

ESS 2026

Start of Block: Introduction

Intro Welcome `#{m://FirstName}`! Thank you for participating in the Northwestern Enrolled Student Survey. The survey is made up of several short sections followed by some demographic questions. The first section asks you to evaluate Northwestern. We then ask about various aspects of your experiences here—about your interactions with faculty and advisors, about how much you've learned, and about some of your experiences in and out of the classroom as a student and as a member of the campus community. Your answers are very important to us — they will inform our efforts to improve in the years to come. The survey is completely voluntary. You may answer as few or as many questions as you wish. Remember **your responses will be completely confidential**, so please be candid. Survey results will not be reported in any form that would identify an individual. For additional questions about the Enrolled Student Survey, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions page. Your participation is very important and greatly appreciated! If you have questions about this survey, or encounter difficulties in taking it, please contact nu-survey@northwestern.edu.

Q49 Click to write the question text

Browser (1)

Version (2)

Operating System (3)

Screen Resolution (4)

Flash Version (5)

Java Support (6)

User Agent (7)

End of Block: Introduction

Start of Block: Overall Evaluation

z1 Evaluate Northwestern

satisf Overall, how satisfied have you been with your undergraduate education so far?

- ☐ Very dissatisfied (1)
 - ☐ Generally dissatisfied (2)
 - ☐ Ambivalent (3)
 - ☐ Generally satisfied (4)
 - ☐ Very satisfied (5)
-

satspec How satisfied have you been with the following aspects of your experience at Northwestern during the current academic year?

	Very dissatisfied (1)	Generally dissatisfied (2)	Generally satisfied (3)	Very satisfied (4)
Overall quality of instruction (sinstql)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Academic advising (sadvising)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Administration's responsiveness to student concerns (sadmresp)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social life on campus (ssoclife)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sense of community on campus (scampcom)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sense of community where you live (slivecom)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Degree of ethnic/racial diversity of the campus (sdiverse)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intellectual excitement (sintell)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Availability of tutorial help or other academic assistance (satspec_9)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feeling of security (ssecure)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities (soppex)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunities for personal growth and development (soppdev)	☐	☐	☐	☐

Opportunities for
religious or spiritual
engagement
(satspec_13)



AccessibleNU
(satspec_14)



satservice How satisfied have you been with the following aspects of your experience at Northwestern during the current academic year?

	Very dissatisfied (1)	Generally dissatisfied (2)	Generally satisfied (3)	Very satisfied (4)	Not applicable (99)
Food services (sfood)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Student health services (shealth)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Student housing facilities (shouse)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Extracurricular opportunities (sextrac)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Campus police/campus security (spolice)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Psychological counseling services (spsych)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Recreation/wellness programs (srecprog)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Career services (scareer)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Study abroad (sabroad)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Accommodations and support for religious and spiritual practice (satservice_10)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sense of community around athletic events (satservice_11)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

z1.1 Evaluate Northwestern



camplife How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of campus life?

	Very dissatisfied (1)	Generally dissatisfied (2)	Generally satisfied (3)	Very satisfied (4)	Not applicable (99)
Student clubs and organizations (sclub)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunities for civic engagement (camplife_2)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunities for religious or spiritual engagement (camplife_3)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Climate for ethnic/racial minority students (camplife_4)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Climate for LGBTQ students (camplife_5)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q6 How satisfied have you been with the following spaces at Northwestern during the current academic year?

	Very dissatisfied (1)	Generally dissatisfied (2)	Generally satisfied (3)	Very satisfied (4)	Not applicable (5)
Norris University Center (1)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intercollegiate athletics venues (e.g., Ryan Field, Welsh-Ryan Arena, Martin Stadium, etc.) (2)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Student Enrichment Services (SES) Office (3)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Black House (4)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC) (5)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Multicultural Center (MCC) (6)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

encourage Would you encourage a high school senior who resembles you when you were a high school senior (same background, ability, interests, and temperament) to attend Northwestern?

- ☐ Definitely would NOT (1)
- ☐ Probably would NOT (2)
- ☐ Maybe (3)
- ☐ Probably would (4)
- ☐ Definitely would (5)

End of Block: Overall Evaluation

Start of Block: Advice and Support

z2 Advice and Support

interact To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Disagree strongly (1)	Disagree (2)	Agree (3)	Agree strongly (4)
Faculty members are willing to talk with me individually. (facoutside)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty members treat me fairly. (facfair)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty members provide fair opportunities to demonstrate what I've learned in their courses (e.g., quizzes, exams, papers, etc.). (facadv1)	☐	☐	☐	☐

facknow How many faculty members know you well enough to provide a letter of recommendation in support of an application for a job, internship, fellowship, or advanced degree work?

- ☐ None (1)
 - ☐ One (2)
 - ☐ Two (3)
 - ☐ Three (4)
 - ☐ Four (5)
 - ☐ Five or more (6)
-

facsuccess Is there at least one faculty member at Northwestern who has taken a personal interest in your success?

- ☐ Yes (1)
 - ☐ No (2)
-

Q14 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Somewhat agree (3)	Strongly agree (4)
Advising during my first year was effective in helping with my transition to NU. (1)	☐	☐	☐	☐
My school based advising has been effective. (2)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Advising was effective in helping me select electives that enhanced my Northwestern experience. (3)	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q15 Please provide any additional comments about your experience with advising at Northwestern. Be specific on the departments or offices that provided the advising:

End of Block: Advice and Support

Start of Block: Your Progress - Seniors Only

Display this question:

If SORYEAR = 4

z3 Your Progress

Display this question:

If SORYEAR = 4

skills To what extent has your experience at Northwestern contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?

	Very little or none (1)	Some (2)	Quite a bit (3)	Very much (4)
Writing clearly and effectively (cwrite)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Communicating well orally (coral)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Thinking critically (ccrit)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Creating original ideas and solutions (ccreate)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Constructively resolving interpersonal conflicts (skills_5)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Functioning effectively as a member of a team (cteam)	☐	☐	☐	☐
In-depth knowledge of a field or discipline (cindepth)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Thinking analytically and logically (cthink)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Relating well to people of different races, nations, and religions (crelrace)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Synthesizing and integrating ideas and information (csynth)	☐	☐	☐	☐

Understanding and using quantitative reasoning and methods (skills_11)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Developing self-esteem/self-confidence (skills_12)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning and executing complex projects (skills_13)	☐	☐	☐	☐

End of Block: Your Progress - Seniors Only

Start of Block: Your College Experience

z4 Your College Experience

actplan Which of the following have you already done or do you plan to do during your time at Northwestern?

	Done (1)	Plan to do (2)	Do not plan to do (3)	Have not decided (4)
Conduct research with a faculty member (actfacres)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hold a leadership role on- or off-campus (e.g., student organization, community group, club, or team) (leadstud)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Attend intercollegiate sporting events (actplan_7)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Study-abroad program (actabroad)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Internship (pintn)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Participate in activities that helped you explore your spiritual growth (actplan2)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Take an endangered or less commonly taught language course at another institution or through the BTAA CourseShare (actplan_6)	☐	☐	☐	☐

End of Block: Your College Experience

Start of Block: Extracurricular Activities & Work

z5 Extracurricular Activities and Work

work Did you work for pay this year?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

Display this question:

If Did you work for pay this year? = Yes



worktype Please describe your work for pay. If you had more than one job, answer "yes" if the statement is true for at least one.

	Yes (1)	No (0)
My job was part of a financial aid package (e.g., work-study program) (workaid)	☐	☐
I worked because I needed money for school expenses (workexp)	☐	☐
My job was related to my field of study or future career (workfield)	☐	☐
My job was primarily off-campus (workoffcamp)	☐	☐

partin During the current academic year, have you participated (as more than a spectator) in any of the following extracurricular activities?

	Actively participated (1)	Did not participate (2)
Intercollegiate athletics (NCAA) (1)	☐	☐
Club sports (2)	☐	☐
Intramural athletics (3)	☐	☐
Music/theater group (4)	☐	☐
Student publications (5)	☐	☐
Student government (6)	☐	☐
Political group (7)	☐	☐
Religious or spiritual group (8)	☐	☐
Cultural/ethnic organization (9)	☐	☐
Academic clubs, honor societies, or professional associations (10)	☐	☐
Fraternity or sorority (11)	☐	☐
Other student organizations or clubs (12)	☐	☐

forego Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Due to a lack of money, I have had to forego:

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Somewhat agree (3)	Strongly agree (4)
Study abroad (Imabroad)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Extracurricular activities (Imextra)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community service (Imserv)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Non-paying research/internships (Imresint)	☐	☐	☐	☐

End of Block: Extracurricular Activities & Work

Start of Block: Campus Community

z6 Campus Community

climate Tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of these statements.

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
I feel safe on this campus. (feelsafe)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel like part of the community at Northwestern. (partof)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel valued at Northwestern. (valued)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Students at Northwestern treat one another with respect. (climate_4)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Members of the Northwestern community engage in civil and respectful dialogue with one another on difficult topics. (climate_5)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel comfortable voicing my true opinions on controversial topics without fear of being unfairly judged. (climate_6)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel free to express my political beliefs on campus. (climate_7)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

I feel free to express my religious or spiritual beliefs on campus. (climate_8)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Northwestern has a culture that values religious and spiritual expression. (climate_9)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

During this academic year, how often, if ever, have you experienced the following?

	Never (1)	Rarely (2)	Occasionally (3)	Often (4)	Very often (5)
Felt comfortable sharing your own experiences (divshare)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Felt insulted or threatened based on your social identity (e.g., sex, race, national origin, sexual orientation, or values) (divfelt)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Witnessed someone else being insulted or threatened based on some aspect of that individual's social identity (divwitness)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

End of Block: Campus Community

Start of Block: Your Health & Well-Being

z7 Your Health and Well-Being

balance How much do you agree or disagree with this statement: I have been able to find a balance between my academic work and extracurricular activities.

- ☐ Strongly disagree (1)
 - ☐ Somewhat disagree (2)
 - ☐ Somewhat agree (3)
 - ☐ Strongly agree (4)
-

stress Below are potential sources of stress that you may experience as a student.
Please indicate how each has affected you during the current academic year.

	Not a source of stress (1)	Slightly stressful (2)	Moderately stressful (3)	Very stressful (4)
Managing the workload for your courses (stworkload)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal difficulties with family, intimate relationships, or friends (stperson)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Balancing multiple commitments (academic, extracurricular, personal) (stbalance)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Concerns about your finances (stfinance)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Concerns about your future plans (stfuture)	☐	☐	☐	☐

climate Tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of these statements.

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
Administrators at Northwestern are genuinely concerned about my welfare. (concerned)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I trust my friends to watch out for me if it seemed something bad might happen to me at a party or social event. (watchout)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Northwestern would take any reports of sexual assault seriously. (reportsex)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

GAD2 Over the last two weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems?

	Not at all (1)	Several days (2)	More than half the days (3)	Nearly everyday (4)
Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge (anxiety)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Not being able to stop or control worrying (worry)	☐	☐	☐	☐

friends How many close friends do you have (meaning people that you feel at ease with, can talk to about private matters, and can call on for help)?

- ☐ 0 (none) (1)
 - ☐ 1 (2)
 - ☐ 2 (3)
 - ☐ 3 (4)
 - ☐ 4 (5)
 - ☐ 5 (6)
 - ☐ 6 (7)
 - ☐ 7 or more (8)
-

medhelp1 During this academic year, have you made use of any of psychological counseling services?

- ☐ Yes (1)
 - ☐ No (2)
-

medhelp2 During this academic year, have you made use of any of the disability services provided by Northwestern or received an accommodation related to a disability?

- ☐ Yes (1)
 - ☐ No (2)
-

condition Do you have any of the following disabilities or medical conditions?

☐

Learning Disability or ADHD (1)

☐

Sensory, chronic medical or physical disability (2)

☐

Chronic mental health condition (3)

☐

Other disability or chronic medical condition (please specify) (4)

☐

None of the above (5)

End of Block: Your Health & Well-Being

Start of Block: AI

z8 AI

Q12 While at Northwestern, which of the following AI tools have you used (check all that apply):

	On your own (1)	For classwork or at the direction of faculty (2)	Not at all (3)
ChatGPT (1)	☐	☐	☐
Gemini (2)	☐	☐	☐
Grammarly (3)	☐	☐	☐
CoPilot (4)	☐	☐	☐
Jasper (5)	☐	☐	☐
Claude (6)	☐	☐	☐
Perplexity (7)	☐	☐	☐
Dall-E (8)	☐	☐	☐
Other (please provide) (9)	☐	☐	☐

Display this question:

If While at Northwestern, which of the following AI tools have you used (check all that apply): [On your own] (Count) > 0

Q13 How often do you use AI to do these things?

	Rarely (1)	Sometimes (2)	Often (3)	Very often (4)
Search for information (1)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Review grammar (2)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Summarize documents (3)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paraphrase documents (4)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Create a first draft (5)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please provide) (6)	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q17 How has AI supported your college experience? Please move the following items in order from most support from AI (1) to least support from AI (6):

- _____ Studying and tutoring (1)
 - _____ Writing and editing (2)
 - _____ Research and data analysis (3)
 - _____ Time management and organization (4)
 - _____ Career planning (5)
 - _____ Other (please specify) (6)
-

Q18 What concerns do you have about using AI during your college experience? Please move each of the following concerns in order from most concern (1) to least concern (7):

- _____ Academic integrity (1)
- _____ Over-reliance on technology (2)
- _____ Privacy and data security (3)
- _____ Ethics (4)
- _____ Lack of understanding how AI works (5)
- _____ Environmental impact (6)
- _____ Other (please specify) (7)

Q19 What excites you most about the future of AI?

Q20 What concerns you the most about the future of AI?

End of Block: AI

Start of Block: First Years Only

Display this question:

If SORYEAR = 1

z9 First Year Students

Display this question:

If SORYEAR = 1

startprep Looking back to when you started at Northwestern, how well prepared do you think you were to...

	Unprepared (1)	Somewhat prepared (2)	Quite well prepared (3)	Very well prepared (4)
Succeed academically (pacad)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Get along socially (psocial)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Write at a college level (pwrite)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Do the math and quantitative work required of you (pquant)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Work with other students as a team member (pteam)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Have a roommate (proomy)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Manage your time well (ptimeuse)	☐	☐	☐	☐

End of Block: First Years Only

Start of Block: Future Plans

z10 Future Plans

future values As you think about your future, how important is each of the following to you?

	Not important at all (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)	Essential (4)
Working for social and political change (iinfsoc)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Participating in politics or community affairs (ipolit)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Being well off financially (iwelloff)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Living or working abroad (iabroad)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Getting to know people from diverse backgrounds (idiverse)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Being a leader in my field (iproflead)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Contributing to science and innovation (iscience)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Doing creative and expressive work (icreate)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volunteering (ivol)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Being a leader in my community (icommlead)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Learning about other cultures and nations (iothcult)	☐	☐	☐	☐

degadd3 Do you have plans to pursue a graduate or professional degree in the future?

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ No (2)
- ☐ Undecided (3)

End of Block: Future Plans

Start of Block: Your Background

z11 Your Background

sex What is your gender?

- ☐ Woman (1)
- ☐ Man (2)
- ☐ Genderqueer/gender nonconforming (3)
- ☐ Additional gender category (4)
-

sextrans Do you identify as transgender?

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ No (2)
-

sexornt What is your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Straight or Heterosexual (1)
 - ☐ Gay/lesbian (2)
 - ☐ Bisexual (3)
 - ☐ Queer or pansexual (4)
 - ☐ Questioning or unsure (5)
 - ☐ Something else (please specify) (6)
-

ideology How would you describe your political views, or haven't you thought much about this?

- ☐ Very conservative (1)
 - ☐ Conservative (2)
 - ☐ Moderate/Middle-of-the-road (3)
 - ☐ Liberal (4)
 - ☐ Very liberal (5)
 - ☐ Something else (please specify) (6)
-
- ☐ Haven't thought that much about it (7)
-

relig Which religious, spiritual, or philosophical tradition do you practice or identify with? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Buddhist (1)
 - ☐ Protestant (2)
 - ☐ Roman Catholic (3)
 - ☐ Quaker (4)
 - ☐ Another type of Christian (Orthodox, LDS, etc.) (5)
 - ☐ Hindu (6)
 - ☐ Jewish (7)
 - ☐ Muslim (8)
 - ☐ Some other religious, spiritual, or philosophical tradition (9)
 - ☐ Spiritual but do not identify with a religious tradition or group (10)
 - ☐ Atheist (11)
 - ☐ Other (please specify) (12)
-
- ☐ ☒ None (13)

End of Block: Your Background

Start of Block: Last

impacttxt What experience at Northwestern had the most significant impact on you?

change3txt If you could change up to three things about the way Northwestern educates its students, what would you change?

comment3 Please use the space below to elaborate on any of the questions on the survey and to comment on any other aspect of your undergraduate experience not covered in this questionnaire.

End of Block: Last
