Northwestern isn’t just a compass point on a map. Here, it’s a mindset. A Northwestern Direction is a journey that each one of us creates and defines as our own. There’s always a new adventure, a new idea, and a new discovery—no matter what path you pursue.

If you want to find what’s next and see how far you can go, Take a Northwestern Direction.

Join us on campus or let us come to you.

The best way to get to know what student life is like is to experience it for yourself. Schedule a visit and spend the day touring the University, or stay for the night on campus and also explore Evanston and Chicago with a student. Or let us come to you:

- attend an information session in your area.
- spend the day touring the University and Chicago with a student. Or let us come to you:
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- let us come to you.

admissions.northwestern.edu/visit
northwesternadmissions.tumblr.com
admissionblog.northwestern.edu
youtube.com/user/NorthwesternU
facebook.com/NorthwesternU
youtube.com/user/NorthwesternU

Email: ug-admission@northwestern.edu
Phone: 847-491-7458; Office of the Provost,

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facebook.com/NorthwesternU
twitter.com/NorthwesternU

Email: ug-admission@northwestern.edu
Phone: 847-491-7458; Office of the Provost,
AND IS IN OUR DNA
8,000 undergrads
8,000 grad students.

Big city
quintessential college town.

Leading-edge arts
leading-edge science.

Theory
application.

World-renowned research
professors who know your name.

Academic excellence
Big Ten athletics.

Close-knit community
global presence.
Can you stray off the beaten path yet remain on the road to success? You can when you take a Northwestern Direction.
Here’s the starting point. Find a major (or two).

Visit admissions.northwestern.edu/academics/majors-minors to use our major-match tool to search for majors and minors that align with your interests.
Set a unique course for your care
Step outside your major and stand out from your competition with special programs, minors, and certificates.

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Premed student \ Member of Bhangra folk dance team \ Loves stargazing at Northwestern’s Dearborn Observatory \ Pursuing a career in healthcare policy reform \ Volunteered in clinics in India \ Economics and political science major \ Legislative analyst for City of Evanston \ Feels “childlike glee” when he visits Chicago’s Shedd Aquarium

Vineet Aggarwal ’16

Visit weinberg.northwestern.edu to learn more about how students like Vineet are preparing to lead lives characterized by intellectual curiosity, professional success, a commitment to social justice and equity, and a love of lifelong learning.
Northwestern has had such a huge impact on my personal and professional development. I appreciate the ability to study a wide range of fields simultaneously. It’s made me into the analytical, compassionate, and open-minded individual I am today.”
Hacking the Nervous System

Elizabeth McTighe’s Northwestern Direction

1. Start at the Segal Design Institute.
2. Solve a problem for the Feinberg School of Medicine.
3. Collaborate with a biomedical engineering capstone team.
4. Work with a mentor at Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management to learn how to lead the industry.

Working as a Segal Design Institute intern, and in conjunction with a biomedical engineering capstone team, I’m helping to develop a medical device to monitor a patient’s nerves during surgery. I’m also participating in a Center for Leadership program in which a Kellogg mentor is helping me develop and apply leadership skills that are compatible with my personality. Along with three friends, I founded a club that focuses on interdisciplinary, independent design projects. I really appreciate that Northwestern is so much more than an engineering school.”

Elizabeth McTighe ’17
Visit mccormick.northwestern.edu to learn more about how students like Elizabeth are using creativity, teamwork, and innovative design to engineer a better world.
Well Rounded, Well Grounded
There are plenty of opportunities to branch out beyond your major both in and outside the curriculum, allowing you to sculpt yourself into whatever you aspire to be.”

Treyvon Thomas ’17

School of Communication

1,200 undergraduates

6 majors

Opportunity to study across all five departments with modular curriculum

40+ student theater productions each year

37 courses in writing for the screen and stage each year

27 research labs

89.3 FM

WNUR, our award-winning student-run radio station

Visit communication.northwestern.edu to learn more about how students like Treyvon are following their passions and preparing to be leaders in the communication arts and sciences.
Bienen School of Music

400+ undergraduate students

300+ concerts each year by guest artists, faculty, and 16 large student ensembles

15 majors and five interschool dual-degree programs

Study abroad at conservatories in Amsterdam, Copenhagen, London, Milan, Paris, and Vienna.

155,000 ft² new state-of-the-art lakefront building

135 practice rooms

Visit music.northwestern.edu to learn more about how students like Malcolm benefit from conservatory-level training at a major research university.
Malcolm Lazarow’s
Northwestern Direction

1. Enroll at a university where you can earn bachelor’s degrees in both music and engineering instead of having to choose between them.
3. Write the scores for several student films.
4. Fly in zero gravity as a member of the Northwestern team at NASA’s Microgravity University Program.

The main thing that stood out about Northwestern was the dual-degree program, which is far rarer than it may seem and truly perfect for music students who have not entirely made up their minds. At almost all other universities, I would have had to decide between music and engineering by the end of my second year; at Northwestern, I am able to study both subjects concurrently.”

Malcolm Lazarow ’17

Dual Degrees, Singular Focus
Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications

640+ undergraduate students

100+ media outlets in the US and abroad where Medill undergrads complete their Journalism Residency

22 countries that Medill students call home

73% of Medill students graduate with a double major, minor, or certificate.

Unique global experiences through residency, research trips, study abroad, and global reporting grants

"The professors here really do make time to meet with their students and give actual advice. Sarahmaria and my other professors and advisers are sincerely interested in my development as a student, a journalist, and a person."

Mariana Alfaro ’18

Visit www.medill.northwestern.edu to learn more about how students like Mariana are training to become future global leaders who will thrive in and help shape a new media landscape.
Even before Daily Northwestern assistant campus editor Mariana Alfaro (right) officially became a Wildcat, she attended the Medill-Northwestern Summer Journalism Institute as a high school student. Medill’s Sarahmaria Gomez, her adviser that summer, continues to mentor her today.

Alfaro calls the Daily Northwestern a jewel for journalism majors like her. “I’ve learned so much working for the Daily that I consider it my fifth or sixth class,” says Alfaro, who is also majoring in history.

Inspiring bright young journalists like Alfaro is something that Medill lecturer Sarahmaria Gomez finds deeply rewarding. “Medill students are courageous, hard-working, and brilliant,” she says. “They give me great hope for my profession.”
Bright Mind, Big City

Jacob Rosenblum’s Northwestern Direction

1. Through the Freshman Urban Program, learn about Chicago-specific issues and the city’s rich culture and vibrant diversity.

2. Declare a major in human development and psychological services in the School of Education and Social Policy.

3. Work in two psychology labs and discover “how knowledge is created in a university setting.”

4. Give away $100,000 in donated funds to non-profit organizations you and your classmates choose in SESP’s Learning Philanthropy class.

5. Intern at a government relations consulting firm in Washington, DC.

“I’ve learned a lot about Chicago as a student and a counselor in the Freshman Urban Program. The city is incredibly accessible to students. Northwestern runs a free shuttle that can get you downtown in 30 minutes, and the ‘L’ has multiple stops near campus. I get to go into Chicago two or three times a week!”

Jacob Rosenblum ’17
Visit sesp.northwestern.edu to learn more about how students like Jacob are seeking to understand and improve learning at every stage of life and in all contexts.

School of Education and Social Policy

400 undergraduates

The smallest school at Northwestern, offering an intimate and supportive community

5 interdisciplinary concentrations: human development and psychological services, learning and organizational change, learning sciences (starting fall 2016), secondary teaching, and social policy

40% of SESP students study abroad in countries on five continents.

100% of SESP students get real-world work experience through their curriculum.

Visit sesp.northwestern.edu to learn more about how students like Jacob are seeking to understand and improve learning at every stage of life and in all contexts.
What will you get into outside of class?

A few of our more than 450 clubs and organizations

African Students Association
Alianza
Anime Club
Associated Student Government
Association of Biotechnology Students
Catholic Undergrads
Chinese International Student Association
Cirque du NU
College Democrats
College Feminists
College Republicans
Curling Club
Deeva Dance Troupe
Design for America
Equestrian Team
Form & Function Marketing
Hawaii Club
Institute for Student Business Education
Interfaith Initiative
Jewish Theatre Ensemble
Karate Club
Koreans at Northwestern University

Mariachi Northwestern
Minority Business Association
Model Arab League
Muslim-cultural Students Association
National Association of Black Journalists
Northwestern Art Review
Northwestern Formula Racing
Northwestern Sketch Television
Northwestern University Veterans Association
No Strangers to Fiction
OM Hindu Cultural Council
Photo Club
Quidditch Club
Quizbowl
Rainbow Alliance
Robotics Club
Society of Women Engineers
THUNK a cappella
Unity Charity Fashion Show
Veg Society
Wildcats for Israel
Zen Society
No matter what your interest, you can bet there’s a club or an event to match—along with future lifelong friends and memories.

Greek Life
Fraternities, sororities, and multicultural groups
northwestern.edu/gogreek
@NUIFC • @NU_MGC

EPIC
Entrepreneurship networking opportunities, workshops, and business pitch competitions
nuisepic.com • @EPICatNU

Solar Car Team
Supports alternative energy through outreach events and participates in solar car design competitions
nusolar.org • @NUsolar

Campus Kitchens Project
Collects excess food from campus dining halls and creates meals to deliver to the needy
facebook.com/NUCampusKitchen
@NUCampusKitchen

Sport Clubs and Intramurals
Sports from aikido to water polo
www.fitrec.northwestern.edu
@NUFitRec

Happiness Club
Free Hugs and Hot Chocolate, Candy and Compliments, and other events that bring smiles
hcnu.org • @happinessclubnu

BLAST (Ballroom Latin and Swing Team)
Dance classes, competitions, social outings in Chicago, and an annual show
blastnu.org

Explore Northwestern’s clubs and organizations at northwestern.collegiatelink.net/organizations to learn more about our academic, arts, performance, philanthropic, cooking and food, cultural and international, and entertainment offerings.
Our traditions bring us together. And set us apart.
March through the Arch
Led by Northwestern's marching band, incoming students march through the Weber Arch during orientation, cheered on by current students, faculty, and family.

The Rock
The boulder known as the Rock was transplanted from Wisconsin more than 100 years ago. Painting it with colorful slogans is one of our most famous traditions.

Dance Marathon
Since 1975, students participating in Northwestern's Dance Marathon have raised more than $15 million for more than 30 different beneficiaries.

Primal Scream
At precisely 9 p.m. on the Sunday before finals week, students scream in unison all over campus. It's designed to relieve anxiety, and it works!

Dillo Day
Culminating a monthlong Mayfest celebration, this lakefront festival features live bands such as Chance the Rapper, 2 Chainz, Walk the Moon, Wiz Khalifa, Reel Big Fish, B.o.B, and Smash Mouth.

Check out @northwesternu on Instagram to view Northwestern traditions through the eyes of our students.
We’re saving you a seat, though you may never sit down.

Sporting events are a large part of the Northwestern experience—participating in and attending them. Our students are enthusiastic about both.

We’re the only private university in the Big Ten Conference, and our Division I teams have claimed 33 conference championships and 7 national titles in just the past two decades. Our players have been nominated for the Heisman Trophy and have won Olympic gold and Big Ten Athlete of the Year honors. But Wildcats are more than elite athletes; they’re accomplished in the classroom, too. In fact, the last full academic year featured the highest cumulative GPA in school history, a school-record 228 Academic All–Big Ten accolades, and 16 programs with perfect Academic Progress Rates scores.

Follow Northwestern athletics @NU_sports. And visit nusports.com to get the latest news, check scores, see if the Wildcats are playing in your area, and learn more about our student-athletes.
The $108 million, 155,000-square-foot Music and Communication Building features Smart Classroom technology, a 400-seat recital hall, and some of the area’s most dramatic views of Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline. Completed in 2015, the building was constructed with the goal of achieving LEED Gold certification for sustainability.

Welcome to our building boom.

The Garage, an 11,000-square-foot innovation and entrepreneurship space, opened in 2015.
The Evanston campus is home to hundreds of labs, more than two dozen research centers, ten sports and fitness facilities, numerous performance venues, multimedia studios, and a brand-new entrepreneurship hub.
Your Evanston campus. Your 9.5 million neighbors.

Go to admissions.northwestern.edu/visit to explore an interactive map highlighting our students' favorite Evanston and Chicago spots.
The quintessential college town.

Bordered by a Great Lake and an international city.
Unicorn Café
The Unicorn is a campus and community favorite, serving everything you’d expect—coffees, loose-leaf teas, and fresh pastries—as well as its famous vegan soup.

The Mexican Shop
Looking for something funky and reasonably priced for yourself or for family and friends back home? You don’t have to travel the world (the owner’s done it for you).

Dog Beach
At the Chicago area’s largest beach for canines—and favorite hangout for students and locals alike—you can watch dogs chase balls and catch Frisbees (and waves).

The Wiener and Still Champion
An Evanston institution, the Wiener and Still Champion (named by local grade-school students) serves up deep-fried Dippin’ Dogs along with homemade chili, country-fried bacon, and other decadent treats.

Unicorn Café is hands-down my favorite hang in Evanston. In the winter, it’s a cozy hideout, and in the summer you can sit outside and catch up with friends.”
Elisabeth Lusche ’17
Some people only get to spend a weekend exploring Chicago.

You’ll have years.
With just one trip into the city, you’ll discover there’s nowhere quite like Chicago. To get there, catch the “L” a couple of blocks from campus or cruise down Lake Shore Drive. There’s also a free intercampus shuttle, which runs students between the Evanston and downtown Chicago campuses. It’s easy to enjoy one of America’s most vibrant global cities, with world-class museums, shopping, concerts, and shows you won’t find anywhere else.

Here are just a few of our favorite destinations. The best ones are those you’ll discover yourself.
No two Northwestern students take the same journey. But their paths often cross.
Come to Northwestern, and the world comes to you.
8,000+ undergraduates from all 50 states and 70+ countries

Integrate a unique education with a one-of-a-kind experience.

More than 32% of undergraduates study abroad.

Connect with alumni around the globe.
200,000+ alumni, with alumni clubs on three continents

Take advantage of expanded global research and learning opportunities.

$100 million gift to Northwestern in 2015 earmarked for global initiatives

Study from the shores of the Great Lakes or the Persian Gulf.

Campuses in Evanston, Chicago, and Qatar
Endless destinations, one alma mater
Will Butler • He has won a Grammy and was nominated for an Oscar. But that’s not all. This multi-instrumentalist went to Northwestern, too.

Veronica Roth • Roth wrote a *New York Times* best-selling series of novels so compelling they inspired a Hollywood trilogy.

Matt Grevers • Before “Dutch” won silver and gold in Beijing and silver and gold again in London, he swam in purple and white for Northwestern.

Clara Jeffrey • Covering politics, the environment, human rights, and culture are nothing new for Jeffrey, though *Mother Jones* is a bigger stage. She honed her craft at Northwestern.

Cody Keenan • Being the leader of the free world is a good gig. Crafting the messages President Obama delivers to millions isn’t bad either. Keenan left Evanston and found his way to the Oval Office a decade later.

Gwynne Shotwell • It’s not like being president is rocket science, right? Not unless you’re Shotwell, president of SpaceX and graduate of Northwestern.

Mert Iseri and Yuri Malina • *The Wall Street Journal* called SwipeSense 2013’s Startup of the Year. Iseri and Malina founded SwipeSense in 2009 through Design for America while undergraduates at Northwestern.
Seth Meyers
Emmy Award–winning television host

Virginia Rometty
Chairman, president, and CEO, IBM

David Harris
Provost and SVP, Tufts University

Josephine Lee
President and artistic director, Chicago Children’s Choir

You can do anything when you take a Northwestern Direction.

They did.

We could fill a book with all of the amazing and life-changing things our alumni have done and are doing all across the globe. These few pages will have to suffice.

Lisa Franchetti
Commander, US Naval Forces Korea

Michael Wilbon
Commentator, ESPN

Mara Brock-Akil
Executive producer, *Girlfriends*

Andrew Youn
Cofounder, One Acre Fund

Ruben Castillo
Chief judge, US District Court, Northern District of Illinois
Playing It Forward
Studying with a renowned cellist was an opportunity Myrtil Mitanga seized even before she started college. The summer before her senior year of high school, Mitanga came to Northwestern to study with internationally recognized professor Hans Jørgen Jensen.

“During those few weeks I improved so much that I absolutely wanted to work with him for the next four years,” she says. Now, as a cello performance major at Northwestern, Mitanga is doing just that.

She tends to her nonmusical interests as well. A business institutions minor, Mitanga is cochair of the German Undergraduate Advisory Board.

Hans Jørgen Jensen says that he came to Northwestern to guide aspiring musicians who want more than the traditional conservatory preparation. “Being in a university setting,” he notes, “the Bienen School of Music exposes our very gifted students to the best of both worlds.”

“Professor Jensen is full of energy, often mixing advice with a bit of humor. Lessons are intense, but I really enjoy them and there is always a spirit of collaboration. We discuss different approaches and experiment until we find what works best.”

Myrtil Mitanga ’17

“The flexibility built into the curriculum inspires students like Myrtil to have a unique experience and allows them to develop their talents to the fullest.”

Hans Jørgen Jensen, Professor of Cello
Spencer Park is an undergraduate, but he’s working—and publishing journal articles—alongside PhD students in Lincoln Lauhon’s materials science and engineering lab.

“As a member of Professor Lauhon’s research group, I have responsibilities similar to those of a PhD student,” says Park.

Engineering is only one of Park’s academic passions. He is working toward two bachelor’s degrees: one in materials science and engineering and the other in trumpet performance.

Lincoln Lauhon enjoys teaching and mentoring undergraduates. “I like helping students figure out what truly motivates them and finding opportunities that will help them grow and be successful in the broadest sense.”

Our department is an interdisciplinary environment. I have seen firsthand the power of collaboration in tackling grand challenges.”

Lincoln Lauhon, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
The faculty genuinely respect each student’s input because they understand that each person brings a unique perspective to the table.”

Spencer Park ’17
A Matter of Re
I was prepared for college to be a four-year pursuit of great grades, and at first I didn’t consider the importance of extracurricular activities. I’ve gotten a lot more involved on campus than I expected.”

Aditi Bhandari ’17

As historian of Jones Residential College last year, aspiring journalist Aditi Bhandari recorded the daily life of Jones residents and worked with the college’s master to create an online archive. Honing her storytelling skills, Bhandari got “real-life experience in an extremely encouraging environment.”

The Medill junior from Mumbai has also worked on theater productions and served as a peer adviser. She won the Wildcat Excellence Award for Emerging Leaders in 2014.

Jones master Mary Poole, who teaches theater, takes pride in Northwestern’s support of enterprising students. “Students have initiated majors, programs, and even new departments,” she says, “because the University encourages both the individual and innovation.”

I’m fortunate to teach students who are inventive, collaborative, and calm in the face of the chaos inherent in learning and problem solving.”

Mary Poole, Senior Lecturer in Theater
Northwestern encourages individual, interpersonal, and intellectual growth. I had always excelled in the traditional classroom environment, but I wanted more hands-on learning. At Northwestern I have shaped my learning experience to be more engaged and interactive than I could ever have expected.”
Terms of Engagement

Economics major \ Fellow at the Center for Civic Engagement \ Counselor for Project Wildcat \ Relaxes at Northwestern’s Shakespeare Garden \ Interned with a social-good consulting firm \ Volunteers with Arts and Music Programs for Education in Detention Centers \ Research intern at Institute for Policy Research \ Received an Undergraduate Research Grant to study indigenous language maintenance in India \ Loves the red velvet pancakes at the Bongo Room

Steffi Brock-Wilson ’16
Everyone defines success differently.

Here’s how the class of 2014 is defining it.
Where will your Northwestern Direction take you?

To full-time employment? Here are some of the organizations where our 2014 graduates are working.


Or to graduate school? These are just a few of the schools where our 2014 alumni are pursuing graduate and professional degrees.

Caltech  Columbia  Harvard  Johns Hopkins  London School of Economics  MIT  Northwestern  University of Pennsylvania  Princeton  Stanford  University of California, Berkeley  Yale
We make a Northwestern education accessible.
$133,000,000
in need-based scholarships allocated by Northwestern last year

$39,100
Average scholarship for a first-year student

$2,000
to
$62,000
Range of Northwestern annual scholarships

62%
of undergraduates receive financial aid.

All figures are for 2014–15.
We admit the best and brightest students from all over the globe. But we also ensure that affording a Northwestern education is well within reach.
The University meets 100 percent of demonstrated need and offers a wide variety of financial aid packages to make a Northwestern education attainable.

After being accepted, I was really concerned that recent medical expenses would make it impossible for my family to afford the tuition. Work-study, grants, and outside scholarships made it possible for me to attend Northwestern.”

Hazim Abdullah-Smith ’16

I'm a first-generation college student coming from a single-parent household with three younger siblings. Northwestern's financial aid showed me that my dream school would support me every step of the way.”

Darlene Reyes ’15

When I applied here, both my parents were unemployed and there was no way I could have made Northwestern work financially without aid. But my financial aid package has allowed me to get an incredible education without worrying about debt.”

Vince Rinaolo ’17
Admission and Financial Aid: The Details

Mission

The mission of the Office of Undergraduate Admission is to attract and enroll a student body of high ability, one that reflects a variety of talents, ideas, backgrounds, and experiences, thereby contributing to the diversity of the Northwestern community and the enrichment of the undergraduate experience.

Admission Standards

Because we receive applications from many more students than we can admit, the admission committee must make difficult choices. Students admitted to Northwestern must be clearly capable of succeeding in the University’s challenging academic environment. The most reliable predictor of success is strong academic performance at the secondary school level.

Secondary School Preparation

The evaluation of your secondary school transcript is an extremely important part of the admission process. We are not simply looking for high grades; the strength of your academic course schedule is also weighed. The admission committee makes note of any accelerated, honors, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate courses taken.

Every secondary school is different in its level of competitiveness and in the range of courses offered. These factors are also considered in admission decisions.

Secondary School Curriculum Recommendations

Students entering the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Communication, the School of Education and Social Policy, the Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music, and the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications should complete a minimum of 16 courses (most applicants present more) in the following academic areas:

- **English:** 4 full-year courses
- **Foreign language:** 2–4 full-year courses of one foreign language
- **History and social science:** 2–4 full-year courses
- **Laboratory science:** 2–3 full-year courses
- **Mathematics:** 3–4 full-year courses
- **Additional coursework:** 1–3 full-year courses in any of the core academic areas listed above

The Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science encourages strong preparation in mathematics and science. Recommended coursework includes the following:

- **English:** 4 full-year courses
- **Laboratory science:** a minimum of 3 full-year courses; chemistry and physics preferred
- **Mathematics:** 3½–4 full-year courses; calculus preferred, if available; the minimum requirement includes 2 full-year courses of algebra, 1 full-year course of plane geometry, and 1 semester of trigonometry
- **Additional subjects:** 5–6 full-year courses; these should include courses in foreign language, history, and social sciences

Standardized Testing

Northwestern requires results from either the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT Plus Writing. It is also recommended, though not required, that applicants take two SAT Subject Tests. It is recommended that applicants to the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science take Math Level 1 or 2.

Applicants to special admission programs are required to take SAT Subject Tests in addition to the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT Plus Writing. Honors Program in Medical Education applicants must submit the results of the Chemistry and Math Level 2 tests. Applicants to the Integrated Science Program must take SAT Subject Tests in Chemistry or Physics, Math Level 2, and a second science.

Applicants must demonstrate a certain level of English proficiency to ensure that they will be able to complete their degree requirements at Northwestern. Students whose first language is not English or whose schooling has not been in English are required to submit the results of either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

Homeschooled Applicants

Applicants who have been educated at home must submit the results of three SAT Subject Tests—Math Level 1 or 2 and two tests of their choice—in addition to the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT Plus Writing. For students planning to study engineering, Math Level 2 is preferable.

Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Credit

Northwestern awards credit in nearly all areas for Advanced Placement examination scores of 5 and for International Baccalaureate higher-level examination results of 6 or higher. For more information, see admissions.northwestern.edu/faqs/high-school-courses.

Previous College Work

Northwestern recognizes credit for courses completed elsewhere under the following circumstances: courses are similar to those offered at Northwestern; they have been taken at an accredited college or university in the United States or Canada; coursework was not submitted for normal secondary school graduation requirements; and courses were taken on a college or university campus with a majority of college students in attendance.

Other Admission Factors

Each application is reviewed carefully by several members of the admission committee, which seeks information beyond school transcripts and test scores. It takes into account your involvement outside of class, as profiled in an activity chart, and reads your essays to get a better sense of your interests, thought processes, and writing ability. Recommendations from secondary school teachers and counselors add perspective to your achievements.
Early Decision

If you are certain that Northwestern is where you want to enroll, we encourage you to apply under Early Decision. As with all traditional Early Decision plans, you agree to withdraw all applications at other colleges and enroll at Northwestern if admitted. (Students interested in the Honors Program in Medical Education must apply under the Regular Decision plan.)

Applicants who choose Early Decision send a strong positive message to Northwestern. Given their high level of interest and overall academic and personal strengths, Early Decision applicants enjoy a higher rate of admission.

If you are admitted under Early Decision and apply for financial aid, you will be notified of your aid decision around the time of your acceptance, provided your family has filed the College Scholarship Service Financial Aid Profile by December 1. Students admitted under Early Decision may be released from the commitment to enroll at Northwestern only for demonstrated financial hardship.

Cost of Attendance

Tuition for the 2015–16 academic year is $48,624. Total expenses (including books, room and board, and incidentals but not fees or transportation) are estimated at $68,095.

Financial Aid for US Citizens and Permanent Residents

Financial aid recipients come from a wide range of income backgrounds. Families who believe that they cannot meet the cost of a Northwestern education with their available resources (parents’ and students’ incomes, savings, and other assets) should apply for financial aid. Students applying for a second bachelor’s degree are not eligible for Northwestern University scholarship assistance.

The average financial aid award consists of a need-based scholarship, a grant, a student loan, and part-time employment through the Federal Work-Study Program. More than 60 percent of all undergraduates receive some form of financial aid (grants, scholarships, work-study, and/or loans). To learn more about financial aid at Northwestern, visit undergradaid.northwestern.edu.

Scholarship Assistance

In addition to federal and state resources, Northwestern has made a major commitment of its own dollars to provide need-based University scholarships to eligible students. Northwestern awarded more than $133 million in scholarship assistance in 2014–15.

Student Loans

Students are not required to accept a loan or a job, but each is considered a part of the financial aid required to meet their need. Loans are available through University and government sources. Student loans are available to all who apply for federal assistance. Students who do not qualify for need-based federal student loans may be eligible for other federal loans. The neediest financial aid recipients do not have a loan as part of their financial aid award from the University. Students who are expected to borrow funds and who meet certain requirements will have their debt capped.

The Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) is a federal program that allows parents to borrow up to the cost of attendance minus any financial aid. Repayment of principal and interest begins as soon as funds are disbursed.

Work-Study and Part-Time Employment

The Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid offers about 2,100 undergraduate work on campus in libraries, departmental offices, or community service offices. Through such programs students may earn between $500 and $4,000 per academic year. Part-time employment generally involves no more than 10 hours a week.

Other Financing Options

Northwestern participates in the National Merit and National Achievement scholarship programs. To qualify, you must be a National Merit finalist and name Northwestern as your first-choice school.

The Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship program is a source of financial aid for students interested in careers in the US Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, or Navy. Aid can cover all or some portion of tuition, books, and fees and a stipend for four years.

Northwestern’s Office of Student Accounts offers an installment payment option for tuition, fees, and room and board called 9PAY. It allows participants to make their tuition and fee payments in nine monthly installments instead of at the start of each term. No interest is charged, though there is a $50 application fee.

Financial Aid for International Students

Northwestern University offers need-based financial aid awards to a small number of international students. Citizens of foreign countries who apply for financial aid are reviewed as a separate group. The usual selective admission criteria, as well as the amount of financial aid needed by an applicant, are factors in the admission committee’s decision. As a result, Northwestern will not offer admission to some candidates who are otherwise well qualified. For these reasons the admission rate for international applicants requesting aid is substantially lower than for those not requesting aid. Only those students who apply for and receive financial aid for their first year are eligible to receive financial assistance in subsequent years.

International students receiving financial aid from Northwestern must still plan to contribute to funding their educational expenses. For example, students are responsible for travel expenses to the United States from their home countries. Northwestern cannot assume responsibility for economic changes such as currency fluctuation, nor can it replace lost support that a student may have expected to receive from relatives, sponsors, or government and corporate grants.

The most current and detailed information on financial aid for international students, including links to all required forms, can be found at admissions.northwestern.edu/tuition-aid/international-student-aid.html.

Working in the United States

To qualify for a student visa, international students must document, before leaving their home countries, that they have sufficient funds to bear the full cost of their education and livelihood for one year. International students should not plan to support themselves by working in the United States; employment on student visas is extremely limited, and the rules of employment are strictly enforced.
Make a visit. Take a tour. You might want to stay for a while.