

WILDCAT & FAM GUIDE

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME 🍷



2025-2026

Northwestern | STUDENT AFFAIRS
Office of Student Transition Experiences

🔍 IN THIS GUIDE 🔍



01 **WELCOME**

Table of contents

03 **ON-CAMPUS**

Best study stops
In-between classes

05 **AROUND TOWN**

Transportation
Staying in Evanston
Evanston essentials

08 **EXPLORING EVANSTON**

Evanston things to do
Shop local
Wellness in Evanston
Evanston eats
Engaging in your community

13 **CHICAGO**

Exploring Chicago
Chicago Eats
Wildcat Advice



WELCOME ‘CATS!

This is only the beginning.

Welcome to Northwestern University from the Office of Student Transition Experiences. We support undergraduate students by connecting them to people and resources to help them thrive while transitioning to and through Northwestern University.

This guide was created with input from previous students to shed insight to restaurants, grocery stores, things to do and more in Evanston & Chicago while you get settled.

While this guide doesn't cover everything, it's a jumping off point. We're so excited to hear what else you discover on your journey at Northwestern!

Go 'Cats!

The Office of Student Transition Experiences



YOUR FAV STUDY SPOTS

♥ FOR COFFEE ADDICTS ♥

COLECTIVO, 716 Church St, Evanston
COFFEE LAB, 910 Noyes St, Evanston
NEWPORT COFFEE, 622 Davis St, Evanston

♥ FOR LIBRARY LOVERS ♥

EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1703 Orrington Ave, Evanston
LAW SCHOOL LIBRARY, 375 E Chicago Ave, Chicago
MAIN LIBRARY, 1970 Campus Dr, Evanston
MUDD LIBRARY, 2233 Tech Dr, Evanston

♥ FOR THE UNCONVENTIONAL ♥

EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES ATRIUM IN TECH, 2145 Sheridan Rd, Evanston
THE GARAGE, 2311 N Campus Dr #2300, Evanston
THE LAKEFILL, 70 Arts Cir Dr, Evanston
NORRIS, 1999 Campus Dr, Evanston

IN-BETWEEN CLASSES

Whether you have 15 minutes or a few hours, here's a few ideas of how to explore



Have a snack or take a walk on the
Lakefill!



Grab a coffee or enjoy the
beach

GETTING AROUND

With easy access to Campus Shuttles, Public Transit or Airport Transportation and more, getting around Evanston or into Chicago is super simple and affordable.

UNIVERSITY OPERATED SHUTTLES

Free for NU Students, Faculty and Staff download the TripShot app to track!

CHICAGO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (CTA)

The CTA operates buses and the “L” throughout Chicago and Evanston.

The Purple Line “L” makes 9 stops in Evanston to Rogers Park. During M-F rush periods, this line runs express from Linden to The Loop. The #201 bus operates between the CTA Howard station and Westfield Old Orchard mall with stops in downtown Evanston, on campus, at Ryan Field and along Central Street.

If you plan to use public transportation regularly, you may request a U-Pass Ventra card quarterly to ride the CTA route during program dates for a fee. Request a card [here](#).

METRA COMMUTER RAIL

The Metra Electric line makes 3 stops in Evanston (Main St, Davis St, and Central St) to Ogilvie Transportation Center in West Loop

TO THE AIRPORT

O’Hare International Airport

Take the Pulse Dempster Bus Line from Davis Station to O’Hare

Midway International Airport

Take any bus or train to downtown and catch the CTA Orange Line Southwest to Midway from the Loop

CAR SERVICES

Uber and Lyft are widely available. Pay through phone app!

Northshore Cab 847.864.7500

303 Taxi 847.256.0303

American Taxi 847.673.1000

Metro Cab 847.662.6000

BIKE-SHARING

Divvy, the easiest way to rent a bike is through Divvy, a Chicago-wide bike sharing program run by the Chicago Department of Transportation. There are thousands of bikes and stations

STAYING IN EVANSTON

GRADUATE EVANSTON

1625 Hinman Ave, Evanston, IL 60201

(847) 475-3300

10 minute walk to the NU Arch

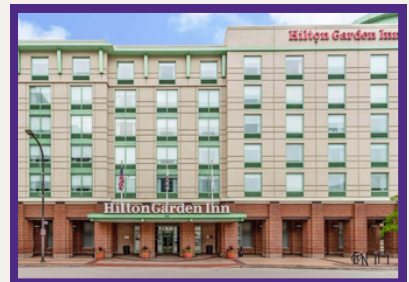


HILTON GARDEN INN EVANSTON

1818 Maple Ave, Evanston, IL 60201

(847) 475-6400

15 minute walk to the NU Arch



HILTON ORRINGTON EVANSTON

1710 Orrington Ave, Evanston, IL 60201

(847) 866-8700

10 minute walk to the NU Arch



HOLIDAY INN CHICAGO NORTH-EVANSTON

1501 Sherman Ave, Evanston, IL 60201

(847) 491-6400

15 minute walk to the NU Arch



HYATT HOUSE CHICAGO/EVANSTON

1515 Chicago Ave, Evanston, IL 60201

(847) 864-2300

10 minute walk to the NU Arch



THE GEM MUSEUM SUITES

1555 Oak Ave, Evanston, IL 60201

(847) 440-4100

20 minute walk to the NU Arch



STAYING IN NEIGHBORING EVANSTON

Hampton Inn & Suites Chicago-North Shore/Skokie

5201 Old Orchard Rd. Skokie, IL 60077

(847) 583-1111

15 minute drive to the NU Arch



DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Chicago North Shore CC

9599 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, IL 60077

(847) 679-7000

15 minute drive to the NU Arch



Holiday Inn & Suites Chicago North Shore (Skokie)

5300 W Touhy Ave, Skokie, IL 60077

(847) 679-8900

25 minute drive to the NU Arch



Residence Inn Chicago Wilmette/Skokie

3205 Old Glenview Rd, Wilmette, IL 60091

(847) 251-6600

20 minute drive to the NU Arch



Extended Stay America - Chicago | Skokie

5211 Old Orchard Rd, Skokie, IL 60077

(847) 663-9031

15 minute drive to the NU Arch



Hampton Inn Chicago North-Loyola Station

1209 W Albion Ave, Chicago, IL 60626

(312) 265-5800

14 minute drive to the NU Arch



STAYING IN CHICAGO

Hotel Zachary Chicago: A Tribute Portfolio Hotel

3630 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60613

(773) 302-2300

35 minute drive to the NU Arch

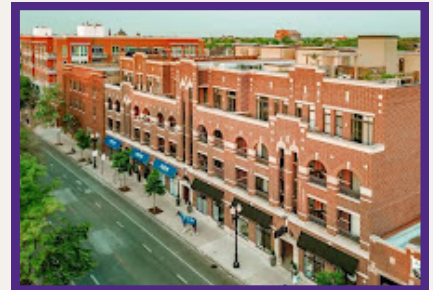


The Guesthouse Hotel

4872 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60640

(773) 564- 9568

30 minute drive to the NU Arch



Hyatt Place Chicago / Wicker Park

1551 W North Ave Ashland, Chicago, IL 60622

(773) 384-8280

50 minute drive to the NU Arch



The Hotel at Midtown

2444 N Elston Ave, Chicago, IL 60647

(773) 687-7600

45 minute drive to the NU Arch



EVANSTON ESSENTIALS

GROCERY STORES 🍏

D&D FINER FOODS, 825 Noyes St
WHOLE FOODS MARKET, 1640 Chicago Ave
TRADER JOE'S, 1211 Chicago Ave
TARGET GROCERY, 1616 Sherman Ave
JEWEL-OSCO, 1128 Chicago Ave

BANKS 💰

U.S. BANK, 1999 Campus Dr
CHASE BANK, 1603 Orrington Ave
EVANSTON COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST, 901 Grove St
BANK OF AMERICA, 1336 Chicago Ave
CITI, 817 Church St

POST OFFICES & SHIPPING SERVICES 📦

USPS, 1101 Davis St
USPS, 701 Main St
THE UPS STORE, 1555 Sherman Ave
THE UPS STORE, 848 Dodge Ave
FEDEX SHIP CENTER, 2518 Green Bay Rd, Evanston

PHARMACIES 🏪

WALGREENS PHARMACY 2100 Green Bay Rd
CVS PHARMACY, 1616 Sherman Ave
SIMPLY PURE RX, 1607 Benson Ave
JEWEL-OSCO PHARMACY, 411 Green Bay Rd
WALGREENS PHARMACY, 635 Chicago Ave

HOSPITALS & EMERGENCY SERVICES 🏥

ENDEAVOR HEALTH EVANSTON HOSPITAL, 2650 Ridge Ave
ASCENSION SAINT FRANCIS, 355 Ridge Ave
ENDEAVOR HEALTH IMMEDIATE CARE, 524 Main St
NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE IMMEDIATE CARE, 1630 Sherman Ave

EVANSTON THINGS TO DO

MUSIC & ART 🎵🎨

SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave, Evanston

STUDIO5, 1938 Dempster St, Evanston

BLOCK MUSEUM OF ART (ON CAMPUS), 40 Arts Cir Dr, Evanston

MOVIE THEATERS 🎬

BLOCK CINEMA (ON CAMPUS), 40 Arts Cir Dr, Evanston

AMC EVANSTON 12, 1715 Maple Ave, Evanston

BEACHES & PARKS 🏖️

NORTHWESTERN BEACH, 1811 Sheridan Rd, Evanston

LIGHTHOUSE BEACH, 2611 Sheridan Rd. Evanston, IL

CLARK STREET BEACH, 1811 Sheridan Rd. Evanston

GREENWOOD BEACH, 1401 Sheridan Rd, Evanston

LEE STREET BEACH, 1111 Lake Shore Blvd, Evanston

MERRICK ROSE GARDEN, 1426 Oak Ave, Evanston

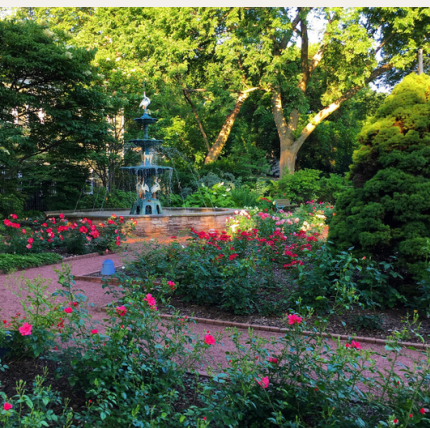
LADD ARBORETUM, 2024 N McCormick Blvd, Evanston

MISC. 💜

DEARBORN OBSERVATORY (ON CAMPUS), 2131 Tech Dr, Evanston

BAHÁ'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP, 100 Linden Ave, Wilmette

EVANSTON FARMER'S MARKET, 1800 Maple Ave, Evanston



SHOP LOCAL



BOOKSHOPS, MUSIC & MORE 📖

AMARANTH BOOKS, 828 Davis St, Evanston
COMIX REVOLUTION, 606 Davis St, Evanston
BOOKENDS & BEGINNINGS, 1620 Orrington Ave, Evanston
SQUEEZEBOX BOOKS & MUSIC, 743 Main St, Evanston
EVANSTON GAMES, 1707 Maple Ave, Evanston
SQUEEZEBOX, 743 Main St, Evanston
GUITAR WORKS, 709 Main St, Evanston

CLOTHING 👕

TALIA, 1526 Chicago Ave, Evanston
COMMONWEALTH RUNNING COMPANY, 1631 Sherman Ave, Evanston

SECONDHAND & RESALE 🛒

CROSSROADS TRADING, 1730 Sherman Ave, Evanston
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF EVANSTON-NORTH SHORE THRIFT HOUSE, 920 Chicago Ave
CLASSY CLOSET CONSIGNMENT, 701 Washington St, Evanston
heyday BY PRISON CITY VINTAGE, 522 Davis St, Evanston

KNICK KNACKS & GIFTS 🎁

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES, 1509 Chicago Ave, Evanston
STUMBLE & RELISH, 1312 Chicago Ave, Evanston
ARTEM POPUP GALLERY, 1627 Sherman Ave, Evanston

PLANTS & FLORISTS 🌱

SAVILLE FLOWERS, 1714 Sherman Ave, Evanston
FLOWERSFLOWERS, 355 Ridge Ave, Evanston
PRESTONS FLORIST, 524 Main St, Evanston
PLANT SHOP EVANSTON, 1549 Sherman Ave, Evanston
CULTIVATE URBAN RAINFOREST & GALLERY, 704 Main St, Evanston



WELLNESS IN EVANSTON

ON-CAMPUS OPTIONS 🇺🇸

HENRY CROWN SPORTS PAVILION, 2311 N Campus Dr, Evanston

BLOMQUIST RECREATION CENTER, 617 Foster St, Evanston

DROP-IN MEDITATION @ PARKES 204, 1870 Sheridan Rd, Evanston

FITNESS CLASSES 💪

TITLE BOXING CLUB, 1029 Davis St, Evanston

F45 STUDIO, 1723 Benson Ave, Evanston

CLUB PILATES, 745 Chicago Ave, Evanston

ORANGETHEORY FITNESS, 2800 Central St, Evanston

AHIMSA YOGA STUDIO EVANSTON, 614 Dempster St, Evanston

PUREBARRE, 910 Church St, Evanston

GRATEFUL YOGA, 1108 Davis St, Evanston

GYMS 🏋️‍♀️

BLINK FITNESS, 1926 Dempster St, Evanston

EVANSTON ATHLETIC CLUB, 1723 Benson Ave, Evanston

SHARP EDGE CROSSFIT, 1326 Dodge Ave, Evanston

NORTHSIDE BOXING AND FITNESS, 1310 Sherman Ave, Evanston

LIFE TIME, 1618 Sherman Ave, Evanston

MEDITATION 🧘

MSI HEALING WELLNESS CENTER (FREE), 2144 Ashland Ave #1, Evanston

HEARTWOOD CENTER, 1818 Dempster St, Evanston

EVANSTON EATS

student tested ✓
and approved ★★★★★

ON-CAMPUS 🏠

SHAKE SMART, 1999 Campus Dr, Evanston
PLEX, 1927 Orrington Avenue, Evanston
SARGENT, 2245 Sheridan Rd, Evanston
ELDER, 2400 Sheridan Rd, Evanston
ALLISON, 1820 Chicago Ave, Evanston
FOSTER WALKER, 1927 Orrington Ave, Evanston

BEST COFFEE ☕

COLECTIVO COFFEE, 716 Church St, Evanston
PHILZ, 1030 Davis St, Evanston
CUPITOL COFFEE, 812 Grove St, Evanston
COFFEE LAB, 910 Noyes St, Evanston
REPRISE ROASTERS @ CAFE BERGSON, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston
STARBUCKS, 1734 Sherman Ave, Evanston
NORBUCKS, 1999 Campus Dr, Evanston

FAVORITE EVANSTON FOODS ❤️

PONO ONO, 1630 Chicago Ave, Evanston
HOKKAIDO RAMEN & SUSHI BAR, 812 Church St, Evanston
TODOROKI HIBACHI & SUSHI, 526 Davis St, Evanston
FIVE AND DIME, 1026 Davis St Upstairs, Evanston
PEPPERCORNS KITCHEN, 620 Davis St, Evanston
TACO DIABLO, 1026b Davis St A, Evanston

BEST TAKEOUT 🍷

10Q CHICKEN, 816 Church St, Evanston
PICNIC, 1619B Chicago Ave, Evanston
SHANG NOODLE & CHINESE, 608 Davis St #4419, Evanston
TOMATE, 914 Noyes St, Evanston

SWEET TREAT SPOTS 🍦

KILWINS, 1724 Sherman Ave, Evanston
FRIO GELATO, 1301 Chicago Ave, Evanston
INSOMNIA COOKIES, 1725 N Sherman Ave, Evanston
HAPPY LEMON, 1607 Chicago Ave, Evanston
REPRISE ROASTERS @ CAFE BERGSON, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston
HARTIGAN'S ICE CREAM SHOPPE, 2909 Central St, Evanston
BENNISON'S BAKERY, 1000 Davis St, Evanston
PATISSERIE CORALIE, 600 Davis St, Evanston

ENGAGING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (CCE)

A spectrum of academic and co-curricular programs to help students connect to civic life in meaningful ways including:

NU in Chicago

NU Votes

AMPED

The Cities Project

Civic Engagement Certificate Program

Engage Chicago

JumpStart

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Pursue justice & equity through students' leadership development and engagement in the community for a just, equitable and sustainable world:

Place Matters

Neighbor2neighbor

Northwestern Leadership Framework

OPPORTUNITIES IN EVANSTON

Pursue opportunities in Evanston to get involved within the community

Volunteer Evanston opportunities

RENTING RESOURCES

Evanston 311

Metropolitan Tenants Association

Law Center for Better Housing

Open Communities

The Off-Campus Life Office, Scott Hall Lower Level

EXPLORING CHICAGO

FREE 🇺🇸

NAVY PIER, 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
LINCOLN PARK ZOO, Lincoln Park, Chicago
CITY BEACHES

ART 🎨

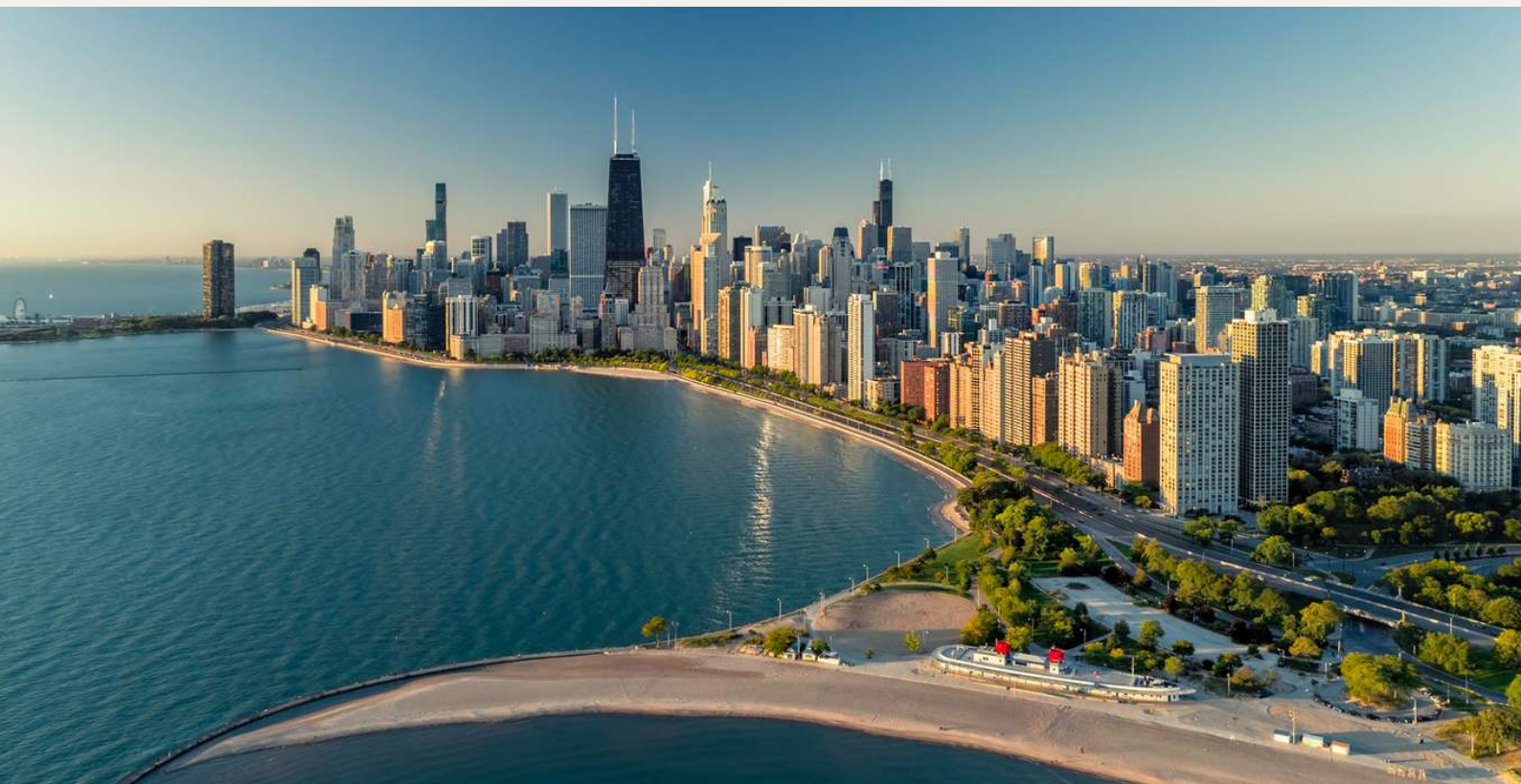
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, 220 E Chicago Ave, Chicago
CHICAGO ART INSTITUTE, 111 S Michigan Ave, Chicago
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART, 1852 W 19th St, Chicago

OUTDOORS 🌳

CITY BEACHES
CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDENS, 1000 Lake Cook Rd, Glencoe
GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY, 300 N Central Park Ave, Chicago

ICONIC ★

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE BOAT TOUR
THE “BEAN” AND MILLENNIUM PARK, 201 E Randolph St, Chicago
CHICAGO RIVERWALK, The Loop
MAGNIFICENT MILE, Michigan Avenue
WRIGLEY FIELD, 1060 W Addison St, Chicago
SHEDD AQUARIUM
BROADWAY IN CHICAGO



CHICAGO EATS

student tested ✓
and approved ★★★★★

VEG & VEGAN 🌱

ARYA BHAVAN, 2508 W Devon Ave, Chicago

THE CHICAGO DINER, 3411 N Halsted St, Chicago

ALICE & FRIENDS VEGAN KITCHEN, 5812 N Broadway, Chicago

INTERNATIONAL 🌍

SUN WAH BBQ, 5039 N Broadway, Chicago

TRIPLE CROWN, 2217 S Wentworth Ave, Chicago

DEMPSTER SUSHI SKOKIE, 5850 Dempster St, Morton Grove

GHAREEB NAWAZ ROGER'S PARK, 2032 W Devon Ave, Chicago

ANDY'S THAI KITCHEN, 950 W Diversey Pkwy, Chicago

DEMERA ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT, 4801 N Broadway, Chicago

MCCB, 2138 S Archer Ave, Chicago

SWEET TREATS 🍰

JENNIEVE'S BAKERY, 2925 N Halsted St, Chicago

THE ORIGINAL RAINBOW CONE, 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago

A GUIDE TO THE ESSENTIAL MUST-TRY CHICAGO FOODS 🍕🌭

CHICAGO-STYLE HOT DOG: A Vienna beef frankfurter on a poppy seed bun, topped with mustard, onions, relish, tomatoes, sport peppers, a pickle spear and celery salt

The spots: The Vienna Beef Factory Store, Superdawg, Jimmy's Red Hots, The Wieners Circle

DEEP DISH PIZZA: pizza baked in a deep dish cake pan providing a thick edge, stuffed with cheese, toppings like sausage, and tomato sauce on top

The spots: Lou Malnati's, Pequod's, Giordano's, Art of Pizza

ITALIAN BEEF: a sandwich made from thin slices of roast beef simmered and served au jus on French bread and topped with hot or sweet peppers

The spots: Mr. Beef on Orleans, Johnnies, Roma's on Cicero, Bari, Portillo's, The Original Al's

Wildcat Advice



“Cherish the experiences and relationships you build along the way. Your time at NU is a unique opportunity for growth and discovery.”

“Northwestern will want you to measure your time in weeks of assignments but I encourage you to take in the fullness of each day. Don’t wish for weekends when you could be enjoying your Wednesday.”

“Prioritize your well-being and work on finding a healthy balance between academics and other aspects of life. Keep an open mind and be ready to learn, grow, and create amazing memories during your time at NU. Enjoy the journey!”

“Embrace the diversity of experiences and perspectives around you. Get involved in activities that interest you, whether it's joining clubs, sports teams, or research projects. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself to your professors and peers; building relationships early on can lead to valuable connections and support throughout your time at NU. Explore the campus and take advantage of resources like tutoring centers and counseling services when needed.”

Northwestern | STUDENT AFFAIRS
Office of Student Transition Experiences



WILDCAT & FAM GUIDE

We hope you found what you were looking for! If not, please feel free to email us at transition@northwestern.edu with any questions regarding navigating Evanston or Chicago and we will do our best to help. Please note: many of these suggestions were provided by students or included due to their proximity to campus. The Office of Student Transition Experiences did not vet these organizations.