

# Northwestern University

## A Statement from the Dean

Each application submitted to Northwestern University is evaluated individually by the admission committee. We carefully review every piece of information in the application including transcripts, test scores, letters of recommendation, essays, and your list of extracurricular activities. (For applicants to the Bienen School of Music, the audition is also considered.) We make note of and consider each candidate's individual strengths and personal qualities. Our applicants are quite accomplished in many areas; thus, our decisions are rarely easy.

This year, over 40,000 students applied for 1,925 places in the first-year class. Ultimately, we receive far more qualified applications than we have spaces in the class and must deny admission to a considerable number of qualified applicants. Given the volume of applications we receive, we are not able to cite reasons as to why a particular candidate was not offered admission to Northwestern. All of our decisions are final, and we do not have an appeals process. You are welcome to apply as a transfer student after one year of full-time college work.

Our review process is extremely thorough, taking into account the vast differences between student experiences represented in our applicant pool. Every student's achievements, talents, and skills are considered within the context of her or his high school and community setting. Our decisions are not based upon any particular formula or quota. Northwestern has the resources to meet the full financial need of all admitted students. If you applied for financial aid as a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or undocumented U.S. high school student, your financial need did not factor into our final decision.

We understand that researching and deciding where to apply to college is a difficult process for students and their families. We wish we could have offered admission to more of our applicants, but the University's resources can only accommodate a limited number of entering students. Thank you for your interest and for taking the time to submit an application to Northwestern.

Christopher Watson  
Assistant Vice President and Dean of Undergraduate Admission

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