In January 2020, NIU made history and was recognized as the second institution in the nation to adopt a “test-blind” admission program, which will award general admission to NIU without reviewing standardized test scores. What’s more, merit scholarships and admission to the University Honors program have also developed complementing evaluations without test scores.

By all accounts this is a bold move by NIU, but this is certainly a decision that is consistent with our heart for serving students, seeking ways to improve access and equity, and continuing to carve our own path forward while staying true to our unique calling.

As the director of admissions, I learned a lot about the collaborative spirit of the NIU community. I took every opportunity to engage campus partners in one-on-one and small group conversations and I participated in larger conversations with our shared governance groups. Despite the tough questions asked, and the intensity of our analysis and brainstorming, the response from the NIU community was overwhelmingly affirmative. I am very proud of NIU for making the right decision.

Only a few months after our “test-blind” decision and announcement, the world was thrust into a once-in-a-century pandemic. The NIU campuses closed, a student emergency fund was deployed to support the critical needs of our students, and we moved to online course delivery and mostly remote operations for the remainder of the spring. We found ourselves coming together to solve myriad complex challenges, and the Huskie pack, although not physically together, gained strength.

It is in this moment that you and the students you support can see the character of the NIU community. At all costs, we prioritize the well-being, growth and preparation of our students. Although we cannot single-handedly quell a pandemic, we can lend our minds, resources and facilities to serve.

NIU is still a champion for social mobility. We are lifting our voice, lending our labor, and educating our students and community, as a commitment to anti-racism and social inequalities. What’s more, we are both actively planning for a bright future and stand ready to nourish and equip rising leaders as they take on the challenges of their generation with the support and sensitivity of those who’ve come before them.

We’ve increased the freshman class by 8%, which is now the third consecutive year of growth, and increased total enrollment at NIU for the first time since 2009. These gains are positive indications that our Strategic Enrollment Management plan, announced in January 2019, is working and NIU continues to move in the right direction.

Above all you can be confident in one thing, which is an impassioned rally at NIU — Huskies. Never. Quit.
College and Division Updates

Financial Aid and Scholarships

New for Fall 2021: Freshman Merit Award

NIU will no longer consider SAT or ACT scores for freshman merit scholarships. Instead, scholarship offerings will be based on a student’s high school GPA — weighted and adjusted to a 4.0 scale. Merit scholarship awards will be renewed for up to four years (eight semesters) to students who are enrolled full time and maintain a 2.75 cumulative GPA. We automatically consider students for these awards when they apply and are admitted to NIU before the freshman priority deadline of Dec. 1.

High School GPA-based Merit Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA Range</th>
<th>Dollars per Year</th>
<th>Total Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9-3.99</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.70-3.89</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.50-3.69</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.25-3.49</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00-3.24</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Huskie Pledge Program

Additionally, Illinois high school students who graduate this coming spring with a 3.0 cumulative GPA or above might be able to reap the benefits of our Huskie Pledge Program. It aims to make NIU more affordable for Illinois families with household incomes of $75,000 or less. For qualifying full-time students, the Huskie Pledge Program will provide a grant to help completely cover first-year tuition and general fees. The Pledge Grant is renewable potentially for up to four additional years.
College and Division Updates

Building and Space Upgrades

Holmes Student Center
A new $20 million renovation has made our Holmes Student Center (HSC), located in the heart of campus, better than ever. Highlights include a convenience store and three new restaurants, the Huskie Den, modern study and meeting spaces, and the new Huskie Books and Gear store.

New Majors and Minors

B.A./B.S. in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.
Minor in Esports Industry Professionals.
Minor in Rehabilitation Counseling.
Minor in Music.
M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with a Specialization in Teacher Leader with Endorsement.
M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with a Specialization in Curriculum and Cultural Pedagogies in Social Justice.
M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with a Specialization in Academic Literacies, Language and Culture.
M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education with Specialization in English as a Second Language/Bilingual Education.

NIU Revises Process for General Admission and More

At NIU, we know a score doesn’t tell a student’s story. For fall 2021 consideration, NIU has fully implemented a “test-blind” process for general admission, acceptance to the University Honors program and merit scholarship consideration. Students with a GPA of 3.0 and above on a 4.0 scale will be granted general admission to NIU, and students with a GPA below 3.0 will be evaluated through a new holistic review process.

With the equity-minded, test-blind admission and holistic review processes implemented by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, the McKinley “Deacon” Davis CHANCE program has shifted to fully devote its staff and resources to supporting students through their NIU journey.

For more than 50 years, CHANCE has continued to provide academic and social support to new NIU students who demonstrate promise to succeed. This year, students will apply to NIU through a single admission application process, which does not require standardized test scores.

After students are admitted to NIU, CHANCE will identify and extend invitations to individuals who could benefit from the expanded support, programming and resources which are formally available to them through CHANCE for multiple years.
Dates to Remember

October 1
FAFSA available for 2021-2022.

October 12
Virtual Open House.

November 11
Virtual Open House.

December 1
Application deadline to be automatically considered for a merit scholarship, including the presidential scholarship.

December 5
Virtual Open House.

February 5
Transfer Open House.

February 15
Open House.

March 1
Application deadline for transfer merit scholarships.

April 24
Open House.

Application Deadlines
Fall 2021: August 1, 2021.

Freshman Admission Requirements

Students with a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale are guaranteed general admission. The exception to this is our limited-admission nursing program.

We’ll get to know students whose GPAs are lower than 3.0 through a holistic application review process — a flexible, personalized review of their application and circumstances.
Visit Us Virtually

Students can join a daily virtual information session to learn next steps, schedule a personalized appointment to ask more questions or check out NIU through one of our virtual campus tours. go.niu.edu/visit
College Town. Big City Opportunities.

Home to NIU’s 765-acre campus, DeKalb offers the true college town experience with exposure to the city of Chicago, its flourishing suburbs and the opportunities both have to offer. (Think internships, jobs, culture and more.)
Contact Us

Office of Admissions
Northern Illinois University
1425 West Lincoln Highway
DeKalb, IL 60115-2828

admissions.niu.edu
Email: admissions@niu.edu
Phone: 815-753-0446
Fax: 815-753-1783
Toll-Free: 800-892-3050

NIU at a Glance*

13:1
Student-to-Faculty Ratio

$53K
Average Early Career Salary
(payscale.com)

100+
Areas of Academic Study

46
States that Huskies Call Home

16,769
NIU Students

3,000
Student Employment Jobs

75
Countries Where Huskies Study Abroad

41%
Transfer Students

300+
Student Organizations

246,000+
NIU Alumni

51.7%
Undergraduate Students of Color

* These numbers are based off 2020-2021 enrollment.