This map is a small portion of the larger map on the next page. It was created by a contact in Switzerland, who wrote a code using Google Maps API to create a color-coded semitransparent set of isochrones -- time travel maps using the road networks at low-traffic times. The area shown on the larger map encompasses 93% of students who had enrolled Fall 2012. Isochrones are the equivalent of contour intervals, but with drive times instead of elevation. Mr. Emonet may also be able to provide a similar map for travel by public transportation, as well as maps for El Centro and the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies.
This isochrone map shows contour lines at 10-minute increments from Northeastern Illinois University at low-traffic times using an interface with Google Maps.
The map was created for NEU by Rened Emmer, researcher at the Idiap Research Institute (EPFL) in Martigny in Switzerland; see the following link for more information:
http://home.haveres.com/tech-isochrones.html
Local information was added by the NEU GIS Team, a joint project of Institutional Research and the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies. Follow this link for more information:
http://www.neu.edu/~jhowens/NEUUGIS
An unexpected finding was that students graduating from NEIU in Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 lived farther away than the general student body. Mean distance for the 1,835 students graduating fall or spring was 8.3 miles, where the fall 2012 students not graduating that fall or spring averaged 7.3 miles from campus. Median distances (distance of the middle member when sorted by distance, the standard "common person" measure -- was 5.1 for graduates and 4.7 miles for the rest. This indicates that distance may not be such an impediment for matriculation, in fact more distant students may be more perseverant in their final year. Interesting!
Weighted average location for new freshmen students for years 2009, 2010, and 2011

New freshmen (newstd=1) were selected. A small number of students listed addresses from across the country, so those beyond 60 miles removed. There is a shift in these years south and east, with a decrease in total numbers. Northeastern main campus is indicated with the yellow star.
In an effort to assess the utility of rideshare software for NEIU students we established 0.5 and 1 mile buffer zones around each of 11,000 students from Fall 2012 enrollments and then counted the numbers of other students within that zone. The average NEIU student is within a half mile of 34 other students, and within a mile of 119. Areas beyond 50 miles and closer than 3 miles were not included in these averages. CLICK HERE to see the full report. [↩links to http://www.neiu.edu/~isp/maps_gis/carpooling.pdf ]