



Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University

# Introducing the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

## **NORTHWESTERN, EVANSTON, AND CHICAGO**

*The Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences is one of the eleven colleges and schools of Northwestern University, a private research university with lakefront campuses in Evanston and Chicago.*

### **The University**

Northwestern University was founded in 1851 to serve the old Northwest Territory, an area that now includes the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota. In 1853 the founders purchased a 379-acre farm on the shore of Lake Michigan, north of Chicago. They established a campus and developed the land near it, naming the surrounding town Evanston in honor of one of the University's founders, John Evans. Northwestern began classes in 1855 with two faculty members and 10 students.

The university currently enrolls over 14,000 full-time students, about 2,000 in the schools of medicine and law on the Chicago campus and 12,000 in the seven Evanston-campus schools: arts and sciences, communication, education and social policy, engineering and applied science, journalism, management, and music (all offering both undergraduate and graduate programs). Northwestern has 7,100 employees, 2,500 full-time faculty members, an operating budget of over \$1.2 billion, and an endowment and trust funds of over \$6.5 billion. The *US News and World Report* annual survey consistently ranks Northwestern among the best undergraduate programs in the country. Many of Northwestern's graduate programs are also among the nation's best. The University Library holds more than 4.6 million volumes and 45,000 current periodicals and serials—many available electronically to the campus community—as well as several renowned special collections.

Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences is the university's oldest and largest school, with about 4,000 undergraduate students, 1,100 graduate students, and 600 faculty members. Its departments and programs encompass the arts and humanities, foreign languages, mathematics and statistics, the sciences, and the social sciences.

### **Evanston and Chicago**

Northwestern's Evanston campus stretches for a mile along Lake Michigan. Evanston's 74,000 citizens make up a racially, ethnically, and financially diverse community. Tree-lined neighborhoods mixing apartments, condos, and moderate-to-expensive homes spread inward from the lake and surround convenient shopping areas; newer high-rises add to the housing options. Many faculty and staff also live in one of Chicago's vibrant neighborhoods or in a nearby family suburb. Parks, beaches, and lakefront paths provide many options for outdoor recreation and relaxation. Area high schools consistently rank among the nation's best. Northwestern's campus has beaches, tennis courts, a sailing club, and a large indoor sports-and-aquatics center; most of its intercollegiate athletic facilities are a mile west of the main Evanston campus. Northwestern is a member of the Big Ten Conference, its only private university. O'Hare airport is a half-hour away.

Evanston is the first suburb north of Chicago, 12 miles from Chicago's Loop. Expressways and two rail systems provide easy access to such Chicago institutions and attractions as the Art Institute, the Field Museum of Natural History, the Adler Planetarium, and the Museum of Science and Industry; renowned architecture and architectural tours; zoos, an aquarium, and botanical gardens; the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Opera; clubs featuring blues, gospel, folk, jazz, pop, and rock; scores of traditional and experimental theaters; ethnic restaurants; and financial and commodity markets. Sports teams include the Bears, Bulls, Cubs, Blackhawks, and White Sox. Headquarters of corporations, medical, and bar associations, and other professional associations are located in Chicago and its suburbs.

## **OUR FACULTY**

*Northwestern has a faculty of the highest quality, distinguished for both its undergraduate and graduate teaching and its scientific, intellectual, and artistic accomplishments.*

### **Teaching, research, and service**

Faculty in Weinberg College, as in other schools of Northwestern, have three separate, but mutually interactive, responsibilities: to provide teaching and mentoring to students; to engage in scholarship and research; and to serve the university through active participation in university, college, and department affairs.

### **Faculty teaching responsibilities**

The Weinberg College faculty is a teaching faculty, actively involved in teaching both graduate and undergraduate students. Teaching takes many forms: lecturing in large, introductory classes; coordinating small seminars for freshmen, advanced undergraduates, and graduate students; mentoring students in laboratory and studio settings; advising students as they choose among the many curricular options available to them. In a typical recent year, over 90% of the faculty taught undergraduates in formal courses or independent studies. Almost all undergraduate classes are evaluated by their students. Northwestern's Searle Center for Teaching Excellence hosts seminars and lectures on teaching methods and provides resources for improving instruction.

### **The academic year**

All colleges on the Evanston campus operate on a quarter system. The academic year consists of three quarters, each providing 10 weeks of instruction; the summer session is considered the fourth quarter. Classes begin in mid-September and graduation is in mid-June. Most students enroll in four courses per quarter. Many faculty have schedules that allow at least one quarter each year free of formal teaching responsibilities.

### **Encouraging and rewarding excellent teaching**

Superior teaching is recognized and rewarded in Weinberg College. Students evaluate courses and those assessments are part of each faculty member's performance evaluation for raises in salary, the granting of tenure, and promotion. Evaluations are entirely done on-line, and results are quickly made available to faculty.

Each year Weinberg College honors several faculty members for outstanding teaching. Five faculty members receive the Weinberg College Distinguished Teaching Award. In addition, the Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research is given to a faculty member who has excelled in supervising laboratory work, independent study courses, honors work, and the like, and the Community Building Award is given to a faculty member who has fostered a sense of community both inside and outside the classroom and has made students feel valued as members of the Northwestern intellectual community. Three endowed chairs are reserved for distinguished undergraduate teachers. College faculty are also eligible for University-wide teaching honors.

### **Faculty research**

Sponsored research awards for Northwestern during 2006-07 totaled approximately \$416 million. More than 380 awards, totaling over \$48 million were attributed to Weinberg faculty. Among our benchmarks of private universities, Northwestern ranked 11th in number of highly cited researchers for 2007.

### **Interdisciplinarity**

Northwestern actively encourages interdisciplinary initiatives in scholarship and teaching. The many centers and institutes on campus provide focused points for scholars from several fields to come together and advance shared intellectual interests. The Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, the Buffet Center for International and Comparative Studies, the Program of African Studies, the Institute for Policy Research, and others units maintain active schedules of colloquia and conferences. Research centers such as the Cancer Center and the Center for Catalysis and Surface Science bring together experimental scientists from across the University.

### **Diversity**

Northwestern University is strongly committed to maintaining and increasing the diversity of its faculty, staff, and students across all fields. Among the most visible elements of this commitment are our Department of African American Studies, which is among the best in the nation, a thriving Program of Asian American Studies, and an ambitious initiative in Latina/o Studies. The University has also established the Interdisciplinary Center on the Science of Diversity, headquartered in the Kellogg School of Management, but with the participation of faculty in Weinberg College.

### **Hiring, promotion, and tenure**

Full professors and most associate professors have tenure on arrival. At junior levels, Weinberg College hires faculty of the highest promise and accomplishment. No quota constrains tenure decisions in departments, in Weinberg, or in the University. Advancement depends upon the quality of scholarly achievement, teaching, and service to the University. The decision about tenure is typically made no later than the sixth year at Northwestern.

### **New assistant professors**

Beginning assistant professors who have not had a post-graduate or a teaching appointment that provides experience in research and/or teaching are offered the option of a fellowship year. Those who accept the fellowship year, called College Fellows, have a reduced teaching load and no service obligations, though full-time residence on the same basis as the regular faculty is expected.

### **Faculty benefits**

Retirement benefits are arranged through TIAA, CREF, and other groups. Most faculty members contribute 5% of salary; the University adds 10%. Several medical and dental plans are available, with costs shared by subscriber and institution. The University has a mortgage assistance plan. Undergraduate tuition benefits, usable at Northwestern or portable to other universities, are available to children of faculty members.

### **Leaves of absence**

A research-active faculty member in a field outside the experimental sciences is eligible for a quarter's research leave with full salary in a four-year period. If an outside sponsor pays partial salary, the College is usually able to add funds so that the leave is extended to two or three quarters with full salary.

## **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AND CURRICULA**

*Weinberg College, the liberal arts school of Northwestern University, is committed to fulfilling its teaching mission with distinction. It educates undergraduate and graduate students, awarding the Bachelor of Arts and the graduate degrees of Master of Arts, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy.*

### **Undergraduate Students**

Northwestern attracts a talented and diverse student body. The 2062 freshmen entering in Fall 2006 were selected from about 18,000 applicants, up from about 10,000 applicants in 1990. Their median combined SAT score was 1400. Recent freshmen classes have included over 150 National Merit Scholars, more than half of entering freshmen earn Advanced Placement credit, and about 25% are admitted under the Early Decision program. The numbers of men and women are nearly equal. Over 30% of incoming freshmen belong to racial or ethnic minorities. Students come to Northwestern from all 50 states, more from California and New York than any other state except Illinois. About 7% come from other countries. Weinberg College confers about 1000 degrees each year, and more than 80% of graduates plan to eventually pursue graduate or professional study.

### **Curricular choices**

The three ten-week quarters retain the depth of semesters but encourage greater breadth. Students take as many as 50% more courses than the two-semester system provides, and they enjoy a more diverse educational experience. The 25 departments in Weinberg College provide instruction in the arts, humanities, languages, and the biological, mathematical, natural, and social sciences. The College offers majors in 42 fields, as well as 46 optional minors.

Faculty advisers help students navigate the abundant curricular choices. Each freshman is assigned to a Freshman Adviser. As a sophomore, each student is paired with a College Adviser, a member of the faculty who remains his or her adviser until graduation. Department and program advisers provide another key source of academic guidance.

### **For freshmen, two small courses and dedicated advisers**

Each freshman takes two Freshman Seminars. Limited to 15 students and offered in most fields, their focus is on the development of first-rate writing, thinking, and discussion skills. Except for students in special programs, each student's fall quarter Seminar instructor is also the freshman adviser. A typical freshman schedule includes a small

class of 15 students, a class of 20-25 students, and two larger lecture courses.

### **Special opportunities for talented, highly focused students**

Weinberg College offers several special programs for mathematically or scientifically talented students. The American studies and writing majors also have competitive admissions for superior students with relevant talents and interests. Interdisciplinary programs in Weinberg College offer minors or majors in such areas as cognitive science, evolutionary processes, international studies, and legal studies. All departments offer senior honors programs for outstanding students in their majors.

Independent study opportunities are widely available for all students. Research-oriented classes taught by faculty provide other opportunities to learn about and participate in research in areas of study across the College. Both College and University funds are readily available for support of undergraduate research during both the academic year and summer. Credit-bearing internships, field-study experiences, and study abroad are also popular options for students. Expert professionals from outside the University offer about 25 Professional Linkage Seminars each year, bridging the gap between academic training and real-world application and experience.

### **Electives in Northwestern's undergraduate professional schools**

Many Weinberg students choose to take classes in Northwestern's professional schools of communication, education and social policy, engineering, journalism, and music. In turn, undergraduate students in these professional schools are enrolled in numerous Weinberg College courses. Faculty associated with the Kellogg Graduate School of Management and the law school also teach undergraduate courses open to Weinberg students.

### **Competitive tuition rates**

Undergraduate tuition for 2007-08 is \$35,064; tuition, room and board, books, supplies and personal expenses average \$49,379. Admission is "need-blind"; ability to pay is not considered during the admissions process. Beginning in 2008-09, Northwestern plans to provide financial aid that includes no student loans to undergraduate students with the greatest financial need. About 60% of undergraduates receive some form of financial aid.

### **Our alumni**

97% of Northwestern freshmen return for sophomore year, and 92% graduate from Northwestern. According to the exit survey of 2005 graduates, 65% of the class planned immediate employment and 24% planned to continue their education immediately after graduation. Many others expect to earn post-graduate degrees after some time in the workforce. Students compete successfully for fellowships to support their further education; in 2007-2008 Northwestern ranked fourth highest among all U.S. universities in number of Fulbright awards. Many students' post-graduation plans include public service. A recent graduating class sent 36 students to Teach for America; Northwestern's acceptance rate for this program far exceeds the national average. We also rank high among mid-sized schools in number of graduates joining the Peace Corps. Northwestern alumni include leaders in business, government, social services, law, science, education, medicine, media, and the performing arts.

## **GRADUATE EDUCATION**

*Nearly all Weinberg departments, as well as many of our interdisciplinary programs, provide opportunities for graduate study.*

Northwestern ranks near the top among ten private universities in the number of PhD degrees awarded annually. Graduate students studying in Weinberg College departments and programs are admitted and funded through Northwestern's Graduate School. Beginning in 2008-09, The Graduate School will guarantee five years of funding for all students in PhD programs. This competitive funding package, our outstanding faculty, and our excellent resources for study and research enable us to attract top students in all fields.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

**Northwestern University Website:** <http://www.northwestern.edu/>

**Weinberg College Website:** <http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/>

**Faculty and Staff resources:** <http://www.northwestern.edu/staff-fac/index.html>

**Northwestern facts, statistics, and history:**

<http://www.northwestern.edu/about/facts/>

<http://www.registrar.northwestern.edu/statistics/>

[http://www.northwestern.edu/features/historic\\_moments/](http://www.northwestern.edu/features/historic_moments/)