

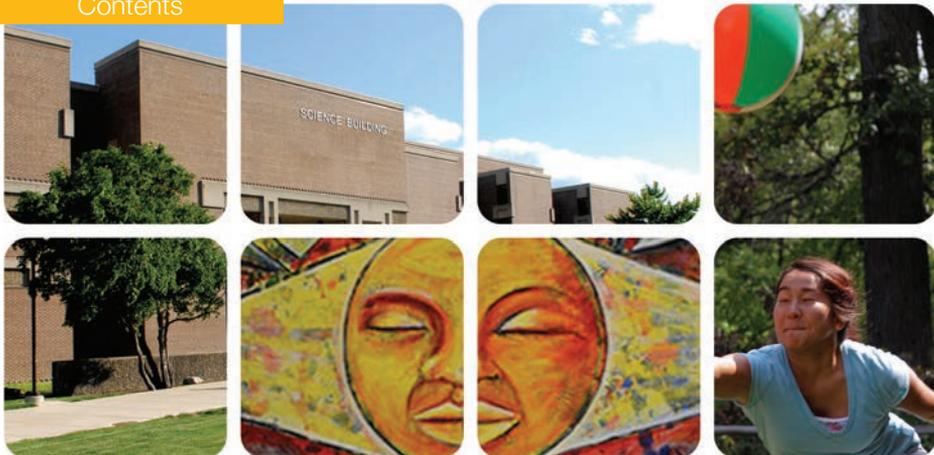


Parent and Family Guide to

NORTHEASTERN Illinois University

**Supporting Your Student
During the College Years**

— 2015 —



About this Guide

Northeastern Illinois University's Office of New Student and Family Programs has published this guide with the mission of helping you easily navigate your student's university with the most timely and relevant information available.

Make the Most of this Guide

- **Use it!** Inside you'll find information that's useful all year with items such as phone numbers, websites, and calendars.
- **Share it!** Share articles and tips inside with your student to help them successfully navigate the university.
- **Pass it!** Pass it along to fellow university families or prospective families of college students.





Contents

4 Northeastern Illinois University Guide Comprehensive advice, information for student success

- 4 Welcome to Northeastern Illinois University
- 5 Family & Parent Programming
- 6 Adjusting to College
- 7 How Can I Support my Student?
- 7 Why is Northeastern a Good Fit for My Student?
- 8 Does Northeastern Have Specific Rules, Guidelines, and Expectations for Conduct?
- 8 University Police
- 9 What Will My Student Focus on During College?
- 10 How Do We Pay for College?
- 12 When Does My Student Have Class?

13 Resources Must-have knowledge to navigate your way

- 14 Campus Map
- 15 Northeastern Campus Locations
- 15 Student Support Resources

Welcome Letter

Dear Families of Northeastern Students,

Welcome! We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Northeastern Illinois University, the home of the Golden Eagles. As family members of Northeastern students, you are an important part of our community.

At Northeastern, we are committed to your student's success! Your student is beginning a new journey, and your support has been vital in making that possible. As University students, they will encounter new academic challenges and grow intellectually and personally. We are very excited to welcome your student and to provide support to help them be successful.

Within this guide are resources and practical tips for families of new students to guide you through the transition. This information is designed to assist Northeastern families in learning more about the Northeastern experience.

New Student and Family Programs connects you to people and programs that are here to help you and your student to be successful, including the following:

Family Orientation - Orientation for families of newly admitted students covers an overview of services, university expectations, a tour of our beautiful campus, and much more.

Family Listserv - We are building an email recipient list to connect Northeastern families and keep you informed about upcoming events.

Family Brunch - Enjoy a complimentary meal with other Northeastern families and Student Affairs staff. This event provides an opportunity for families to visit campus, network with other Northeastern families and staff, and learn about university's services.



For more information about these programs, please contact New Student and Family Programs, at (773) 442-5373 or by email at NFSP@neu.edu.

We look forward to creating a productive and rewarding relationship with you as we work together to support your student and their success at Northeastern.

Sincerely,
Barbara A. Sherry
Assistant Provost, Student Success and Retention

Stay connected with us at www.facebook.com/newstudentandfamilyprograms.

Family & Parent Programming



New Student and Family Programs helps the family members of Northeastern students become familiar with the transition to college and the University's services and resources. The goal is to involve and support family members by providing information that will help them aid in the success of their student. Programs such as Family Orientation, First Year Congratulatory, and Family Brunch give parents and family members an opportunity to become connected to Northeastern through meeting students, other family members, faculty, and administrators. Families and parents also receive helpful information focusing on helping their student's successfully transition to Northeastern. For more information please contact our office at (773) 442-5373.





Adjusting to College

What are a student's biggest academic adjustments?

Learning to discipline oneself and managing time are critical adjustments. College classes meet at various times throughout the week. The class workload is challenging. A great deal of learning takes place while studying and interacting outside of class. Co-curricular activities will provide your student with opportunities to apply knowledge learned inside the classroom to real situations that occur beyond the classroom walls. It is recommended that a student spend two hours studying for every one hour in class. Students must be prepared to be self-sufficient, take responsibility and make responsible choices, and seek help before any serious academic difficulties occur.

How can a student get help if they are struggling with academics or a certain class?

If a student is struggling in a class, they should immediately schedule an office meeting with the professor and academic advisor. The professor can help the student decide what to study or if they should continue or drop the class. Northeastern offers many campus resources to assist students (e.g. Center for Academic Writing, Learning Support Center for tutoring, Ronald Williams Library, and the Student Center for Science Engagement.) A student should also meet with their academic advisor often to discuss challenges, any transition issues, and their academic plan. Please encourage your student to utilize resources. Interactions with support services will help them maintain their quality work and continue to learn and development.

Is there a specific program or service that will help my first-year, first-time in college student transition?

There are several programs and services to help your student's transition. Two programs that are mandatory for first year students: New Student Orientation is mandatory for all first-year, first time university students, and the First-Year Experience (FYE) Program is also mandatory for all students who have earned between 0 and 30 credit hours, including all first-time university students. New Student Orientation occurs the summer before your student begins their first semester at Northeastern. The goal of this program is to support and enhance the new student transition to the University by taking a holistic approach to student development and transition, with the ultimate goal of positively impacting student success. The First-Year Experience (FYE) Program is a university-wide initiative that engages students in activities designed to ensure their success in higher education through a series of classes and out of class events specifically targeted for first-year students.

How can I find out my student's grades and attendance?

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal privacy law that protects student's educational records. When a student begins attending a postsecondary institution (regardless of the age of the student) the FERPA rights reside with the student. FERPA provides for the confidentiality of student records. Parents may obtain information such as grades, GPA, class schedule, etc., only if the school has determined that the student is a legal dependent of the parent. Parents may also obtain information by signing a consent from their student. A consent form can be obtained at the Enrollment Services Center (D 101).

Why should my student get involved in campus activities?

Encourage your student to become involved, not only in their education but also in various student organizations. Student involvement develops personal career networks, increases leadership opportunities and enhances communication skills. The value of education goes well beyond the classroom. Research shows students who are involved in leadership opportunities in their campuses perform better in the classroom.

What if My Student Gets Sick?

Student Health and Counseling Services offers many screening tests, first aid, and assessments for health concerns. For further information, please visit room E-051 (under Beck's Bookstore), or call (773) 442-5800.

How Can I Support My Student?

- Encourage your student to learn and use the resources available on campus.
- Keep a line of communication open about the new experiences your student is facing.
- Ask your student specific questions about their academics like: How did you do on your exam? Where do you study? What is your favorite or least favorite class?
- Encourage your student to create a positive relationship with their faculty, advisor(s), and peers.
- Please be patient. College can be a challenging time for students. Allow your student time to sort through difficult situations.
- Encourage your student to participate in campus activities and bond with other students.

- Listen closely and be supportive.
- Understand that the transition to college is academic and social. Your student will be balancing these components of their life as they transition.

Why is NEIU a Good Fit for My Student?

Northeastern Illinois University has been ranked in two categories in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2013 edition of "Best Colleges." Northeastern remains the leader among all universities in the nation for having the lowest percentage of students who graduate with student loan debt. Also, Northeastern has been listed as one of the most ethnically diverse universities in the nation. Furthermore, your student's success is supported by student oriented faculty, staff, and administration that are dedicated to Integrity, Excellence, Access to Opportunity, Diversity, Community, and Empowerment through Learning.

Northeastern Illinois University prepares a diverse community of students for leadership and service in our region and in a dynamic multicultural world. This is achieved through pursuit of the following baccalaureate goals:

1. Intellectual and Practical Skills
2. Immersion in Disciplines and Fields of Study
3. Learning within the Resources of Community and Diversity at NEIU



Does NEIU Have Specific Rules, Guidelines, and Expectations for Conduct?

The short answer is yes. Your student has entered into a different atmosphere and there are rules, guidelines, and expectations for students in the Northeastern community. Students are encouraged to review online Academic Catalog which provides extensive information about University policies and procedures.

The Student Code of Conduct identifies that, Northeastern Illinois University exists for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the general well being of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. As members of the academic community, students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth.

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and within the larger community. All those involved in the teaching/ learning process should exercise their freedom with responsibility.

Please visit or call the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities if you have questions about the Student Code of Conduct at (773) 442-4610.

University Police

The University Police promotes campus safety. The mission of the Northeastern Illinois University Police Department is to promote and maintain a safe and secure atmosphere in which the University's educational mission can be successful. This department contributes to the educational process through student, staff, and faculty engagement in educational measures as well as strong community partnerships built on a shared commitment to prevent crime.

The University Police is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is located in the Parking Structure Building on the first floor of the parking garage.

Emergency Number: (773) 442-5511
Non-emergency Number: (773) 442-4100



What Will My Student Focus on During College?

Northeastern Illinois University is a fully accredited public university serving more than 11,000 students in the Chicago area with an affordable, high quality academic experience. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to excellence in instruction and student service. Northeastern has more than 80 undergraduate and graduate programs in the arts, sciences, education and business. Below you will find a list of majors and the academic Colleges where each major resides.

College of Business Management Bachelor Degree Programs:

- Accounting
- Finance
- General Business Administration
- Management
- Marketing

College of Arts and Sciences Bachelor Degree Programs:

- Anthropology
- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Child Advocacy Studies
- Communication, Media and Theatre
- Computer Science
- Earth Science
- Economics
- English
- Environmental Studies
- French
- Geography
- History
- Justice Studies
- Latino and Latin American Studies
- Mathematics

- Music
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Women's and Gender Studies

College of Education Bachelor Degree Programs:

- Bilingual/Bicultural Education
- Community Health and Wellness
- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Education
- Health and Wellness
- Secondary Education
- Human Resource Development
- Inner City Studies
- Physical Education
- Secondary Education (Major in the Discipline)
- Special Education



How Do We Pay for College?

Education is an investment of time, energy, and money. Northeastern Illinois University has been ranked sixth in the U.S. for Best Investment in Newsweek's annual edition of "College Rankings 2012".

Tuition for newly enrolled undergraduate students seeking their first bachelor's degree is guaranteed for 4 consecutive years. The Tuition Guarantee Plan will help you and your family budget your educational expenses. The Tuition Guarantee Plan applies only to tuition. Fees may increase during the four years. Payments can be made by Visa, MasterCard, or check via NEIUport (<http://neiuport.neiu.edu>).

Students are strongly encouraged to apply for financial assistance. Below is a list of frequently asked questions:

Who should apply for financial assistance?

Entering, continuing or returning Northeastern Illinois University students who are in degree-seeking programs and either have the status of U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (applied for permanent resident).

What is a FAFSA and how much does it cost to apply for financial assistance?

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It does not cost any money to fill out and submit a FAFSA.

What forms in addition to the FAFSA are required at Northeastern?

Once the student completes the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov, he or she is encouraged to complete scholarship applications with the University Scholarship Office. Further if the student wishes to borrow through 'no interest' or 'low interest' Federal Student



Loans, he or she will need to complete the Northeastern Stafford Loan Request. Note that first time Stafford loan borrowers will also have to complete an online entrance counseling session and a master promissory note.

Does NEIU have recommended or preferred alternative/private lenders?

No. Students who have exhausted their Stafford Loan eligibility or who are not eligible for Federal Student Loans, may apply online

Do loans have to be repaid while the student is in school?

In general no, loans do not have to be repaid while the student is in school. Exception to this would be unsubsidized Stafford loans or Parent loans that may require payment on the interest and/or principle while the student is enrolled.

Are scholarship opportunities available?

Yes! Northeastern offers several scholarship opportunities for students. The Scholarships Office promotes and awards university scholarship funds to deserving students. Our goal is to assist in lessening the financial burden that many students seek to overcome. For more information please contact the scholarship office at scholarships@neu.edu or (773) 442-4606.

How are financial aid packages determined?

Undergraduates are offered financial aid in the form of a 'package' — a combination of grants, loans, and work-study. The financial aid office determines a student's financial aid package through the process of need analysis. There are two formulas for need analysis. The first is conducted by the federal government to determine eligibility for its programs. The second is sometimes conducted by colleges and universities to determine how they will distribute their own institutional aid. Students should reapply for financial aid by completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) each year they are seeking aid. Undocumented students cannot apply for FAFSA, however there are many resources and scholarships available to support your students' journey. Please contact the Undocumented Student Project at (773) 442-4601 or via email at undocproject@neu.edu.

Please contact the **Office of Financial Aid**, (773) 442-5016, and the **Scholarship Office**, (773) 442-4606, if you have additional questions.



with any lender of their choice. Northeastern does recommend that students apply with at least three lenders. Be advised that alternative/private educational loans require a credit worthiness check and oftentimes a co-signer. Borrowers may meet with a Financial Aid Advisor to discuss appropriate questions to ask when looking for alternative/private loans.

When Does My Student Have Class?

The University has an academic calendar for each year. These academic calendars are planned years in advance and can be located at the end of the academic catalog. Below is the academic calendar for the 2015-2016 academic year.

FALL SEMESTER 2015	
February 23, 2015 - August 21, 2015	Registration for Classes
August 22	Weekend Classes Begin - Fall Semester
August 23	Sunday Classes Begin
August 24	Weekday Classes Begin
September 7	Labor Day Holiday
November 26 - 29	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 5 & 6	Final Exams for Weekend Classes
December 7	Last Day of Classes
December 8 - 10	Final Examinations
December 11	Final Examinations for Friday only classes
December 13	Commencement
December 14	Fall Semester Ends
December 15, 2015 - January 1, 2016	Recess

SPRING SEMESTER 2016	
October 19, 2015 - January 8, 2016	Registration for Classes
January 11	Saturday Classes Begin - Spring Semester
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday Holiday
February 12	Lincoln's Birthday Holiday
March 21 - 27	Spring Recess
April 30	Final Exams for Saturday Classes
May 2	Last Day of Classes
May 3 - 5	Final Examinations
May 6	Final Examinations for Friday only classes
May 9	Commencement
May 10	Spring Semester Ends
May 11 - 19	Recess

WELCOME

You are invited! to the First Friday Event

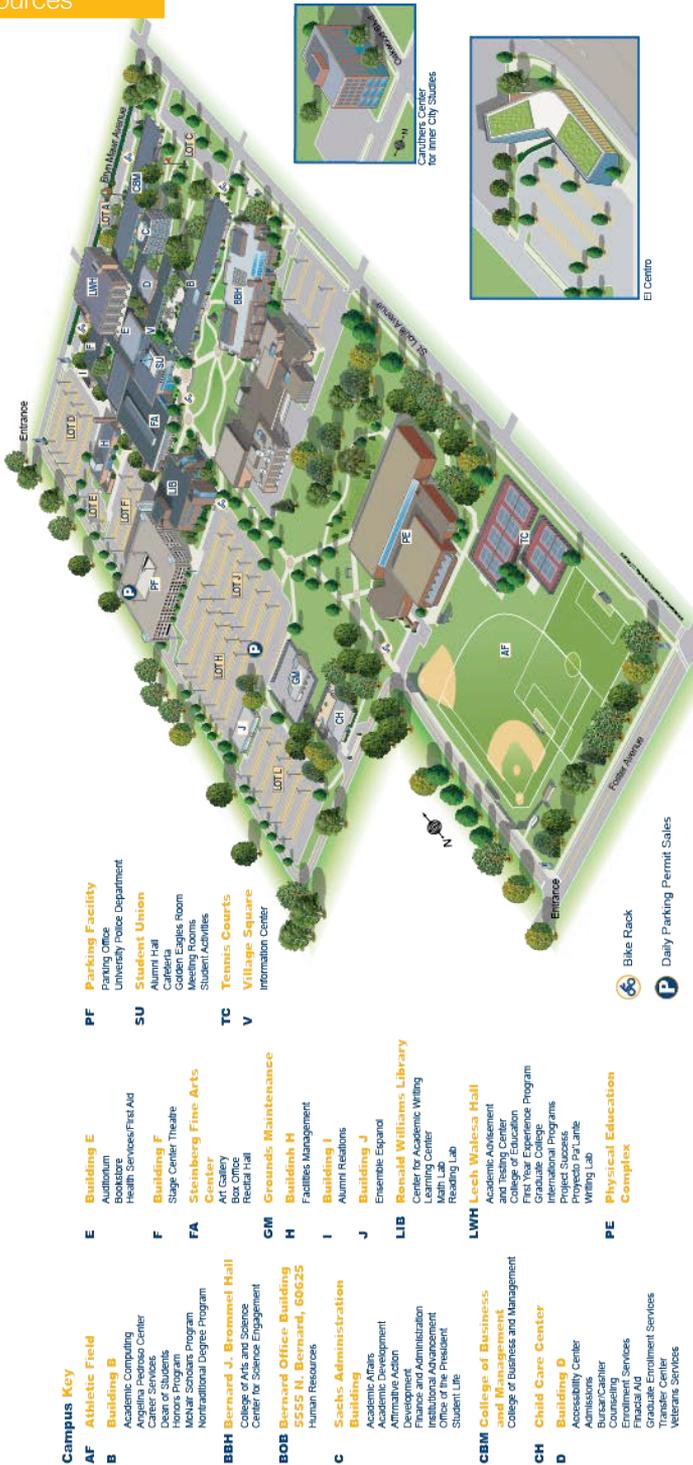


Friday, August 21, 2015

Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Ave
Chicago, IL 60625

Please join us for the New Student Welcome. This is the official welcome to new students. Come meet faculty, staff and other students!

For more details visit: www.facebook.com/newstudentandfamilyprograms.



Campus Key

- AF Athletic Field**
- B Building B**
Academic Computing
Angela Pedraza Center
Career Services
Honors Program
Nontraditional Degree Program
- BBH Bernard J. Brenneke Hall**
College of Arts and Science
Center for Science Engagement
- BOB Bernard Office Building**
5555 N. Bernard, 60625
Human Resources
- C Sacks Administration Building**
Academic Affairs
Academic Development
Administrative Action
Finance and Administration
Institutional Advancement
Office of the President
Student Life
- CBM College of Business and Management**
College of Business and Management
- CH Child Care Center**
- D Building D**
Accessibility Center
Admissions
Career Center
Counseling
Enrollment Services
Financial Aid
Graduate Enrollment Services
Veterans Services
- E Building E**
Auditorium
Boardroom
Health Services/First Aid
- F Building F**
Stage Center Theatre
- FA Steinberg Fine Arts Center**
Art Gallery
Box Office
Recital Hall
- GM Grounds Maintenance**
- H Building H**
Facilities Management
- I Building I**
Alumni Relations
- J Building J**
Ensemble Eppanor
- LIB Ronald Williams Library**
Center for Academic Writing
Learning Center
Lobby Lab
Reading Lab
- LWH Lech Walesa Hall**
Academic Achievement
College of Education
First Year Experience Program
Graduate College
Graduate Programs
Project Success
Project Success Labs
Writing Lab
- PE Physical Education Complex**
- PF Parking Facility**
Parking Office
University Police Department
- SU Student Union**
Alumni Hall
College Events Room
Meeting Rooms
Student Activities
- TC Tennis Courts**
- V Village Square**
Information Center

- Bike Rack
- Daily Parking Permit Sales



Catholics Center for inner city studies



El Centro

Northeastern Illinois University Campus Location

Main Campus

5500 North St. Louis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60625
Phone Number: (773) 583-4050

Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies Campus

700 East Oakwood Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60653
Phone Number: (773) 268-7500

El Centro Campus

3390 North Avondale Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60618
Phone Number: (773) 442-4080

Center for College Access & Success

770 North Halsted, Suite 420
Chicago, Illinois 60642
Phone Number: (312) 733-7330

University Center of Lake County

1200 University Center Drive
Grayslake, Illinois 60030
Phone Number: (847) 665-4000

Student Support Resources

The list below identifies some of the student support resources NEIU provides. Please encourage your student to visit their advisor to discuss resources that are not listed but are designed to support success.

Academic Advising

(773) 442-5470

Angelina Pedrosa Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs

(773) 442-5449

Campus Recreation

(773) 442-4135

Career Development Center

(773) 442-4680

Learning Support Center

(773) 442-4568

New Student and Family Programs

(773) 442-5373

Project Success

(773) 442-4980

Proyecto Pa'Lante

(773) 442-5460

Student Disability Services

(773) 442-4595

Student Health and Counseling Services

Counseling (773) 442-4650
Health (773) 442-5800

Student Leadership Development

(773) 442-4660

Student Rights and Responsibilities

(773) 442-4610

TRIO Student Support Services

(773) 442-4971

Parking Services

(773) 442-4117

Becks's Book Store

(773) 442-4990

Food Service

(773) 442-5337

University Police

(773) 442-4100

For a complete Campus
directory, please visit, [www.
neiu.edu/directory](http://www.neiu.edu/directory).

