Admission to Northwestern

The university does not discriminate on grounds of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, or disability. Admission to University of Northwestern does not guarantee any unique or specific disability-related accommodations. Prospective students with such concerns should contact Disability Services at 651-631-5292.

Admission of Graduate Students

Prospective students are encouraged to call, email, or visit with questions regarding the application process, semester deadlines, or program specifics. Students need continuous access to computer technology to be successful in their program, and it is recommended that they read the catalog, prior to acceptance, to understand the policies that they will be subject to once they are admitted.

Admission Criteria

The following criteria are applied when admitting graduate students:

1. Evidence of a new birth in Jesus Christ.
2. Willingness to abide by the conduct expectations as outlined in the Declaration of Christian Community.
3. Bachelor's degree awarded from a regionally, nationally, professionally, or specialized accredited institution (recognized by the U.S. Department of Education), or a graduate degree from such an accredited institution in cases where the bachelor's degree was not accredited.
4. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) from all awarded Bachelor's degrees and previously taken graduate coursework.
5. Submission of an application and required essays.
6. Submission of all official transcripts from postsecondary institutions at which a Bachelor's degree or higher was awarded and graduate coursework was previously taken.
7. Submission of two academic/professional reference letters.
8. Submission of a current resume (MBA and MOL applicants only).
9. Ability to demonstrate English language proficiency (see complete policy for requirements).
10. All application materials will be reviewed by an Admissions Committee, and the applicant may be contacted for an interview.

Certain programs may have additional admission requirements, stipulations, or restrictions. Exceptions to admission criteria may be made on a case-by-case basis.

Admission of Accelerated Graduate Track Students

To be eligible for the abbreviated admissions process listed below, accelerated graduate track students from an approved traditional major (departments include Biblical & Theological Studies, Business, and Christian Ministries) or the adult undergraduate Business or Ministry major must apply to and begin coursework for the corresponding graduate degree within two years of completing the undergraduate degree at Northwestern. Students who apply and/or begin after this time frame will be required to meet all current graduate admission requirements and may be required to comply with the current degree requirements.

Note: All graduate-level courses taken as an undergraduate student must be completed with a grade of C or better to satisfy graduate degree requirements.

The following criteria are applied when admitting accelerated graduate track students to their subsequent graduate program:

1. Evidence of a new birth in Jesus Christ.
2. Willingness to abide by the conduct expectations as outlined in the Declaration of Christian Community.
3. Bachelor's degree awarded from Northwestern.
4. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) from Northwestern.
5. Submission of an abbreviated application.
6. Submission of any missing official transcripts (Admissions will access the applicant's Northwestern transcript and transcripts from other postsecondary institutions that have already been submitted).
7. Submission of a formal recommendation from a full-time faculty member within the Traditional Undergraduate department or the Adult Undergraduate Program Manager. In lieu of a departmental recommendation, students must submit one additional academic/professional reference.
8. All application materials will be reviewed by an Admissions Committee, and the applicant may be contacted for an interview.

Admission of Non-Degree Seeking Students

Non-degree seeking students typically desire to take individual courses for personal enrichment or professional development without fully enrolling in a certificate or degree program at Northwestern. Taking individual courses does not grant eligibility to participate in co-curricular activities and does not warrant financial aid eligibility.

Non-degree seeking students are able to attempt and register for 16 credits. If students would like to continue, they must apply to be a degree-seeking student.

The following criteria are applied when admitting non-degree seeking students:

1. Evidence of a new birth in Jesus Christ.
2. Willingness to abide by the conduct expectations as outlined in the Declaration of Christian Community.
3. Submission of an Individual Course(s) Application.
4. Submission of an official transcript from where the Bachelor's degree was awarded and/or the most recent graduate school attended.
5. Ability to demonstrate English language proficiency (see complete policy for requirements).

Admission of Special M.Div. Students

A maximum of 10% of M.Div. students may be admitted to the M.Div. program without a Bachelor's degree (this special M.Div. program exception may not apply to the MATS or MAML program). In addition to the regular graduate admission criteria except having a Bachelor's degree awarded, students must meet the following requirements to be considered for this exception.

First, students must have at least twenty years of post-secondary life experience that includes full-time ministry work. Second, students must have two years of college, completed a minimum of 60 credits which includes English composition, and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.80. Third, students must write an essay, in addition to the application essay, explaining how their life experience, vocational training, and education have prepared them for graduate work.

Students who meet these requirements and who have been approved by both academic and admissions leadership will be considered for admission on a provisional basis. These students may not be awarded the Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) or Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership (MAML). Furthermore, students must achieve a minimum Northwestern cumulative GPA of 3.00 by the end of the first registered semester, or they will be administratively withdrawn from the program.

English Language Proficiency

For those whose native language is not English (e.g., International Student, Refugee, Political Asylee, Permanent Resident, or Non-resident Alien), English language proficiency must be demonstrated by taking one of the following exams:

- A minimum score of 550 on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), 213 on the computer-based TOEFL, or 80 on the internet-based TOEFL.
- A minimum score of 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).
- A minimum score of 58 on the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE).
- A minimum score of 105 on the Duolingo English Test.

The TOEFL/IELTS/PTE/Duolingo requirement may be waived for the following reasons:

- Student is from a recognized English-speaking country (contact Admissions for a list of identified countries).
- Student has successfully completed an English writing course with a grade of C- or better and has earned a minimum of 12 credits from an accredited U.S. college/university.

Provisionally Admitted Students

Students who are admitted on a provisional basis must satisfy the conditions of their acceptance in order to continue in their program, and students may be provisionally admitted for any of the following reasons:

1. Inadequate GPA
   Graduate students who are admitted on a provisional basis because of inadequate GPA must have a minimum Northwestern cumulative GPA of 3.00 by the end of the first registered semester. If the applicable GPA provision is not satisfied, students will be academically suspended from their program, and they may apply for reenrollment after waiting one semester.

2. Missing Official Transcript(s)
   Students who are admitted on a provisional basis because of missing official transcript(s) must submit all missing official documents to the Registrar's Office by the end of the first registered semester. If all missing official transcript(s) are not received by the end of the first registered semester, students will not be allowed to register for any future courses until the provision has been satisfied.

3. Other
   Any other provision may be stipulated by Northwestern and must be satisfied in order to continue registering for courses. If any other provisions are not satisfied, students will be administratively withdrawn from their program, and they may apply for reenrollment after waiting one semester.