

## Summary- 2022 Northwestern Survey of New Students

The 2022 Northwestern Survey of New Students was administered to all incoming first-year undergraduate students. The invitation email was sent on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Three reminder emails were sent before the survey closed on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the day before the start of Wildcat Welcome.

The survey received 1,050 responses for an overall response rate of 51%. Female students had a higher response rate (54%) than Males (47%). The response rate by race/ethnicity categories was highest for White students (57%) and lowest for Black/African American students (42%). First Generation students had a lower response rate (45%) than Continuing Generation students (52%).

The table below shows the sex and race/ethnicity composition of survey respondents and of the entire entering class. Comparing the percentages shows that the survey results are generally representative of the entire class. Females, specifically White Females, are slightly overrepresented in the survey results while Males, specifically Asian/Pacific Islander, Black/African American, and Hispanic, are slightly underrepresented in the survey results.

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	Entering Class	Survey Respondents	Entering Class	Survey Respondents
American Indian/Native American	0%	0%	0%	0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	10%	9%	12%	12%
Black/African American	3%	2%	5%	5%
Hispanic	6%	5%	9%	9%
Native Hawaiian/Oth Pac Island	0%	0%	0%	0%
Non-Resident Alien	5%	5%	6%	6%
Not Applicable	2%	2%	2%	1%
Two or More Races	3%	3%	5%	5%
White, Non-Hispanic	16%	16%	17%	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>58%</b>

This year's survey instrument asked students about their academic interests, expectations for college, high school activities, background, academic preparation, college search process, finances, and post-graduation plans. Below is a summary of overall results for selected questions with sub-group results identified where notable.

The complete survey results from this year and past years are available to be viewed [here](#).

### Expectations for College

The survey started by asking incoming students to rate the importance of Northwestern providing various experiences to them. Overall, the most important experience was "Opportunities to discover and pursue your intellectual passion," which was considered *essential* by 80% of respondents. Most respondents also rated three other experiences as *essential*: "Opportunities to develop skills valuable in

the workforce” (68%), “Skills for lifelong learning,” (59%), and “Deep expertise in a specific discipline or area of study” (57%). Additionally, “A global perspective” was rated as *essential* by most Black/African American respondents (54%) and International (56%) respondents.

Students were asked to rate their interest level in participating in various activities. Two activities stood out as having the most interest to them: “Joining a student club or organization” (86% *very interested*) and “Having an internship” (81%). Two other activities were also rated as *very interested* by most respondents: “Working with a professor on a research project” (52%) and “Studying abroad” (51%). Several other activities with higher levels of interest amongst subgroups were: “Having a leadership role in student government, a club, organization, or team” was rated *very interested* by 56% of International students while “Getting a job to help pay for college expenses” was rated *very interested* by 53% of Black/African American students.

Overall, 17% of students indicated they are *very confident* in their choice of major. The highest percentage by school is 35% for Communication students, followed by Medill Journalism (26%) and Bienen Music (25%). The schools with the lowest percentage of students *very confident* in their major were Education & Social Policy (12%) and McCormick Engineering (12%). Overall, 6% of responding students rated their confidence in their choice of major as *not confident at all*. These percentages were similar across schools except for Communication, which only had 1% of students respond as such.

### **Preparedness for College**

Less than 20% of incoming students indicated they felt *very well prepared* to “Succeed academically” (14%) or “Get along socially” (19%) at Northwestern. About half of respondents rated themselves as *quite well prepared* for each item (50% to “Succeed academically” and 47% to “Get along socially”). Male students rated their level of preparedness slightly higher than female students with 18% *very well prepared* to “Succeed academically,” compared to 11% for females and 21% *very well prepared* to “Get along socially,” compared to 18% of females. Across race/ethnicity, Black/African American students responded with the highest percentage *very well prepared* to “Succeed academically” (19%) and white students had the highest percentage *very well prepared* to “Get along socially” (24%).

### **Choosing a College**

Overall, 69% of respondents rated Northwestern as their *First choice* among colleges they applied to. Only 7% rated Northwestern as *Less than third choice*. White students had the highest percentage (75%) *First choice* by race/ethnic group with Hispanic having the lowest percentage (58%) selecting *First choice*. By school, Bienen Music students had the highest percentage (78%) rating Northwestern *First choice* (78%) while SESP had the lowest percentage (60%).

### **Paying for College**

Overall, most respondents have minimal concerns about their family’s ability to pay for their college education with 42% rating their level of concern as *A little* and 37% as *Not at all*. There were 7% who indicated *A great deal* of concern. Of Hispanic students, 10% of reported *A great deal* of concern, the only sub-group with at least 10% reporting that level of concern.

## After College

A majority (58%) of incoming students indicated they “intend to pursue a graduate or professional degree” in the future. Only 5% said *No* and the rest reported *Not sure yet*. Female students said *Yes* at a higher rate (61%) than male students (53%). Asian/Pacific Islander and Black/African American students had the highest *Yes* percentages (65%) by race/ethnicity. White and International students had the lowest *Yes* percentages (51%). First Generation students reported *Yes* at a higher rate (62%) than Continuing Generation students (57%).

## High School

A majority (53%) of incoming students attended a traditional public high school; this rate for domestic students was highest amongst Asian/Pacific Islander (63%) and lowest for Hispanic (47%) students. For International students 44% attended a *Private – independent non-residential* high school.

Looking at students’ feelings during their last year of high school, most students were able to “Find a balance between schoolwork and other aspects of their lives” with 17% responding *Very often* and 45% responding *Often* to that question. Despite these results, nearly half of students “felt overwhelmed by all they had to do” with 16% responding *Very often* and another 31% responding *Often* to that question. The percentages were much higher for females (23% *Very often* and 37% *Often*) than for males (6% *Very often* and 22% *Often*). There were many students reporting they “feel overwhelming anxiety” with 12% responding *Very often* and 19% responding *Often*. Again, the rates were higher for females (16% *Very often* and 22% *Often*) than for males (6% *Very often* and 15% *Often*).

## Your Background

Based on responses to the question asking respondents their sexual orientation, more than a quarter of entering students do not identify as *Straight*. For that question, 10% of respondents selected *Bisexual*, 5% selected *Queer*, 5% selected *Gay/lesbian*, and 6% selected *Unsure*.

Responding to the question, “While at Northwestern, what are the chances you will do the following?” half of students reported *Very good chance* (18%) or *Some chance* (32%) of “Seeking psychological services and accommodations.” The percentages are noticeably higher for females (24% *Very good chance* and 34% *Some chance*) than for males (10% *Very good chance* and 28% *Some chance*).

## Your Parents

Respondents are asked to provide their family’s pre-tax income using nine monetary ranges. Grouping some of those ranges into four income categories shows that nearly half (45%) of survey respondents indicated their pre-tax family income was *\$200k or greater*. About a quarter (26%) said it was between *\$100k and \$200k*. There were smaller percentages for *\$50k to \$100k* (15%) and *\$50k or less* (16%). For females, 20% were in the *\$50k or less* category compared to 12% of males. For males, 29% were in the *\$100k-\$200k* category compared to 23% of females. A majority (55%) of white students were in the *\$200k or greater* category. There were larger shares of students in the *\$50k or less* category for several sub-groups: International (31%), Black/African American (28%), Hispanic (23%), and Asian/Pacific Islander (21%). Seventeen percent of Black/African American respondents indicated a family income of *\$200k or greater*, while 31% were in the *\$100k-\$200k* category.

## Northwestern-specific Questions

The biggest influences in student decisions to attend Northwestern were: “Northwestern has a very good academic reputation” (rated as *Very important* by 90% of respondents), “Northwestern graduates get good jobs” (77%), “National and global university rankings” (65%), and “A visit to campus” (51%). Looking at sub-groups, “Northwestern has a good reputation for its social activities” was rated as *Very important* by 51% of International students while “The cost of attending Northwestern” was *Very important* for 62% of Black/African American students. For First Generation students, 53% rated “Northwestern graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools” as *Very important* and 70% rated “The cost of attending Northwestern” as *Very important*.

As previously mentioned, please visit the interactive survey results [here](#) to explore the results in further detail.

If you have additional questions, please contact [ir@northwestern.edu](mailto:ir@northwestern.edu)