

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 over **6,000 Early Decision applications**. Our pool was up 15.5% compared to last year and was as strong, compelling, and diverse as any we've seen, with more first-generation applicants and increased geographic diversity, including more international students, more students from rural areas, and more students from U.S. neighborhoods with statistically higher college-going barriers. We admitted around 55% of our incoming class early, with a goal of roughly 2,100 students in the Class of 2029.

We also reviewed over 2,300 candidates through the [QuestBridge](#) program for high-achieving, lower-income students, and our **Class of 2029 thus far includes nearly 140 Quest Scholars**. (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.

Across our Early Decision and QuestBridge pools, we received **applications from nearly 4,000 secondary schools around the world**. While we are encouraged by the diversity this represents, it 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 2029 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 250+ 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 on [Slate.org](#) or via the Common Application or Coalition with Scoir platforms, or send directly to 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 2nd**. Students should ensure their portion of the application is submitted online by 11:59 p.m. local time on the 2nd. 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
Dean of Undergraduate Admission