

2020-21

Parent

\AND\
AND

Family
GUIDE

Northwestern

DEAR WILDCAT PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS,

On behalf of the whole Northwestern community, I express my heartfelt best wishes for the 2020–21 academic year and beyond. As we prepare to begin Winter quarter on campus, we hope that your Wildcat Pride can develop further, and our wish is that it lasts long after your student marches in Commencement ceremonies.

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

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

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

Best Regards & Go 'Cats!



Patricia F. Hilkert
Coordinator of Family Engagement
Office of the Dean of Students

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A Big Transition

TRANSITION THEORY

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

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

Additionally, Schlossberg's transition theory refers to *the four S's* of transition: situation, self, support, and strategies. These factors determine a student's ability to cope with any

adjustment, especially one as significant as the transition during the first year of college.

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

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

COMMON FIRST-YEAR CHALLENGES

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

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

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

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

Early-fall panic. Having plunged into Northwestern life during Wildcat Welcome, your student may feel overwhelmed on multiple fronts: a

roommate (or two) to live with, a new setting to navigate, assignments to complete in record time, and a mostly unfamiliar social world.

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

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

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

You can't go home again. On their first visit home, students may be shocked to discover that ordinary family life – with its daily ups and downs and choices big and small – has gone on without them, as if their absence had no effect.



Coping behaviors. With fall quarter winding down, students finally figure out how to use the library *and* stay on top of their laundry. These exciting (if small) victories prove they know and can do whatever it takes to get by.

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

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

TYPICAL STUDENT WORRIES

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

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

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

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

Social acceptance: How will I fit in? How am I supposed to act around my fellow students and my professors? Do I just follow the crowd when I don’t feel like deciding things for myself?

Relating to strangers: Will it be awkward to be with others whose race, class, or values differ from mine? How will I react to people who don't share my religious beliefs? Is there a limit to how much difference I can tolerate?

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

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

ROLES OF PARENTS AND FAMILIES

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

“You have what it takes to be responsible.”

“You know how to take care of yourself.”

“No one knows your strengths and limits as well as you do, and we trust you to get help when you need it.”



The background features several stylized human figures in shades of grey and purple. The figures are composed of simple geometric shapes: a circular head and a trapezoidal body. They are arranged in a way that suggests a group of people, with some figures appearing to be in motion or interacting. The overall aesthetic is modern and minimalist.

**THESE ARE
TYPICAL
GROWING
PAINS.**

WHEN THINGS DON'T GO AS PLANNED

For students with a superb academic performance under their belts and a pile of new friends and extracurricular activities to boast, the break feels great; but for those displeased with their grades or their overall Northwestern experience so far, the end of the quarter may seem like the end of the world.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“It’s hard to imagine Northwestern feeling like home. I’ve only finished one quarter, and four years feels like

an unbelievably long time to be here.”

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

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

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

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

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

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

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

Expect some tough times. Learning to cope with new people, responsibilities, and ideas may cause your student confusion and discomfort. These are normal growing pains. Plus, we are still navigating a world-wide pandemic!

Recognizing the signs of a struggling student can be challenging, especially from a distance. To support your student as the next quarter gets underway, it's important to show interest, which is something quite different from being demanding. Interest says, "I'd like to know what's going on," and not, "you owe me this information." Showing interest in your student's life affirms that you care, but also that you trust them to make responsible, adult decisions.

WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

At Northwestern, families are partners. As a parent or family member, you are encouraged to be involved with Northwestern and stay informed all year long. Keeping up with news on the Northwestern home page and through social media, getting tickets to sports events, and attending Family Weekend are all great ways to keep in touch with the University once it is deemed safe to take part in these activities.

New Student and Family Programs (NSFP) sends *Wildcat Family Recap*, e-mail, and other news and content of interest via the Parent and Family Email List. Instructions for joining the list are found on the NSFP website at [NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ ORIENTATION/FAMILIES](https://northwestern.edu/orientation/families).

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





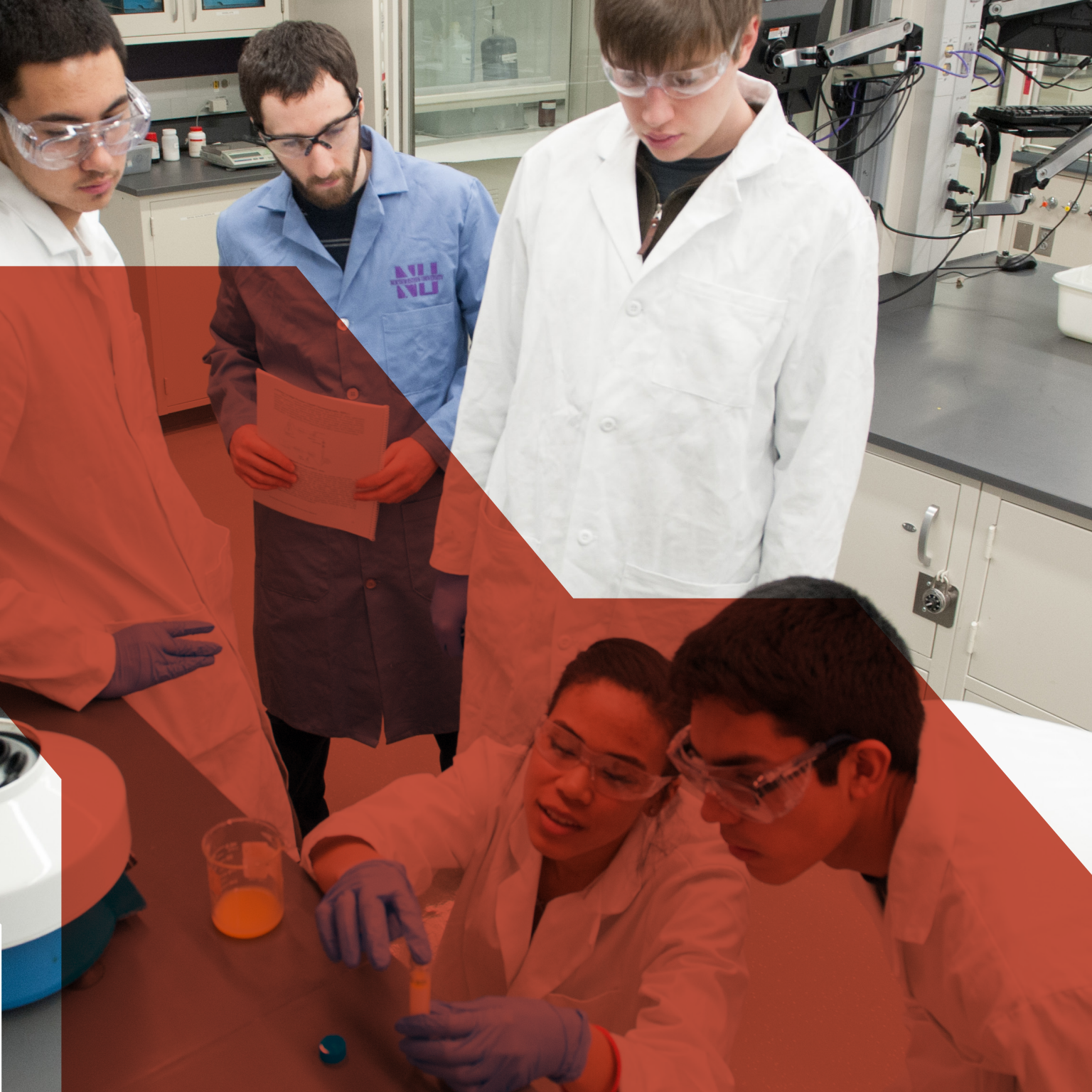
Academics

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

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Upon arrival at Northwestern, your student belongs to a community of scholars who respect individual achievement and have a fundamental commitment to academic integrity. A statement about academic integrity appears on the University provost's website at NORTHWESTERN.EDU/PROVOST/STUDENTS/INTEGRITY, and is available as a brochure in the dean's office of each school. It gives examples of violations which include plagiarism, cheating, fabrication of data, etc., and describes the sanctions that may be imposed following a





violation (grade reduction, letter of reprimand, suspension, denial of honors, or permanent exclusion from Northwestern). Students charged with violations may not change their registration in a course in which a charge is pending or a finding of a violation has been made.

ACADEMIC ADVISING AND PLACEMENT

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

COURSE REGISTRATION

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

ACADEMIC STANDING

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

Students may be dismissed for academic deficiencies when their academic records do not improve significantly during the probation period. (See the online *Undergraduate Catalog* for some circumstances that

may lead to dismissal.) The cumulative academic record is considered in every case involving academic dismissal. As a matter of general policy, the probationary period for a first-year student may be extended to the third quarter of residence at Northwestern if that appears to be in the best interests of the student and of the University, but not if the student's record clearly discloses lack of aptitude or flagrant neglect of work.

UNDERGRADUATE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

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

GRADES

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

A	4.0	C+	2.3
A-	3.7	C	2.0
B+	3.3	C-	1.7
B	3.0	D	1.0
B-	2.7	F	0.0

X 0.0 Failed to earn credit; missed final exam

Y 0.0 Failed to earn credit; work incomplete

Notations ignored in computing the GPA:

P Pass with credit

N No grade, no credit

K In progress

S Satisfactory (noncredit course)

U Unsatisfactory (noncredit course)

W Withdrawn by permission

If an X or Y is to be changed and credit established, the deficiencies must be made up before the end of the following quarter of attendance. Additional



grading flexibility has been offered due to COVID-19 and is outlined on the Registrar's website at

[REGISTRAR.NORTHWESTERN.EDU](https://www.registrar.northwestern.edu)

Examinations

Professors may schedule exams anytime during the quarter, with midterms most often occurring in the third through the fifth weeks; final exams are scheduled at the times indicated in the quarterly class schedule. Permission to be absent from the final

examination is given by the instructor and the dean only for cause beyond the student's control, and is usually secured before the exam date.

Dean's List

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

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

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

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

Asking your students is, in fact, typically your only means of finding out about their academic performance. If you contact Northwestern staff to request information about your student's grades or compliance with the University's expectations, you will be overstepping bounds set by FERPA, the 1974 Family Educational

Rights and Privacy Act. FERPA defines exactly what information in the records – such as grades, enrollment status, and billing for tuition and fees – Northwestern may share with third parties, including parents. In compliance with FERPA, the University does not mail home grade reports; students are solely responsible for disclosing their grades to their family members. Students may download their quarterly grade reports or request they be mailed to them or to their family's address. For a detailed explanation of FERPA, see [REGISTRAR.NORTHWESTERN.EDU](#).

TRANSFERRING BETWEEN SCHOOLS

A student who wishes to transfer from one Northwestern undergraduate school to another must follow guidelines set by the University and by the school. Detailed instructions are available at [REGISTRAR.NORTHWESTERN.EDU](#).

TRANSFERRING COURSE CREDIT

Before taking courses at another institution in the summer or during the regular academic year, a student already enrolled at Northwestern must receive approval to transfer

credits. Transfer policies and the form to obtain approval are available at [REGISTRAR.NORTHWESTERN.EDU](https://www.registrar.northwestern.edu).

WITHDRAWING FROM NORTHWESTERN

After registering for classes in any quarter, students who wish to withdraw from the University must immediately file a withdrawal form, obtainable from the Registrar's Office or the dean's office of each school. Students who have withdrawn from the University and wish to reenter must file an application to do so a minimum of six weeks before reentry. The policy regarding withdrawing from individual courses is available at [REGISTRAR.NORTHWESTERN.EDU](https://www.registrar.northwestern.edu).

GRADUATION AND HONORS

Undergraduates must file a degree application one calendar year before their anticipated graduation. Students in the Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science must file with the school's Undergraduate Engineering Office; students in the other schools file with the Office of the Registrar. An annual University Commencement is held in June, and each school also hosts its own graduation convocation. Graduation honors are determined by grades in all work at Northwestern. Students in the

highest five percent of their undergraduate school class are awarded degrees summa cum laude; those in the next eight percent, magna cum laude; and those in the next 12 percent, cum laude. Graduation honors are not announced before Commencement, and the GPA cutoffs for each level of honors based on the stated percentages are not made public. Graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding talent in connection with a research project or work of an integrative nature may receive departmental honors. Students are nominated by their departments, and the school's faculty members make the final decisions. Students are selected for membership in certain honorary societies for superior scholarship or other outstanding achievements. The annual Commencement program announces new members of Phi Beta Kappa (arts and sciences); Zeta Phi Eta (communication); Eta Kappa Nu, Kappa Theta Epsilon, Omega Chi Epsilon, Pi Tau Sigma, Tau Beta Pi (engineering); Kappa Tau Alpha (journalism); and Pi Kappa Lambda (music).



THE FOUNDATION OF THE UNIVERSITY

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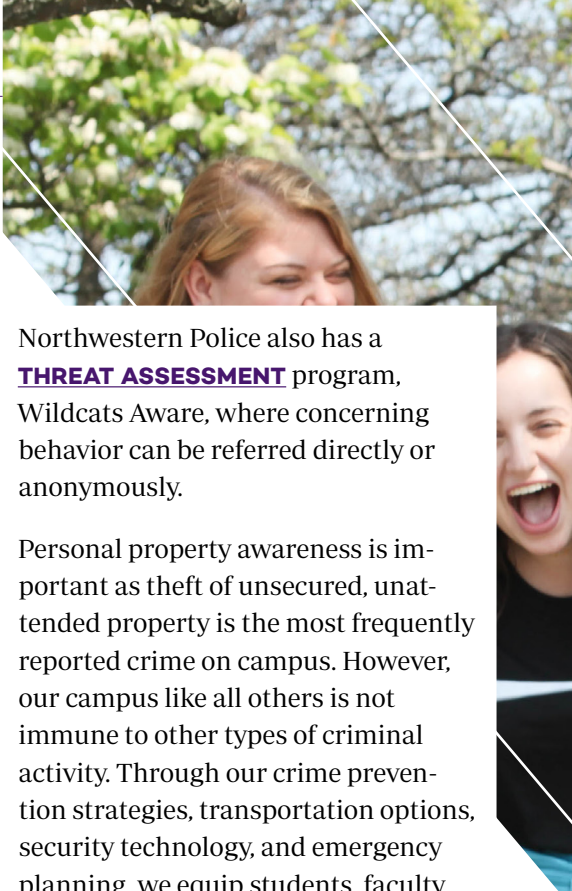
Northwestern Life

CAMPUS SAFETY

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/
SAFETY-SECURITY/](https://www.northwestern.edu/safety-security/)

Northwestern's Department of Safety and Security (DSS) is committed to meeting the safety needs of our community and building relationships with community members to enhance service delivery. Northwestern University Police, Transportation and Parking, Emergency Management, and Security Systems and Technical Services are all departments within DSS.

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



Northwestern Police also has a **THREAT ASSESSMENT** program, Wildcats Aware, where concerning behavior can be referred directly or anonymously.

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

The DSS website is host to safety and security information and resources that our students, parents, and other community members can reference. Information regarding emergency procedures, shuttle routes, crime statistics, current crime trends, and the University's Annual Security Report is accessible on our website. Community members can request a safety presentation, sign up to receive a free bicycle helmet and light, and register their property through the site.



We encourage students and parents to contact our police department if they have any questions or concerns related to safety and security throughout campus. We can be reached at **(847)-491-3456**.

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

CAMPUS LIFE

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/CAMPUSLIFE](https://northwestern.edu/campuslife)

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

- Identify personal interests, values, strengths, and identities and use these attributes to positively shape their communities at Northwestern and beyond.
- Hone leadership and relationship-building skills and apply them to strengthen their organizations and communities at Northwestern and beyond.

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

[Fraternity & Sorority Life](#)

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/FSL](https://northwestern.edu/fsl)

Northwestern's fraternity and sorority community is composed of 39 organizations, including 26 that are housed on campus, 8 that are culturally based, and 5 that are historically African American. Students who join fraternities and sororities benefit from experiences in community service and philanthropy, scholastic support, social outlets, and leadership development while on campus, and are offered the opportunity to learn and benefit from a network of lifelong members. Those involved in these organizations also have the chance to interact with administrators and other student leaders across campus while working on collaborative initiatives.

[Leadership Development & Community Engagement](#)

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/LEAD-ENGAGE](https://northwestern.edu/lead-engage)

Leadership & Community Engagement provides educational opportunities for students to understand and develop themselves as leaders to make positive change in their communities. We support students who are involved in community service and



social justice activities, and build sustained partnerships in the community and on campus and in the community that will advance student learning, leadership development, and commitment for a just and equitable world.

[Student Organizations & Activities](#)

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/](#)

[STUDENTORGS](#) Student Organizations and Activities engages students in involvement opportunities to build a stronger sense of belonging and community at Northwestern. We support, advise, and train student leaders in nearly 500 registered student organizations and facilitate

on and off-campus programming and entertainment. Students can find a full listing of registered student organizations through Wildcat Connection, which is available at [NORTHWESTERN.CAMPUSLABS.COM/ENGAGE](#), and departmentally led programs available at [WILDCATCONNECTION.NORTHWESTERN.EDU](#)



COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/

COUNSELING

Emotional or psychological challenges arise for most students at some point during college. Counseling can be a safe, supportive, and objective way for students to address their concerns. Northwestern's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers core brief mental health services that include personalized care plan meetings, short term one-on-one counseling sessions, psychotherapy groups, psychiatric and medication consultation, educational programs on various topics, and crisis consultation and intervention. When longer term or specialized treatment not offered at CAPS will best meet a student's needs, CAPS offers referral services to off-campus providers. CAPS work with students is confidential; only with a student's written permission or under other limited legal circumstances will anyone outside of CAPS be given information about a student's counseling. Full-time enrolled students are eligible for CAPS services at no cost though psychiatric services are offered only when a student is in on-going counseling at CAPS. A therapist is on call 24/7

year-round for emergencies. For an appointment, further information, or assistance in after-hours emergencies, students should contact CAPS at (847) 491-2151 or visit the CAPS webpage to learn about the center's scope of services. NORTHWESTERN.EDU/COUNSELING/CLINICAL-SERVICES/SCOPE-OF-SERVICES

DEAN OF STUDENTS

The Dean of Students Office is the central resource for student life issues and comprises multiple departments and programs: AccessibleNU, New Student and Family Programs, Center for Awareness, Response and Education, NUhelp, Off-Campus Life, Student Assistance and Support Services, and Office of Community Standards. Undergraduates, graduate students, parents, alumni, faculty, and staff who have any questions or concerns regarding student life may contact the Dean's office at DOS@NORTHWESTERN.EDU or (847) 491-8430.

New Student and Family Programs

WWW.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/NSFP

The Office of New Student and Family Programs (NSFP) is responsible for First-Year Experience initiatives, which include pre-arrival communi-

cation, Wildcat Welcome, continued support throughout the first year, Family Weekend, the *Wildcat Family Recap*, and other programs and services that help acclimate students and their families to life at Northwestern. NSFP is also home to approximately 250 student leadership positions including the Wildcat Welcome Board of Directors, Peer Advisers, Family Coordinators, and Family Ambassadors, each working closely with the NSFP professional staff all year. NSFP facilitates year-round leadership training and professional development for these student leaders.

[Accessible NU](#)

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ACCESSIBLENU](#)

AccessibleNU (ANU) works with students to determine reasonable academic accommodations for Northwestern students with disabilities. In addition to supporting the self-determination skills of students registered with the unit, ANU works to raise campus-wide awareness on issues of access, thus enriching the experience of the University community as a whole. While not required, registering with ANU is recommended for any student who has a physical disability, a chronic health condition, a diagnosed psychological condition, a learning or attention disorder, or other

such condition as ANU is the proper channel for requesting accommodations if and when needed. For more information, visit the website or contact ANU at **(847) 467-5530** or

ACCESSIBLENU@NORTHWESTERN.EDU.

[Center For Awareness, Response, and Education \(CARE\)](#)

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/CARE](#)

The mission of CARE is to create a culture of healthy sexuality at Northwestern where sexual violence, relationship violence, and stalking are not tolerated. CARE promotes this mission through confidential advocacy and support services and prevention education. CARE's confidential support and advocacy services for students impacted by sexual violence can provide a space to process, ask questions, safety plan, or learn more about the impact of trauma; CARE advocates can also act as an advisor through the Title IX process. CARE's prevention education work aims to promote a public health model of sexual violence prevention through trainings on consent, bystander intervention, supporting survivors, and healthy masculinity. These trainings may be done by CARE staff or trained students in two peer education groups, SHAPE and MARS.

Off-Campus Life

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/OFFCAMPUS

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

Student Assistance and Support Services

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/NUHELP

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

make an appointment with one of the Deans in the SASS program, please call 847-491-4582.

Office of Community Standards

The Office of Community Standards (OCS) serves as the primary resource for re-solving and addressing alleged student violations of Northwestern's policies, expectations, and standards. Managing the University Hearing and Appeals System (UHAS), the OCS fosters individual and community development through engagement with Northwestern University's policies, expectations, and standards. The OCS implements a fair, transparent, and equitable student conduct process that acknowledges individuals' capacity to learn and grow from challenging experiences.

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

Once reported, an alleged violation of policy, expectations, or standards, will typically be resolved through UHAS's formal student conduct process. Most allegations are resolved through administrative hearings with an individual hearing officer assigned by the OCS. More severe incidents that may result in a student's separation from Northwestern are resolved through review by two investigators. If a matter results in a finding of responsibility sanctions are determined by a sanctioning panel made up of trained faculty, staff, and students. Students and families can read the complete procedures on the OCS website.

Details related to the OCS's response to COVID-19 issues can be found on the OCS website

Parents and families with questions may contact the OCS at (847) 491-4582 or COMMUNITY-STANDARDS@NORTHWESTERN.EDU

Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD)

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

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

ing of the expectations incumbent upon them as members of the Northwestern community.

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

[Amnesty through Responsible Action](#)

At Northwestern, the well-being of students is of primary importance, and students play a critical role in creating that community of care. Northwest-

ern encourages students and student groups to ensure the well-being of others by taking responsible steps to seek assistance for individuals who are intoxicated/impaired (including themselves). The specific steps asked of students include:

1. **Call for help** from emergency services or Residential Life staff;
2. **Stay** with the person until released by responding staff or emergency personnel; and
3. **Cooperate** with all instructions and requests of responding staff or emergency personnel.

When this occurs, the University will honor that care by prioritizing educational and supportive responses. The University will not hold students or student groups who take such action (for themselves or for others), or for whom such action is taken, accountable for violations of the University's alcohol or other drug (AOD) policies. Students may be held accountable for other, non-AOD, policy violations and driving under the influence. Students may also be required to participate in educational activities such as BASICS. More detailed information about the Amnesty through Responsible Action policy can be reviewed on the office's website.



CAMPUS INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/INCLUSION](https://northwestern.edu/inclusion)

Campus Inclusion and Community (CIC) works collaboratively with the University community to cultivate inclusive learning environments through the intentional engagement with difference. CIC pursues its mission by providing opportunities for dialogue, leadership development, identity exploration, education, social justice training, and advocacy. CIC comprises three collaborative areas, focusing on education, engagement, and enrichment. CIC provides support for parents and families of students of color, LGBTQIA, first-generation, lower-income, and/or undocumented/DACA backgrounds.

[Multicultural Student Affairs](https://northwestern.edu/msa)

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/MSA](https://northwestern.edu/msa)

Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) enriches the cultural experience of Northwestern through educational programs and services focusing on leadership, community engagement, identity development, and identity expression. MSA provides service in three spaces on campus: the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (Norris University Center, 3rd Floor), the Multicultural Center (1936 Sheridan) and The Black House (1914 Sheridan). In addition, MSA

advises several student organizations, including the Asian Pacific American Coalition (APAC), For Members Only (FMO): Northwestern's Black Student Alliance, and Rainbow Alliance.

Social Justice Education

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/SOCIALJUSTICE](https://northwestern.edu/socialjustice)

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

Student Enrichment Services

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ENRICHMENT](https://northwestern.edu/enrichment)

Support for parents and families who have students that are the first to go to college, come from lower-income backgrounds, and/or undocumented/DACA backgrounds.

Through campus-wide partnerships and advocacy, SES strives to build an inclusive Northwestern community that is welcoming, supportive, and accessible for all students.

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/FELLOWSHIPS](https://northwestern.edu/fellowships)

Students may apply for external fellowships with help from the Office of Fellowships. The staff has expertise in identifying opportunities that fund language study, research, tuition support, and internships. These awards may include, but are not limited to, such major fellowships as Goldwater, Luce, Marshall, Rhodes, and Truman, as well as the Fulbright US Student Program, which funds research and study in 140 countries worldwide. Whether students are seeking an award as a first-year student or a recent alum, the Office of Fellowships is here to guide them through the initial search, applications, interviews, and more!

FINANCIAL AID

[UNDERGRADAID.](https://northwestern.edu/undergradaid)

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU](https://northwestern.edu)

Grants, loans, and work-study opportunities are offered to undergraduate students enrolled at least half-time; aid eligibility is based on demonstrated financial need. Students must reapply for aid each year and will be emailed instructions for reapplication, during the winter term with decisions being released on a rolling basis throughout the spring

and summer. In the event of dramatic changes in their financial circumstances, students, even those not currently receiving aid, should contact the Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid at **(847) 491-7400** or

**[UNDERGRADAID@
U.NORTHWESTERN.EDU](mailto:UNDERGRADAID@U.NORTHWESTERN.EDU)**

HEALTH INSURANCE

**[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/
STUDENT-INSURANCE](https://www.northwestern.edu/student-insurance)**

All degree-seeking* Northwestern students are required to have comprehensive health insurance that meets all of the University's comparable coverage requirements. To this end, all insurance-eligible students are defaulted into the Northwestern University Student Health Insurance Plan (NU-SHIP) every year; the annual premium is billed to students' accounts at the same time tuition and other fees are charged. Students must confirm or waive their NU-SHIP enrollment via the online Coverage Selection Form in CAESAR, during the applicable open enrollment period. Students whose first registration in the 2020-2021 academic year occurs in winter, spring, or summer quarter should review the Student Health Insurance website for their relevant open enrollment period.

In keeping with a mandate set by the provost, Northwestern requires inter-

national students—students holding an F-1 or J-1 U.S. visa—to maintain enrollment in the NU-SHIP for the entire time they are pursuing their studies at Northwestern.

Students who are covered under alternate insurance plans and wish to waive their NU-SHIP enrollment should review the University's comparable coverage requirements to ensure their coverage provides all required benefits. Students (and their families) are encouraged to download the Comparable Coverage Checklist to determine if their plan qualifies to waive the NU-SHIP. Students who intend to use the NU-SHIP for their coverage should confirm their enrollment in CAESAR as soon as possible, to ensure access to all benefits at the start of the new plan year (Sept. 1). Students who do not confirm or waive their NU-SHIP coverage by the open enrollment deadline (for most students, midnight CDT on Oct. 1) will remain enrolled in the NU-SHIP for the 2020-2021 plan, which runs Sept. 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021, and will be responsible for the \$4,170 premium billed to their accounts.

For additional information about 2020-2021 NU-SHIP coverage, confirming or waiving NU-SHIP enrollment, or annual Northwestern insurance requirements, please see the Northwestern Student Insurance website.

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

HEALTH PROMOTION AND WELLNESS

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/HPAW

Health Promotion and Wellness (HPaW) works with campus and community partners to create a healthy and safe environment for all Northwestern students. HPaW supports the academic and personal success of students by providing outreach, education, and services that address health and wellbeing using the Eight Dimensions of Wellness framework.

HPaW professional staff and graduate student interns deliver trainings and outreach programs on numerous health topics, including alcohol and other drug misuse prevention, stress management, sleep, building resilience, and more. HPaW offers free wellness coaching to students interested in

working on goals related to healthy eating, physical activity, sleep, time management, and stress management. Students who wish to learn more about their own alcohol or drug use may choose to seek out BASICS (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students), a confidential and nonjudgmental exploration with a trained provider. HPaW's peer education group, Wildcats Advancing Total Campus Health (WATCH), offers opportunities for students to engage with and educate their peers on a variety of wellness topics. ResilientNU, a student/staff led program, runs five-week small group cohorts each quarter. Participants learn evidence-based strategies to increase wellness, manage stress, and improve balance. HPaW also manages the [WELLNESS AT NORTHWESTERN](#) and [ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG RESOURCES](#) websites. More information about HPaW programs and services can be found under the HPaW tab on the Wellness at Northwestern website.

HEALTH SERVICE

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/HEALTH-SERVICE-EVANSTON

Located in Searle Hall on the Evanston campus, the Northwestern University Health Service for students is staffed by primary care and sports medicine

physicians, nurse practitioners, and a clinic support staff consisting of nurses, medical assistants and athletic trainers. The Health Service is a contemporary ambulatory care facility with a pharmacy, laboratory, and radiology department on site. Students registered in degree programs are eligible to use the Health Service with no charge for office visits and telehealth visits. See the Health Service website for more information.

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES (OISS)

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

Northwestern is home to approximately 5,000 international students from more than 100 countries. The mission of the Office of International Student and Scholar Services is to enrich the academic and cultural experiences of those students, as well as those of international visitors, employees, and families. The OISS advises students on the student immigration process, summer and fall orientations including online orientation courses and webinars on housing and health insurance, transition to college life, and integration into the University community, and offers weekly walk-in hours, fall orientations, and a wide range of programming throughout the academic year.

NORRIS UNIVERSITY CENTER

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/NORRIS

With its variety of services, resources, and meeting spaces, Norris University Center is an essential element of community and leadership at Northwestern. It is the headquarters of the Campus Life office, Fraternity and Sorority Life, and numerous student organizations that provide leadership opportunities for students. Each quarter, Norris also offers Mini Courses that are fun, educational, and open to everyone. The Game Room, ARTica Studios, and Norris Outdoors provide space and resources for many forms of recreation, including the latest high-tech gaming systems, art supplies, and outdoor equipment for rent. Among the range of meal and snack sources at Norris are Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, Mod Pizza, Wildcat Deli, Viet Nom Nom, Roots and Seeds, The Market, and Patty². Other in-house amenities include a printing station, a prayer and meditation room, and a full-service U.S. Bank. The Norris Bookstore sells textbooks, campus gear, and is an Apple-authorized campus store, offering Apple products and other user support services.

NORTHWESTERN CAREER ADVANCEMENT

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/CAREERS](https://northwestern.edu/careers)

Northwestern Career Advancement (NCA) provides a full spectrum of career counseling and advising services, workshops, programming, and special events for undergraduate and graduate students. It aims to help students translate their Northwestern education into professional opportunities, including successful job and internship searches and graduate/law school admission. Services include: career counseling and career assessments; internship and job-search advising and resources, including industry and company information, application material review, mock interviewing, and advice on salary negotiations. In addition Handshake, our online system, provides more than 30,000 internship and job postings. NCA also hosts career fairs, information sessions and interviewing.

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/](https://northwestern.edu/religious-life)

[RELIGIOUS-LIFE](https://northwestern.edu/religious-life)

Religious and Spiritual Life provides programs and spaces to explore life's meaning and purpose and to create an inclusive environment in which students may discover and grow in their religious traditions, spiritual exploration, or non-religious quest for meaning. There are more than 40 religious fellowship groups on campus spanning a wide range of faith traditions. In addition, Religious & Spiritual Life works closely with five affiliated ministry centers: Canterbury Northwestern, Fiedler Hillel, Sheil Catholic Center, University Christian Ministry, and University Lutheran Center. Non-denominational university chapel services are held on Sundays during the academic year in the architecturally significant Alice Millar Chapel and Religious Center; the chapel is ecumenical in its approach to worship and programs, which are open to members of all faiths. Muslim Jumua'ah prayers are held Fridays, with a Muslim Prayer room available daily for prayers. The center, which also includes a Multi-Belief Space for ritual and contemplation purposes, also hosts a variety of special services



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Alice Millar Chapel

and events, such as interfaith dialogues, mindfulness meditation, and boasts rich musical programming as well as discussion groups, lectures, educational programming, recitals, concerts, and dramatic performances. Chaplains welcome personal conferences with students, either on a drop-in basis or by appointment, and are also available to meet with parents and family members.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/LIVING](https://www.northwestern.edu/living)

Residential Services is committed to meeting the needs of students for whom the Evanston campus is home: the 3,700 undergraduates who occupy University housing. Each Residential Area has an Area Leadership Team, comprised of a Faculty-in-Residence and Resident Director, who work with student Resident Assistants to provide an ongoing slate of educational, social, and academic programming to promote community and to encourage each student's growth and development. Faculty Chairs and student Executive Boards also provide programming and connections for students living in residential colleges. Support for students is available 24/7 through area desks and a network of student and professional staff who serve on duty.

NORTHWESTERN DINING

[DINING.NORTHWESTERN.EDU](https://dining.northwestern.edu)

Inclusive dining is the hallmark of Northwestern University's innovative campus dining program. Unlimited, all-you-care-to-eat dining is offered in four residential dining locations: Allison Residential Community, Elder Residential Community, Foster-Walker Complex, and Sargent Hall. Residents of halls without on-site dining services may eat in any of these. Eating at the dining commons in your neighborhood is encouraged! Hours of operation vary but are focused on providing options throughout the day and evening hours. There is an on-site Campus Dietitian for all nutritional counseling needs as well as help for those with allergies or celiac. The dietitian can always be reached at DIETITIAN@NORTHWESTERN.EDU. For those with allergies and Celiac we have dedicated Pure Eats stations at all dining commons. For other special dietary needs, we have Kosher and Halal options, including certified Kosher stations at Allison and Elder Dining Hall. Vegan and Vegetarians can enjoy rotating daily selections at dedicated stations in all dining halls. Additionally, we have many retail locations on campus – including quick-service cafés, convenience stores, and nationally known franchises. Please see the

website, DINING.NORTHWESTERN.EDU, for complete information about meal plans, menus, nutrition information.

STUDENT FINANCE

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/SFS

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

TRANSPORTATION

Biking

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ TRANSPORTATION-PARKING/ COMMUTER-OPTIONS/BICYCLE.HTML](https://NORTHWESTERN.EDU/TRANSPORTATION-PARKING/COMMUTER-OPTIONS/BICYCLE.HTML)

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

The University and City of Evanston have also partnered with Divvy to provide a bike share option. There are a number of stations on campus and throughout Evanston and Chicago. A discounted Annual Membership is available for students.

Car Sharing

[WWW.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/ TRANSPORTATION-PARKING/ COMMUTER-OPTIONS/ZIPCAR-CAR- SHARE.HTML](https://WWW.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/TRANSPORTATION-PARKING/COMMUTER-OPTIONS/ZIPCAR-CAR-SHARE.HTML)

Northwestern has partnered with Zipcar to offer students the convenience of car ownership without the hassle and expense of bringing a car to campus. Discounted memberships are available, which includes gas and insurance.

[Parking Permits](#)

WWW.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/TRANSPORTATION-PARKING/EVANSTON-PARKING/PERMITS/ Due to campus space constraints, the purchase of Northwestern's \$25 Ryan Field parking permit (valid for the whole year) is recommended for students who require off-street parking for extended periods. (Almost all of Evanston's on-street parking near campus is for residents only or limited to two hours for visitors.) The Intercampus shuttle and CTA bus #201 provides service between the parking lot and the main Evanston campus for free. Ryan Field parking is limited to time periods of fewer than 5 consecutive days, and all vehicles must be removed from the lot on the days of home football games.

[Safe Ride](#)

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/SAFERIDE Safe Ride provides students, faculty and staff with a safe and free alternative to walking alone after dark. Operating from 7 p.m. until 3 a.m. seven days a week when classes are in session, Safe Ride's service is available on campus as well as in selected parts of Evanston. Rides are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis and may be requested by phone call or via ride-sharing app.



[Shuttles](#)

SHUTTLE.NORTHWESTERN.EDU

Northwestern operates several shuttle buses during the academic year which are free for students and make stops on the Evanston and Chicago campuses, as well nearby shopping centers. Shuttles can be tracked in real time using TransLoc either online or a smartphone app. TransLoc offers the location of the shuttle as well as predicted arrival time at stops.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT & LEARNING ADVANCEMENT

NORTHWESTERN.EDU/

[ACADEMIC-SUPPORT-LEARNING/](#) Academic Support & Learning Advancement (ASLA) helps Northwestern undergraduates reach their academic potential. ASLA offers peer-facilitated study groups for more than 30 courses, drop-in peer tutoring throughout

the week, individual and group peer academic coaching, individual consultations with staff, and an array of workshops and other resources. Trained peer leaders provide approachable, comfortable settings for learning. Students can participate at locations across campus and virtually while classes are remote.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING

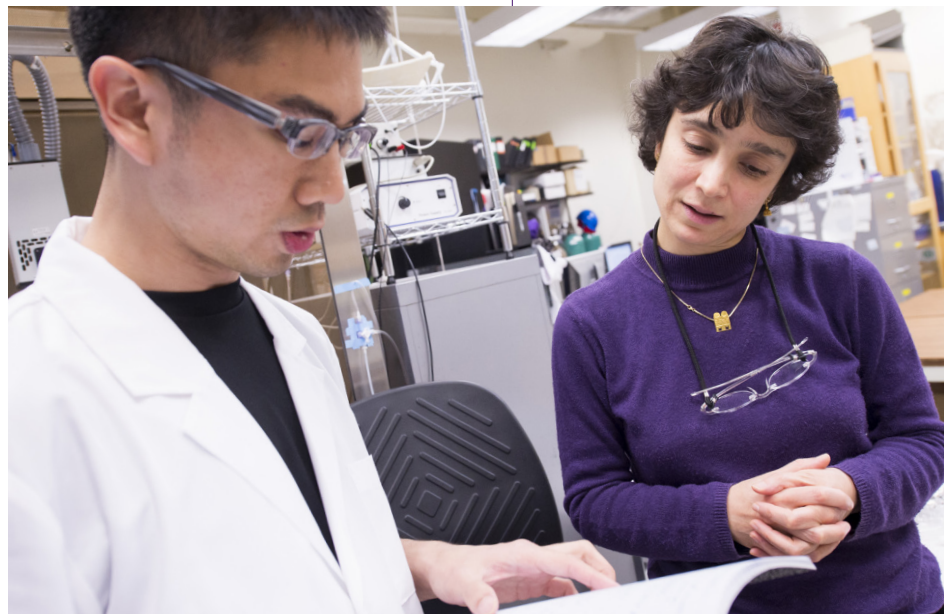
[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/HPA](https://northwestern.edu/hpa)

Northwestern's Health Professions Advising (HPA) office supports students and alumni on their unique journeys toward a career in the health professions, provides guidance on their options and choices, and contributes to building a health workforce that better reflects the diversity of our society.

Students are encouraged to develop plans aligned with their unique goals and interests on their journey toward a postgraduate medical or other health professions program. HPA advisors offer one-on-one advising on topics including required coursework for health professions, application timelines, personal statements, clinical and non-clinical experiences, entrance exams (MCAT, DAT, PCAT, GRE, etc.) and guiding students to develop a stronger application to a health profession program.

First-year pre-medical students must complete our webinar introducing our services and resources and the premed pathway, prior to receiving an advisor assignment. Students interested in other health professions should contact our office to seek an advisor assignment. HPA also offers workshops, information sessions, and other programs throughout the year on several topics to help students explore career options in the health professions. For example, admissions officers from medical and health professions programs at Northwestern and across the country regularly present to promote their programs to Northwestern students and graduates.

For more information about our services, or to contact us, please visit our website: [NORTHWESTERN.EDU/HPA](https://northwestern.edu/hpa).



NORTHWESTERN LIBRARIES

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/LIBRARY](https://northwestern.edu/library)

The Northwestern Libraries are home to more than 7 million volumes including Northwestern's renowned Herskovits Library of African Studies, Music Library, and Transportation Library, as well as access to articles through over 900 databases. With such a wealth of resources, our personalized support is essential to finding what students need. Library staff includes personal librarians and research specialists in more than 65 subjects, who offer consultations over Zoom and email to help students navigate academic resources relevant to their research. To support remote learning, the libraries offer home delivery of books, scans of book chapters, and

remote access to specialized software. To support students on campus, the libraries offer book pick-up, reservable quiet study and video conferencing spaces, computers, printing and scanning.



WILDCARD

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/WILDCARD](https://northwestern.edu/wildcard)

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

WOMEN'S CENTER

[NORTHWESTERN.EDU/WOMENSCENTER](https://northwestern.edu/womenscenter)

The Women's Center is committed to advancing gender equity and inclusion at Northwestern University and offers a variety of supports and services for women and other gender minorities. We are a welcoming, safe, affirming and supportive environment to access campus and community-based resources for students, faculty and staff. The Center also engages the Northwestern community through education and programming that focuses on feminist, gender, and social justice issues.

THE WRITING PLACE

[WRITING.NORTHWESTERN.EDU](https://writing.northwestern.edu)

The Writing Place, located in University Library 2 North, is a writing resource center. In-person and online appointments are available with peer writing consultants – students with superior writing skills who are trained to help their peers at all stages of the writing process, from narrowing a topic and formulating ideas to evaluating and revising rough drafts. All students are welcome to come to the Writing Place. Even strong writers benefit from talking about their writing with trained consultants.





Willie's Wildcat Tips

STAYING UP TO SPEED

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

Wildcat Family Recap

If you are not already signed up to receive this bi-monthly e-mail from Family Engagement, you can do so at WWW.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/NSFP/FAMILIES/FAMILY-COMMUNICATION.HTML

Social Media

Find the latest news and information at NORTHWESTERN.EDU.

Some of Northwestern's other official social media accounts include:

Northwestern's Official Family Facebook Page - [FACEBOOK.COM/NORTHWESTERNFAMILIES](https://www.facebook.com/NORTHWESTERNFAMILIES)

Facebook - [FACEBOOK.COM/NORTHWESTERNU](https://www.facebook.com/NORTHWESTERNU)

Twitter - [TWITTER.COM/NORTHWESTERNU](https://twitter.com/NORTHWESTERNU)

YouTube - [YOUTUBE.COM/NORTHWESTERNU](https://www.youtube.com/NORTHWESTERNU)

Instagram - [INSTAGRAM.COM/NORTHWESTERNU](https://www.instagram.com/NORTHWESTERNU)

Family Weekend

Typically, the area of Family Engagement invites all parents and families of Northwestern students to campus for Family Weekend in the fall. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we postponed this popular event until Spring quarter. Typically, visitors have the chance to attend special classes, a football game, and various student performances. Most importantly, families have the opportunity to spend time with their students! We will determine if we can host a Spring Family Weekend during Winter quarter once we receive more guidance from the State of Illinois. Family Weekend updates will be sent via the parent and family e-mail list during Winter quarter.

The Lingo

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

Bienen = Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music

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

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

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

Distro = Distribution requirement, a course mandatory for degree completion

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

McCormick = McCormick School of Engineering

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

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

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

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

Plex = Foster-Walker Complex, the largest student residence

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

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

SoC = School of Communication

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

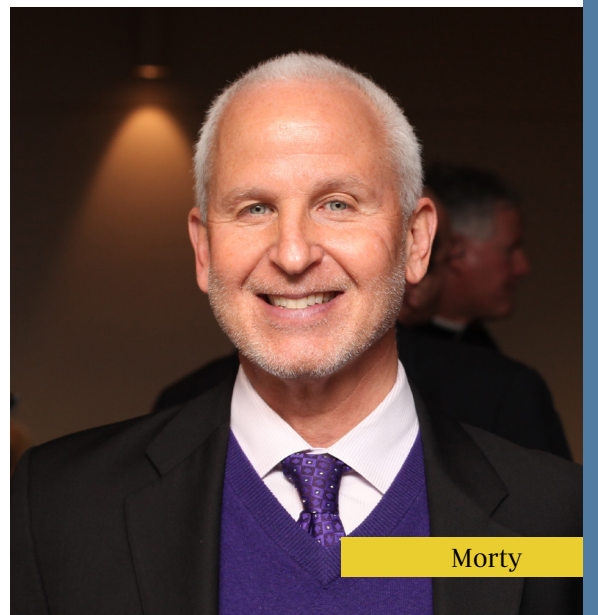
Weinberg = Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences



DM



Dillo Day



Morty

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Fight Song

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

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

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

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

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

Words and music by Theodore Van Etten, class of 1913

Alma Mater

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

Words by Thomas Tyra,
class of 1954

**VISITING
EVANSTON**

For information on Evanston shops, restaurants, and hotels, visit

DOWNTOWNEVANSTON.ORG

Dates and Contacts

WINTER 2021

Winter classes begin	Mon	January 4, 2021
Martin Luther King Jr Day (no classes)	Mon	January 18, 2021
Winter classes end	Sat	March 13, 2021
Winter exams begin	Mon	March 15, 2021
Winter exams end	Sat	March 20, 2021

SPRING 2021

Spring classes begin	Mon	March 29, 2021
Memorial Day (no classes)	Mon	May 30, 2021
Spring classes end	Sun	June 4, 2021
Spring exams begin	Mon	June 6, 2021
Spring exams end	Sat	June 11, 2021

SUMMER 2021

Classes Begin	Mon	June 20, 2021
Independence Day (no classes)	Mon	July 4, 2021
Six-week session ends	Sat	July 30, 2021
Eight-week session ends	Sat	August 13, 2021
Ten-week session ends	Sat	August 27, 2021

TUITION DUE DATES

Winter	January 1, 2021
Spring	April 1, 2021
Summer	June 1, 2021

For more information and to view future academic calendars, visit [REGISTRAR. NORTHWESTERN.EDU/CALENDARS.](https://www.northwestern.edu/registrar/academic-calendars)

Northwestern | NEW STUDENT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS