Our Office would like to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all of our new students and welcome back our returning students. We have been working diligently to ensure your financial aid is in place for the 2022-2023 school year. Our students have always been and will always be our top priority. We hope you find your time here at Northeastern both fulfilling and rewarding. We are here for you to guide you through the financial aid process and help you better understand how funding your education really works. You are welcome to set up a virtual Google Meet appointment at neiu.edu/aidappointment. You can also give us a call, send us an email, or stop by our office. Please take notice of the NEIU portal. The portal is our means of conveying information to you. If you have already been awarded you can see your aid package under “Financial Aid Awards”. If you have not been awarded you can check to see if we still need something under “Financial Aid Requirements”. The requirements will have “red flags” that you can select to get additional information regarding that requirement. Once you have met the requirements, we can review your file so that you can be awarded.

We also recommend that you apply for scholarships. Scholarships are available through the university as well as many outside sources. You can use the QR code on page 2 of this newsletter or visit our website, neiu.edu, and check our Scholarship Opportunities page. There you will not only find the university scholarships, you will also get information on some external offerings.

Once you review your award package, you can decide if you need to use your loan eligibility. If you have not borrowed before to assist with your expenses, we recommend that you speak with your financial aid advisor to understand the process. Many students prefer to pay the difference of their aid and their tuition out of pocket, but loans can assist those who do not have the available funds to clear their account balance.

Having your financial aid already in place early in the school year and planning for how you cover the difference ensures that you are prepared for the year can make life a little easier knowing that you can continue the year without financial worries or concerns on how you will pay for your educational expenses. Now you can concentrate on the reason you are here: your education.

Past due Balance?
It happened: You didn’t realize that your aid doesn’t cover your full bill, you forgot to request your loan on time, or some other complication. Either way, once your bill is past due, accounts receivable will put a hold on your account, meaning you cannot register for future classes, add or drop a class, or have access to transcripts.

We would hate for your education to be interrupted by your inability to clear your account holds.

If you are unable to cover your balance, alternative private loans are another option. Below is a partial list of private financial lenders you may wish to utilize to cover past due balances:
- PNC Bank
- Sallie Mae Smart Option
- Wells Fargo Collegiate Loan

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**Come Work With Us!**

Looking for supplemental income that won't interfere with your studies? NEIU Student Employment offers both Federal Work-Study and Student Aide opportunities, including on campus departmental positions, as well as off campus non-profit programs like America Reads/America Counts, which assists underserved Chicago Public Elementary students.

Federal Work-Study jobs are based on need as shown on your FAFSA application. To qualify for Federal Work-Study, you must have completed your 22/23 FAFSA application prior to June 1st, 2022. Your expected family contribution (EFC) indicated on the Student Aid Report (SAR) Must be below $6206. Federal Work-Study Program awards will be dispersed until funds are exhausted, but as many students do not take advantage of their award, eligible late admit students are placed on the FWSP waiting list.

As money frees up from unused awards, we can offer Work-Study to students on the waiting list. Work-Study and student aide positions can be viewed on the Handshake platform. Handshake is a digital platform tool that connects you to jobs, internships and other resources.

Jobs are available throughout the school as well as off campus. The off campus require Federal Work-Study. One is tutoring elementary Chicago public school students in reading and/math through the America Reads/America Counts Program. The other is working for selected not for profit organizations. Whether you work as a student aide or work-study, your pay will go directly to you to use for whatever your needs are.

Feel free to contact the student employment department for more information. Their contact info is listed below.

**MINIMUM STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

After grades are processed for each Semester, the Financial Aid Office is required to evaluate the following criteria which includes all developmental coursework:

- **ZERO GRADE points earned**
- **Never Attended coursework**
- **Cumulative Grade Point Average**—(2.0 for UNDG, 3.0 for GRAD)
- **Completion Rate (pace)**—67%
- **Maximum Timeframe**—(180 credits for UNDG, 54 for GRAD)

If you do not meet these minimum requirements, you will be required to complete a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal to be considered for financial aid in the future.