

COUNSELOR UPDATES 2025



Northern Illinois
University



Huskie Highlights

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NIU named to 2025 Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Honor Roll

NIU earned a spot on the 2025 Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Honor Roll, a national recognition awarded to colleges and universities that excel in supporting community college transfer students. Several recent initiatives contributed to NIU's ranking, including the creation of a competitive PTK scholarship for transfer students, one of several scholarships and financial aid opportunities for transfer students.

\$2 million National Science Foundation grant builds on prior efforts to support STEM students

Starting this fall, NIU's new STEM project will recruit new community college transfer students or rising juniors who are pursuing bachelor's degrees in biology, chemistry/biochemistry, computer science, engineering, geosciences, mathematics, physics or statistics. The focus is to help them graduate and embark on technical careers, with research, internship and mentoring opportunities along the way. In addition to demonstrated financial need, grant selection of students will be based on a personal statement and two recommendation letters.

NIU and Waubonsee Community College expand collaboration to offer new scholarship

The Waubonsee Excellence Scholarship provides even more incentive for students to continue their education at NIU. The new agreement between WCC and NIU guarantees that Gustafson Scholars who graduate with associate degrees from WCC with a minimum GPA of 3.00 will be eligible to receive a Waubonsee Excellence Scholarship from NIU in the amount of \$2,000 per year for a maximum of two consecutive years. The students must enroll at NIU in the academic term following their WCC graduation.

NIU enrollment up over 4% as new freshman, transfer, reenrollment numbers soar

Enrollment at NIU grew this fall, with surges in the numbers of new freshmen and transfers, along with strong reenrollment for continuing students, powering an overall increase of 663 Huskies. The university welcomed 2,435 new freshmen, a 22% jump over last fall and the second-largest freshman class since 2014. Total university enrollment on the 10th day of classes reached 16,078, an increase of 4.3% over fall 2024.

Career Services offers new resources to help NIU students succeed

Our Career Services office is excited to offer new resources for students to help them succeed at NIU and in the workforce after graduation.

Huskie Career Launchpad is a great way for NIU students to grow their skills and talents, then showcase this growth by earning digital badges to display on platforms like LinkedIn and discuss with future employers.

Quinnia features AI-powered LinkedIn and résumé reviews, plus mock interview tools to help students jump-start their futures. This platform uses the same AI tools many companies use to screen applicants, giving students a competitive edge in the job market. With tailored tips and real-time insights, Quinnia helps students polish how they present themselves professionally, practice for interviews and align their materials with industry expectations.

Forage helps NIU students explore and prepare for careers with hundreds of free job simulations designed by the world's top employers. These simulations build real-life skills and offer a window into the company and a preview of what day-to-day life would look like as an employee.

Transfer Admissions at NIU

Applying to NIU

go.niu.edu/transfer-apply

Transfer students apply to NIU for free on our website.

Our application for the following fall opens **Aug. 1** each year.

Students should be sure to apply by **March 1**, our priority application deadline, to be considered for a renewable merit scholarship. However, these scholarships will continue to be awarded after our priority deadline as long as funding remains available.

Admissions Requirements

Students who have **earned fewer than 12 semester hours of college credit** will be evaluated as a freshman for admission purposes and must meet our current freshman admission requirements. GPA earned for the attempted 12 or fewer hours will not affect our admission decision.

Students who have earned 13-23 semester hours of college credit must:

- Meet current freshman admission requirements.
- Be in good standing at the last college/university attended.
- Have a GPA of at least 2.00 on a 4.00 scale (C average) from all colleges/universities attended (as computed by NIU standards).

Students who have earned 24 or more semester hours of college credit must:

- Be in good standing at the last college/university attended.
- Have a GPA of at least 2.00 on a 4.00 scale (C average) from all colleges/universities attended (as computed by NIU standards).

High school GPA will not affect our admissions decision.

Transfer Tools

NIU Transfer Credit Estimator

go.niu.edu/transfer-estimator

Encourage your students to create an account in our Transfer Credit Estimator for a free, unofficial estimate of how their credits apply toward different NIU degree programs.

Use this tool to:

- See how their college credits would apply to up to three different NIU degrees.
- See how close they are to graduating with different NIU majors.

NIU Transfer Course Equivalencies and Major Guides

apps.niu.edu/CEMG

Prospective students can see how their courses will transfer to NIU and what courses they should be taking for their intended major.

Use this tool to:

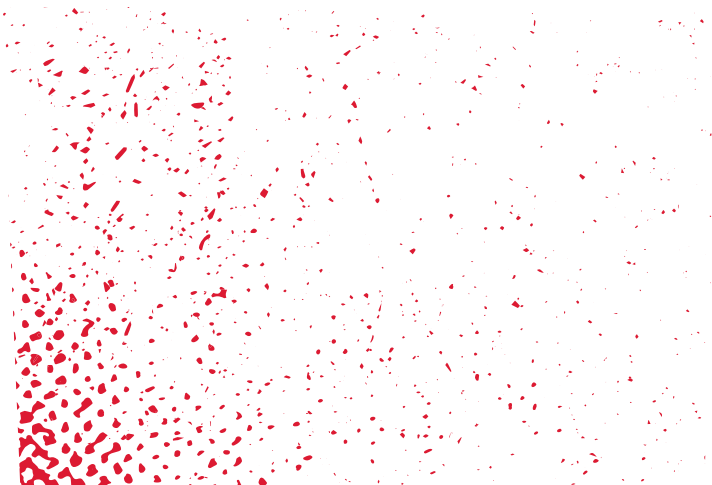
- See how a specific course will transfer to NIU.
- See which courses to take prior to transferring to NIU.

Majors Exploration

go.niu.edu/majors

Prospective student can explore:

- How their college credits would apply toward up to three different NIU degrees.
- How close they are to graduating with different NIU majors.



Program Updates for 2025-26

- **Criminology** (B.A. and B.S.) changed from emphases to majors.
- Nutrition, Dietetics and Wellness (B.S.) is now called **Nutrition Sciences**.
- The name of the Political Science (B.A. and B.S.) emphasis in Public Administration and Service has been updated to **Public Policy and Administration**.
- The Political Science (B.A. and B.S.) emphasis in Justice and Democracy: The American Experiment has been deleted.
- Engineering Technology (B.S.) has three new emphases: **Industrial and Production Engineering Technology**, **Environmental Health and Safety**, and **Sustainability**.

College Updates

College of Business (COB)

Curriculum Updates

The math requirement in our Fundamental Business Requirements now includes the option of MATH 210 (Finite Math). Students may choose from MATH 210, MATH 211 or MATH 229 to fulfill this requirement.

A new accountancy minor is now open to any COB major.

Facility Updates

The college has opened the NEW HAVI Center for Analytics and Technology. A 2025 classroom and technology remodel made possible with support of donors.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS)

Our Department of Sociology is now the Department of Sociology and Criminology, offering B.A. and B.S. degrees in sociology and in criminology. Students who plan to complete their B.A. must take STAT 100 or STAT 200, and B.S. students must take STAT 200 or STAT 300. For more information, contact Kristie Crane at kristieb@niu.edu.

Our biology major no longer requires MATH 229 (Calculus I), PHYS 211/PHYS 273 (Physics II) or CHEM 331/336 (Organic Chemistry II). Students are required to take MATH 155 (Trigonometry) and UBUS 223 (Intro to Business Statistics) or STAT 200 (Elementary Statistics). Questions? Contact clas_advising_office@niu.edu or 815-753-0114.

There are new requirements for our Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree, which include earning at least 70 semester hours of credit in courses offered or approved by CLAS and taking at least 30 hours in upper-division (300/400) classes, 12 of which must be completed at NIU. For details, email askbgs@niu.edu.

College of Visual and Performing Arts

School of Art and Design

Our time arts major has changed 2D Animation to Moving Images.

Photography will begin to require ARTD 201 (Introduction to Visual Communications) with their upcoming curriculum changes.

Our BFA in studio art now requires two 2D and two 3D studios, allowing for more student choice.

Our BFA in studio and design has updated art history requirements, allowing students to choose between two of the three art history courses: ARTH 282, 292 and 294.

School of Music

Our School of Music has been working diligently to become much more transfer friendly. If your student has completed their music theory and aural skills sequence at a community college, these courses are most often able to transfer without issue. We always recommend connecting with our advisor about their transcripts to ensure that they'll be prepared to find continued success in the latter part of our music curriculum.

College of Health and Human Sciences

Significant programmatic/curricular changes are in the works for 2026-27 academic year; details will be made available at our NIU Articulation Conference in early spring 2026.

College of Education

Our middle level teaching and learning program removed a few minor content areas, and students can now pursue the following: English, math, science, social science and bilingual/ESL. Major content areas are: English, math, science and social science.

The elementary education program removed some emphasis areas. Students have the option to choose from the following: General emphasis, reading teacher emphasis, math emphasis and bilingual/ESL emphasis.

Tuition and Fees

go.niu.edu/tuition

Tuition and Fees: \$13,792

General fees and 12-plus credit hours/semester annually.

Living Expenses: \$14,680

Based on average allowance for on-campus housing and the Huskie Block 19 meal plan, as well as allowance for two additional meals per week.

Total: \$28,472

Annual cost of tuition, fees, and living expenses for 2025-26 fall and spring semesters.

See a full cost of attendance budget at go.niu.edu/COA.

Note: Tuition may be higher depending on program of study. Fees do not include the cost of the NIU Student Health Insurance plan. This is a mandatory fee if students do not otherwise have coverage. Rates for nursing, computer science and engineering majors are listed at go.niu.edu/tuition.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

go.niu.edu/tr-merit

Transfer students can earn a renewable merit scholarship of up to \$2,000/year based on their GPA.

Earn a renewable merit scholarship of up to \$2,000/year based on GPA.

Transfer Merit Scholarships

GPA Range	Amount Per Year	Total Amount
3.50-4.00	\$2,000	\$4,000
3.25-3.49	\$1,500	\$3,000
3.00-3.24	\$1,000	\$2,000

Additional Scholarship Opportunities

- AIM HIGH Partnership Awards.
- AIM HIGH Transfer Achievement Award.
- NIU Transfer Achievement Award.

Learn more at go.niu.edu/tr-merit.

Apply for Financial Aid

Students must submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid at studentaid.gov or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid at isac.org to be considered for need-based aid.

NIU AIM HIGH Partnership Awards

NIU Partnership Awards are given as part of NIU's matching commitment to the state of Illinois' AIM HIGH program for incoming students. Students who file a FAFSA or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid by **March 1, 2026**, meet the **AIM HIGH criteria** and the special population criteria will be considered for an award.

AIM HIGH Partnership Awards for Transfer Students

Kishwaukee College Transfer Scholarship (\$3,000)

A one-time, stackable award for Kishwaukee College transfer students.

City College STAR Transfer Scholarship (\$3,000)

A renewable, stackable award for City College STAR transfer students.

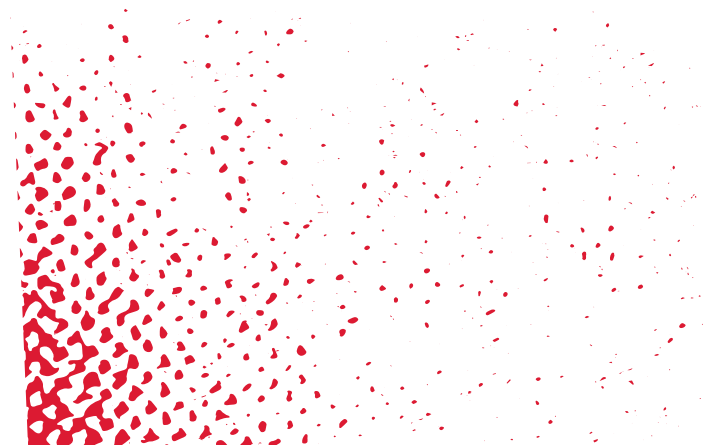
NIU Transfer Achievement Award (\$2,000)

A nonrenewable stackable award for students who receive a transfer merit scholarship.

AIM HIGH Transfer Achievement Awards

The AIM High Transfer Achievement Award is a \$2,000 stackable award for students who receive a **transfer merit scholarship**. For students who maintain at least an NIU cumulative 2.50 GPA and meet the other **AIM HIGH criteria**, the Transfer Achievement award is renewable until they complete their degree or reach 135 total earned hours.

The renewability of this scholarship is contingent on future state appropriation and funding for the AIM HIGH program.



Campus Visits and Events

go.niu.edu/plan-a-visit

Fall 2025

Special Events

- Sept. 12: Abriendo Puertas.
- Sept. 27: Huskie Kickoff.
- Nov. 7: First-Gen Huskies Day.

Preview Days

- Oct. 13.
- Nov. 11.

Spring 2026

Transfer Days

- Feb. 6 (Virtual).
- Feb. 27.

Preview Days

- Feb. 16.
- March 6.

Admitted Student Days

- March 21.
- April 11.
- April 16 (Virtual).
- April 25.

Daily Visits, Appointments and Presentations

- Daily visits and campus tours.
- One-on-one virtual appointments to admissions counselors (*Disponible en español*).
- In-person and virtual TGIF (Transfers Get Information Fridays) presentations.



Resources for Counselors

go.niu.edu/counselor-resources

Visit our counselor resources page to:

- Sign up for our community college counselor e-newsletter.
- Request NIU swag.
- Access resources and links for transfer admissions and more.

Contact Us

Meet our staff and counselors at go.niu.edu/meet-our-counselors.



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