

Dear Colleagues,

We've finalized our Early Decision selection process and notified applicants of their decisions. We hope the following pool-wide context will support your work with students and families as you debrief early outcomes and help students finalize Regular Decision applications.

This fall, we received **5,200 Early Decision applications**, up 14% since fall 2020. As in recent years, we admitted about half our incoming class early, with a goal of 2,100 students in the Class of 2028.

We also reviewed nearly 1,700 candidates through [QuestBridge's](#) National Match program for high-achieving, low-income students and will enroll a record **93 QuestBridge Match Scholars** in our first-year class. As Northwestern allows QuestBridge finalists who are not matched anywhere to convert their application status to Early Decision, our **Class of 2028 thus far includes nearly 140 Quest Scholars**, up 34% since fall 2020. (We are proud to have one of the largest Quest Scholars Networks on our campus—well over 400 in any given year.) Additionally, over 16% of our early admits are first-gen college students, compared to 14% 3 years ago.

Across our Early Decision and QuestBridge pools, we received **applications from nearly 3,000 secondary schools around the world** and saw continued growth in Early Decision applications from U.S. public schools. While we are encouraged by the diversity this represents, this growth also means we can't possibly admit every school's top candidates. Please know we aim to provide early applicants with a final decision whenever possible and admitted or denied far more students than we deferred.

Once students view their decision letters, high school counselors can see school-specific results on [Slate.org](#).

**If students have questions about next steps, here is some guidance you may pass along:**

**Admitted students** should withdraw all applications submitted to other institutions, as indicated in the Early Decision agreement you both signed. Other steps toward enrolling in the Class of 2028 will be snail-mailed with an admit packet and are also outlined online at [admit.northwestern.edu](#).

**Applicants who were denied admission** through Early Decision may not reapply in the same year. All decisions are final, and we do not have an appeals process. While we encourage students to invest fully in their remaining applications and embrace the terrific college choices that are sure to come this year, you may share that our transfer class has recently grown to 225+ students, and we welcome students to reapply via that process.

**Early Decision candidates whose applications were deferred** for further consideration should ensure we receive a midyear transcript as soon as it is available, and no later than mid-February. You may upload those through the Common Application or Coalition with Scoir platforms or send directly to [ug-admission@northwestern.edu](mailto:ug-admission@northwestern.edu). We anticipate admitting a small number of deferred candidates through our Regular Decision round. While we neither require nor expect deferred candidates to submit additional information or letters of support, students who wish to send updates may submit those via their applicant portal.

Finally, **our Regular Decision deadline is January 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Students should ensure their portion of the application is submitted online by 11:59 p.m. local time on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please note, we can accept supporting materials from high schools after that deadline if need be. If you have students with higher financial need, they can learn about our application fee waivers [here](#).

We're thrilled to welcome our newest Wildcats and thank you for sending them our way! We also recognize a majority of our decisions cause great disappointment in this early round, and we're ever appreciative for the work you do to champion, advise, and support students throughout this process.

Have a relaxing and joyful holiday season,



Liz Kinsley, PhD  
Associate Dean & Director, Undergraduate Admission