

Frequently Asked Questions: Becoming a University

1. What is Northwestern College's new name and why was it chosen?

As part of Northwestern's transition to being a university, the name will officially change to University of Northwestern – St. Paul on July 1, 2013.

After surveying students, alumni, faculty, staff and supporters of the college and media ministry, it was clear that keeping "Northwestern" in our name was important. The inclusion of "St. Paul" reflects not only location, but also the strength of higher education in the Twin Cities.

2. Why is Northwestern becoming a university?

In many ways, Northwestern has been functioning as a university for several years. With an increase in graduate programs, academic rigor and research opportunities, taking on a university name will be a natural transition. University of Northwestern – St. Paul better reflects our identity.

University status signals program offerings beyond traditional undergraduate degrees, specifically professional studies and graduate school. Northwestern offers five graduate degrees and a new post-baccalaureate nursing program which exemplify a great breadth of academic opportunities.

A university title also avoids confusion among international audiences. Overseas, "college" is often synonymous with "high school."

3. Will this change benefit Northwestern financially?

Yes, we anticipate a positive long term financial benefit. As Northwestern is able to offer more programs, especially at the graduate level and on-line, fiscal strength and stability will continue.

4. Will Northwestern still be a Christian school?

Absolutely, yes. University of Northwestern – St. Paul will remain focused on equipping Christ-centered learners and leaders to invest in others and impact the world. The process of converting to university status was covered in prayer and embraced with deep trust in God's guidance.

5. Will the change to university status directly affect students?

The name change won't necessarily change day-to-day life for students, but it will bring an added degree of credibility when applying for grad school and employment.