

To our counselor community—

We hope you're weathering this month with plenty of Valentine's Day chocolate on hand. I'm writing to share testing updates, details about Regular Decision release, and resources for Transfer applicants. Click [here](#) to skip to the highlights.

## **Testing Updates**

Earlier this month, we shared that Northwestern's test-optional policy will continue for undergraduate first-year and transfer applicants. Applicants may submit an SAT or ACT score if they wish, but these scores are not required. With or without test scores, we evaluate applicants' academic and intellectual fit for Northwestern through holistic review of grades, course rigor, recommendations, academic honors or awards, writing supplements, and other information specific to students' own experiences.

For students who choose to submit an ACT, we will not require the science section when it becomes optional in the coming months. Students who self-report scores should report their highest ACT section scores across test dates and their highest composite score from a single test date; our system will calculate the ACT superscore.

Visit our [Standardized Testing FAQs](#) page for additional information about our testing policies.

## **Regular Decision Candidates: Decision Release & Pool-wide Context**

We'll release Regular Decision results on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Applicants will receive an email letting them know a decision is available in their applicant portal.

While we cannot share any decision-related information with counselors prior to March 26<sup>th</sup>, we'll provide pool-wide context to counselors at that time to help guide your conversations with students and families. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, we'll make this contextual information available via our [online counselor hub](#) and will email a link to all counselors listed on an RD School Report form. (Note: if your email is not listed on the school report form, you can still access the information online on our counselor hub.)

Counselors with a Slate.org account can view the status of their students' applications after a student has viewed their decision. You can create an account on Slate.org if you do not currently have one.

While we cannot discuss individual decisions with counselors, we welcome connections after decision release should you need decision information or have any follow-up questions. Please refer to our [regional teams webpage](#) for the appropriate direct contact on our Admissions team.

## **Resources for Transfer Applicants**

If you are supporting former students as they finalize Transfer applications, here are a few resources:

- Transfer student [deadlines](#)
- Upcoming virtual Transfer Student Panel on March 6 at 4pm Central, register [here](#)
- Archived [Transfer Student Panel](#) for those who can't make the live program
- [FAQs](#) on our writing supplements
- Northwestern [Admissions publications](#)

As always, we're grateful for everything you do. Never hesitate to reach out, and for those with chilly winters like ours, hang in there—the days are getting longer!

Warmly,

Liz Kinsley  
Dean of Undergraduate Admission

## Highlights:

- Test-optional for first-years and transfers
- ACT changes: will not require optional science
- Regular Decision release March 26
  - Will post pool-wide context to counselor hub
  - Counselors can view decisions on Slate.org
- Resources for Transfer applicants:
  - Transfer deadlines
  - Online student panel, March 6, register here