

# Class of 2026 Facts and Figures

## 51,558

TOTAL APPLICANTS

## 7.2%

ADMIT RATE

## 2,039

STUDENTS IN  
FIRST-YEAR CLASS

ABOUT

## 1/2

OF FIRST-YEAR CLASS  
ADMITTED THROUGH  
EARLY DECISION

Our students are:<sup>1</sup>

**26.9%** Asian American or Pacific Islander

**13.4%** Black or African American

**14.9%** Hispanic or Latino/a/x

**10.1%** International

**1.8%** Native or Indigenous

**50.3%** White

**52.6%** BIPOC<sup>2</sup>

**15.3%** First-generation college students

**21.5%** Pell Grant recipients

<sup>1</sup>Our reporting method tracks students who identify as multiple races/ethnicities in each category, so the numbers will exceed 100 percent. Over 20 percent of our first-year class indicated two or more races/ethnicities.

<sup>2</sup>[dictionary.com/browse/bipoc](https://dictionary.com/browse/bipoc)

## >96%

ARE IN THE TOP 10 PERCENT OF  
THEIR GRADUATING CLASS

**71%** OF UNDERGRADS  
COMBINE TWO OR  
MORE AREAS OF STUDY



OUR 8,000+ UNDERGRADS  
COME FROM MORE THAN  
**100** COUNTRIES

**60+ languages  
used**

Afrikaans / Akan / Albanian / American Sign Language / Amharic / Armenian / Bengali / Bosnian / Bulgarian / Cantonese / Catalan-Valencian-Balear / Creole / Danish / Dholuo / Dutch / English / Éwé / Farsi / Filipino / French / German / Gikuyu / Greek / Guarani / Gujarati / Haitian Creole / Hebrew / Hindi / Hungarian / Indonesian / Italian / Japanese / Kamba / Kannada / Khmer / Kirundi / Korean / Latvian / Malay / Malayalam / Mandarin / Marathi / Norwegian / Polish / Portuguese / Punjabi / Romanian / Russian / Rwanda, Kinyarwanda / Serbian / Shona / Somali / Spanish / Swahili / Tagalog / Tajiki / Tamil / Tatar / Telugu / Thai / Tigrigna / Turkish / Ukrainian / Urdu / Vietnamese / Wolof / Yoruba

**60+%**  
OF UNDERGRADUATES  
RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**\$200+**  
MILLION

IN NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID  
AWARDED IN 2021-22

#### ■ FINANCIAL AID:

Northwestern meets 100 percent of demonstrated financial need for all admitted students and does so with loan-free financial aid packaging. A very limited amount of need-based financial aid is available to international students. All students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS Profile to apply for financial aid.

#### ■ FIRST-YEAR APPLICATION PROCESS

Students can submit an application from either the Common Application or the Coalition with Scoir; Northwestern has no application preference. The Questbridge application is accepted in conjunction with either the Common Application or the Coalition with Scoir application.

#### ■ EARLY DECISION


Applicants to our Early Decision admission round agree to withdraw all applications at other colleges and enroll at Northwestern if admitted. Given early applicants' high level of interest and the high concentration of academic and personal strengths represented across the early applicant pool, our Early Decision acceptance rate is typically higher than that of Regular Decision.


#### ■ STANDARDIZED TESTING POLICY

Northwestern adopted a test-optional policy in 2020 and remains test-optional for students applying for fall 2023. Consequently, we are not including testing data on our profile this year. A decision about our testing policy for future cycles will be announced by early 2023.


**Learn more**


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