

Dear Colleagues,

We've finalized our Regular Decision selection process and notified applicants of their decisions. We hope the insights below will prove useful as you debrief outcomes and help seniors finalize college plans, guide juniors in their college search, and support students seeking transfer admission.

First, some pool-wide context: This year, we reviewed **over 53,000 first-year applications** for a class of roughly **2,100 students** and admitted around 55% of our incoming class through our Early Decision round. (You can read more about our early pool [here](#).) In addition to growth in volume, recent years have brought considerable **growth in secondary schools represented** in our pool, which now number over 12,000. Our **overall admit rate is just over 7%**.

Once candidates view their decisions in our Applicant Status Portal, **counselors with a [Slate.org](#) account can see outcomes for their students on that platform**. You are welcome to contact our [regional teams](#) with follow-up questions.

Admitted students should visit our [Admitted Student Website](#) to learn about virtual and on-campus opportunities to connect with Northwestern's community, and to view next steps for officially enrolling in the Class of 2029. Admitted students will need to accept their offer by May 1. Those seeking information or advice about need-based financial aid options can reach our financial aid staff at undergradaid@u.northwestern.edu or schedule a meeting [here](#).

For applicants who were denied admission: All decisions are final, and we do not have an appeals process. While we encourage students to invest fully in their college choices and embrace whatever terrific options they surely have, you may share that our transfer cohort has grown over the past decade, now numbering around 250 students, and we welcome students to reapply in future years via that process.

For applicants offered a place on our waitlist: The deadline to accept our waitlist offer is May 1. Students who accept their waitlist spot before April 15 will be asked to reconfirm their interest in the waitlist on that date—we will reach out via email with reconfirmation steps. Our waitlist is unranked, and waitlisted students are welcome to write if they're still keen on Northwestern. Additional materials should be uploaded via the Applicant Status Portal or emailed to our general account, ug-admission@northwestern.edu. While we always hope we'll be able to make waitlist offers, we of course can't predict anything with certainty.

I hope the above stats also come in handy as you guide juniors toward best-fit colleges in the coming months. To that end, the following may also interest students considering Northwestern:

We **remain test-optional** for undergraduate first-year and transfer applicants. As ACT changes roll out in the coming months, we will not require the new optional science section; students can self-report their highest individual section scores across test dates and highest composite score from a single test date—our system will calculate a super-score. Learn more about our testing policies on our [online FAQs](#).

Our [campus-visit schedule](#) is posted through mid-June. For those unable to visit Evanston, we offer a [range of digital programs](#), including school-specific sessions and 'Cat Chats (Zoom conversations) with current students and alumni.

Finally, our "soft" **Transfer application deadline was March 15**. Recognizing that transfer applicants come from an array of life experiences that may not map neatly onto the traditional academic year, we will keep our transfer application open until April 10 for students whose circumstances prevent them from meeting the earlier deadline. Candidates who apply by March 15 may receive a decision from us earlier, but we fully consider all applicants, with a guaranteed decision by the end of May. Higher-need students can learn about **application fee waivers** [here](#).

We're thrilled to welcome our newest Wildcats, and we're ever appreciative for the work you do to champion, advise, and support students throughout this process.

Warmly,



Liz Kinsley, PhD
Dean of Undergraduate Admission