Welcome Parent of ,

Thank you for participating in the Northwestern Parent Survey. This survey is being sent to parents of enrolled students by a select group of colleges and universities. The results will help us serve both parents and students better. All individual responses will be confidential -- only averages and other summary statistics will be reported. We hope you will complete the survey. A high response rate dramatically improves the usefulness of the results.

Either parent may fill out the questionnaire or both parents may complete the survey together. If you have more than one child attending Northwestern, please answer in reference to the older son or daughter who is enrolled as an undergraduate here.

The survey consists of several sections, and the entire survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Once you submit each page by hitting the "Next" button, your answers will be saved from that page. You may complete part of the survey and return at a later date to finish it. If you return to the survey, your previous answers will be displayed for you to review and edit if you wish.

Remember your responses will be completely confidential, so please be candid. Your participation is very important and greatly appreciated!

Tell Us How We Are Doing

1. Overall, how satisfied are you with your child's undergraduate education at Northwestern so far?
   - Very satisfied
   - Generally satisfied
   - Ambivalent
   - Generally dissatisfied
   - Very dissatisfied

>> Next
Tell Us How We Are Doing

2. As a parent, how satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of Northwestern?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
<th>Generally dissatisfied</th>
<th>Generally satisfied</th>
<th>Very satisfied</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall quality of instruction</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emphasis on undergraduate education</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The administration’s responsiveness to parent concerns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social life on campus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sense of community on campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intellectual atmosphere outside the classroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your own sense of personal connection to Northwestern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate research opportunities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact with faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extent of ethnic and racial diversity</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Disagree strongly</th>
<th>Disagree somewhat</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Agree somewhat</th>
<th>Agree strongly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am happy my child attends Northwestern.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>It has been very difficult for us to pay for my child’s college education.</td>
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<tr>
<td>My child is under too much academic stress.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall, my child is doing well at Northwestern.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am worried that my child will graduate with too much debt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am worried that my child will have trouble finding a job after graduation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>My child is developing a clearer sense of career goals.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Tell Us How We Are Doing

4. Thinking about undergraduate education, how important is it that Northwestern does each of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Not too important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide a broad-based education that promotes intellectual growth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruit a diverse student body</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide training for a specific career or profession</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve students' future earning potential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promote personal growth and maturity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide opportunities to conduct research with faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encourage community service and volunteering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop leadership skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide extensive extracurricular and athletic options</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare students for graduate or professional school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide international/global experiences (e.g. study or work abroad)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create opportunities for on-campus interactions with students from diverse backgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide opportunities to access a valuable alumni/ae network</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Disagree strongly</th>
<th>Disagree somewhat</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Agree somewhat</th>
<th>Agree strongly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern could spend less and still maintain a high quality of education.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern should try to help improve its surrounding community.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercollegiate (NCAA) athletics receive too much attention at Northwestern.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern is a place where people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds can feel welcome.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol plays too dominant a role in social life at Northwestern.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern provides adequate resources for the health and wellness of students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty research at Northwestern enriches the undergraduate experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities available in Chicago enrich my child’s</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
educational and personal experience.

6. Would you encourage a high school senior who resembles your child (same background, abilities, interests and temperament) to attend Northwestern?

- Definitely would
- Probably would
- Maybe
- Probably not
- Definitely not

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2012 Parent Survey

Being the Parent of a College Student: Staying Informed

1. Do you feel that you are receiving sufficient communication from Northwestern?
   - I am receiving too little communication
   - I am receiving sufficient communication
   - I am receiving too much communication

2. Overall, how well do you think the information you receive from Northwestern meets your needs as a parent?
   - Very well
   - Pretty well
   - Adequately
   - Poorly

3. Use this checklist to tell us which areas you'd like to hear more about. Mark as many as you like.

- Events for parents (e.g., Family Weekend)
- Resources for parents (e.g., Parents Association)
- Academic life and policies
- Residential life and policies
- Religious life
- Special events on campus
- Campus safety
- Student organizations
- Athletics
- Off-campus programs (such as Study Abroad)
- Financial aid
- Financing (installments, pre-pay, etc.)
- Academic support services (e.g., tutoring)
- Career counseling
- Psychological/counseling services
- Medical/health services

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Choosing a College

1. From your perspective as a parent, to what extent did each of the following help your child in the college admission process? Consider all aspects of the process, including selecting schools to apply to, preparing applications, and making the final choice about where to attend.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Quite a bit</th>
<th>A great deal</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You and the child's other parent(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>High school guidance or college counselors</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other high school teachers and advisors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special high school, after school, or summer programs</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid college counselors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test prep programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magazines and college guidebooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web sites designed to help students choose colleges</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>College visits</td>
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<tr>
<td>My child's friends</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Financial aid was a major factor in my child's college choices.

- Agree strongly
- Agree somewhat
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree somewhat
- Disagree strongly
Paying for College – This Year

We want to understand how families are paying for college. Your answers are completely confidential: the data will be used for research purposes only. Your financial aid will not be affected in any way.

1. Did your child receive a grant to help pay expenses for the current academic year from any source? Grants include any aid you need not repay and may be based on need or merit or both. Consider grants awarded by this institution or by any outside source. [Include athletic scholarships.]

☐ Yes  ☐ No

2. Please use the following list to describe how your family is meeting your college expenses this year. Consider all of your college costs for this child. Please mark one answer in each row, marking "Did not use" where appropriate. We know this is a hard question. Just make your best guess.

**FAMILY ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1-25%</th>
<th>26-50%</th>
<th>51-100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary savings and sale of stock or other financial assets</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of non-financial assets (real estate, etc.)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-sponsored college savings (&quot;529&quot;) plan</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-paid tuition plan (of any kind)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawal from a retirement plan</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PARENT BORROWING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1-25%</th>
<th>26-50%</th>
<th>51-100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home equity loans</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;PLUS&quot; and other loans through the financial aid office</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent educational loans from private lenders</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowing from relatives or friends</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowing from a retirement plan</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other types of borrowing</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CURRENT PARENT INCOME**
### Income from parents' usual job(s) or business
- Did Not Use
- 1-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-100%

### Parents' second jobs or overtime work
- Did Not Use
- 1-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-100%

### Parents' employee benefits
- Did Not Use
- 1-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-100%

### STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student work-study or term-time job(s)</th>
<th>Did Not Use</th>
<th>1-25%</th>
<th>26-50%</th>
<th>51-100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student earnings during vacation periods</td>
<td>Did Not Use</td>
<td>1-25%</td>
<td>26-50%</td>
<td>51-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student borrowing – all kinds</td>
<td>Did Not Use</td>
<td>1-25%</td>
<td>26-50%</td>
<td>51-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student's assets (trust fund, etc.)</td>
<td>Did Not Use</td>
<td>1-25%</td>
<td>26-50%</td>
<td>51-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student's employee benefits</td>
<td>Did Not Use</td>
<td>1-25%</td>
<td>26-50%</td>
<td>51-100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OTHER RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gifts from relatives or others (e.g., grandparents)</th>
<th>Did Not Use</th>
<th>1-25%</th>
<th>26-50%</th>
<th>51-100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resources not listed above. Please specify.</td>
<td>Did Not Use</td>
<td>1-25%</td>
<td>26-50%</td>
<td>51-100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Paying for College – To Date

For this next set of questions, think about this child’s entire undergraduate experience to date.

1. So far, how much money have you or your spouse/partner borrowed to pay for your child’s college education? Include all years. Do not include amounts the student is obligated to repay.

   - $0
   - $1 - $4,999
   - $5,000 - $9,999
   - $10,000 - $14,999
   - $15,000 - $19,999
   - $20,000 - $24,999
   - $25,000 - $29,999
   - $30,000 - $39,999
   - $40,000 - $49,999
   - $50,000 - $59,999
   - $60,000 - $74,999
   - $75,000 - $99,999
   - $100,000 or more

2. If your child has borrowed money for college, do you expect to help him or her pay off these loans? Mark the best answer.

   - My child has no student loans
   - No, my child will make these payments on his/her own
   - Yes -- I or someone else will repay less than half of what my child borrowed
   - Yes -- I or someone else will repay half or more of what my child borrowed

3. If you are not living with this child’s other parent, does the other parent contribute to the student’s education expenses?

   - Not Applicable
4. What has been the impact on your family of paying for your child to attend Northwestern?
   - None/slight
   - Moderate
   - Considerable
   - Severe
   - Not applicable (We have not contributed funds for our child's education.)

5. Has your child's experience at Northwestern been worth the impact on your family's finances?
   - Yes, definitely
   - Somewhat
   - No, definitely not

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About You and this Child

As a reminder, if you have more than one child attending Northwestern, please answer in reference to the older son or daughter enrolled as an undergraduate here.

1. What is your child’s gender?
   - Female
   - Male
   - Other

2. What is your child’s year in college?
   - First Year
   - Second Year
   - Third Year
   - Fourth Year
   - Fifth Year or later

3. Where did your child live during the most recent fall term?
   - Residence hall
   - Fraternity/sorority
   - Other college housing
   - Off-campus (alone or with roommates)
   - With parent(s)
   - Studying abroad or at another U.S. college

4. In which of the following areas is your child majoring? Please mark all that apply.
   - Business & Management
   - Physical Sciences or Mathematics
   - Engineering or Applied Sciences
   - Social sciences
   - Humanities
   - Other
   - Fine Arts
   - Undecided
   - Biological Sciences

5. What is your relation to this child? If more than one person is filling out the
survey, please select all that apply.

- Custodial parent, step-parent, or other legal guardian (including joint custody)
- Non-custodial parent
- Other

6. Please indicate the gender(s) of those responding to this survey. Mark all that apply.

- Male
- Female
- Other

7. Are you married or living with a partner?

- Yes
- No

8. Counting this student, how many children do you have in college now (this academic year)? Include step-children and others you helped to raise or for whom you share financial responsibility.

- One [only this student]
- Two
- Three or more

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About You

1. On your last birthday, how old were you?
   - [ ] Under 45
   - [ ] 45-49
   - [ ] 50-54
   - [ ] 55-59
   - [ ] 60-64
   - [ ] 65-69
   - [ ] 70 or older

2. What is the highest degree you have earned?

2b. If you have a graduate or professional degree, please indicate which.

   - [ ] MBA
   - [ ] Master's degree
   - [ ] Medical degree
   - [ ] Law degree
   - [ ] Doctoral degree
   - [ ] Other

3. Has a parent, sibling, or other close relative of this child attended Northwestern?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

4. Are you a citizen or permanent resident of the United States?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

5. What is your race or ethnicity?
   Mark all that apply.
   - [ ] Asian
   - [ ] Black/African American
   - [ ] Hispanic/Latino
   - [ ] Native American
   - [ ] Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
   - [ ] White

6. Please use the following categories to tell us what your before-tax family income from all sources was in 2011. Again, all information you provide is completely confidential and will be used only for research.
   - [ ] Under $25,000
   - [ ] $25,000 - $49,999
   - [ ] $50,000 - $74,999
   - [ ] $75,000 - $99,999
   - [ ] $100,000 - $124,999
   - [ ] $125,000 - $149,999
   - [ ] $150,000 - $174,999
   - [ ] $175,000 - $199,999
   - [ ] $200,000 - $249,999
   - [ ] $250,000 - $499,999
   - [ ] $500,000 or above
7. If you presently are living in the United States, please indicate your ZIP code in the space provided.

U.S. Zip Code (5 digit) 

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Your Comments

Please use the following spaces to add your comments. College and university administrators read these comments and often use them to identify strengths and weaknesses. Since the survey is confidential, however, they cannot address individual issues. If you have a problem or concern and would like a personal response, you should also contact the appropriate individual(s) on campus directly.

What has most pleased you about Northwestern?

What has most disappointed you about Northwestern?

A number of questions in the survey dealt with paying for college. Use the space below to add any comments or thoughts you have about this, including sacrifices you made, what you "wish you knew" before you started out, and so on.

Please use this space to make any other comments you would like about any of the topics raised in this survey or any other matter of concern to you.

This is the last page of the survey. If you wish to review your responses, please use the "Back" button below, or select Submit Survey to save and complete your survey.

Timing

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