

# Admission

## ADMISSION POLICY AND ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Admission to Northeastern is selective and competitive. Each year, the entering fall class consists of 2,800 new freshmen and 600 new transfer students. In building a diverse and talented incoming class, the Admissions Committee seeks to enroll students who have been successful academically and who have been actively involved in school activities and in their communities.

The typical Northeastern admitted student has been extremely successful in a challenging course load. When considering applicants for freshman admission, the committee considers whether the applicant's high school transcript reflects the various academic opportunities offered such as honors, advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or college-level courses.

When reviewing transfer students, the committee takes into consideration such factors as the candidate's academic transcript, letters of recommendation, résumé, and essay. Transfer applicants are encouraged to submit a completed application and all supporting materials well before the deadline, as the number of students admitted to each program is limited.

Students may apply directly online at [www.admissions.neu.edu](http://www.admissions.neu.edu), which is both preferred and a faster, more convenient method of submitting your application. Students may also apply with the Northeastern University paper application (available online) or by using the Common Application.

### Deadlines and Decisions

Interested freshman and transfer applicants may apply for entrance into either the fall or spring semester.\* Visit [www.admissions.neu.edu](http://www.admissions.neu.edu) for application deadlines.

- Northeastern has an Early Action Program for freshman students who consider Northeastern among their top choices. Northeastern also offers a regular decision program.
- Decisions for spring freshman and transfer applicants are released on a rolling basis, depending on space availability.

### Required Materials

The committee will begin to evaluate an applicant's candidacy for admission only when all application credentials have been received. We strongly encourage students to submit their credentials in a single complete package. Please ensure that all appropriate identification information is on every piece of your application package (name, date of birth, and, if applicable, Social Security number).

### Freshman Applicants

Each year, more than 27,000 students apply for a space in the freshman class. As the vast majority of applicants are academically eligible for admission, the committee has the responsibility of selecting applicants for admission that it believes will contribute to Northeastern's diverse and vibrant community. The committee is particularly interested in applicants who have challenged themselves academically, are highly motivated, have a strong work ethic, or who have demonstrated leadership skills. In addition to the application for admission, prospective freshmen must submit the following:

- official secondary school transcripts. Midyear senior grades should be sent when available. General Equivalency Diploma (GED) recipients should provide their official score reports as well as any official secondary school transcripts. Students who received schooling at home should submit an academic portfolio consistent with their state guidelines and provide a list of all textbooks used. Home-schooled applicants must also provide proof that they have met all requirements to receive an official high school diploma.
- list of all current or in-progress high school classes or college courses (if applicable).
- official transcripts for any college-level course work taken while a secondary school student.
- portfolio. (The portfolio is required for music technology applicants and recommended for visual arts applicants. Please see "Admission Requirements for Art" and "Admission Requirements for Music" on pages 4 and 5 for more information.)
- written recommendations from their secondary school guidance counselor and a teacher.
- results of the College Board's SAT test (including the writing section) or the American College Testing Program (ACT). Northeastern's CEEB College Code is 3667.
- essays.
- résumés/activities list. Activities should be listed in order of importance to the applicant. Please provide a brief description of each, and highlight any leadership positions held.

\*Throughout this catalog, the word semester refers both to full semesters and to half semesters, except in cases where there is a cost or timeline difference. In such cases, the terms "full semester" and "half semester" are used.

## Transfer Applicants

Our most successful candidates for transfer admission typically have a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.000. Students may transfer up to 60 semester hours of credit from a two-year college, or up to 80 semester hours from a four-year college, or a combination of the two types of colleges. If you have been admitted to the College of Business Administration and your college or university is not AACSB accredited, the maximum number of credits that you can transfer to NU is 60.

In addition to the application for admission, prospective transfer students must submit the following:

- official transcripts for all college courses at all colleges and universities attended. There is no exception to this requirement. All academic credit with a C average or better will be considered for transfer credit. Generally, course work taken more than ten years ago will not be granted transfer credit. Your final transcript must be received no later than the end of your first semester of enrollment.
- a list of current and anticipated courses, with their individual credit values, by term.
- two recommendations from academic advisers, professors, or employers, on official letterhead and submitted in sealed envelopes.
- SAT or ACT results (only if the transfer applicant has completed fewer than 27 semester hours of college-level academic work).
- an official, final high school transcript or an official GED score report.
- portfolio. (The portfolio is required for music technology applicants and recommended for visual arts applicants. Please see “Admission Requirements for Art” and “Admission Requirements for Music” on pages 4 and 5 for more information.)
- midterm grades for your current term if you have completed less than one full year (two semesters) of college course work.

Transfer applicants who have earned credits at an international university must have a recognized agency evaluate their transcripts and translate them into English.

## International Applicants

International applicants are encouraged to request information and to apply online at [www.admissions.neu.edu](http://www.admissions.neu.edu).

In order to maintain lawful student status in the United States, international students must be very mindful of the rules and regulations that govern their nonimmigrant visa classification. Numerous U.S. federal mandates and regulations implementing the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) make it especially important for students in the “F” (student) and “J” (exchange visitor) categories to consult regularly with an international student adviser at the International Student and Scholar Institute (ISSI) before taking any action that might impact their immigration status and educational endeavors in the United States.

International students must register full-time, on time (within the appropriate registration period) during the regular academic year. In addition, international students must not

begin or resume any type of employment without first obtaining proper employment authorization or verification from the ISSI. Any exceptions from full-time registration requirements must be preapproved by the ISSI in accordance with specified federal regulations.

## Requirements for Applicants Whose Primary Language Is Not English

If your primary language is not English, and you have received a score of at least 500 on the critical reading section of the SAT, you may be exempt from the testing requirements below.

Freshman applicants and transfer students whose primary language is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the Advanced Placement International English Language Proficiency (APIEL) Test. Freshman applicants whose primary language is not English must also submit test results from either the SAT or the ACT. It is your responsibility to ensure that your test scores are either submitted directly to Northeastern by the testing service or are included on your official high school transcript.

## College, Major, and Length of Program Selection

Applicants to Northeastern University apply to one of our six undergraduate colleges or the School of Engineering Technology.

Although an “undecided” or “open option” category has been made available in most colleges, we encourage you to select a major that reflects your current academic interests and aspirations. Northeastern offers advisory programs for students interested in preprofessional programs, including medical, dental, law, and veterinary. Transfer students may not apply with “undecided/open option” as their academic interest.

Please note that students may not apply directly to the School of General Studies program. The Admissions Committee refers appropriate applicants to this program.

While attending Northeastern University, we expect that most students will follow the five-year model to maximize Northeastern’s co-op opportunities. However, four-year options are available in most of our programs. The four-year program with co-op may require you to enter Northeastern with advanced placement or college credit and/or to take a more demanding course load. You are not required to make a decision on the four-year option upon entry. Some curricular options (architecture; clinical doctorate programs in health sciences; combined bachelor’s/master’s programs) require more than five years’ study to complete. In general, these have been structured so that students are considered to be undergraduates for their first five years, and students then transition to graduate status within the program contingent on successful completion of the undergraduate component. See the detailed curricula in this catalog for more information.

Students who begin in the January term may not follow the same curricula sequence as those who start in the fall. Your schedule of courses may be affected based upon your semester of matriculation. Summer courses may be required to help students complete their degree requirements in a reasonable amount of time.

### Early Admission

Early admission provides an opportunity for students to enroll at Northeastern before the expected year of their high school graduation. Before enrolling at the University, all applicants for early admission must have completed all units required for high school graduation (including senior English) or must have earned the General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Early admission applicants must provide written endorsement from the school principal, guidance counselor, and parents; exceptional records and standardized test scores; and, a 200-word personal statement outlining his or her educational and/or career aspirations. The endorsements should speak directly to the applicants' academic readiness and emotional maturity for college. An interview may also be required.

### Advanced Credit

You may enter the University with advanced credit on the basis of your test scores on certain specific examinations (listed below) or on successful completion of accredited college-level courses that you took before you enrolled at Northeastern. Students must submit official score reports for credit evaluation.

Northeastern currently awards advanced credit for the following examinations:

- Advanced Placement
- British System GCE A-Level Examination
- German Abitur
- French Baccalaureate
- International Baccalaureate
- Swiss Federal Maturita Diploma

### Advanced Placement Evaluations

The University awards credit for test scores of 4 and 5. Please contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for an up-to-date AP listing (see address below).

Credit awarded: 4–10 semester hours or up to two courses per exam (refer to AP listing). AP scores must be received by Northeastern prior to matriculating in order to receive credit.

### British System GCE A-Level Examination

The University awards credit for A-level courses with final exam grades of C or better. Students who have completed only O levels are not eligible for advanced credit.

### German Abitur

The University awards credit for intensive subjects with scores of 7 or higher on a 15-point scale and 4 or higher on a 6-point scale only for subjects that required a written exam.

### French Baccalaureate

The University awards credit for any series A–E on the Baccalaureate de l'Enseignement du Second Degré with a coefficient of 4 or above (4, 5, 6) and a score of 10 or better on a 20-point scale.

### International Baccalaureate

The University generally awards credit for exam scores of 5, 6, or 7 on higher-level exams only. Please contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for an up-to-date IB grid.

### Swiss Federal Maturita Diploma

The University awards credit for a final score of 4 or higher on a 6-point scale or 6 or higher on a 10-point scale.

### Admission Requirements for Art

Students are not required to submit a portfolio for admission into the Department of Visual Arts. However, for students who do not meet the usual admission profile for visual arts, the submission of a portfolio would strengthen their application. As part of the admission process, visual arts faculty will review portfolios and provide input to the Admissions Committee. The portfolio should include the following four items:

- fifteen slides of original artwork presented in an 8 1/2" x 11" slide sheet. Slides should be consecutively numbered with the student's name on each. The top of the slide should be indicated by an arrow. The portfolio may include work in a variety of media; no particular subject matter or style is required. Rather, students should select work that best shows their personal style, skills, creativity, and commitment to innovation. Additional work can be submitted on CD/ROM, but digital work does not replace the slide portfolio.
- a separate, typed sheet indicating name, address, telephone number, and Social Security number. On the same sheet, using the numbers from the slides, indicate the title of work, date completed, dimensions, and media used.
- a separate, typed one-page artist's statement, describing the student's artwork, background interests, goals, artistic influences, and any other information the student deems pertinent.
- a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of slides.

Students applying without a portfolio will be otherwise considered for admission to the department using the same admission criteria as applicants with a portfolio. Applicants admitted without portfolios may be accepted into the department on a first-year probationary basis as art majors. Subsequent acceptance of probationary students into the graphic design major or the art major (including photography or animation concentrations) is dependent upon a review of the applicant's grades and a portfolio of work created during the freshman year. Students will be aided in the development of their portfolio through first-year course work.

A student who has met the grade-point requirement (2.500 GPA) and who has a portfolio, but is not accepted into the graphic design major, the photography concentration, or the animation concentration, has the option to remain in the department as an art major in general art.

External transfer students should follow the same portfolio submission procedure as incoming students. However, upon acceptance by the University, transfer students with previous college art credit must submit a portfolio to the department in order to be placed properly within the program.

For further information regarding admission to the department, consult the Department of Visual Arts Web site at [www.art.neu.edu](http://www.art.neu.edu).

## Admission Requirements for Music

### Music Technology

For candidates applying for admission into the music technology program, a portfolio is required and will be reviewed by a committee of faculty. The portfolio must include:

- three representative examples of your creative work in a form that best represents the project, including lead sheets of original songs or printed scores of original compositions or arrangements; digital format, which might include MIDI or digital audio files on floppy disk, data CD, or Zip disks (PC and Mac formats are acceptable); or URLs for Web sites that include original music or sounds. Audio recordings of compositions are highly recommended (audio CD or cassette preferred). Videotape recordings of live performances of your music are also acceptable. (Supply a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish to have your materials returned.)
- a short statement explaining your involvement in the creation of the work. The statement should note whether you are the sole creator or a collaborator; the composer, arranger, or remixer; and whether you are performing the work on the recording(s).
- a separate, typed one-page statement of your musical background, influences, and goals.

Should music technology faculty determine that they would like additional information, they may arrange an interview with the applicant.

### Music Performance

Once enrolled, students in any music concentration may also audition to pursue a minor in musical performance. This program is highly competitive and therefore requires evaluation by the Music department. To schedule an audition contact Arthur Rishi, Events Coordinator, at 617.373.2671 or via e-mail at [a.rishi@neu.edu](mailto:a.rishi@neu.edu). Auditions are typically scheduled during a student's first semester at Northeastern. For specific questions regarding the program or audition requirements, contact Professor Joshua Jacobson at [j.jacobson@neu.edu](mailto:j.jacobson@neu.edu) or 617.373.3635.

## MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships reward academic excellence. Northeastern has established several competitive scholarship programs to reward and recognize outstanding academic achievement. You must apply by the regular deadline to be considered for these scholarships. No additional applications are necessary, as consideration for merit scholarships is automatic when the application is completed by the deadline, except for Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships (see below).

### Carl S. Ell Scholarships

**Award:** Full tuition, campus room and board (for academic semesters, based on double occupancy). Recipients who maintain normal progress toward a degree, with a minimum GPA of 3.000, may renew the award for the full four- or five-year program.

**Eligibility:** The top 1 percent of freshman accepted applicants may be considered for this award. Each year, we enroll twenty-five Ell scholars.

### Dean's, Excellence, and Achievement Awards

**Awards:** Partial tuition scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$15,000. Recipients who maintain normal progress toward a degree, with a minimum GPA of 3.000, may renew these awards.

**Eligibility:** The top 25 percent of freshman accepted applicants may be considered for these awards.

### Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships (Transfer Students Only)

**Award:** \$5,000 grant. Recipients who maintain normal progress toward a degree, with a minimum GPA of 3.000, may renew the award.

**Eligibility:** Applicants for fall transfer admission who have earned a 3.500 grade-point average in 27 semester hours or 36 quarter hours, or who have earned an AA, AS, or AAS degree. For eligibility, you must be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident enrolling directly from a two-year institution. A letter of recommendation from a Phi Theta Kappa adviser is required. The deadline to apply for this award is April 1.

**Ralph J. Bunche Scholarships**

**Award:** Full tuition, campus room and board (for academic semesters, based on double occupancy). Recipients who maintain normal progress toward a degree, with a minimum GPA of 3.000, may renew the award for the full four- or five-year program.

**Eligibility:** The top 1 percent of freshman accepted applicants may be considered for this award. In awarding this scholarship, the University will consider the extent to which the applicant furthers the University's commitment to a diverse student body. Factors such as family income, family history of higher education, race, ethnicity, and geographic location will be incorporated into the selection process.

**Reggie Lewis Memorial Scholarships**

**Award:** Full tuition. Recipients who maintain normal progress toward a degree, with a minimum GPA of 3.000, may renew the award for the full four- or five-year program.

**Eligibility:** The top 2 percent of freshman accepted applicants may be considered for this award. In awarding this scholarship, the University will consider the extent to which the applicant furthers the University's commitment to a diverse student body. Factors such as family income, family history of higher education, race, ethnicity, and geographic location will be incorporated into the selection process.

Please contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions if you have any questions about the application process.

Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
150 Richards Hall  
Northeastern University  
360 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115  
admissions@neu.edu (e-mail)  
www.northeastern.edu (Web site)  
617.373.2211 (visitor information)  
617.373.2200 (voice)  
617.373.8780 (fax)  
617.373.3100 (TTY, for the hearing impaired)

Please consult the Admissions Web site, [www.admissions.neu.edu](http://www.admissions.neu.edu), for instructions on mailing applications and subsequent materials.