

Dear Colleague,

It's officially fall! As the seasons change, I'm writing with updates on our incoming class, admissions and aid, our campus community, and ways to explore Northwestern. Click [here](#) to skip to the highlights.

Meet Our Incoming Class

Fall-quarter classes started yesterday following a weeklong "Wildcat Welcome" orientation for new students, who began their Northwestern journey with an annual tradition called [March through the Arch](#), walking together through our historic Weber Arch as hundreds of current students, supportive family members, and administrators stood by to welcome, celebrate, and high-five this remarkable group.

Our official first-year class profile is not yet available, but we are excited to welcome a class that is as diverse as any in recent years. **Read about this incredible group from all over the world [here](#).** If your students are looking for official statistics to guide their college search in the meantime, you can refer them to the [Northwestern Class of 2027 profile](#) on our online counselor hub.

The diversity reflected in the Class of 2028 is intrinsic to Northwestern's values and made possible by a range of initiatives and commitments across the University, including affordability efforts that start with an undergraduate **financial aid budget of more than \$250 million that meets all students' demonstrated need with loan-free scholarship packages**. We provide support beyond aid through resources like health insurance subsidies for our highest-need students, help with paying for books, and emergency aid. Last year, we expanded the list of applicants who qualify for [application fee waivers](#) to include first-gen college students.

Application Updates

Our application options and deadlines can be found [online](#). We **remain test-optional for this cycle and will be in touch as we finalize** decisions about future cycles. See our testing FAQs [here](#).

One notable change this year is that **we'll no longer offer alumni interviews as an optional part of the application process**. Instead, prospective students can connect with our incredible alumni through [new Alumni Conversations](#), an opportunity to learn about Northwestern through diverse perspectives before applying. Starting this week, students can request a conversation and select preferences to meet alums based on shared regional affiliation, shared pre-professional interests like engineering, business, or arts and media, or shared identities and backgrounds.

Last year, we introduced **new essay questions and requirements**, designed to focus student responses on areas we consider most important to our holistic review: how students' personal experiences have shaped how they see themselves engaging at Northwestern, and how their vision for college aligns with Northwestern's institutional values, academic culture, and campus community. **We no longer require the Common App / Coalition App personal essay**, and students are welcome to repurpose content from that longer essay in our shorter supplements. You can view our writing supplements [online](#) and learn more from our admissions staff in this ["Applied Learning" video](#).

Campus Updates

A few exciting campus additions in the works:

- Our **football season is off and running our [temporary lakeside facility](#)**, Northwestern Medicine Field at Martin Stadium, which will stand for two years as Ryan Field undergoes a major renovation. Wins at home have been sweetened by gorgeous days and fans cheering not only in the stands but also from the water as boats and floats anchor nearby to cheer on the 'Cats.

- Other campus enhancements include a renovation to make our Jacobs Center a [hub for social sciences and global studies](#), set for completion next fall, as well as a [redevelopment of the Cohen Lawn](#) outside our Norris Student Center, which will turn this lakeside area into a gathering space with a performance pavilion, rooftop patio, campus pub, firepits, and of course, stunning views of Lake Michigan.
- Among the 180 majors, minors, and certificates available across our six undergraduate schools, our McCormick School of Engineering will offer a [minor in AI](#) starting this fall, and our new [dual degree program in education and social policy and journalism](#) is now in its second year.

Explore & Connect with Northwestern

Registration is available for Fall-quarter [campus tours](#) (weekdays and select weekends), which visitors can pair with staff-led Admissions & Affordability Q&A sessions. We also offer academic info sessions to go deeper on each of our six undergraduate schools, as well as [Purple Preview days](#) to attend class with a current student.

For those who can't join us in Evanston, our "[Purple Preview Conversations](#)" allow seniors interested in Northwestern to connect one-on-one in real-time with a current student. We also encourage 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. We'll hold our [first of two live student panels for students considering Early Decision](#) this week on September 26th (the [second is scheduled for October 17](#)).

As always, you can **find your regional team's [contact information](#)** on our website, as well as other [resources for counselors](#). Don't hesitate to reach out—we're always happy to partner with you.

Thanks for all you do, and best of luck with the academic year ahead.

Warmly,



Liz Kinsley, PhD
Associate Dean & Director of Undergraduate Admission

Highlights:

- Meet our Class of '28 & transfers
- Explore:
 - Financial aid & fee waivers
 - Test-optional for 2024–25; FAQs here
 - Northwestern writing supplements
- New:
 - Alumni Conversations (optional interviews no longer available)
 - Campus gathering space on the lake
 - Minor in artificial intelligence (AI)
- Visit & Connect:
 - On-campus programming here
 - Digital programming here
 - Regional contacts here