

Dear Colleagues,

Happy February! As meetings with your juniors pick up, I wanted to share a few updates in support of those conversations:

Test optional

We will **remain test-optional** for the upcoming 2022–2023 admissions cycle. See our [testing FAQs](#) for more context.

Presidential transition

This summer, **Morton Schapiro** [will retire](#) after serving as Northwestern’s president for over a decade. **Rebecca Blank**, current chancellor of the University of Wisconsin’s flagship campus in Madison, [will succeed Schapiro](#) as Northwestern’s 17th president.

Throughout his tenure, President Schapiro has strengthened Northwestern’s longstanding **commitment to college access**, growing one of the country’s most generous need-based financial aid programs and increasing resources for students on campus. A recent [Northwestern Magazine piece](#) shares this story through student voices. Chancellor Blank has likewise focused on access and diversity at Wisconsin, and we are excited for her to lead Northwestern forward.

Campus tours and digital programming

We are currently planning to offer [campus tours](#) throughout the spring, and **registration is now available** through April. Should health precautions necessitate cancellations, we will do our best to communicate with registered guests as early as possible.

We welcome students to visit for **self-guided tours** at any point. You’ll find a QR code for the self-guided tour, along with other materials, in the front vestibule of our [Segal Visitors Center](#), which is accessible even when the building’s lobby is closed to visitors.

Our “[Purple Preview Conversations](#)” are another great option for juniors interested in Northwestern. These one-on-one Zoom conversations provide an opportunity to connect in real-time with a current student.

I’d also encourage your students to explore our range of **digital experiences** accessible on our [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#)—[tours](#), [student panels](#), [video dialogues](#) with admission directors, and more.

Class of 2025 statistics

For quick statistics on last year’s admissions process, please reference our [first-year class profile](#) and/or this [story about the Class of 2025](#).

Campus spaces highlight

Chicago winters have their joys! Northwestern students can access free skate rental and brand-new rinks for up to three guests at **Evanston’s** [recently opened Robert Crown Center](#)—one of many ways to engage with the larger Evanston community.

Northwestern’s **Black House celebrated a significant renovation** in Fall Quarter with a rededication program spanning a series of events throughout Homecoming weekend. As we conclude Black History month in the coming week, we’ll be premiering a student-led video tour of the Black House on our [Admissions YouTube channel](#).

Special programs with separate admissions processes

Finally, I wanted to highlight a few **special Northwestern programs** that students apply to as high-school seniors (as opposed to once on campus), since they may require your students to keep additional materials and/or deadlines on radar:

- Our [Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences](#) (MMSS) program and our [Integrated Science Program](#) (ISP) consider applications separate from our main undergraduate admissions process. Each of these uniquely interdisciplinary programs requires additional materials, works under a different timeline, and evaluates students independently from the Undergraduate Admissions committee. Because these programs are designed as second majors, students may be admitted to Northwestern and not admitted to MMSS or ISP (but not vice versa). Both MMSS and ISP admit rising sophomores as well as incoming first-years, so enrolled students have further opportunities to apply.
- Our **undergraduate music majors** in the [Bienen School of Music](#) require an audition. In many cases, students must submit prescreening materials, and all Bienen applicants submit a music supplement. Deadlines and additional requirements are posted [here](#), and students can send questions about music admissions to musiclife@northwestern.edu
- Our **theatre major** does not require an audition, but it is capped at 100 students in each incoming class. While the major is highly selective, we encourage students who want to major in theatre to apply as incoming first-years versus trying to transfer in as undergraduates, as very few students leave the major, so space for rising sophomores or juniors is generally limited.
- Distinct from the theatre major, our [music theatre certificate program](#) is available to undergraduates majoring in theatre, voice, dance, or performance studies. Applicants interested in this program may submit a **vocal supplement** along with their required application materials. While this supplement does not serve as an audition to the musical theatre certificate program, the Undergraduate Admissions committee may weigh faculty input on vocal supplements in the evaluation process.
- Our Honors Program in Medical Education was suspended in 2019–20. Students interested in **direct-entry to our Feinberg School of Medicine** should explore the [Northwestern's Undergraduate Premedical Scholars program](#), which our undergraduates apply to in their junior year.

As always, we are here if you need us—you can **find your primary regional contact** [here](#). Our replies may be a bit delayed as we finalize Regular Decision review for the Class of 2026, but we will be sure to get back to you. I'll be in touch once we can share information about this year's applicant pool and next fall's incoming class.

Thanks for all you do! We hope to be back on the road soon and look forward to crossing paths in person.

Warmly,



Liz Kinsley, PhD
Associate Dean & Director, Undergraduate Admission