



Statement of Community Values

Northwestern is a place where faculty, staff, and students engage in **COLLABORATION**, partnering to achieve success together.

- Disagreement and conflict are acknowledged in respectful discourse.
- Listening to and incorporating diverse perspectives allow us to achieve better outcomes.
- Partnering with others expands the reach of our success.

Northwestern University is a place where we learn through **DISCOVERY**, growing ourselves as we seek to enrich our community.

- Commitment to truth and knowledge is unwavering.
- Lifelong learning is expected.

Northwestern is a community where we embrace our **DIVERSITY**, affirming identity and fostering inclusion.

- Individual differences and unique perspectives are respected.
- Our common humanity is the basis for community relations.
- Unique cultural and ceremonial practices are affirmed.
- Inclusion is the foundation for decisions.

Northwestern University is a place where we connect with **EMPATHY**, building trust and respect for each other.

- Social responsibility and an ethic of care to others are extended to all members of the community.
- Accurate self-awareness is the foundation for empathy, compassion, and understanding others.
- Emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being is cultivated in academic and extracurricular life.

Northwestern is a community where we strive for **EXCELLENCE**, instilling rigor and a sense of pride.

- Missteps provide important feedback for innovation.
- Disciplined habits we build in small things lead us to excellence in our larger goals.
- Celebrating our accomplishments and resilience provides fuel for future endeavors.

Northwestern University is a community where we act with **STEWARDSHIP**, creating a better University for the future.

- Integrity, honesty, and accountability are expected.
- Pride and accountability for our past, reflection on our current endeavors, and visionary thinking helps us build a better Northwestern.

Rights and Responsibilities of the Northwestern Community

Becoming a member of the Northwestern University community is an honor, a privilege that carries with it prestige and respect. The University affords students a number of rights that are fundamental to membership in our shared community. But along with these privileges and rights, membership also requires students to meet and uphold community standards.

Remaining a member of the Northwestern community requires a student to continuously comply with policies governing students' academic progress, social interactions, and personal behavior. As stated in one of the policies below, "Student status at Northwestern is a privilege earned by meeting standards of academic performance and adherence to policies governing conduct."

University-enacted policies are found in several sources, including, but not limited to, the Undergraduate Catalog, the Graduate School Bulletin, the undergraduate and graduate housing bulletins, the residence hall contract, the University's website, notices disseminated from time to time by the University or its schools and departments, and—of course—this Student Handbook.

The exercise of individual rights by students and other members of the Northwestern community may not abridge the following rights, subject, in appropriate circumstances, to the University's right to take actions to protect the health and safety of the University community and its members, guests, and visitors.

1. The right of a faculty or staff member to exclude from a classroom or other University premises, during the progress of a class or other University sponsored program or activity, persons not enrolled in the class or other unauthorized persons.
2. The right to privacy of a student or faculty or staff member in his or her office or other work area or lodging.
3. The right of the University to take actions reasonably determined to secure the rights outlined above and to assure that students, faculty, and staff may pursue their legitimate goals on University premises or at University functions without interference.

Policy Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities

At Northwestern University, life outside the classroom is an integral part of the educational process. The exercise of responsibility is an important part of the development of the full potential of the student as an individual and as a citizen. The student's awareness of the extent of his or her rights and responsibilities is necessary to the exercise of responsibility within the University community. To further these objectives and in recognition of students as members of the Northwestern University community, the University has adopted the following statement of policy.

This policy statement has been formulated in a spirit of cooperation and community by representatives of students, faculty, and administration. It is a living document and thus is subject to change through participation of representatives of the same groups who participated in the original formulation.

1. Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status, or genetic information in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates.
2. The student has freedom of research, of legitimate classroom discussion, and of the advocacy of alternative opinions to those presented in the classroom.
3. The student will be evaluated on knowledge and academic performance for purposes of granting academic credit and not on the basis of personal or political beliefs.
4. The teacher-student relationship within the classroom is confidential, and disclosures of a student's personal or political beliefs expressed in connection with course work will not be made public without explicit permission of the student. It is understood that the

teacher may undertake the usual evaluation of knowledge and academic performance.

5. Students' records may be released to persons outside the University only on request of the student or through compliance with applicable laws.
6. Information on rules, rates, and regulations deriving from contractual agreements with the University will be made available to students on request.
7. Students have a right to be secure in their possessions provided that the items they possess are not in violation of the law or a University policy. The University will not unreasonably search or take possession of students' belongings.
8. Students will be free from censorship in the publication and dissemination of their views as long as these are not represented as the views of Northwestern University and do not violate any University policies.
9. Student publications are free from any official action controlling editorial policy. Publications shall not bear the name of the University or purport to issue from it without University approval.
10. Students are free to form, join, and participate in any group for intellectual, religious, social, economic, political, or cultural purposes.
11. A student is free, individually or in association with other individuals, to engage in all campus activities, exercising the right of a citizen of the community, state, and nation, provided he or she does not in any way purport to represent the University.
12. Students are free to use campus facilities for meetings of recognized student organizations, subject to policies as to time and manner governing the facility.
13. Students may invite and hear speakers of their choice on subjects of their choice, and approval will not be withheld by University officers for the purpose of censorship.
14. Students will have their views and welfare considered in the formation of University policy and will be consulted by or represented on University committees that affect students as members of the University community.

15. Students are free to assemble, to demonstrate, to communicate, and to protest, recognizing that freedom requires order, discipline, and responsibility and further recognizing the right of all faculty and students to pursue their legitimate goals without interference.
16. Students will be exempt from disciplinary action or dismissal from the University except for academic failure, failure to pay a University debt, or violation of a student or University policy. Policies shall be fully and clearly communicated in advance of the alleged violation. The University has no authority over a student when outside University property, except where the student is on the property of a University affiliated institution, where the student is engaged in a project, seminar, or class for academic credit, or as otherwise provided in University policies and procedures (See the Student Code of Conduct [page 19](#)) or on property that falls within the jurisdiction of University Police. A student is subject to local, state, and federal statutes.
17. A student is free to be present on campus and to attend classes pending action on criminal or civil charges, except for reasons relating to his or her physical or emotional safety and wellbeing or for reasons relating to the safety and wellbeing of students, faculty, staff, or University property.
18. It is recognized that every member of the community has the responsibility to conduct him or herself in a manner that does not violate the rights and freedoms of others and has the responsibility to recognize the principles within this statement of policy.

