

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your partnership throughout this academic year. I'm writing with Class of 2029 updates, campus news, 2025–26 application and testing details, and exciting ways to engage with our campus this summer. For those of you who prefer top-level takeaways, click [here](#) to skip to the highlights.

Class of 2029 Updates

Northwestern's Class of 2029 is a remarkable group. While we can't yet share any official data about this incoming class (stay tuned for that in early fall), here's a brief recap of this year's review process:

- We received over 53,000 first-year applications, admitting just over 7% for a class of ~2,150; we admitted about half the incoming class through Early Decision.
- Our waitlist activity has been heavier this year than in recent cycles. It is slowing as we get into June, but we'll continue to monitor melt and make additional offers if spots become available. We recently asked active waitlist candidates to reconfirm their interest to ensure we are considering candidates who are still considering us. This group will hear from us one way or another with a final decision, hopefully by the end of June—if we need to keep our waitlist open longer, we will contact active candidates with updated timing.
- We are finalizing a fantastic transfer cohort and expect that group to number around 250.
- We recognize federal immigration actions have created uncertainty for some incoming students. Our Office of International Student and Scholar Services is providing updates and guidance [here](#).

Campus News

Despite challenging national news impacting higher ed, there is a lot to celebrate here on campus. Here are a few highlights:

- In May, our [women's lacrosse](#) team had a runner-up finish in the national championship, and our women's golf team [won the 2025 NCAA title](#).
- Construction for Northwestern's new [Cohen Lawn](#) is nearing completion—the new lakeside plaza and performance pavilion is expected to open by Fall quarter.
- Our 167th annual Commencement ceremony takes place Sunday, June 15, in Chicago's United Center. Actor [Steve Carrell](#) will address the Class of 2025 as graduation speaker.
- Northwestern's got a [new homepage](#)! A recent redesign invites a more dynamic user experience to spotlight academic strengths and community qualities core to the University's [mission and values](#).

2025–26 Application & Testing Details

For the upcoming cycle, students can [apply](#) through the Common Application, the Coalition with Scoir Application, or the QuestBridge Application. Our Early Decision (ED) deadline will remain November 1, and our Regular Decision (RD) deadline is January 2, 2026. Our financial aid deadlines are December 1 for ED and February 1 for RD candidates who wish to receive financial aid information with their admission decision.

Application fee waivers are available to ensure students from every financial background can apply. Read more about fee-waiver eligibility [here](#).

Our supplemental essay questions will remain the same and can be found [here](#). Additionally, we began accepting [Glimpse](#) videos as an optional part of our application last year and will do so again this cycle. We also welcome [Schoolhouse.world](#) certifications and portfolios for both subject-based Schoolhouse courses as well as the new [Dialogues](#) initiative.

As a reminder, Northwestern will remain test-optional for the 2025–26 admissions cycle. For students who choose to submit an ACT score, we will not require the new optional ACT science section. Candidates may self-report scores, and we will consider superscores for applicants who take the SAT or ACT multiple times.

We've received good questions about ACT superscores given the ACT's staggered roll-out of its [enhanced format and revised formula for calculating score composites](#). Here is our process for this cycle: Students who take the ACT multiple times and would like Northwestern to consider an ACT superscore should self-report their official ACT superscore, available in their MyACT account, along with their highest section scores. **Students should not calculate their own superscore.** For the 2025–26 application cycle, Northwestern will not automatically calculate a superscore for students reporting ACT scores—when considering superscores, we will instead use the official ACT superscore (again, students may self-report this ACT-provided superscore). Please refer to our [FAQs](#) for additional information and guidance.

Visiting Campus Over the Summer

[Registration](#) for campus visits is now available through mid-September. Visitors can also access self-guided tours via QR code in the front vestibule of our [Segal Visitors Center](#), which is open even when the building's lobby is closed.

In the spring we piloted a new Engineering and Design tour that will continue on a limited basis this summer, and in the coming months we will pilot an applied-learning tour called “Labs, Libraries, and Learning Beyond the Classroom.” More information on those options, as well as select in-person school-specific information sessions, can be found on our [website](#). See below for digital school-based options.

Digital Programming

We want to make applying to Northwestern an accessible experience and offer a range of connection points for students who can't visit campus. We encourage students to explore the range of digital opportunities available on our [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#): tours, student panels, videos from admission directors, and more! Come early fall, we'll resume 'Cat Chats with [current students](#) and [alumni](#), which allow for one-on-one Zoom conversations with members of our community.

We are always launching new online programming around various topics and want to make sure your students learn about these opportunities—to that end, please encourage your students to complete our [detailed inquiry form](#) so we can personalize our communications as best as possible.

As always, you can find your [regional team's contact information](#) on our website, as well as [resources for counselors](#). We look forward to being back on the road this fall while continuing to innovate in the digital space to connect with as many of you and your students as possible.

We're grateful for everything you do. Have a restful summer!

Warmly,



Liz Kinsley, PhD
Dean of Undergraduate Admission

Highlights:

- **53,000+** first-year applications
- Admit rate just over **7%**
- **~1/2** class admitted ED
- **New homepage** & reemphasis on **mission/priorities**
- Test-optional for 2025–26; FAQs **here**
- Guidance to supplemental essay Qs **here**
- Class of 2028 Profile **here**
- Summer 2025 on-campus tour schedule **here**
- Connect online: digital programming **here**
- **YouTube.com/NorthwesternAdmissions**
- Enjoy Your summer!