



COUNSELOR NEWSLETTER 2017

Thank you.

Northwestern holds collaboration among its defining community values—and here in admissions, we hold you among our most significant collaborators. We know how hard you work to prepare students and their families for the college process, so please don't hesitate to contact us throughout the admissions cycle if our input or insights might make your job easier. We're happy to serve as a resource, and we're grateful for your partnership as educators.

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New academic programs.

Northwestern's commitment to and leadership in **interdisciplinary scholarship** is evident across several new majors and academic initiatives:

- **The Neuroscience major (added fall 2015)** crosses traditional academic boundaries to address new opportunities and challenges in understanding brain function and dysfunction.
- **The Asian American Studies major (added fall 2016)** combines core courses on Asian migration and contemporary communities, ethnic relations and culture, as well as opportunities for field research.

- **The Learning sciences major (added fall 2016)** integrates three related themes: cognition and learning processes, social and cultural contexts of learning, and designing for learning.

- Previously only offered as a minor, **Global Health Studies (added fall 2017)** is now available as an adjunct major—an interdisciplinary program to be paired with another primary major.

- **Computer Science is undergoing a \$150 million expansion**, including 20 new faculty in core computer science areas as well as collaborative "CS+X" appointments with other disciplines.

Application updates & info.

- As of fall 2016, we accept either the **Common Application** or the **Coalition Application**. There is no preference for nor difference between either of these applications. We also continue to partner with **QuestBridge**, and our campus Quest Scholars network is among the nation's largest.
- Beginning in fall 2017, applicants can confirm receipt of all required application materials via an **online applicant portal**. The portal will also enable students to **upload application updates**.
- As in past years, **SAT subject tests are optional** for most applicants, **as are the SAT and/or ACT writing sections**. Homeschooled students and applicants to special programs should visit our website for specific testing policies.

Application rounds and deadlines remain the same:

November 1
EARLY DECISION (BINDING)

January 1
REGULAR DECISION

- We are continuing to offer **off-campus alumni interviews** on a space-available basis. Important details are as follows:
 - ▶ Interviews are not required, nor can we accommodate all interview requests, as we do not have alumni interviewers in every region and face further limitations due to applicant volume.
 - ▶ Early and Regular Decision applicants will be notified via email of interview availability and sign-up procedures.

New support services.

- The Office of Student Enrichment Services opened in fall 2014 and has since expanded to better engage students and their allies with **programming and dialogue around low-income and first-generation experiences**.

New campus policies.

- In 2016, Northwestern **eliminated loans** from undergraduate financial aid packages. We continue to meet 100% of demonstrated need for all admitted students.
- As of fall 2017, all undergraduates will be required to live on campus for two years as part of an **expanded residential program** designed to foster diverse and inclusive communities and enrich academic life.

Academic programs you don't see every day.

67%

OF OUR UNDERGRADS
COMBINE TWO OR
MORE AREAS OF STUDY

Business Institutions minor / Civic Engagement certificate / Dual degree programs in: engineering & communication; music & arts and sciences; music & communication; music & education and social policy; music & journalism / Entrepreneurship certificate / Integrated Engineering Studies major / Integrated Marketing and Communications certificate / Legal Studies major / Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences major / Science in Human Culture / Sound Design minor

Class of 2021 facts and figures.

The class of 2021 is an exciting community, and our most diverse class yet. Here's a snapshot of the students who arrived at Northwestern this fall:

37,259

TOTAL APPLICANTS

9%

ADMIT RATE

1,906

STUDENTS IN
FIRST-YEAR CLASS

ABOUT

1/2

OF FIRST-YEAR CLASS
ADMITTED THROUGH
EARLY DECISION

Our students are:

1%

American Indian, Alaska Native
or Pacific Islander

19%

Asian

10%

Black or African American

12%

Hispanic or Latino

10%

International

48%

White

10%

First-generation college students

19%

Pell Grant recipients

>90%

ARE IN THE TOP TEN PERCENT
OF THEIR GRADUATING CLASS

Admitted students' middle 50% scores

1440-1540

New SAT
Combined Critical Reading & Math

32-34

ACT
Composite



Our 8,000+ undergrads
come from more than

75 COUNTRIES

7:1 STUDENT-TO-
FACULTY RATIO

**50+ languages
spoken**

Albanian / Arabic / Armenian / Bengali / Bosnian / Bulgarian / Cantonese / Catalan-Valencian-Balear / Chinese / Czech / Dutch / English / Éwé / French / German / Greek / Gujarati / Hebrew / Hindi / Indonesian / Italian / Japanese / Khmer, Central / Korean / Malayalam / Mandarin / Marathi / Nepali / Norwegian / Polish / Portuguese / Pushto / Romanian / Russian / Serbian / Sindhi / Spanish / Swahili / Tagalog / Tamil / Telugu / Thai / Tigrigna / Turkish / Ukrainian / Urdu / Vietnamese / Yoruba

Financial aid.

62%
OF UNDERGRADUATES
RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**\$174
MILLION**
IN NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID
AWARDED IN 2016-17

■ Northwestern **meets 100% of demonstrated financial need** for all admitted students **with loan-free financial aid packages**.

A limited amount of need-based financial aid is available to international students.

■ Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE to apply for financial aid.

Application process.

■ Students can submit an application from either the Common Application or Coalition Application; Northwestern has no application preference. The QuestBridge application is accepted in conjunction with either the Common Application or Coalition Application.

■ Applicants to our **Early Decision admission** round agree to withdraw all applications at other colleges and enroll at Northwestern if admitted. In recent years, Early Decision applicants have comprised roughly one half of the incoming class.

■ Given early applicants' high level of interest and the high concentration of academic and personal strengths represented across the early applicant pool, our Early Decision acceptance rate is higher than that of Regular Decision.

Learn More

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