); Eta Kappa Nu, Kappa Theta Epsilon, Omega Chi Epsilon, Pi Tau Sigma, Tau Beta Pi (engineering); Kappa Tau Alpha (journalism); and Pi Kappa Lambda (music).
Northwestern Life

CAMPUS SAFETY

NW.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/
SAFETY-SECURITY/

Northwestern’s Department of Safety and Security (DSS) is committed to enhancing the safety of our community members. Northwestern University Police, Parking and Transportation, Emergency Management, and Security Systems and Technical Services are all departments within DSS.

Northwestern Police is a full-service police department employing Illinois State certified peace officers. The officers are trained in the same academies as local municipal police officers and provide law enforcement services to both our Evanston and Chicago campuses. The University Police office is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year and may be reached in non-emergencies at (847) 491-3456. Numerous readily accessible indoor and outdoor emergency phones also connect directly with University Police from all parts of both campuses.

Northwestern Police also has a Threat Assessment program called Wildcats Aware where concerning behavior can be referred directly or anonymously.

Theft of unsecured, unattended property is the most frequently reported crime on campus. However, our campus like all others is not immune to other types of criminal activity. Through our crime prevention strategies, transportation options, security technology, and emergency planning, we equip students, faculty, and staff with tools they can use to maximize their safety.

The DSS website hosts safety and security information and tools that our students, parents, and other community members can reference. Information regarding emergency planning, shuttle routes, crime statistics, current crime trends, and the University’s Annual Security Report is accessible on the site. In addition, community members can request a safety presentation, sign up to receive a free bicycle helmet and light, and register their property.
We encourage students and parents to contact our office if they have any questions or concerns related to safety and security throughout campus. We can be reached at (847)-491-3456.

Please note that the University insures only its own property and is not responsible for any property it does not own. Students are encouraged to see if their families’ homeowner’s insurance policies cover theft of belongings on campus.

**CAMPUS LIFE**

**NORTHWESTERN.EDU/CAMPUSLIFE**

Campus Life facilitates transformative experiences with students to explore their potential, engage in community, and contribute to a more just and equitable world. Students who engage in programs, activities and services provided by Campus Life will [or will be able to]...

• Identify personal interests, values, strengths, and identities and use these attributes to positively shape their communities at Northwestern and beyond.

• Hone leadership and relationship-building skills and apply them to strengthen their organizations and communities at Northwestern and beyond.

• Articulate how their co-curricular involvement integrates with their personal and professional goals.

**Fraternity & Sorority Life**

**NORTHWESTERN.EDU/FSL**

Northwestern’s fraternity and sorority community is composed of 42 organizations, including 28 that are housed on campus, nine that are culturally based, and five that are historically African American. About 40 percent of undergraduates belong to a sorority or fraternity. Students who join fraternities and sororities benefit from experiences in community service and philanthropy, scholastic support, social outlets, and leadership development while on campus, and are offered the opportunity to learn and benefit from a network of lifelong members. Those involved in these organizations also have the chance to interact with administrators and other student leaders across campus while working on collaborative initiatives.

**Leadership & Community Engagement**

Leadership & Community Engagement provides educational opportunities for students to understand and develop themselves as leaders to make positive change in their communities. Leadership & Community Engagement
Engagement supports students who are involved in community service and social justice activities, and build sustained partnerships in the community and on campus that will advance student learning, leadership development, and commitment for a just and equitable world.

**Student Organizations & Activities**

Student Organizations and Activities engages students in involvement opportunities to build a stronger sense of belonging and community at Northwestern. We support, advise, and train student leaders in nearly 500 registered student organizations and facilitate on and off-campus programming and entertainment. Students can find a full listing of registered student organizations through Wildcat Connection, which is available at [NORTHWESTERN.CAMPUSLABS.COM/ENGAGE](http://NORTHWESTERN.CAMPUSLABS.COM/ENGAGE)

**COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**

[COUNSELING](http://NORTHWESTERN.EDU/COUNSELING)

Emotional or psychological challenges arise for most students at some point during college. Counseling can be a safe, supportive, and objective way for students to address their concerns. Northwestern’s Counseling and
Psychological Services (CAPS) offers core brief mental health services that include personalized care plan meetings, short term one-on-one counseling sessions, psychotherapy groups, psychiatric and medication consultation, educational programs on various topics, and crisis consultation and intervention. When longer term or specialized treatment not offered at CAPS will best meet a student’s needs, CAPS offers referral services to off-campus providers. CAPS work with students is confidential; only with a student’s written permission or under other limited legal circumstances will anyone outside of CAPS be given information about a student’s counseling. Full-time enrolled students are eligible for CAPS services at no cost though psychiatric services are offered only when a student is in on-going counseling at CAPS. A therapist is on call 24/7 year-round for emergencies. For an appointment, further information, or assistance in after-hours emergencies, students should contact CAPS at (847) 491-2151 or visit the CAPS webpage to learn about the center’s scope of services. [WWW.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/COUNSELING/CLINICAL-SERVICES/SCOPE-OF-SERVICES](WWW.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/COUNSELING/CLINICAL-SERVICES/SCOPE-OF-SERVICES)

**DEAN OF STUDENTS**

The Dean of Students Office is the central resource for student life issues and comprises multiple departments and programs: AccessibleNU, the First-Year Experience, New Student and Family Programs, Northwestern Career Advancement, NUhelp, Off-Campus Life, Student Assistance and Support Services, and Student Conduct. Undergraduates, graduate students, parents, alumni, faculty, and staff who have any questions or concerns regarding student life may contact the Dean’s office at [DOS@NORTHWESTERN.EDU](DOS@NORTHWESTERN.EDU) or (847) 491-8430.

**New Student And Family Programs**

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ORIENTATION](NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ORIENTATION)

The Office of New Student and Family Programs (NSFP) is responsible for First-Year Experience initiatives, which include pre-arrival communication, Wildcat Welcome, continued support throughout the first year, Family Weekend, the *Wildcat Family Focus* e-newsletter, and other programs and services that help acclimate students and their families to life at Northwestern. NSFP is also home to the NSFP Board of Directors — a select cohort of undergraduate students.
who assist the professional NSFP staff all year — as well as the more than 200 undergraduate students who are selected and trained to serve as Peer Advisers for new students or as Family Ambassadors for families attending Family Weekend and Parent and Family Orientation during Wildcat Welcome. NSFP facilitates year-round leadership training and professional development for these student leaders.

**Accessible NU**

**NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ACCESSIBLENU**

AccessibleNU (ANU) facilitates reasonable academic, extracurricular, and environmental accommodations for Northwestern students with disabilities and other conditions. In addition to supporting the self-determination of these students, ANU works to raise campus-wide awareness on issues of access, thus enriching the experience of the University community as a whole. While not required, registering with ANU is strongly recommended for any student who has a physical disability, a diagnosed psychological condition, a severe food allergy, or other such condition because ANU is the proper channel for requesting accommodations if and when needed. Northwestern respects its students’ rights to confidentiality, and no disability-related information appears on transcripts or other Northwestern records. For more information, visit the website, or contact ANU at (847) 467-5530 or ACCESSIBLENU@NORTHWESTERN.EDU.

**Off-Campus Life**

**NORTHWESTERN.EDU/OFFCAMPUS**

The Off-Campus Life office is the first point of contact for students moving and living off-campus. The Off-Campus Life office has one constituency group: Northwestern students. This office works with multiple stakeholders to communicate, coordinate, and refer regarding issues of students’ rights, responsibilities, and resources.

**Student Assistance and Support Services**

**NORTHWESTERN.EDU/NUHELP**

Most students enter Northwestern prepared to manage the everyday stresses of college life. But when unforeseen life events — unexpected illness or injury, a personal or family crisis — or other major disruptions interfere with their academic, extracurricular, or social success, students may turn to the Student Assistance and Support Services (SASS) team for help. SASS fosters students’ well-being by providing referrals and facilitating access to a well-coordinated network of campus and community resources.
Through the online portal, NUhelp, students can report any concerns regarding their own or another student’s well-being, explore health and wellness program offerings, and find sources of academic assistance specific to their school.

**Student Conduct**

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/STUDENT-CONDUCT](https://www.northwestern.edu/student-conduct)

The Office of Student Conduct (OSC) serves as the primary resource for resolving and addressing alleged student violations of Northwestern’s policies, expectations, and standards. The OSC upholds the standards and policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct through providing education and training to the University community and conducting the University Hearing and Appeals System (UHAS). The purpose of UHAS is to cultivate student integrity, civility, respect, and accountability. Additionally, UHAS provides equitable and effective means for resolving situations in which a student(s) or student group(s)/organization(s) may have violated a non-academic standard or policy of the University.

A student may report a concern by speaking directly to an OSC staff member at Scott Hall. Electronic reports may be submitted to the OSC here: [BIT.LY/NUSTUDENT CONDUCTREPORTS](https://www.northwestern.edu/student-conduct). A student may also contact Northwestern University Police or Residential Life staff to report a concern. OSC staff will follow up on all reports to gain additional information or clarifications, and to answer questions from the reporter.

Once reported, an alleged violation of policy, expectations, or standards, will typically be resolved through UHAS’s formal student conduct process. Most allegations are resolved through administrative hearings with an individual hearing officer assigned by the Office of Student Conduct. More severe incidents that may result in a student’s separation from Northwestern are resolved through either administrative hearings with two hearings officers, or a panel made up of trained faculty, staff, and students. Students and families can read the complete procedures on the OSC website.

Parents and families with questions may contact the OSC at (847) 491-4582 or [STUDENT-CONDUCT@NORTHWESTERN.EDU](mailto:STUDENT-CONDUCT@NORTHWESTERN.EDU)

**Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD)**

Northwestern’s community believes that its members share responsibility for promoting healthy behavior. This
includes setting expectations around alcohol and illegal drug that minimizes the risks and harms from substance use or abuse. The University follows state and federal law that prohibits the unlawful use, possession, or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs by University students. As a result, students under the age of 21 may not possess or consume alcohol, and students over 21 are prohibited from providing alcohol to those under the legal drinking age. No student may use, possess, or distribute illegal drugs or controlled substances.

The priorities of an academic environment mean that some of the expectations regarding alcohol and drug usage exceed those of the law. For instance, those who are underage may not be in the presence of alcohol while in the University’s residence halls. Severe intoxication, meaning the use of substances that result in disruptive behaviors or concern for one's well-being, is prohibited, and this policy similarly exceeds Illinois and federal law. The full range of alcohol and other drug policies are available at bit.ly/NUStudentHandbook. Students are strongly encouraged to review the policies to have a complete understanding of the expectations incumbent upon them as members of the Northwestern community.

Northwestern considers violations of its alcohol and other drug (AOD) policies to be an opportunity to intervene and educate students. To that end, students who are found responsible for a violation generally participate in educational programs such as BASICS, an individualized, educational, data-driven intervention program used widely at many colleges and universities. Disciplinary sanctions are also typically issued to students for AOD violations, such as a University warning or University probation. Students may also be expected to complete educational sanctions such as research papers, community service hours, or reflection papers. Northwestern believes that our partnerships with parents and families are important. Therefore, in accordance with federal law, we inform parents of violations of the University policies pertaining to underage use of alcohol and other drugs.
Amnesty through Responsible Action

At Northwestern, the well-being of students is of primary importance. Each student plays a critical role in creating a community of care, focused on the well-being of themselves and their peers. When students believe that assistance for an intoxicated individual (including themselves) is needed to ensure that student’s well-being, it is critical that they take responsible action and seek that assistance. The specific steps asked of students include:

1. Call for help from emergency services or Residential Life staff;

2. Stay with the person until released by responding staff or emergency personnel; and

3. Cooperate with all instructions and requests of responding staff or emergency personnel.

To encourage students to take these responsible actions when necessary, the University will not hold students who take such action (for themselves or for others), or for whom such action is taken, accountable for violations of the University’s alcohol or other drug (AOD) policies. Students may be held accountable for other, non-AOD, policy violations and driving under
the influence. Students may also be required to participate in educational activities such as BASICS. More detailed information about the Amnesty through Responsible Action policy can be reviewed at [BIT.LY/nuamnesty](https://www.bit.ly/nuamnesty)

**CAMPUS INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY**

**NORTHWESTERN.EDU/INCLUSION**

Campus Inclusion and Community (CIC) works collaboratively with the University community to cultivate inclusive learning environments through the intentional engagement with difference. CIC pursues its mission by providing opportunities for dialogue, leadership development, cultural competency education, social justice training, and advocacy. CIC comprises three collaborative areas, focusing on education, engagement, and enrichment.

**Multicultural Student Affairs**

Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) enriches the cultural experience of Northwestern through educational programs and services focusing on leadership, community engagement, identity development, and identity expression. MSA provides service in three spaces on campus: the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (Norris University Center, 3rd Floor), the Multicultural Center (1936 Sheridan) and The Black House (1914 Sheridan). In addition, MSA advises over 60 student groups, including the Asian Pacific American Coalition (APAC), For Members Only (FMO): Northwestern’s Black Student Alliance, and Rainbow Alliance.

**Social Justice Education**

SJE offers workshops and trainings for students focused on topics of inclusion, identity development, and social justice. SJE sponsors the Peer Inclusion Educators (PIE), a student organization that facilitates social justice programming, and Sustained Dialogue, a student-facilitated program that encourages students to engage in conversations across lines of difference.

**Student Enrichment Services**

Student Enrichment Services (SES) works with low-income and/or first-generation students to enhance their academic success, personal development, and professional growth. Through campus-wide partnerships, SES builds an inclusive Northwestern community by engaging students and their allies with programming and dialogue around the low-income and first-generation experience.
EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/FELLOWSHIPS
Students may apply for external fellowships with help from the Office of Fellowships. The staff has expertise in identifying funding opportunities that are a good fit for students. These may include, but are not limited to, such major fellowships as Gates Cambridge, Luce, Marshall, Rhodes, and Truman, as well as the Fulbright Student Program, which funds research and study in 140 countries worldwide. National Science Foundation and other awards programs have underwritten PhD study and research for dozens of Northwestern graduates. Other fellowships match students with policy makers and other professionals in government and international organizations.

FINANCIAL AID

UNDERGRADAID.NORTHWESTERN.EDU
Grants, loans, and part-time jobs are awarded to full-time undergraduate students based on demonstrated financial need. Students must reapply for aid each year and in mid-February are emailed instructions for reapplication, which is usually due May 1. In the event of dramatic changes in their financial circumstances, students not currently receiving aid should contact the Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid at (847) 491-7400 or UNDERGRADAID@U.NORTHWESTERN.EDU.

HEALTH INSURANCE

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/STUDENT-INSURANCE
All degree-seeking* Northwestern students are required to have comprehensive health insurance that meets all of the University’s comparable coverage requirements. (*Students in degree-seeking programs in the School of Professional Studies are exempt from this requirement.) To this end, all insurance-eligible students are defaulted into the Northwestern University Student Health Insurance Plan (NU-SHIP) every year; the annual premium is billed to students’ accounts at the same time tuition and other fees are charged. Students must confirm or waive their NU-SHIP enrollment via the online Coverage Selection Form in CAESAR, during the applicable open enrollment period (for students entering/returning to Northwestern in fall quarter 2017, open enrollment runs from July 1-Oct.1; students whose first registration in the 2017-18 academic year occurs in winter, spring, or summer quarter should review the Student Health Insurance website for their relevant open enrollment period.).
In keeping with a mandate set by the provost, Northwestern requires international students—students holding an F-1 or J-1 U.S. visa—to maintain enrollment in the NU-SHIP for the entire time they are pursuing their studies at Northwestern.

Students who are covered under alternate insurance plans and wish to waive their NU-SHIP enrollment should review the University’s comparable coverage requirements to ensure their coverage provides all required benefits. Students (and their families) are encouraged to download the Comparable Coverage Checklist to determine if their plan qualifies to waive the NU-SHIP. Students who intend to use the NU-SHIP for their coverage should confirm their enrollment in CAESAR as soon as possible, to ensure access to all benefits at the start of the new plan year (Sept. 1). Students who do not confirm or waive their NU-SHIP coverage by the open enrollment deadline (for most students, midnight CDT on Oct. 1) will remain enrolled in the NU-SHIP for the 2017–2018 plan, which runs Sept. 1, 2017–August 31, 2018, and will be responsible for the $3,856 premium billed to their accounts.

For additional information about 2017-2018 NU-SHIP coverage, confirming or waiving NU-SHIP enrollment, or annual Northwestern insurance requirements, please see the Northwestern Student Insurance website.

For assistance navigating the online confirmation or waiver process; researching alternate plans on the marketplace; or questions related to insurance billing and claims, irrespective of insurance provider (NU-SHIP or private plans); contact the Northwestern Student Insurance office by email or by phone at 847.491.3621 (Evanston campus) or 312.503.1242 (Chicago campus).

**HEALTH PROMOTION AND WELLNESS**

**NORTHWESTERN.EDU/HPAW**

Health Promotion and Wellness (HPaW) is the primary provider of health promotion and prevention services at Northwestern. HPaW supports the academic and personal success of students by addressing wellness issues across the Eight Dimensions of Wellness, including alcohol and other drug use, sleep, stress management, and more. The Wildcats Advancing Total Campus Health (WATCH) peer health education group offers an opportunity for undergraduate students to get involved in delivering outreach programs across campus. This includes the Red Watch
Band bystander intervention program for addressing alcohol emergencies. HPaW professional staff and graduate student interns deliver trainings and outreach programs on numerous health topics and offer wellness consultations for individual students. Students who wish to explore changing their alcohol or drug use may choose to seek out BASICS, a confidential and nonjudgmental exploration with a trained provider. Other health resources and online assessments are available on the HPaW website.

**Center For Awareness, Response, and Education (CARE)**

**NORTHWESTERN.EDU/CARE**

CARE is a confidential space for students impacted by sexual violence, relationship violence or stalking, including friends or partners of survivors. CARE can be an advisor through the Title IX process or assist with academic or housing accommodations or other support. Advocates can provide a space to process, ask questions, safety plan, and learn more about the impact of trauma. CARE also hosts a trauma support group and can connect with legal and medical advocacy, free counseling and support groups on and off campus. For staff and students who would like to learn more about preventing these forms of violence and promoting healthy sexuality CARE offers extensive training and education on these topics through peer and professional education.

**HEALTH SERVICE**

**NORTHWESTERN.EDU/HEALTH SERVICE-EVANSTON**

Located in Searle Hall on the Evanston campus, the Northwestern University Health Service for students is staffed by primary care and sports medicine physicians, a nurse practitioner specializing in women’s health, and a clinic support staff consisting of nurses, medical assistants, and athletic trainers. The Health Service is a contemporary ambulatory care facility with a pharmacy, laboratory, and radiology department on site. Students registered in degree programs are eligible to use the Health Service with no charge. See the Health Service website for more information.

**INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

**NORTHWESTERN.EDU/INTERNATIONAL**

Northwestern is home to approximately 5,000 international students from more than 100 countries. The mission of the International Office (IO) is to enrich the academic and cultural experiences of those students, as well as those of international visitors, em-
ployees, and families. The IO advises students on the student visa process, transition to college life, and integration into the University community, and offers weekly walk-in hours, fall orientations, and a wide range of programming throughout the academic year.

NORRIS UNIVERSITY CENTER

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/NORRIS

With its variety of services, resources, and meeting spaces, Norris University Center is an essential element of community and leadership at Northwestern. It is the headquarters of the Campus Life office, Fraternity and Sorority Life, and numerous student organizations that provide leadership opportunities for students. Each quarter, Norris also offers Mini Courses that are fun, educational, and open to everyone. The Game Room, ARTica Studios, and Norris Outdoors provide space and resources for many forms of recreation, including the latest high-tech gaming systems, art supplies, and outdoor equipment for rent. Among the range of meal and snack sources at Norris are Frontera Fresco, Dunkin’ Donuts, Starbucks, The Kiln, Subway, Willie’s Food Court, and a convenience store. Other in-house amenities include a printing station, a prayer and meditation room, the commuter student lounge, and a full-service U.S. Bank. The Norris Bookstore sells textbooks and campus gear, and the Norris Tech Center, an Apple-authorized campus store, offers Apple products and other user support services.

NORTHWESTERN CAREER ADVANCEMENT

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/CAREERS

Northwestern Career Advancement (NCA) provides a full spectrum of career counseling and advising services, workshops, programming, and special events for undergraduate and graduate students. It aims to help students translate their Northwestern education into professional opportunities, including successful job and internship searches and graduate/professional school admission. Services include: career counseling and career assessments; internship and job-search advising and resources, including industry and company information, application material review, mock interviewing, and advice on salary negotiations. In addition CareerCat, our online system, provides more than 10,000 internship and job postings. NCA also hosts career fairs, information sessions and recruiting schedules for employers.
RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/RELIGIOUS-LIFE

Religious and Spiritual Life oversees religious life on campus and works to create an inclusive and safe environment in which students may explore and grow in their own religious or spiritual traditions. The more than 40 religious fellowship groups on campus span a wide range of faith traditions; these include the Christian Science Organization, Muslim-Cultural Students Association, Baha’i Club, a Buddhist study group, and Campus Crusade for Christ. In addition, there are five campus ministry centers: Canterbury Northwestern, Fiedler Hillel, Sheil Catholic Center, University Christian Ministry, and University Lutheran Center. University chapel services are held on Sundays during the academic year at the Alice Millar Chapel and Religious Center; while generally within the Protestant Christian tradition, the chapel is ecumenical in its approach to worship and programs, which are open to members of all faiths. The center hosts a variety of special services and events, such as Muslim Juma’a prayers and Buddhist meditation, as well as discussion groups, lectures, organ recitals, concerts, and dramatic performances. Chaplains welcome personal conferences with students, either on a drop-in basis or by appointment, and are also available to meet with parents and family members.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Residential Services is concerned with meeting the needs of students for whom the Evanston campus is home: the 3,500 undergraduates who occupy University housing (residence halls, residential colleges, and residential communities). Each residence’s live-in student staff and elected student executive or programming boards provide support and programming to promote community and to encourage each student’s growth and development. A professional full-time residence director oversees the administration of each large residence hall and group of smaller units. Faculty-in-Residence and Residential College Faculty Chairs also provide programming and connections for students living in residential communities and residential colleges. Support for students is available 24/7 through neighborhood desks and a network of student and professional staff who serve on duty.

NORTHWESTERN DINING

DINING.NORTHWESTERN.EDU

High quality, freshness, variety, and convenience are the hallmarks of Northwestern University’s innovative campus meal program. Unlimited buffet-style
dining is offered in five residential dining locations: Allison Residential Community, Elder Residential Community, Foster-Walker East Complex, Foster-Walker West Complex, Sargent Hall, and 1835 Hinman. Residents of halls without on-site dining services may eat in any of these. Menus at each hall vary, with selections that range from authentic ethnic and home-style, to vegan and vegetarian, to deli and grilled-to-order fare with Halal meat available upon request. A Kosher station is also available in Allison Residential Community.

Northwestern Dining has a dedicated campus dietitian for all nutritional counseling needs and offers several programs for students with food sensitivities as well. My Zone is located in every dining hall; gluten-free, peanut-free, and tree-nut-free items needed by students with Celiac disease or food allergies are stored here and prepared by students who need them. These zones give students the ability to be involved in their own allergen-safe meal preparation.

For those who prefer plain and simple foods, the Simple Servings station offers food free from common allergens: peanuts, tree nuts, shellfish, wheat, soy, and milk products. Simple Servings is our allergen-safe, dining option for our customers with food allergies, gluten intolerance and celiac disease. All foods offered are also free from gluten-containing ingredients. Simple Servings staff members are carefully trained to avoid cross-contact with food allergens. Separate equipment, storage areas, utensils and preparation areas minimize, but do not totally eliminate, the chances of gluten and allergens in our Simple Servings foods. Simple Servings is open to anyone and is located in both Allison and Sargent Dining Halls, running seven days a week from lunch to dinner.

For more information on using these zones, please contact our campus dietitian Karen Sechowski at 847-491-DIET(3438) or email diet-food@northwestern.edu. Check out the menu and nutritional information using the Bite App available in the Apple Store or Google Play Store. Enter 5872Z2 to access Northwestern Dining’s specific features.

Additionally, several retail locations on campus—including quick-service cafés, convenience stores, and nationally known franchises such as Frontera Fresco, Starbucks, Subway, Dunkin’ Donuts, and Einstein Bros. Bagels—offer grab-and-go snacks and beverages. See the Northwestern Dining website for complete information about meal plans and rates, menus, nutrition information, and more.
STUDENT ACCOUNTS AND STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/SFS

The University’s Office of Student Accounts is responsible for billing students and collecting tuition, fees, and room and board charges. Due dates are September 1 for fall quarter, January 1 for winter quarter, and April 1 for spring quarter. A University-run payment plan called 9PAY allows participants to spread the costs of tuition and fees for the academic year over nine monthly payments beginning in July. 9PAY applications are due June 1, and the only cost is a $50 application fee. Students may view their student account information and have access to eBill and ePay by logging into CAESAR, which is also where they can authorize third parties (such as parents) to view bills and make payments online.

TRANSPORTATION

Biking

The Evanston campus has 2½ miles of bicycle paths that connect to the city of Evanston’s bicycle paths. Bicycles stored on campus must be registered with University Police and kept in designated areas such as bicycle racks and bicycle storage rooms. Bicycles stored in unauthorized areas may be removed at the owner’s expense.

Car Sharing

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/USERVICES/TRANSPORTATION

Northwestern has partnered with Zipcar to offer students the convenience of car ownership without the hassle and expense of bringing a car to campus. Both companies offer student discounts, and membership includes gas and insurance.

Parking Permits

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/UP/PARKING

Due to campus space constraints, the purchase of Northwestern’s $25 Ryan Field parking permit (valid for the whole year) is recommended for students who require off-street parking for extended periods. (Almost all of Evanston’s on-street parking near campus is for residents only or limited to two hours for visitors.) CTA bus #201 provides service between the parking lot and the main Evanston campus free with a valid Wildcard. Ryan Field parking is limited to time periods of fewer than 5 consecutive days, and all vehicles must be removed from the lot on the days of home football games.
Safe Ride
NORTHWESTERN.EDU/SAFERIDE
Safe Ride provides students, faculty, and staff with a safe and free alternative to walking alone after dark. Operating from 7 p.m. until 3 a.m. seven days a week when classes are in session, Safe Ride’s service is available on campus as well as in selected parts of Evanston. Rides are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis and may be requested by phone call or text.

Shuttles
SHUTTLE.NORTHWESTERN.EDU
Northwestern operates several shuttle buses during the academic year which are free for students and make stops on the Evanston and Chicago campuses, as well nearby shopping centers. A real-time bus tracking application for web and mobile use shows the location of the shuttles on each route and estimates each shuttle stop’s wait time.

UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER
NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ADVISING-CENTER
UAAC’s services focus on supporting NU students interested in careers in medicine and health-related professions. UAAC advisers help students explore options aligned with their personal interests and life goals, in preparation to apply to any of the medical or health professions programs. Advising services revolve around coursework, standardized exams (MCAT, DAT, PCAT, etc.), application timelines, personal statements, and the experiential components necessary for a competitive application. The UAAC offers group and individual advising sessions and hosts workshops and presentations featuring admissions officers from medical and health professions programs. Introductory information sessions have also been designed to give first-year students an overview of the pre-med student experience at Northwestern.

*Please note, the University Academic Advising Center (UAAC) will undergo a name change in the near future, to better reflect our focus on advising students interested in or pursuing a career in medicine or the health professions. All existing contacts and links will be redirected, as appropriate.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
NORTHWESTERN.EDU/LIBRARY
With multiple locations serving all of Northwestern’s campuses, University Libraries are home to more than 6 million volumes, including Northwestern’s renowned African studies, music, and transportation libraries. The libraries offer services
and instruction sessions to help students navigate resources, and library staff include a librarian for first-year students and librarian-specialists in more than 65 subjects. Open until 3:00 a.m. on most nights (and 24 hours a day during final exams), University Library, Deering Library, and Mudd Library (currently under renovation) provide a variety of spaces for quiet study and collaborative group work, including many with access to computers, printers, scanners, and media software.

**WILDCARD**

**NORTHWESTERN.EDU/WILDCARD**
The Wildcard is the official identification card for Northwestern students. Safe, convenient, and easy to use, the Wildcard enables students to access their meal plan; ride University shuttles and use campus fitness facilities for free; get free or discounted admission to sports and other events on campus; check out library materials; use Cat Cash for purchases at convenience stores on campus; and get discounts at local businesses. When linked to a U.S. Bank account, a Wildcard may be used as an ATM/debit card.

**WOMEN’S CENTER**

**NORTHWESTERN.EDU/WOMENSCENTER**
The mission of Northwestern’s Women’s Center is to address issues of gender equity individually and institutionally. In addition to serving as a safe haven and gathering place for women, students, staff, and faculty, the center provides educational programming, advocacy, outreach and coalition building, resource referrals, and other services.

**THE WRITING PLACE**

**WRITING.NORTHWESTERN.EDU**
The Writing Place, located in University Library’s North Tower, is a writing resource center. In-person and online appointments are available with Writing Place tutors – students with superior writing skills who are trained to help their peers at all stages of the writing process, from narrowing a topic and formulating ideas to evaluating and revising rough drafts. The School of Professional Studies (SPS) Writing Place serves students on the Chicago campus.
Willie’s Wildcat Tips

STAYING UP TO SPEED
This booklet is your go-to guide for all the basics, but life at Northwestern is fast-paced and full, which means you may want to stay in touch throughout your student’s time at college. Here’s how!

Wildcat Family Focus
If you are not already signed up to receive this quarterly newsletter from New Student and Family Programs, you can do so at NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ORIENTATION/FAMILIES.

Social Media
Find the latest news and information at NORTHWESTERN.EDU.
Some of Northwestern’s official social media accounts include:
Facebook - FACEBOOK.COM/NORTHWESTERNU
Twitter - TWITTER.COM/NORTHWESTERNU

YouTube - YOUTUBE.COM/NORTHWESTERNU
Instagram - INSTAGRAM.COM/NORTHWESTERNU

Family Weekend
Each fall, New Student and Family Programs invites all parents and families of Northwestern students to campus for Family Weekend. Visitors have the chance to attend special classes, a football game, and various student performances. Most importantly, families have the opportunity to spend time with their students!
For more information about Family Weekend, visit NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ORIENTATION/FAMILIES.
The Lingo

As your student becomes immersed in the Northwestern community, you might hear some new words or phrases you don’t recognize. Here is a miniature “cheat sheet” for some of the most common Wildcat lingo.

**Bienen** = Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music

**The Daily** = *The Daily Northwestern*, the student newspaper

**DM** = Dance Marathon, the 30-hour dancing extravaganza that raises funds for charity each year, usually held the first weekend in March

**Dillo Day** = Armadillo Day, an all-day event in late May that features live music, games, and other fun on the Lakefill

**Distro** = Distribution requirement, a course mandatory for degree completion

**FA** = Acronym for Family Ambassador, one of 30 students who assist with the execution of Parent and Family Orientation, Wildcat Welcome, and Family Weekend, and interact with family members throughout these programs

**McCormick** = McCormick School of Engineering

**Medill** = Medill School of Journalism, Media, and Integrated Marketing Communications

**Morty** = Morton Owen Schapiro, Northwestern University’s 17th president

**Norbucks** = The Starbucks on the first floor of Norris University Center

**PA** = Acronym for Peer Adviser, a student-mentor who supports a group of students within their school (their PA group) throughout their transition to Northwestern

**Plex** = Foster-Walker Complex, the largest student residence

**Reading week** = Week before final exams when Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (WCAS) holds no classes

**The Rock** = Baraboo quartzite boulder near University Hall that students have repainted countless times since the 1950s

**SoC** = School of Communication

**SESP** = The School of Education and Social Policy, pronounced as “SESS-pee,” not “sesp”

**Weinberg** = Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences
SCHOOL SPIRIT

Fight Song

Go! U Northwestern!
Break right through that line.
With our colors flying,
We will cheer you all the time,
U! Rah! Rah!

Go! U Northwestern!
Fight for victory,
Spread far the fame of our fair name.
Go, Northwestern! Win that game!

(Yell) Go, Northwestern, go!
(Yell) Go, Northwestern, go!
Hit ’em hard! Hit ’em low!
Go, Northwestern, go!

Go! U Northwestern!
Break right through that line.
With our colors flying,
We will cheer you all the time,
U! Rah! Rah!

Go! U Northwestern!
Fight for victory,
Spread far the fame of our fair name.
Go, Northwestern! Win that game!

Words and music by Theodore Van Etten, class of 1913
Alma Mater

Hail to Alma Mater!
We will sing thy praise forever;
All thy sons and daughters
Pledge thee victory and honor.
Alma Mater, praise be thine,
May thy name forever shine!
Hail to Purple! Hail to White!
Hail to thee, Northwestern!

Words by Thomas Tyra,
class of 1954
# Dates and Contacts

## FALL 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Student Orientation (Wildcat Welcome)</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>September 11, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall classes begin</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>September 19, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving vacation begins 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>November 22, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes resume</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>November 27, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall classes end</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>December 2, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall exams begin</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>December 4, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall exams end</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>December 9, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## WINTER 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration; Winter classes begin</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>January 8, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr Day (no classes)</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>January 15, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter classes end</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>March 17, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter exams begin</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>March 19, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter exams end</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>March 24, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information and to view future academic calendars, visit [WWW.REGISTRAR.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/CALENDARS](http://WWW.REGISTRAR.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/CALENDARS).
### SPRING 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passover begins</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>March 31, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>April 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration; Spring classes begin</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>April 3, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Day (no classes)</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>May 28, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring classes end</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>June 9, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring exams begin</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>June 11, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring exams end</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>June 16, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>June 22, 2018</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### SUMMER 2018

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin; Late Registration</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>June 25, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence Day (no classes)</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>July 4, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six-week session ends</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>August 4, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight-week session ends</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>August 18, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten-week session ends</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>September 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TUITION DUE DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>September 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>January 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>April 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>June 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>