

Counselor Newsletter

Spring 2019



Thank you, as always!

May 1 has come and gone! Thank you for all you've done to guide seniors through this year's college process. We know you've begun work with the Class of 2020, too, and hope the information and updates will benefit those conversations.

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2018–19 Admissions Context

We won't release our Class of 2023 profile until next fall, but here are some statistics about this year's applicant pool that may prove helpful as you make sense of recent decisions and guide your juniors:

- ▶ We reviewed over 40,000 applications
- ▶ Our overall admit rate was about 8.5%
- ▶ As in recent years, we took just over half of our incoming class through the Early Decision round
- ▶ Our incoming class will be roughly 2,000 students

A full [class profile](#) for our first-year undergraduates is available online in our [counselor hub](#).

New Regular Decision Deadline

For the coming cycle, our Regular Decision deadline will change to **January 2** (it has previously been January 1). Our Early Decision deadline will remain **November 1**.

Early Decision
November 1

Regular Decision
January 2

More Application Updates & Info

We accept either the **Common Application** or the **Coalition Application**. There is no preference for nor difference between either of these applications. We are also a longstanding **QuestBridge** partner, and our campus Quest Scholars network is among the nation's largest.

We require either the SAT or ACT. As in past years, **SAT subject tests are optional**, as are the **SAT and/or ACT writing sections**. Homeschooled students and applicants to special programs should see specific testing policies online.

In 2018, we began accepting self-reported test scores from applicants. Admitted students still need to submit official scores prior to enrolling.

Important details regarding off-campus alumni interviews 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.

A Milestone for Accessibility

The 2018–19 year marked a milestone in our efforts to increase college access: our first-year class is **20% Pell-eligible**, the most socioeconomically diverse to date. The University continues to develop new programs and resources to support **first-gen** and **low-income students**, including a recent alumni networking session and multiple funding sources that cover hidden or emergency costs.

Do We Track Demonstrated Interest?

We get this question a lot. The answer is part yes, part no. We do keep track of whether students visit campus or attend regional events like high school visits or information sessions. We do this so we can tailor our communications and get a broad sense of an applicant's interactions with Northwestern throughout the college process.

But we don't tally up touchpoints for the sake of our review process—that is, our process doesn't necessarily favor applicants who've made more total contacts since we realize students' circumstances often prohibit in-person connections.

There are also activities that we welcome but simply don't track, including phone calls to staff, contact with faculty, time spent on our website, and emails with admission representatives.

Campus Visits & Virtual Tour

As your juniors plan college trips, they should feel welcome to visit Northwestern. We offer **general information sessions** and tours Monday through Friday, as well as select Saturdays. We offer sessions specific to our **academic programs**, too: arts & sciences, engineering, communication, journalism, music, and education & social policy. We also offer **STEM tours**. Students can browse schedules and register [on our website](#).

And if you have students for whom coming to campus isn't feasible, you can point them toward our virtual tour, led by Northwestern tour guides. Our [social media channels and blogs](#) also offer candid insights from current students, as will correspondence with any of our student admissions [teams](#).

Office Personnel Updates

In mid-April, Associate Provost for Enrollment Mike Mills retired after more than a decade at Northwestern. At the same time, Chris Watson stepped into a new role as Associate Vice President and Dean of Enrollment.

We'll maintain an office structure where our assistant and associate directors cover specific geographic territories—if you don't know who your regional contact is, you can find our [territory list](#) online in the [counselor hub](#).

Keep up with what's on campus.

Supporting students abroad.

Northwestern has been named a “top producer” of Gilman Scholars. The competitive award is given by the U.S. Department of State for study abroad to students receiving federal Pell Grant funding.

Art exhibits and geopolitical activism.

Our Block Museum recently launched a first-of-its-kind exhibit, “Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time: Art, Culture and Exchange across Medieval Saharan Africa,” which celebrates West Africa’s historic and underrecognized global significance and showcases objects and ideas that were exchanged at the crossroads of West Africa, the Middle East, North Africa and Europe from the 8th to 16th centuries. The exhibit gained recognition in a recent [New York Times article about campus museums](#).



Innovation and entrepreneurship.

[The Garage](#), Northwestern’s center for student-run startups and projects, recently launched the [Propel Program](#). It provides networking, mentorship, financial resources, and other opportunities to promote diversity and inclusion in entrepreneurship. The inaugural, all-female Propel cohort was recently featured in [Northwestern Magazine](#).

Keep in touch.

ug-admission@northwestern.edu

(847) 491-7271

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