



## 2016 Northwestern Parent Survey

English



### I. Impressions of [INSTITUTION]

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 child who is enrolled as an undergraduate here this year.

As you will see, the survey asks for your general impressions of Northwestern and about your experiences as a parent of a college student, especially how you and your family are paying for college. There is space for comments at the end. The whole survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete. Submit each page by hitting the "Save & Continue" button, this saves your answers from that page. You may complete part of the survey and return at a later date to finish it. When 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. If you have any questions or

encounter any problems while taking the survey, please contact [NU-parent-survey@northwestern.edu](mailto:NU-parent-survey@northwestern.edu).

## Impressions of Northwestern

**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
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**2. How satisfied are you with your own sense of personal connection to Northwestern?**

Very Satisfied	Generally Satisfied	Generally Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**3. 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 Would Not	Definitely Would Not
<input type="radio"/>				

**4. Tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following:**

	Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Neither	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree Strongly
Northwestern is a place where diverse viewpoints can be heard	<input type="radio"/>				
Northwestern welcomes people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds	<input type="radio"/>				
Students are safe at Northwestern	<input type="radio"/>				

	Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Neither	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree Strongly
Northwestern takes parents' concerns seriously	<input type="radio"/>				
Northwestern welcomes people from all socioeconomic backgrounds	<input type="radio"/>				

## II. Setting Priorities

### Setting Priorities

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

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not important at all
Provide training for a specific career or profession	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide extensive extracurricular and athletic options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide international/global experiences (e.g. study or work abroad)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide a broad-based education that promotes intellectual growth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide opportunities to conduct research with faculty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop leadership skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prepare students for graduate or professional school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encourage community service and volunteering	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide students with skills valuable in the workplace	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recruit a diverse student body	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

#### 2. Tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Northwestern...

	Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Neither	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree Strongly
Can reduce spending and maintain quality	<input type="radio"/>				
Should focus more on career counseling	<input type="radio"/>				
Needs to create more opportunities for alcohol-free socializing	<input type="radio"/>				

### III. Being the Parent of a College Student

## Being the Parent of a College Student

### 1. How much do you worry that your child...

	A great deal	Quite a bit	Some	Not at all
Is under too much academic stress?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Will graduate with too much debt?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Will have trouble getting a good job after graduation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### 2. During the current school year, about how often have you and your child been in touch (by phone, e-mail, mail, or any other way)? This is while your child is away at school.

Mark the best answer.

- More than once a day
- Daily
- A few times a week
- Weekly
- A few times a month
- Few times a term
- Once a term or less

## Being Informed

3. Overall, how well do you think the information you receive from Northwestern meets your needs as a parent?

Very well

Pretty Well

Adequately

Poorly

4. Would you like to be getting more information from Northwestern than you are now?

Yes

No

5. Use this checklist to tell us which areas you'd like to hear more about.

Mark as many as you like.

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

## Choosing a College

6. How important were financial factors as your family made its final choice about college for this child?

Financing issues were central to our choice

Very important

Somewhat important

Not important at all



## IV. Paying for College

### Paying for College

We want to understand how families are paying for college. Keep in mind that 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 or scholarship from any source to help pay expenses for the current academic year?

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, including athletic scholarships.

Yes



No



#### 1a. Please use the scale below to describe the amount of grant aid your child received for the current academic year.

- \$1 - \$4,999
- \$5,000 - \$9,999
- \$10,000 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 or more

#### 2. Please use the following list to describe how your family is meeting college expenses this year.

Consider all of your college costs for this child after subtracting any grants and scholarships reported above.

Select all that apply by clicking on items. Please include all sources of funding, no matter how small.

#### FAMILY ASSETS

- Ordinary savings and sale of stock or other financial assets
- Sale of non-financial assets (real estate, etc.)
- State-sponsored college savings ("529") plan
- Pre-paid tuition plan (of any kind)
- Withdrawal from a retirement plan

#### PARENT BORROWING

- Home equity loans
- "PLUS" and other loans through the financial aid office
- Parent educational loans from private lenders
- Borrowing from relatives or friends
- Borrowing from a retirement plan
- Other types of borrowing

#### CURRENT PARENT INCOME

- Income from parents' usual job(s) or business
- Parents' second jobs or overtime work
- Parents' employee benefits

#### STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

- Student work-study or term-time job(s)
- Student earnings during vacation periods
- Student borrowing - all kinds
- Student's assets (trust fund, etc.)
- Student's employee benefits

#### OTHER

- Gifts from relatives or others (e.g. grandparents)
- Resources not listed above. Please specify.

## 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.

**3. On the last page, you indicated that your family relied on the sources listed below to meet your college expenses this year. Please use the following scale to tell us roughly what proportion of your expenses were met with each.**

It's OK if you aren't sure of the exact percentages—your best estimate is fine.

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
|  | 1.<br>25' |
| » Ordinary savings and sale of stock or other financial assets | C         |
| » Sale of non-financial assets (real estate, etc.)             | C         |
| » State-sponsored college savings ("529") plan                 | C         |
| » Pre-paid tuition plan (of any kind)                          | C         |
| » Withdrawal from a retirement plan                            | C         |
| » Home equity loans  | C         |
| » "PLUS" and other loans through the financial aid office      | C         |
| » Parent educational loans from private lenders                | C         |
| » Borrowing from relatives or friends                          | C         |
| » Borrowing from a retirement plan                             | C         |
| » Other types of borrowing                                     | C         |
| » Income from parents' usual job(s) or business                | C         |
| » Parents' second jobs or overtime work                        | C         |
| » Parents' employee benefits                                   | C         |
| » Student work-study or term-time job(s)                       | C         |
| » Student earnings during vacation periods                     | C         |
| » Student borrowing - all kinds                                | C         |
| » Student's assets (trust fund, etc.)                          | C         |
| » Student's employee benefits                                  | C         |
| <br>   |           |
| » Gifts from relatives or others (e.g. grandparents)           | C         |
| » Resources not listed above. Please specify.                  | C         |

## V. Paying for College – To Date

### Paying for College - To Date

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

#### Does your child have any student loans?

Yes

No

Not sure

#### If your child has borrowed money for college, do you expect to help them repay these after graduation?

- No, my child will make these payments on their 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.

#### Have you or your spouse/partner borrowed to pay for your child's college education?

Include borrowing for all years. Do not include loans the student is obligated to repay or for which you only co-signed.

Yes

No

#### So far, how much have you borrowed?

Again, include borrowing for all years but do not include loans that your child is obligated to repay.

 \$1 - \$4,999 \$30,000 - \$39,999

\$5,000 - \$9,999 \$40,000 - \$49,999 \$10,000 - \$14,999 \$50,000 - \$59,999 \$15,000 - \$19,999 \$60,000 - \$74,999 \$20,000 - \$24,999 \$75,000 - \$99,999 \$25,000 - \$29,999 \$100,000 or more**Will your child help repay these loans?**

Mark the best answer.

- No, my child will not help repay these debts.
- Yes, my child will repay less than half of what I borrowed.
- Yes, my child will repay half or more of what I borrowed.

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

Yes

No

Not applicable

**What has been the impact on your family of paying for your child to attend Northwestern?**

Severe

Considerable

Moderate

None/slight

Not applicable

**Has paying for college caused you to...**

No

Yes

Significantly slow savings for retirement?

Delay your retirement?

Delay a decision to buy a home?

Delay or scale back another major purchase, such as a car or needed home repair?

**Has your child's experience at Northwestern been worth the impact on your family's finances?**

Yes, definitely

Somewhat

No, definitely not

**Other than this child, do you have other children in college this academic year?**

No

Yes, 1 other child

Yes, 2 or more other children

**Do you have other children that you expect will attend college in the future?**

No

Yes, 1 other child

Yes, 2 or more other children

**How concerned are you right now about your ability to finance a college education for all your children?**

Not at all

A little

Quite a bit

A great deal

**Have you ever applied for financial aid from Northwestern?**

Yes

No

## **VI. About You and this Child**

### **About You and this Child**

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

## 1. What is your child's gender?

Female

Male

Please specify:

## 2. What is your child's year in college?

First Year

Second Year

Third Year

Fourth Year

Fifth Year or later

## 3. In which of the following areas is your child majoring?

Mark all that apply.

 Biological Sciences Humanities Business & Management Physical Sciences or Mathematics Engineering or Applied Sciences Social sciences Fine Arts Other

## About You

For statistical purposes only we need to know a little more about you and the child's other parent(s).

## 4. What is your relation to this child?

If more than one person is filling out the survey, please select all that apply.

Custodial parent

Non-custodial parent

Other

## 5. Please indicate the gender(s) of all those completing the survey.

Again, just mark all that apply.

Female

Male

Please specify:

**6. How old is this child's oldest parent?**

Under 45

45-49

50-54

55-59

60-64

65 or older

**7. Do/did any of this child's parents...**

No

Yes

Have a Bachelor's degree?

Have a graduate or professional degree (beyond the Bachelor's)?

Attend Northwestern as an undergraduate?

**Please use the following categories to tell us what your before-tax family income from all sources was in 2015.**

Again, all the information you provide is completely confidential and will be used only for research.

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000-\$49,999
- \$50,000-\$74,999
- \$75,000-\$99,999
- \$100,000-\$149,999
- \$150,000-\$199,999
- \$200,000-\$249,999
- \$250,000-\$499,999
- \$500,000 or more

**VII. SUMMING UP**

**If there was an opportunity to do so, how interested are you in connecting with other families from your region whose child(ren) attend ?**

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Neutral
- Somewhat uninterested
- Not interested

**If there was an opportunity to do so, how interested are you in connecting with other families whose child(ren) are in the same class year (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior) as your child(ren)?**

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Neutral
- Somewhat uninterested
- Not interested

## **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 appropriate individual(s) on campus directly.

**1. What has most pleased you about Northwestern?**

**2. What has most disappointed you about Northwestern?**

**3. 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 **SAVE & SUBMIT** to complete your survey.

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