

## Torch Scholars Program Application & Nomination FAQ's

### Who can nominate me for the Torch Scholars Program?

- *Nominators are any adult, non-family member who knows you on a personal level.*
- *Nominators can be teachers, counselors, coaches, clergy, community workers, support staff.*
- *Nominators are professionals who can give specific details regarding your struggles and successes.*

### How do I get nominated for the Torch Scholars Program?

- *Ask a Nominator to write for you! Schools may submit as many Nominations as they wish in any given year. Your nominator does not have to come from your High School.*

### Who qualifies for Torch?

- *First-generation college students*
- *Low-income students*
- *U.S. citizens or documented permanent residents*
- *Students who fall below the general academic admission requirements for Northeastern University.*

### I am a good student with a solid GPA at my high school. Can I still apply to Torch?

- *Yes! If you feel that you meet the first-generation, low-income criteria, please apply to Torch. We accept many students with various academic records. For instance, a student may have a strong GPA, but lower SAT scores. Or, a student may have strong SAT scores and a GPA that is not Northeastern-competitive.*

### Can I apply Early Decision to Northeastern and still be eligible for Torch?

- *Yes! Applying Early Decision lets us know you are interested in Northeastern. If you meet all the eligibility for the Torch Program, you will advance to the next stage of the Torch selection process and be considered for Northeastern's Regular Admission.*

### By applying to Torch am I still considered a competitive prospect for Northeastern Admission?

- *Yes! Students who apply to Torch are considered first for their eligibility for Regular Admission to Northeastern. You are in no way "penalized" for applying to Torch. Your application is read by Northeastern Admissions **and** Torch Program staff and Torch Selection Committee.*

### What GPA do I need to get into the Torch Program?

- *Torch does not require a specific GPA or SAT score. We look beyond the numbers and holistically review your potential for college success based on drive, motivation, leadership, and emotional readiness for college.*

### My sibling/s are in college, or have graduated from college. Am I still eligible for Torch?

- *Yes! Torch defines first-generation college as being a student whose **parents** have not earned a degree from a four-year college/university in the United States.*

### Can my nominator submit a letter of recommendation instead of the nomination form?

- *Nominators should work with the criteria outlined in the Nomination Form in order to provide a strong Torch Nomination.*

- *Torch considers all materials submitted to Northeastern through the Common Application (i.e., letters of recommendation, transcripts, secondary school reports). If a Nominator is also one of your recommendation writers for Northeastern, the letter of recommendation will be considered as part of your Northeastern Application. In other words, Torch has access to and thoroughly considers all materials submitted to Northeastern through the Common Application process.*

#### **What are you looking for when you say “low income”?**

- *Torch defines low-income as being eligible to receive the Pell Grant.*
- *Students are required to submit the FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) to Northeastern by **February 1** in order to be considered for Torch. This is two weeks earlier than the FAFSA deadline for Northeastern.*

#### **Can I have two people nominate me for the Program?**

- *You should select the strongest Nominator to write a Nomination for you. Although one Nominator is preferred, you may submit more than one Nomination if you feel that each Nominator will offer different insights.*

#### **When do I find out if I am selected to be a Torch Scholar?**

- *If you are selected to advance to the Finalist stage in our selection process, you will be notified in mid- February.*
- *Torch Scholars are selected after the Torch Interview Day in March.*

#### **How much is the Scholarship?**

- *The Torch Scholarship covers room, board, books, fees, and tuition for eight semesters of study and a 7-week Summer Immersion Program.*

#### **How many people do you select?**

- *Although it can vary from year to year, the Program selects between 9-12 students each year.*

#### **Is there an interview?**

- *45-50 Torch applicants will be notified in February if they are selected to interview for a spot in the Torch Scholars Program.*
- *Torch Interview Day is held on campus in March.*
- *Torch Interview Day is an intensive, 6-hour Day that includes individual and group interviews and a math assessment, among other activities.*

#### **Who makes the final decision?**

- *The final selection decisions for Torch are not made by just one person. A special Torch Selection Committee meets throughout the nomination cycle to review all Torch applicants and to carefully match each applicant’s potential fit with the criteria of the Torch Scholars Program. The Torch Selection Committee includes the Torch Program Director as well as senior staff in Admissions and Financial Aid.*

#### **Where is the application I need to fill out for Torch?**

- *Torch does not have a separate application or essay. As a Torch Applicant, you only need to complete the Common Application and Essay, and submit the Common Application to Northeastern University by January 15.*

**Do you have any tips for completing the Common Application as a Torch and Northeastern Applicant?**

- *The Common Application Essay is the same essay we read to consider your potential as a Torch Scholar at Northeastern. Be sure to find an honest way to show your personal values and character in the essay!*
- *Be thorough and think outside the box with your activities list on the Common Application. List activities and leadership roles both in and out of school (i.e., in your community, church, family, etc.).*
- *Research the Torch Scholars Program before completing the application, so that you can highlight your personal characteristics and experience in a meaningful way.*

**If I am selected for the Torch Scholars Program, what is expected of me?**

- *Be willing to work as a team member as part of a close-knit group of peers who support each other.*
- *Serve a minimum of 100 hours in the community each year.*
- *Attend Torch Town Hall meetings and events throughout the year.*
- *Meet and exceed expectations in the Torch Compact, such as professor outreach, group involvement, professional demeanor, and positive attitude.*
- *Strive for Dean's List each semester. A minimum GPA of 2.3 is required.*

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