

# YES

A WORLD-CLASS INSTITUTION CAN BE **AFFORDABLE** FOR

# YOU

Northwestern

The image features a photograph of the Northwestern University archway, a prominent landmark on campus. The archway is a dark, ornate metal structure supported by two large, light-colored stone pillars. The words "NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY" are inscribed on the arch. The background is filled with trees in vibrant autumn colors, including reds, oranges, and yellows. A paved path leads through the archway. Overlaid on the image is the text "YES, YOU" in a large, white, outlined font. In the upper left, there is a paragraph of text in white, and in the lower left, there is a quote and its source in black.

**Northwestern's commitment to college access** begins with financial aid that meets every student's need. No matter your financial circumstances, our goal is to remove cost as a barrier to higher education. At Northwestern, financial aid awards are not loans—**there's nothing to pay back**. In fact, we're one of the only need-blind universities in the country able to meet 100% of demonstrated need without loans.

YES, YOU

**"Few institutions could even consider implementing a no-loan financial aid policy like that of Northwestern."**

*CHICAGO TRIBUNE*

Our admissions process is

**need-blind**

for domestic applicants—your financial circumstances don't affect our admissions decision.

Northwestern meets

**100%**

of students' demonstrated financial need.

Our need-based aid packages are

**loan-free.**

There's nothing you need to pay back.

More than

**60%**

of students receive need-based aid.

Within six months of graduation

**95%**

of students are employed or pursuing further education, service, or career development opportunities.

## ALL ABOUT YOU

**“Northwestern gave me an amazing opportunity to study at a world-class university without worrying about crushing debt.”** TIMOTHY SUH

**FINANCIAL AID**  
[undergradaid.northwestern.edu](http://undergradaid.northwestern.edu)



**No two students' situations are identical**, so aid packages look different for everyone. To give a sense of where you might land, this chart shows average Northwestern aid packages by family adjusted gross income (AGI) levels. These are real examples of offers to first-year Northwestern students for the 2019–20 school year.\*

FAMILY INCOME (AGI)*	PERCENT RECEIVING AID	AVERAGE AID PACKAGE
\$0 – \$29,999	96%	\$71,927
\$30,000 – \$59,999	98%	\$67,440
\$60,000 – \$89,999	94%	\$59,709
\$90,000 – \$119,999	97%	\$51,154
\$120,000 – \$149,999	90%	\$44,362
\$150,000 or more	34%	\$29,902

**Northwestern's financial aid is based on need** as indicated by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS Profile. We use information from these forms to calculate how much you and your family can contribute to your total cost of attendance, which includes tuition, room and board, fees, books, and transportation—everything you need to attend college.

*\* Families with higher incomes may qualify for aid if they have more than one student in college. Financial aid packages typically include a combination of need-based scholarships, grants, and part-time work that together meet a student's full financial need. Financial aid figures from 2019–20 are the most representative data we can provide. Statistics for 2020–21 reflect a context highly specific to the COVID-19 pandemic, which we hope will not be relevant to your college experience.*

SPECIFIC TO YOU

TUITION CALCULATORS  
[admissions.northwestern.edu/tuition-aid/estimating-domestic-aid.html](https://admissions.northwestern.edu/tuition-aid/estimating-domestic-aid.html)



Here's how two families with different financial circumstances can afford Northwestern. We hope these examples help you imagine how a Northwestern education can be possible for you.

A student lives in a single-parent household and has no siblings. Her family income totals \$25,000. The family has no savings and does not own a home.

<b>Total annual cost of attendance</b>	<b>\$ 83,838</b>
Expected family contribution	0

<b>Financial need</b>	<b>\$ 83,838</b>
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**FINANCIAL AID AWARD**

Pell Grant	6,195
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	1,800
Northwestern Scholarship	72,243
Federal Work-Study	3,600

<b>TOTAL ANNUAL AID OFFERED</b>	<b>\$ 83,838</b>
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A student is the only member of his family in college. He has two younger siblings. Both parents are employed and together earn \$107,300. They have \$100,000 in home equity and another \$10,000 in investments and savings.

<b>Total annual cost of attendance</b>	<b>\$ 83,838</b>
Expected family contribution	22,200

<b>Financial need</b>	<b>\$ 61,638</b>
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**FINANCIAL AID AWARD**

Northwestern Scholarship	58,038
Federal Work-Study	3,600

<b>TOTAL ANNUAL AID OFFERED</b>	<b>\$ 61,638</b>
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THE FORMULA

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE} \\ - \text{(YOUR CALCULATED CONTRIBUTION)} \\ \hline = \text{FINANCIAL AID AWARD OFFER} \end{array}$$

POSSIBLE FOR **YOU**

**FAQS**

[admissions.northwestern.edu  
/faqs/financial-aid/index.html](https://admissions.northwestern.edu/faqs/financial-aid/index.html)



**There are many myths** about the financial aid process. Our job is to help you better understand the realities.

**MYTH: My family will be penalized because we saved for college.**

**REALITY:** While savings are among the assets we look at, their impact on the parental contribution is usually relatively small. Families who have not saved will likely have to finance a larger portion of their family contribution, making sacrifices in the future that you have made up front by saving.

**MYTH: I can't receive financial aid if I study abroad.**

**REALITY:** In fact, financial aid generally travels with our students. Our need-based aid policy ensures that costs and family finances won't keep students from pursuing international opportunities. Northwestern also awards more than \$3.5 million annually in undergraduate research funding, much of which supports projects abroad.

**MYTH: When I reapply for aid after my first year, my Northwestern scholarship will decrease.**

**REALITY:** If a family's financial situation remains constant, then aid will actually increase. As costs increase, you will typically see an increase in the overall family contribution as well as in each component of the aid package.

**ACCESS BEYOND AID** →

Making Northwestern accessible to all means offering support beyond your aid award. Explore these and other resources at [admissions.northwestern.edu/student-life/support](https://admissions.northwestern.edu/student-life/support) to see how we'll help you thrive once you're on campus.

- Advocacy resources through the Quest Scholars Network
- Career and interview expenses
- Financial literacy resources
- Funding for fees/dues
- Graduate school preparation
- Networking opportunities
- Precollege mentorship through Arch Scholars
- Summer internship grants
- Undergraduate research grants

WE CAN HELP **YOU**

Weighing the costs of college is a highly personal process, so **we invite you to reach out and ask us questions.** Call or email our financial aid office to get into specifics and learn more about our process.

**UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID**

847-491-7400

[undergradaid@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:undergradaid@u.northwestern.edu)

[undergradaid.northwestern.edu/help/contact.html](http://undergradaid.northwestern.edu/help/contact.html)

**SUBMISSION DEADLINES** →

ROUND	DOCUMENT	OPENS	CLOSES
<b>EARLY DECISION</b>	FAFSA	October 1	December 1
	CSS Profile	October 1	December 1
	Tax forms (to the College Board)	October 1	December 5
<b>REGULAR DECISION</b>	FAFSA	October 1	February 15
	CSS Profile	October 1	February 15
	Tax forms (to the College Board)	October 1	March 1

**FEE WAIVER**

[admissions.northwestern.edu/tuition-aid/fee-waiver.html](http://admissions.northwestern.edu/tuition-aid/fee-waiver.html)



**Seeking an application FEE WAIVER?**

We want to make sure our \$75 application fee is not a barrier for any student. If the application fee would cause a hardship for you and your family, please request a fee waiver. Check eligibility requirements on our website.

 Northwestern financial aid is literally  
life-changing for many low-income students.  
It absolutely changes the trajectory of their  
academic, personal, and professional lives.”

AMANDA WALSH '16  
PAST PRESIDENT OF NORTHWESTERN'S  
QUEST SCHOLARS NETWORK

**Office of Undergraduate  
Admission**  
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Evanston, Illinois 60204-3060  
USA

Nonprofit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Northwestern  
University

# Northwestern

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