

SNS 2026

Start of Block: 1. Introduction

ZX1 Welcome, [\\${e://Field/Preferred}](#)! Thank you for participating in the 2026 Northwestern Survey of New Students. This survey is a vital part of how Northwestern learns from its newest students—your input helps shape programs, services, and support systems that directly impact the student experience. The survey will ask about your expectations for college, how you see yourself as a student, and your goals for the future. We'll also ask about your admissions experience and some background information about you, your family, and your high school. Your participation is voluntary, and all questions are optional. If you're unsure about a question or prefer not to answer, you can skip it. All data collected through this survey will be kept confidential. Results will only be reported in summary form. Written comments may be reported verbatim but will never be attributed to an individual. Responses may be linked to University data to allow for additional analyses if a group is large enough that individuals will not be able to be identified. If you have any questions or encounter any problems while taking the survey, please contact Paul Schatz at nu-survey@northwestern.edu.

ZBROW Click to write the question text

Browser (1)

Version (2)

Operating System (3)

Screen Resolution (4)

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User Agent (7)

ZTIME1 Timing

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End of Block: 1. Introduction

Start of Block: 2. Expectations for College

ZXT2 Your College Goals

expect How important is it that Northwestern provide you with the following?

	Not important at all (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)	Essential (4)
A broad liberal arts education (ebreadth)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunities to develop skills valuable in the workforce (eskills)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Experiences with others that challenge your worldview (expect_10)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunities to discover and pursue your intellectual passion (epassion)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Experiences that help you develop and clarify a personal code of values or ethics (eethic)	☐	☐	☐	☐
A global perspective (eglobal)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Deep expertise in a specific discipline or area of study (edepth)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Experiences that help you explore your spiritual growth (expect_8)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunities to develop skills that help you navigate conflict	☐	☐	☐	☐

with respect and
empathy
(expect_9)

Opportunities to
develop
leadership skills
(expect_10)



ZTIME2 Timing

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ZXT2A Your Academic Interests



major As of right now, in which area are you most likely to major? If you aren't leaning in any direction yet, just select "I'm not sure."

▼ I'm not sure (214) ... I'm planning to major in two or more areas (302)

Display this question:

If As of right now, in which area are you most likely to major? If you aren't leaning in any directi... = I'm planning to major in two or more areas

majortxt Please list your planned major area(s) in this space.

Display this question:

If As of right now, in which area are you most likely to major? If you aren't leaning in any directi... != I'm not sure

majorj How confident are you that the major you selected will be the right major for you?

- ☐ Not confident at all/ Don't know enough yet (1)
- ☐ Slightly confident (2)
- ☐ Somewhat confident (3)
- ☐ Confident (4)
- ☐ Very confident (5)

Q129 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Knowing how to use AI will be important in my planned major:

- ☐ Strongly disagree (1)
 - ☐ Somewhat disagree (2)
 - ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 - ☐ Somewhat agree (4)
 - ☐ Strongly agree (5)
-

ZTIME2 Timing

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ZXT2a Your Expectations for College

dothis How interested are you in doing the following during your undergraduate years at Northwestern?

	Not interested at all (1)	Slightly interested (2)	Somewhat interested (3)	Very interested (4)
Getting a job to help pay for college expenses (ljob)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Doing community service, as part of a course (e.g., service learning) (lvolcrs)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volunteering or community service, not as part of a course (lvol)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Studying abroad (labroad)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Working with a professor on a research project (lresearch)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Doing independent study (self-designed credit courses) (lindep)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Having an internship (lintern)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Joining a student club or organization (lclub)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Joining a fraternity or sorority (lgreek)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Having a leadership role in student	☐	☐	☐	☐

government, a club,
organization, or team (lleader)

Joining a spiritual or faith-based
community (dothis_11)

Attending Division 1 Big
Ten athletic events
(dothis_12)



ZTIME2b Timing
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End of Block: 2. Expectations for College

Start of Block: 3. Preparation for College

ZXT3 Preparation for College

prep1 You will face a number of new situations, both social and academic, in the coming year.
How well prepared do you feel you are to...

	Unprepared (1)	Somewhat prepared (2)	Quite well prepared (3)	Very well prepared (4)
Succeed academically at Northwestern? (pacad)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Get along socially at Northwestern? (psocial)	☐	☐	☐	☐

prep2 How well prepared do you feel you are to do the following during your first year at Northwestern?

	Unprepared (1)	Somewhat prepared (2)	Quite well prepared (3)	Very well prepared (4)
Select the courses you will take (pselect)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ask for help when you need it (phelp)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Find a group that you feel part of (pfitin)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Manage your time effectively (ptimeuse)	☐	☐	☐	☐

prep3 How well prepared do you feel you are to do the following while at Northwestern?

	Unprepared (1)	Somewhat prepared (2)	Quite well prepared (3)	Very well prepared (4)
Write clearly and effectively (pwrite)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Communicate well orally (poral)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Understanding and using quantitative reasoning and methods (pquant)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Create original ideas and solutions (pcreate)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Resolve interpersonal conflicts constructively (pconflic)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Function effectively as a member of a team (pteam)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Take a leadership role (plead)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Develop or clarify a personal code of values or ethics (prep3_9)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Discuss important issues with people who have different experiences, values, or identities from your own (pdiscuss)	☐	☐	☐	☐

Thinking analytically and logically (prep3_10)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Developing self-esteem/self-confidence (prep3_11)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning and executing complex projects (prep3_12)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Synthesizing and integrating ideas and information (prep3_13)	☐	☐	☐	☐

ZTIME3 Timing
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End of Block: 3. Preparation for College

Start of Block: 4. You As A Student

ZXT4 You as a Student

Q142 Do you expect to utilize AI to support your college experience?

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ No (2)

Display this question:

If Do you expect to utilize AI to support your college experience? = Yes

Q130 How do you think AI will support 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)
-

Q131 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)
-

ZTIME4 Timing

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End of Block: 4. You As A Student

Start of Block: 5. Choosing a College

ZXT5 Choosing a College

numapp To how many colleges or universities did you apply, counting Northwestern?

▼ 1 (1) ... 20 or more (20)

numadmit To how many colleges were you admitted, counting Northwestern?

▼ 1 (1) ... 20 or more (20)

rankinst Among the colleges that you applied to, how would you rank Northwestern?

- ☐ First choice (1)
- ☐ Second choice (2)
- ☐ Third choice (3)
- ☐ Less than third choice (4)
-

Q350 Timing

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End of Block: 5. Choosing a College

Start of Block: 7. After College

ZXT7 After College

degplan Do you currently intend to pursue a graduate or professional degree after you complete your bachelor's degree?

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ No (2)
- ☐ Not sure yet (3)

Display this question:

If Do you currently intend to pursue a graduate or professional degree after you complete your bache... = Yes



degpursue Which degrees, if any, do you plan to pursue in the future? Mark all that you expect to pursue.

- ☐ Master's degree in an academic field (e.g., MA, MS) (1)
- ☐ Master's degree in business (MBA) (2)
- ☐ Other professional Master's (e.g., MSW, MPH, MEd) (3)
- ☐ Law degree (e.g., JD, LLB) (4)
- ☐ Medical degree (e.g., MD, DO, DDS, DVM) (5)
- ☐ PhD (6)
- ☐ Professional or other doctorate (e.g., EdD, PsyD) (10)
- ☐ Some other degree (12)
-
- ☐ Still unsure (9)
-

lifefuture How important is each of the following to you as you think about your own life and future?

	Not important at all (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)	Essential (4)
Raising a family (ifamily)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Doing work that is in accordance with your philosophy or religion (iphilo)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Participating in a spiritual or faith- based community (ispiritual)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Doing creative and expressive work (icreate)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Expressing yourself artistically (iartist)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Being a leader in your community (iclead)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Participating in politics or community affairs (iplit)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Working for social and political change (iinfl)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volunteering (ivol)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Being well-off financially (iwelloff)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Being successful in a business of your own	☐	☐	☐	☐

(iownbus)				
Having managerial responsibility (imanager)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Learning about perspectives and background that are different from your own (idiversity)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Living or working abroad (iabroad)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Traveling abroad (itravel)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Contributing to science and innovation (iscience)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Being a leader in your field (iproflead)	☐	☐	☐	☐

ZTIME7 Timing
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End of Block: 7. After College

Start of Block: 8. Your High School

ZXT8 Your High School For the rest of this survey, we'll be asking you to tell us about your background, beginning with a few things about your high school.

htype What kind of high school did you attend?

- ☐ Public - charter school (1)
- ☐ Public - magnet school (2)
- ☐ Public - other public schools (3)
- ☐ Private - religious/parochial (4)
- ☐ Private - independent non-residential school (non-religious) (5)
- ☐ Private - independent school with resident students (non-religious) (6)
- ☐ Home school (7)
- ☐ Other (8)

hsadvnce How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your high school:

	Disagree strongly (1)	Disagree somewhat (2)	Agree somewhat (3)	Agree strongly (4)
My high school offered a good mix of advanced classes. (mixadv)	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would have taken more advanced classes if my school had offered them. (moreadv)	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would have taken more science and math classes if my school had offered them. (moresci)	☐	☐	☐	☐

ZTIME8 Timing
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End of Block: 8. Your High School

Start of Block: 9. High School Experiences (Academic)

ZXT9 Your High School Experiences

HS1 During your last year of high school, about how often did you...

	Never (1)	Rarely (2)	Sometimes (3)	Often (4)	Very Often (5)
Discuss ideas from your readings or classes with teachers outside of class (hout)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Discuss politics, religion, or other controversial issues (hpol)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Perform volunteer work not for a class or graduation requirement (hvol)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Have a serious conversation with an individual from a background different from yours (e.g., politically, religiously, economically, ethnically) (hdiv)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feel challenged by a class (hchal)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Explore AI capabilities on your own (HS1_8)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Reconsider
your position
on a topic
after
evaluating
the
arguments of
others
(hreconsid)



Pay a social
cost (e.g.,
lost friends,
excluded
from social
activities) for
an opinion
you
expressed
(HS1_7)



ZTIME8a Timing
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Page Break

Q126 Your High School Experiences

Q124 During high school, in what ways did you use AI in your schoolwork (check all that apply):

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

- ☐ ☒ Did not use (7)
-

ZTIME8b Timing

First Click (1)

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End of Block: 9. High School Experiences (Academic)

Start of Block: 10. High School Experiences (Other)

ZXT10 More about Your High School Experiences

hsdidyou While in high school did you: Mark all that apply.

☐

Have a leadership role in a student group, club, or team (1)

☐

(2)

Have a leadership role in a community group, club, or team (outside of school)

☐

meetings, etc.) (3)

Participate in politics beyond voting (campaign, volunteer, attend public

☐

Play one or more varsity sports (4)

☐

Participate actively in a spiritual or faith-based community (5)

hswork Did you work for pay during your senior year of high school?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

ZTIME10 Timing

First Click (1)

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Page Break

hsflag During your last year of high school, about how often did you...

	Never (1)	Rarely (2)	Sometimes (3)	Often (4)	Very Often (5)
Feel overwhelmed by all you had to do (overwhelm)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feel very sad (sad)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feel so depressed it was difficult to function (depressfn)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stay up all night to finish an academic assignment or prepare for an exam (hallnight)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feel out of place or that you just didn't fit in at your school (hnotfitin)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Find a balance between schoolwork and other aspects of your life (hbalance)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feel overwhelming anxiety (anxiety)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feel excessive pressure to succeed from your parents/guardians (hparent)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feel excessive pressure to compete with peers (hcompete)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

GAD Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems?

	Not at all (1)	Several days (2)	Over half the days (3)	Nearly every day (4)
Not being able to stop or control worrying (gad_worry)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge (gad_anxiety)	☐	☐	☐	☐



Q118 Tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: I feel comfortable voicing my true opinions on controversial topics without fear of being unfairly judged.

- ☐ Strongly disagree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (4)
- ☐ Strongly agree (5)
-

ZTIME10a Timing

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End of Block: 10. High School Experiences (Other)

Start of Block: 11. Your Background

ZXT11 Your Background

dismedical 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)

medhelp While you are an undergraduate at Northwestern, what's the chance that you will do the following? Your best guess is fine.

	No chance (1)	Very little chance (2)	Some chance (3)	Very good chance (4)
Seek psychological counseling (seekpsyc)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Use disability services and accommodations (seekdisa)	☐	☐	☐	☐

ZTIME11 Timing
First Click (1)
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Page Break

ZXT11a Your Background



sex What is your gender?

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

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)
-



raceethnic What is your race or ethnic group? Mark all that apply.

- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native (1)
- ☐ Asian (2)
- ☐ Black or African American (3)
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino (4)
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African (7)
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (5)
- ☐ White (6)

Display this question:

If What is your race or ethnic group? Mark all that apply. = Asian

asian_d Use the following list to describe your Asian heritage in more detail or use the space to elaborate.

- ☐ Chinese (1)
- ☐ Indian (2)
- ☐ Other South Asian (3)
- ☐ Korean (4)
- ☐ Southeast Asian (5)
- ☐ Japanese (6)
- ☐ Other (7) _____

Display this question:

If What is your race or ethnic group? Mark all that apply. = Hispanic or Latino

hisp_d Use the following list to describe your Hispanic background in more detail or use the space to elaborate.

- ☐ Mexican (1)
- ☐ Puerto Rican (2)
- ☐ Cuban (3)
- ☐ Other (4) _____



neighracez How would you describe the racial composition of the neighborhood you lived in during high school?

- ☐ All or nearly all people of color (5)
- ☐ Mostly people of color (4)
- ☐ Half white and half people of color (3)
- ☐ Mostly white (2)
- ☐ All or nearly all white (1)

ZTIME11a Timing

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Page Break

ZXT11b Your Background

english Is English your native/first language?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

hlang What language did students in your high school speak to one another outside of class?

☐ Entirely English (1)

☐ Mostly English (2)

☐ A mix of English and other languages (3)

☐ Mostly/entirely language(s) other than English (4)

langhome At home, what language(s) does your family speak?

☐ Entirely English (1)

☐ Mostly English (2)

☐ A mix of English and other languages (3)

☐ Mostly/entirely language(s) other than English (4)



relig Which religious, spiritual, or philosophical tradition do you practice or identify with?

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

Display this question:

If Which religious, spiritual, or philosophical tradition do you practice or identify with? = Protestant

rprot_d Please use this space to tell us which specific Protestant denomination, if any, you identify with. We list only denominations typically chosen by many students; use the space provided to elaborate.

- ☐ Baptist (1)
 - ☐ Church of Christ (2)
 - ☐ Episcopalian (3)
 - ☐ Lutheran (4)
 - ☐ Methodist (5)
 - ☐ Presbyterian (6)
 - ☐ Seventh Day Adventist (7)
 - ☐ UCC/Congregational (8)
 - ☐ Non- or inter-denominational (9)
 - ☐ Other denomination (please specify) (10)
-

Display this question:

If Which religious, spiritual, or philosophical tradition do you practice or identify with? = Jewish

rjew_d You indicated Jewish in the previous question. Below are some terms Jewish students use to describe themselves, please feel free to select one that applies to you.

- ☐ Orthodox (1)
 - ☐ Conservative (2)
 - ☐ Reconstructionist (3)
 - ☐ Reform (4)
 - ☐ Non-Practicing/Secular (5)
 - ☐ Something Else (please specify) (6)
-

ideo How would you describe your political views?

- ☐ 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)

ZTIME11b Timing

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End of Block: 11. Your Background

Start of Block: 12. Your Parents

ZXT12 Your Parents

parentedu What is the highest level of education completed by any of your parents?

- ☐ No high school diploma (1)
 - ☐ High school diploma or equivalent (2)
 - ☐ Post-secondary school other than college (3)
 - ☐ Some college or associate's degree (4)
 - ☐ Bachelor's degree (5)
 - ☐ Graduate or professional degree (6)
 - ☐ Unsure/Don't know (7)
-

income Please give us your best estimate of the total before-tax income of your parent(s) and/or stepparents. If you have a parent who does not live with you, but will help pay for college, include his or her income as well. Your best guess is fine.

- ☐ Less than \$25,000 (1)
 - ☐ \$25,000-\$49,999 (2)
 - ☐ \$50,000-\$74,999 (3)
 - ☐ \$75,000-\$99,999 (4)
 - ☐ \$100,000-\$149,999 (5)
 - ☐ \$150,000-\$199,999 (6)
 - ☐ \$200,000-\$249,999 (7)
 - ☐ \$250,000-\$499,999 (8)
 - ☐ \$500,000 or more (9)
-

ZTIME12 Timing

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End of Block: 12. Your Parents

Start of Block: Locals

Q1 How important was each of the following reasons in your decision to attend Northwestern?

	Not important (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)
My parent(s) or a relative wanted me to attend Northwestern (1)	☐	☐	☐
My teacher advised me to attend Northwestern (2)	☐	☐	☐
Northwestern has a very good academic reputation (3)	☐	☐	☐
Northwestern has a good reputation for its social activities (4)	☐	☐	☐
The cost of attending Northwestern (5)	☐	☐	☐
My high school counselor or a private college counselor advised me to attend Northwestern (6)	☐	☐	☐
Northwestern graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools (7)	☐	☐	☐
Northwestern graduates get good jobs (8)	☐	☐	☐
National and global university rankings (9)	☐	☐	☐
A visit to campus (10)	☐	☐	☐
Division 1 Big Ten Athletics (games, events, school spirit) (11)	☐	☐	☐

End of Block: Locals

Start of Block: 14. Comments

ZXT13c Last Section: Your Comments

comment3 Do you have other comments you'd like to share?

ZXCLOSE This is the last page of the survey. If you wish to review your responses, please use the "Back" button below, otherwise select "Submit Survey" to save and complete your survey. Once you select "Submit Survey" you will not be able to review or change your responses.

ZTIME13c Timing

First Click (1)

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Click Count (4)

End of Block: 14. Comments
