Admission Policy and Entrance Requirements

Admission to Northeastern is highly selective and holistic. The complexity of the admission process is not one that can be defined through a formula. At Northeastern, we evaluate all applicants holistically in order to identify candidates who will bring a diverse set of experiences, perspectives, and interests to our community. Approximately 2,800 first-year students and 400 transfer students enroll each September. In addition, more than 1,100 new students will enroll in January through participation in The N.U.in Program. The N.U.in Program is an innovative first-year global experience during which admitted students begin their college studies at one of our partner institutions overseas while earning transfer credits in the fall semester and transitioning to the Boston campus in the spring semester. See additional information about The N.U.in Program.

In building a diverse and talented incoming class, the Admissions Committee seeks to enroll students who have been academically successful and who have been actively involved in their school and community.

When considering applicants for first-year 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. Typically, students admitted to Northeastern have been extremely successful with a challenging course load.

When reviewing transfer students, the committee considers the candidate’s college and high school transcripts, letters of recommendation, resumé, essay, academic preparation for major of choice, and contributions to the community. In certain cases, standardized test scores are required. Transfer applicants are encouraged to submit all supporting materials by the application deadline.

Northeastern accepts both the Common Application and the Coalition Application. Students may apply online via the Common Application or the Coalition Application. Northeastern does not have a preference for which application is submitted. Both the Common Application and the Coalition Application will be reviewed equally.

The committee will begin to evaluate an applicant’s candidacy for admission when all application credentials have been received. Students are informed of their application information through the Application Status Check. Students are highly encouraged to verify that identification information (name, date of birth, and NU ID) is on every item submitted to ensure timely and accurate processing.

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.

Deadlines and Decisions
Northeastern offers the following application programs.

Freshman Applicants:
• Early Decision I (binding enrollment for fall admission)
• Early Decision II (binding enrollment for fall admission)
• Regular Decision (nonbinding)

Transfer Applicants*:
• Application for fall start (apply in spring)
• Application for spring start (apply in fall)

*All transfer application options are dependent on space availability.

Required Materials
The committee will evaluate an applicant’s candidacy for admission when all application credentials have been received. Students are informed of their application information through the Application Status Check. Students are highly encouraged to verify that identification information (name, date of birth, and NU ID) is on every item submitted to ensure timely and accurate processing.

FRESHMAN APPLICANTS
Freshman Applicants

More than 62,000 students apply for a space in the freshman class. The committee is responsible for admitting applicants believed to be contributors to Northeastern’s diverse and vibrant academic and social community. In particular, the committee is interested in applicants who have challenged themselves academically; are highly motivated; have a strong work ethic; and who have demonstrated qualities of leadership, creativity, diversity, engagement, global perspective, adaptability, and resiliency. Our students exhibit a commitment to involvement and to being a positive influence in their community and in the world. We encourage applicants to spend time to thoughtfully prepare their application in order to make sure their strengths and qualities resonate with the Admissions Committee.

Freshman applicants must submit the following:
• Completed Common Application or Coalition Application.
• Application fee of $75.
• Secondary school counselor and teacher recommendations.
• Secondary school transcripts with final junior-year grades. First-semester or first-trimester grades should be submitted when they are available; first-quarter grades are not required.
• Early Decision Agreement for students applying under the binding Early Decision I or II application options.
• Official SAT or ACT results. Northeastern’s CEEB college code is 3667/ACT college code is 1880. Test scores must be sent to Northeastern directly from the testing agency.
• Portfolios are required for Studio Art and are highly encouraged for majors within the College of Arts, Media and Design. Beginning in spring 2018, a portfolio is no longer required for music technology applicants. Northeastern uses SlideRoom for online portfolio submissions. See additional information (p. 4).
• General Equivalency Diploma (GED) recipients should provide their official GED score reports and their most complete high school transcript.
• Home-schooled applicants should submit an academic portfolio/transcript consistent with their state guidelines. This should include grades for each course. They must also provide proof that they will
Transfer applicants must submit the following:

- Completed Common Application or Coalition Application.
- Application fee of $75.
- Official college transcript(s) for all institutions you have attended.
- Final high school transcript or GED.
- SAT/ACT scores for students who have completed fewer than 24 college credits (after high school graduation) at the time of the application deadline. This is not required for students who have been out of high school for more than five years. Standardized test scores are not required for students who did not complete high school in the United States.
- Joint Service Transcript (if you are a veteran).
- English proficiency: Northeastern seeks to enroll the most talented and academically qualified students. All Northeastern courses are instructed in English, and therefore attention is paid in application review to preparedness for success in an English-language environment. There may be additional requirements for applicants whose first language is not English. Please see the admissions website (https://www.northeastern.edu/admissions/application-information/) for the most up-to-date information.
- Portfolios are required for Studio Art and are highly encouraged for majors within the College of Arts, Media and Design. Northeastern uses SlideRoom (http://www.northeastern.edu/admissions/application-information/) for online portfolio submissions. See additional information (p. 4).

TRANSFER CREDIT

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 D’Amore-McKim School of Business and your college or university is not AACSB-accredited, the maximum number of credits that you can transfer to Northeastern is 60. See also “Residency Requirement (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#res-req).”

College courses completed with a grade of C or better are considered for transfer credit by faculty evaluators. Liberal arts course work taken more than 10 years ago and math and science course work completed more than 5 years ago cannot be considered.

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 completed prior to matriculation if the official credential is received after the completion of the first semester. College course work completed at an international institution must be translated into English and evaluated by a recognized credential agency.

ADVANCED STANDING FOR FRESHMEN

Results from your Advanced Placement (AP) exams, International Baccalaureate (IB) exams, and other international matriculation examinations (listed below) may enable you to receive advanced credits. You may also receive transfer credit if you successfully completed accredited college-level courses which were taken while you were in high school, before you enrolled at Northeastern. You may apply up to 32 semester hours of advanced credit towards your undergraduate degree. For consideration, you must submit official transcripts or test results before matriculation, and must submit official score reports for credit.

Northeastern currently awards advanced credit for the following examinations:

- Advanced Placement (AP)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Advanced Levels (A-Levels)
- French Baccalauréat
- German Abitur
- Swiss Maturity
- Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE)
**Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations**
- Credit is generally awarded for scores of 3 and 5.
- Visit the Transfer Equivalency Database [here](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fugadmissions.northeastern.edu%2Ftransfercredit%2FTransferCreditevaluatedstudent2.asp&data=02%7C01%7Ce.remilia4%40northeastern.edu%7Cf97c2e7d%7C0%7C0%7C7C63695444461762185%7Ca8eec281aaa34daaae9b1d95ae1d9f85f%7C%3D%26reserved=0/) for an up-to-date listing.

**International Baccalaureate (IB) Examinations**
- Credit is generally awarded for scores of 5, 6, or 7 on Higher Level (HL) exams.
- No credit is awarded for Standard Level (SL) exams.
- Visit the Transfer Equivalency Database [here](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fugadmissions.northeastern.edu%2Ftransfercredit%2FTransferCreditevaluatedstudent2.asp&data=02%7C01%7Ce.remilia4%40northeastern.edu%7Cf97c2e7d%7C0%7C0%7C7C63695444461762185%7Ca8eec281aaa34daaae9b1d95ae1d9f85f%7C%3D%26reserved=0/) for an up-to-date listing.

**Advanced Level (A-Level) Examinations**
- Credit is generally awarded for grades C or better on General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Level (A-Level) examinations.
- No credit is awarded for Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level exams, Ordinary Level (O-Level) exams, or (I)GCSE exams.
- For Singapore-Cambridge GCE Advanced Level exams, credit is awarded for H2 exams. No credit is awarded for H1 exams. H3 credit is subject to review, and only awarded if the student is not receiving credit from the H2 exam in the same subject.
- Northeastern will only award credit for exams which were administered by AQA, Cambridge Assessment (including OCR), CCEA, Pearson Edexcel, WJEC, or any subsidiaries.

**International Matriculation Examinations**
- For the Baccalauréat Général, credit is generally awarded for final written exams, subjects taken with a coefficient of 4 or more, for scores of 10 or higher (out of 20). No credit is awarded for oral exams.
- For the Zeugnis der Allgemeinen Hochschulreife, credit is awarded for final exams (Abiturprüfung) which are written (schriftlich). No credit is awarded for oral (mündlich) exams.
- For the Maturitätsausweis – either the Swiss Federal Maturity Certificate or federally-recognized cantonal maturity certificates – credit is only awarded for the main subject (Schwerpunktstafach) or complimentary subject (Ergänzungsfach), for scores of 4 or higher (out of 6).
- For the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations, credit is only awarded for 2-unit subjects, for grades 3 or below (out of 7, with 1 being the best). No credit is awarded for 1-unit courses.

**Additional Information for International Applicants**

International student applications are reviewed considering their performance in their particular academic environments. SAT or ACT scores are not required for applicants who will graduate from schools located outside the United States. International citizen applicants who attend a high school in the United States are required to submit test scores. U.S. Department of Defense school students are required to submit SAT or ACT scores.

In order to maintain lawful student status in the United States, international students must be mindful of the rules and regulations that govern their nonimmigrant visa classification. Numerous U.S. federal mandates and regulations, including 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 Office of Global Services (OGS) [here](http://www.northeastern.edu/ogs/) before taking any action that might affect their immigration status and educational endeavors in the United States.

International students in F-1 and J-1 status must register as full-time students (minimum of 12 credits) and on time (within the appropriate registration period) each term during the regular academic year. In addition, international students must not begin, extend, or resume any type of employment without first obtaining proper employment authorization or verification from the OGS. Any exceptions to full-time registration requirements must be preapproved by the OGS in accordance with specified federal regulations.

In order for prospective F-1 and J-1 students to start their undergraduate program here, they must obtain the certificate of eligibility from OGS. For F-1 students, this document is called Form I-20, and for J-1 students, this document is called Form DS-2019. The international student will need to complete the e-form on the myOGS system and work with the undergraduate admissions office to meet all requirements needed for successful submission of the request for I-20 or DS-2019. Once the request is approved by the undergraduate admissions office, the OGS will get a request for the student’s I-20 and will need 10 business days to submit. Nonimmigrant visa statutes other than F-1 and J-1 (including eligibility to work in the United States) vary depending on where you’re applying. Students must apply for their F-1 or J-1 visa stamp at U.S. consulate overseas and, if the visa is granted, enter the United States no earlier than 30 days prior to the start date of their academic program to begin their studies here.

An international student may attend Northeastern in a nonimmigrant status other than F-1 or J-1 only if U.S. immigration regulations allow for study in the United States under that specific nonimmigrant visa classification. Some international students must apply and be approved for a change of status (e.g., from F-2 to F-1) before beginning their program at Northeastern. For information on nonimmigrant visa statutes other than F-1 and J-1 (including eligibility to work in the United States or participate in co-op and other forms of experiential learning required by your academic program), contact OGS at ogs@northeastern.edu. Not all visa categories allow for internships, co-ops, international travel associated with an academic program, and/or other experiential learning opportunities. Note that some academic programs at Northeastern have experiential learning requirements (e.g., co-op or study abroad). Nonimmigrant visa statutes other than F-1/J-1 may not allow for those requirements to take place and, as such, may impede the successful completion of your program of study.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH**

All non-native English-speaking applicants, regardless of citizenship, must submit official results from one of the following proficiency tests: the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic), or the C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency (Cambridge English: Advanced or Proficiency). Applicants who will complete four or more years in an academically rigorous high school or university where academic or native English was the primary instructional language may contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions in order to request a waiver. English-language learners or students enrolled in ESL courses in the four years preceding their application are strongly recommended to submit IELTS. Based on IELTS, some undergraduate applicants with substantial English proficiency but insufficient proficiency for undertaking a full-time, degree-seeking academic program
may instead be referred to NU Immerse, our structured English immersion program.

**COLLEGE, MAJOR, AND LENGTH OF PROGRAM SELECTION**

Applicants to Northeastern University apply to one of our seven undergraduate colleges or to the Explore Program for undeclared students.

We encourage students to select a major that reflects their current academic interests and aspirations; however, the Explore Program for undeclared students provides opportunities to explore our various disciplines and programs. Northeastern offers advisory programs for students interested in preprofessional programs, including medical, dental, law, and veterinary graduate school. Transfer students may not apply to the Explore Program for undeclared students.

Northeastern University offers a broad and deep curriculum that is flexible, and the academic calendar allows students to maximize experiential learning opportunities, including research, study abroad, and our signature co-op program. Students become architects of their own paths, charting their unique course that determines their time to degree. Students can build a program that is four years or five years and gain up to 18 months of full-time experiential learning. Freshmen can participate in NUterm in Summer I of their freshman year, taking advantage of exciting and unique course offerings or regular classes during the May/June semester. By participating in NUterm, students take advantage of Northeastern’s signature flexibility, beginning their sophomore year with an additional half term completed. Many colleges offer PlusOne programs, which link undergraduate work with graduate studies. See the detailed curricula in this catalog for more information.

**Admission Requirements for the College of Arts, Media and Design**

**GUIDELINES FOR PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION**

All portfolios should be submitted electronically via SlideRoom. Hard-copy portfolios will not be accepted and cannot be reviewed.

**STUDIO ART**

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 through SlideRoom. This portfolio requires a minimum of 15 individual 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 website (http://www.northeastern.edu/camd/artdesign/) for more information.

**MUSIC COMPOSITION AND TECHNOLOGY**

Beginning in spring 2018, portfolios are no longer required for students applying to music composition and technology.

**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 Department of Music. Auditions are typically scheduled during a student’s first semester at Northeastern. For specific questions regarding the program or audition requirements, please reference the CAMD website (https://camd.northeastern.edu/music/academic-programs/minor-in-music-performance/#_ga=26162929219060109681522070914-16965839841517851807).