

Admission

ADMISSION POLICY AND ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Admission to Northeastern is selective, and the complexity of the admission process is not one that can be defined through a formula. At Northeastern, we are shaping a community of students who bring a diversity of experiences and interests. Each year, about 2,800 new freshmen and 550 new transfer students enroll in September and an additional 400 new students enroll each January. 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 student admitted to Northeastern 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. Northeastern also seeks to enroll students who have positively contributed to their school and larger community.

When reviewing transfer students, the committee takes into consideration such factors as the candidate's academic transcript; letters of recommendation; résumé; essay; academic preparation for major of choice; and, in certain cases, high school GPA and standardized test scores. 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.

Northeastern accepts the Common Application and a required Northeastern Supplement. Students may apply online at www.commonapp.org.

Deadlines and Decisions

Interested freshman and transfer applicants may apply for entrance into either the fall or spring semester.* Visit www.admissions.neu.edu for application deadlines.

- Northeastern has an Early Action Program for freshman applicants who consider Northeastern among their top choices. Early action decisions are released by December 31.
- Northeastern also offers a regular decision program for freshman applicants, and decisions are released by April 1.

* 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.

- Decisions for all transfer applicants and for spring freshman 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 NU ID).

FRESHMAN APPLICANTS

Each year, more than 35,000 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 excellence in leadership, creativity, diversity, engagement, global perspective, and resiliency. **In addition to the Common Application and required Northeastern Supplement, prospective freshmen must submit the following:**

- Official secondary school transcripts. Midyear senior grades should be sent when available. Admitted students must send final transcripts prior to matriculation. 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 they will have met by the end of May of the year of graduation all requirements for an official high school diploma and submit an official final transcript, a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), or a certificate of completion from their local school district or state board of education by the end of July of the year of matriculation. Home-schooled students must submit either the American College Testing Program (ACT) with Writing exam or the College Board's SAT (with Writing) **and** two SAT subject tests, including mathematics and an additional subject test of their choice. Students who are applying for science-based majors should take a science subject test. Applicants to the College of Engineering must take the physics subject test.

- 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 and SMFA applicants and recommended for other BFA-in-studio-art applicants. Please see “Admission Requirements for Art + Design” and “Admission Requirements for Music” on page 5 for more information.)
- Written recommendations from their secondary school guidance counselor and a teacher.
- Results of the American College Testing Program (ACT) with Writing exam or the College Board’s SAT (with Writing). Northeastern’s CEEB College Code is 3667 and 1880 for ACT.
- 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.
- Application fee.

TRANSFER APPLICANTS

Our most successful candidates for transfer admission typically have a minimum grade-point average 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. Course work taken more than ten years ago will not be granted transfer credit.
- All final transcripts.
- A copy of an official course registration form for any in-progress course work.
- Two recommendations from academic advisors, professors, or employers, on official letterhead and submitted in sealed envelopes.
- Official high school transcripts or an official GED score report and SAT/ACT scores (only if the transfer applicant has completed fewer than 24 semester hours of college-level academic work). If a GED score report is submitted, the incomplete high school transcript must also be submitted.
- Portfolio. The portfolio is required for music technology and SMFA applicants and recommended for other BFA-in-studio-art applicants. Please see “Admission Requirements for Art + Design” and “Admission Requirements for Music” on page 5 for more information.)

- Midterm grades for the current term can be substituted for the high school transcript and SAT/ACT requirement if the applicant has completed at least one full semester of academic work.
- The College Official’s Report, found on the Common Application Web site, www.commonapp.org.

All transfer-credit documents should be received prior to matriculation and *must* be received within one semester of matriculation. These documents include, but are not limited to, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and National Education exam scores and official transcripts from colleges and universities. These documents should be submitted whether or not you wish to receive transfer credit from this work. Transfer credit will not be granted for work prior to matriculation if the official credential is received after the completion of the first semester. Transfer credit will not be granted if the equivalent course is completed with a grade at Northeastern. 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

Northeastern accepts the Common Application and a required Northeastern Supplement. Students may apply online at www.commonapp.org.

International student applications are reviewed considering their performance in their particular academic environments. As a result, SAT or ACT scores are not required for international applicants. However, applicants who attend a high school in the United States, who will graduate from an international school that follows the U.S. high school curriculum, or who are student-athletes who must meet NCAA eligibility requirements are required to submit test scores.

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 advisor 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 as full-time students, 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

Students whose native language is not English are required to take one of the following tests: Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (passing score of 213 on the computer-based test; 550 on the paper-based test; 79–80 on the Internet-based test) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (passing score of 6.5). This requirement is waived if your SAT critical reading and writing scores/ACT equivalent are at least 500. 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.

Although an “undeclared” 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 “undeclared/open option” as their academic interest.

The five-year model allows students to maximize experiential learning opportunities, including research, study abroad, and our signature co-op program. Most majors offer a four-year option, with at least one experiential learning option. 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). In addition to the required materials for freshman applicants, 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. For consideration, students should submit transcripts or test results before matriculation and must submit official score reports for credit evaluation within one semester of matriculation.

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 visit www.northeastern.edu/admissions for an up-to-date AP listing.

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 + Design**ADMISSION WITH A PORTFOLIO**

Applicants interested in being admitted directly into the Department of Art + Design programs must submit a portfolio for review. For updated guidelines for admission and for creating a portfolio, go to the Department of Art + Design Web site, www.art.neu.edu.

Applicants for the studio art major, a joint program of Northeastern University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, are required to submit a portfolio and should also go to www.art.neu.edu for admissions and portfolio guidelines.

PORTFOLIO GUIDELINES

Send fifteen images of original artwork. 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, creativity, and commitment to innovation. Check the Department of Art + Design Web site, www.art.neu.edu, for more information.

ADMISSION WITHOUT A PORTFOLIO

Applicants who fulfill the requirements for admission, but do not have a portfolio of work, may be accepted into the department as undeclared majors. At the end of the freshman year, any student who wants to advance further in the department must submit a portfolio of work that is completed primarily at Northeastern in the foundation studio courses.

The portfolio review committee is made up of three or more faculty members. Students present between ten to fifteen pieces of work. Students who do not pass will be given clear directives to assist them in reapplying. Students cannot take upper-level courses until they pass their portfolio review. Upon successful completion, students will gain full status and access to courses within their major.

Admission Requirements for Music**MUSIC TECHNOLOGY**

For candidates applying for admission into the music technology concentration, 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. Visit www.musictech.neu.edu for more information.

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. 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 or 617.373.3635.