Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

Why?
BEST OF MANY WORLDS

Ask students here why they chose the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University, and that phrase will almost invariably emerge. Ask them to elaborate, and they’ll list what they love: elite academics, inspiring peers, a beautiful lakeshore campus, a lively college town, Big 10 athletics, and access to a great city.

Top students from across the United States and around the world thrive here, because they make the most of those advantages. If you’re seriously considering arts and sciences at Northwestern, you probably have some excellent choices for where to pursue your undergraduate education. This book will outline the features that set us apart.

They include:

- Extraordinary depth and range in academic opportunities.
- A highly distinctive advising system that starts during your first year and takes you through graduation.
- Rigorous interdisciplinary programs drawing on the university’s vast resources.
- Unmatched support for undergraduate research.
- An ethos of idealism and entrepreneurship.

DEFINING WEINBERG

Two points are essential.

First, as a college of arts and sciences, we believe that we offer you the best kind of education for a life of significance—an education that cultivates intellectual versatility, embraces the full range of human capacities, and propels you into a rewarding future.

Second, as an integral part of Northwestern University, we offer an undergraduate experience of exceptional richness. Whatever your criteria, Weinberg and Northwestern rank with the best.
Why Weinberg? **The Setting.**
You will live, work, and play—and launch yourself into discoveries and adventures—on a beautiful lakeshore campus, in a stimulating college town, near one of the country’s great cities.
Does Weinberg College feel more like a small liberal arts school? Or more like a big, busy research university?

(Simple answer)

Yes.

The academic life you create here will be extraordinarily rich, because you’ll get the experience of a leading arts and sciences college together with the far-reaching opportunities of a major university.

Small classes, superb teachers, intensity, camaraderie, breadth, experimentation—these are all part of the Weinberg College ethos. And Weinberg’s place at the heart of Northwestern means that you’ll also find courses, programs, and resources beyond the capacity of most colleges. Not to mention a community of people with an incredible range of talents and passions.

The essence of our academic program:

A curriculum rooted in the arts and sciences. That means the full scope of human endeavor—humanities, arts, mathematics, the natural sciences, and the social sciences—and an emphasis on critical thinking.

In other words, you will be immersed in the best form of education for a rewarding life. That's true whether you define "rewarding" in material terms or in terms of intellectual agility, the ability to adapt to change, a capacity for lifelong learning, and personal fulfillment.

The central role of teaching. Faculty members work closely with students as teachers, mentors, advisers, and research collaborators.

Options and opportunities. In abundance. Whether you’re choosing a major, fulfilling distribution requirements, or planning a research project, you have—all at hand—all the assets of Northwestern, with its array of internationally prominent professional schools and graduate programs.

Tempo. The nation’s most prestigious universities all have distinctive academic personalities. Think of ours musically. The pace may range from a poised andante to a whooshing presto, but there’s always palpable energy, a forward drive. Visit and you’ll pick up the feel. It’s a function of the smart people, the intellectual rigor, the quarter system, and our dive-in-and-do-it attitude.

“I'm struck by how full of stories everyone is. You realize you can’t put people into categories; they’re always surprising you. People here do amazing things.”

VANESSA GAO ‘17

Percentage of Weinberg College students who pursue double majors, or who add minors or certificate programs.

49
THE NORTHWESTERN MINDSCAPE

Typical snatches of campus conversation:
“One of my best friends is in Medill.”
“I hang out with these massively talented musicians in the Bienen School.”
“The seminar we put together has a mix of students from Weinberg, Medill, Comm, and SESP.”

The common thread here has to do with one of the tremendous advantages you’ll enjoy at Weinberg College. The people who become part of your daily experience—and whom you get to know as roommates, friends, fellow club members, teammates, and often classmates—will come from not just the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences but also the other undergraduate schools that make up Northwestern.

Your undergraduate career takes shape in an exceptionally rich mindscape, with expertise in every imaginable realm and creativity at every turn.

As a Weinberg College student, you have access to many classes—and people, and activities—at Northwestern’s other undergraduate schools, all of them leaders in their fields:

- The McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science
- The School of Education and Social Policy (SESP, usually pronounced “Ses-P”)
- The School of Communication (popularly known as “Comm,” which includes Northwestern’s celebrated theater program)
- The Bienen School of Music
- The Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications

“At Northwestern, you’re surrounded by people who will be very successful in whatever they do, whether at McCormick, Medill, or the other schools. That broadens and enriches your experience.”

ANNA CASSELL ’15

“Students bring their A game, and bring it all the time—not to impress you or their classmates but because of who they are. They’re open to ideas. They’re willing to disagree with me. I encourage that.”

BILL SAVAGE
associate professor of instruction in English

Hesse, whose course on racism provided “a new perspective on social and political life in America,” Another is Mary Dietz, a specialist in political theory who “helped me find my voice” and decide to pursue a Ph.D. and teach. Larry got an advance taste of his future career during his junior year, when he and another student offered a seminar, “Welfare Politics in America,” that they created through the university’s Searle Center for Advancing Learning & Teaching. The course grew out of an Alternative Spring Break service trip during which they worked with the Hmong American Partnership in Minnesota. Larry also did service trips to Kansas City (where he worked with preschoolers) and South Bend, Indiana (where he worked in a homeless center).

“I’ve learned to take risks in the best possible way.”

For Anna Cassell ’15, college is about pushing yourself outside your comfort zone—and that can happen in classes or by “being surrounded by people different from you.” A course in medical sociology kindled her interest in health-care disparities, especially among Native Americans. “I feel I can make a difference,” said the pre-med from Salt Lake City, who double-majored in human biological anthropology and science in human culture. She loves the latter program’s cross-disciplinary approach, embracing topics from the history of science to gender and health. A memorable class project: writing a National Science Foundation-style grant proposal involving an interpopulation analysis of stress among urban vs. reservation Native Americans. A memorable summer: staying on campus to study bioethics while doing outreach work with refugees in Chicago. “I drank a lot of tea with a lot of fascinating people, many from Iraq.” A standout varsity soccer goalie, Anna chose Northwestern for its mix of “top-tier athletics and elite academics.” She took on the issue of injuries in college sports in an op-ed she published in USA Today, making the connection through a Medill School alumna.

“It was one of those courses that changes who you are and how you think.”

Larry Svabek ’15 is describing “Racism in Western Modernity,” a class he says he just “stumbled into.” A political science major with two minors, critical theory and economics, Larry points to professors as key influences. One is Barnor Hesse, whose course on racism provided “a new perspective on social and political life in America.” Another is Mary Dietz, a specialist in political theory who “helped me find my voice” and decide to pursue a Ph.D. and teach. Larry got an advance taste of his future career during his junior year, when he and another student offered a seminar, “Welfare Politics in America,” that they created through the university’s Searle Center for Advancing Learning & Teaching. The course grew out of an Alternative Spring Break service trip during which they worked with the Hmong American Partnership in Minnesota. Larry also did service trips to Kansas City (where he worked with preschoolers) and South Bend, Indiana (where he worked in a homeless center).
DO THE MATH
Three Quarters x Four Years = More

Northwestern runs on the quarter system. At Weinberg College, you can take four courses in each quarter (fall, winter, spring).

Which means you can take 12 courses per year (instead of eight in a semester system).

Which means you can range more broadly across disciplines. Or delve more deeply into your major.

And you can more easily add another major, or a minor (or two).

It is very common to double-major and add minors here.

Moreover, it’s easier to experiment with courses that catch your fancy—leading, sometimes, to absorbing new interests, even new majors.

And you can easily carve out time for study abroad or academic-year internships. In the Chicago Field Studies program, for instance, you devote an entire quarter to an internship, while also completing a course quickly!) But, with the help of advisers, Weinberg College students become experts at building balanced schedules and managing their time.

“...it’s fast-paced, yes. (Each quarter goes for 10 weeks. Midterms loom quickly!) But, with the help of advisers, Weinberg College students become experts at building balanced schedules and managing their time.

“...I never thought about this when I was looking at colleges, focusing on schools with programs that interested me. But now I advise people to look for a school that also has programs they’re NOT interested in. Because you never know what might start to intrigue you. Plus, you’ll meet people with talents, passions, and expertise of all kinds.”

MAX OFFSAY ’15

Quick Facts

Many Weinberg students incorporate study abroad— for a quarter, a summer, or a year— into their academic program.

You can choose from nearly 130 affiliated programs, of them designed and administered by Northwestern faculty and staff.

Approved programs are available in more than 50 countries on 6 continents.

Northwestern’s Center for Global Engagement takes students to the developing world to work with nongovernmental and grassroots organizations to advance sustainable, community-driven change.

Northwestern’s Office of International Programs Development enables students to enroll in premier institutions around the world. The office’s interdisciplinary programs center on themes such as global health, culture and identity, political economy, and science and engineering.

You can earn up to a full year of credit for study abroad.

Northwestern financial aid may be used for study abroad.

STUDY ABROAD

Majors and Minors

- African American Studies
- African Studies
- American Studies
- Anthropology
- Art History
- Art Theory and Practice
- Asian American Studies
- Asian Languages and Cultures
- Business Institutions
- Catholic Studies
- Central and Southeastern European Studies
- Chemistry
- Classics (major, minor)
- Cognitive Science
- Comparative Literary Studies
- Computer Science
- Critical Theory
- Earth and Planetary Sciences
- Economics
- English
- Environmental Policy and Culture
- Environmental Sciences
- French
- Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Geography
- German
- Global Health Studies
- Hebrew Studies
- History
- Humanities
- Integrated Science
- Italian
- Jewish Studies
- Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- Latin and Latino Studies
- Legal Studies
- Linguistics
- Materials Science
- Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences
- Mathematics
- Middle East and North African Studies
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Portuguese (minor in Portuguese Language and Lusophone Cultures)
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Slavic Languages and Literature (major in Slavic Languages and Literatures; minors in Slavic Studies, in Russian, and in Central and Southeastern European Studies)
- Sociology
- Spanish and Portuguese (major in Spanish and Portuguese; minors in Spanish Studies; minor in Portuguese Language and Lusophone Cultures)
- Statistics
- Urban Studies
- World Literature

Key to symbols
- Major
- Adjunct Major
- Minor

Requirements

Our degree requirements give you a lot of flexibility while grounding you in the arts and sciences.

Distribution requirements in six intellectual areas: natural sciences, social and behavioral sciences, historical studies, ethics and values, literature and fine arts, and formal studies (includes courses in mathematics, linguistics, and music; among other subjects). Two first-year seminars to get you started.

Foreign language proficiency, demonstrated through AP scores, departmental testing, or Northwestern coursework.

Writing proficiency, generally fulfilled in first-year seminars. A major.

Credits totaling 45 units (most courses carry one unit).
Why Weinberg? **The People.**

“There is no single culture at Northwestern,” says a longtime professor. Laser-focused pre-professionals? Untroubled undeciders? Techies? Artists? Hipsters? Nerds? All of the above make up the mix here. Moreover, the categories don’t mean much, because virtually everyone embodies MANY interests and talents.
The Power of Persistence

It’s a common experience: high school students accustomed to easy A’s abruptly discover that they have to up their game in college. For Tracy Carson, the moment came in an American history course, when she got a B-minus on a paper.

“This can be better,” she thought. From that experience, she set a new standard for herself.

Six rewrites later, she got an A.

The lesson in persistence has served her well at the State Department, where she and her colleagues encounter tough challenges regarding the allocation of U.S. aid. Working in a relatively new office, “we’re in a position of constantly learning how to improve processes, of being humble, of needing to learn from others.”

Six rewrites later, she got her A.

In an arena where bureaucracy and politics can pose obstacles, Tracy doesn’t shrink from revising plans and using research to make a spirited, rigorous case for aid to Africa. “Persistence is the only way to get through the day sometimes. If you want to see positive change, you have to keep pushing.”

Musician: Gaurav Kikani ’14

Hometown: Sugar Land, Texas

Major: Economics

Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences

Kellogg Certificate in Financial Economics and music concentration at the Bienen School

My Weinberg:

LEND (microfinancing organization)

Brown Sugar (South Asian a cappella group)

Undergraduate Budget Priorities Committee

Piano classes at the Bienen School of Music

Home football games (never missed one)

My Mentors:

Ravi Umarji ’10, co-founder of LEND and a double-major in applied mathematics and economics, now an associate at TPG Capital

Verinder Syal, a businessman who teaches in the Business Institutions Program and the Farley Center for Entrepreneurship

Career Path

Career Path: Tracy Carson ’04


Making A Mark: Helps direct U.S. aid to where it’s most needed in nearly 20 African nations.

Why Weinberg?

For Gaurav, a big reason was MMSS, the Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences program. “I liked the rigor; you’re really challenged, learning how to digest complex information. My first course, microeconomics, was a great segue into college, and I enjoyed the game theory classes, too. The other students in the program are the brightest and most passionate you can imagine.”

The work is serious: Gaurav’s senior thesis examined factors affecting global discrepancies in natural gas prices. But he also brought his analytical prowess to bear on surveys for an undergraduate budget-priorities committee, leading to new initiatives such as grants to promote interaction between students and faculty. And he rounded out his schedule with courses on topics ranging from cosmology to opera.

His MMSS experience helped him get two summer internships with Goldman Sachs in New York. His first job after graduation: a consulting position with Bain and Company.

Why Weinberg?

For Tracy Carson, the moment came in an American history course, when she got a B-minus on a paper. "Here was someone saying, 'This can be better.' That experience changed me.”

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The lesson in persistence has served her well at the State Department, where she and her colleagues encounter tough challenges regarding the allocation of U.S. aid. Working in a relatively new office, “we’re in a position of constantly learning how to improve processes, of being humble, of needing to learn from others.”

Tracy enjoys working on Africa, a continent she studied as an African Studies minor at Northwestern. After graduating with top honors and a degree in history, she studied South African labor movements while earning a doctorate from Oxford University on a British Marshall Scholarship. A Fulbright took her back to Africa for teaching and research. She also spent eight months in Namibia with the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Visiting local clinics, she saw how U.S. aid makes a tangible difference.

In an arena where bureaucracy and politics can pose obstacles, Tracy doesn’t shrink from revising plans and using research to make a spirited, rigorous case for aid to Africa. “Persistence is the only way to get through the day sometimes. If you want to see positive change, you have to keep pushing.”

"I love that I’m contributing strategic work that’s needed, work that has an impact.”
Why Weinberg? **Chicago.**
This endlessly stimulating city is also your bottomless source of internship possibilities. The Chicago Field Studies program links you to employers ranging from Goldman Sachs and Google to Liquid Thread.
We do the first year right.

Weinberg makes it easy for you to get acclimated, fit in, craft your class schedule, and navigate in a big university brimming with possibilities. During Wildcat Welcome, Northwestern’s week-long orientation program, you learn the ropes with a group of 14 other students—who will also be your classmates in your fall-quarter first-year seminar. It’s a simple but effective system: you develop strong college-level academic chops (further refined in a second first-year seminar), in the company of fellow first-years under the close guidance of a faculty member who knows you well, as both a student and a person.

“Why do I have so many advisers?”

(We get that a lot.)

Simple answer: Northwestern’s opportunities, your success.

Even before you set foot on campus, you will be working with our college advisers. Your fall-quarter first-year seminar instructor helps you find your footing, handle problems, and plan future classes. Throughout your student career, you’ll have a College adviser — another faculty member, who can help you think through questions about everything from academic options, study abroad, internships, and research, to your personal well-being and future. In addition, when you choose a major you’ll have a major adviser, who helps with logistical details so that you can truly make the major your own. And, yes, if you double-major, you’ll have two major advisers.

A multiplicity of mentors: Weinberg seniors say it’s one of the things they have most valued about their college experience.

We do advising right.
Crave complexity? Wider angles? Deeper delving? And kindred spirits? Weinberg’s special programs will stretch and inspire you.

For sheer challenge, for ambitious intellectual reach—and for bonding over big questions—you won’t find anything quite like the special programs at Weinberg. Whether you’re interested in business, science, social activism, public service, or the arts, you can stretch yourself through one of these selective programs.

Our special programs are a good example of how big and small meld at Northwestern. Each program spans disciplines. Each draws on the bountiful resources and expertise of the university. But when you’re accepted into a special program, you become part of a small, close-knit community, sharing coursework and projects with like-minded people, students and professors together, who push, inspire, and support you.

What’s so special about our special programs?

Coherence. You advance through a series of carefully planned courses centering on key concepts, compelling issues, and powerful skills.

Angles. Or maybe the analogy is lenses, prisms, or mirrors. The point is that, because these programs are interdisciplinary, you learn to analyze questions from diverse perspectives.

Rigor. You tackle complex ideas and use sophisticated tools—literally (in the lab or with computers) and figuratively (via theoretical approaches).

Esprit. As in esprit de corps. Your fellow students become friends, colleagues, study partners, and collaborative idea-incubators. Your professors: mentors, supporters, advisers.

Really cool opportunities, like the senior-year service project in the Brady Scholars Program or the annual create-a-play-in-24-hours festival put on by the Kaplan Humanities Scholars.

For Example:

Kaplan Humanities Scholars Program
In four courses during your first year, you work with teams of professors—from such fields as literature, history, and philosophy—to explore questions deeply embedded in culture and the human experience. Language. Imagination. Justice. Art. A signature feature of the program: trips to performances, museums, and historical sites.

Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences
You tackle near-graduate-level coursework in math, including statistics, econometrics, and game theory—and add a major in one of the social sciences—all under the guidance of leading scholars. The result: superb preparation for business careers and Ph.D. programs in a wide range of fields.

Philosophy = Airy and Impractical
Actually, philosophy can be down-to-earth and can bear fruit—literally. The Brady Scholars Program in Ethics and Civic Life includes philosophy courses with abstract-sounding names like “The Good Life,” “The Moral Life,” and “The Good Society.” But those courses immerse you in vital questions (citizenship, democracy) linked to tough, real-world issues (economic inequality, individual rights). Together with study-abroad experiences and close mentoring, Brady coursework leads to hands-on, life-changing service projects that every class organizes during senior year. A recent example: creating job opportunities for local at-risk youth by expanding an urban gardening and farming program. Evanston now has a new orchard with apple, pear, plum, and peach trees—all rooted in philosophy.
Glimpse
Julia Abelsky '17
Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia
MAJOR: Statistics
Minoring in Math and Business Institutions
MY WEINBERG: Varsity fencing
Philanthropy chair,
Northwestern Homecoming committee
Volunteer, "Fuel Up to Play 60" youth program
MY MENTORS: Laurence Schiller,
Northwestern fencing coach
Cory Harbor,
Northwestern athletic academic advisor

Why Weinberg?
"I looked at 16 schools. But I visited Northwestern and felt, 'This is the place for me.' It just clicked."

"Wildcat Welcome Week really helped with the transition to college. The fact that you're with a small advising group gives you a support network. The fencing team is a close-knit family. But because of Wildcat Welcome and then classes, I have a lot of friends outside of fencing."

"I like how many different paths there are here, how the quarter system allows you to combine majors, minors, and certificates to create an overall program."

Researcher: While still in high school, Julia created a large molecule—a diblock copolymer—with refractive properties that allowed her to engineer a nano "cloaking device," rendering tiny particles invisible. Her research has applications for telecommunications, deep-sea sensors, medical diagnostics, defense, and optics.

Varsity athlete: As a first-year sabre fencer, Julia led the Wildcats in regular-season victories and competed in the NCAA championships.

"History actually becomes quite a good base for understanding the world and exploring what it has to offer."

Icon and Innovation

The Harley-Davidson motorcycle: an American icon on wheels. But even icons need creative marketing, and that's where Mark-Hans Richer comes in.

Under Mark-Hans, the famous bar-and-shield logo is shining more brightly than ever, as Harley has become the number-one seller of motorcycles to American young adults, among other demographics. One example of marketing finesse: the popular #StereotypicalHarley ad campaign, which both plays on and explodes stereotypes about Harley riders.

Head of marketing for Harley since 2007, Richer prides himself on finding nontraditional ways to burnish the brand. There was the Roman holiday in 2013 celebrating the company's 110th anniversary, at which Richer presented a leather jacket to Pope Francis, who blessed hundreds of riders and their bikes. And, in 2016, Richer helped orchestrate a cross-country tour of the U.S. to reveal prototypes of Harley's first electric motorcycle, the LiveWire.

"Career development is not a linear thing, and neither is finding your passion in life," said Mark-Hans, who as an entrepreneurial freshman created—and marketed—a Willie the Wildcat stuffed animal. Mark-Hans's own career journey took some twists and turns, including an around-the-world trip after graduation, his first advertising job in Chicago, a leave of absence to travel across Africa in a truck, and nine years at General Motors.

What he loves about his job? "The history that runs through the brand and the passion you see for Harley all over the world." Also, he can ride his bike to work. He has two, actually. "They're both fast—but one's faster."

The Weinberg Advantage

A history major and an arts and sciences education taught him how to ask questions and identify patterns among people—less "focused" than a business degree, but ultimately more useful and far-reaching.

"History actually becomes quite a good base for understanding the world and exploring what it has to offer."
Scenario: You find yourself fascinated by some topic, problem, question, issue, thinker. A professor says: “Why not apply for a research grant?”

You reply: “But I’m only a first-year.”

Professor lifts eyebrows. “So?”

Anomaly? Not at Northwestern. Northwestern students learn, very early, that they can make an independent research project happen—in any field, anywhere in the world, with funding from any number of campus sources. You won’t find many universities, anywhere, with as many opportunities for undergraduate research.

You can design your own project or work as part of a faculty member’s research team. You can pursue research during the academic year or over the summer. Funds are available to help cover travel costs as well as living expenses.

Major funding sources include:

- Academic Year Undergraduate Research Grants
- Summer Undergraduate Research Grants
- Conference Travel Grants
- Undergraduate Language Grants
- Circumnavigators Travel-Study Grant
- Undergraduate Research Assistant Program
- Weinberg College Grants (Academic Year, Summer, Conference Travel)

SOME RECENT FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS BY WEINBERG STUDENTS:

- Measuring Higgs Boson Hccbar Coupling
- Treating Protein Misfolding Disorders
- Legitimacy of Anti-Defection Laws
- Cultural Preservation and Health in Peru
- Perceptions of Homelessness in Morocco
- Strengthening Verbal Memory During Sleep
- Cortisol and Inflammation in Depression
- Novel Genes in Squid/Bacteria Symbiosis
- Lemur Sounds’ Effect on Infant Cognition
- Constitutional Systems and Fiscal Policy
- Drug Combinations on Breast Cancer Cells

As an Integrated Science Program student and the winner of an undergraduate research grant, Yuri Malina ’11 learned that research demands both imagination and persistence. Those qualities served him well when he and his roommate Mert Iseri (McCormick ’11) decided to attack the problem of hospital-acquired infections, which kill 90,000 people a year in the United States. Their ingenious solution (after 38 prototypes) was SwipeSense, a clip-on hand-sanitizer dispenser that improved hygiene by 64 percent.
“If it doesn’t have what you’re looking for, you can make it happen.” For Varshini, that meant Project RISHI (Rural India Social and Health Improvement), a nonprofit promoting sustainable development in India. With three other students, Varshini founded the Northwestern chapter in 2011 and helped choose the village of Charnia, Haryana, in the northern part of the country, as a focal point for their efforts. She traveled there four times.

“Northwestern had tons of resources we could draw on, from travel and research grants to the expertise of med-school faculty who served as our advisers. The first thing we did in Charnia was a household survey and needs assessment. Malnutrition and anemia emerged as problems.”

In the village, the Northwestern RISHI group has studied the effectiveness of “health promoters” in mitigating anemia rates. Their findings led to a plan for better training and health education, with the goal of making a sustainable impact on the problem.

Why Weinberg?

“Northwestern is a combination of really great academics, a fun athletic scene and strong school spirit, a gorgeous campus, and access to a great city.”
When Kacey Liu '16, from Valencia, California, first arrived at Northwestern, she was astonished by the sheer number of opportunities to get involved. Everything looked enticing. "It took a while for me to figure out the activities to focus on and things to accomplish in-depth." A history and biology major with a minor in global health studies, she found one niche with the Northwestern Undergraduate Research Journal, for which she has served as design editor. The student-run journal— one of numerous student publications on campus— showcases the work of Northwestern undergraduates in fields ranging from chemistry and cognitive science to art history and Slavic literature. Liu, who is pre-med, also worked on a community outreach project, "Keep Your Heart Healthy," in which the Feinberg School of Medicine is collaborating with the City of Chicago to fight cardiovascular disease. Her global health courses ("they're all amazing") have inspired an interest in public health. "I'm thinking about getting a master's in public health before going to medical school."

"At first, I felt bombarded by all the things I wanted to do"
and they succeed everywhere, from business to the creative arts, from medicine to public service, from science and technology to education and the nonprofit realm.

They’re living proof that a rigorous, well-rounded education in the arts and sciences—with plenty of reading, writing, projects, presentations, and problem sets—will trump narrow pre-professional training. Our graduates’ stories speak for themselves.

Some Weinberg Alumni on the Rise

Aashish Dalal ’99
Internet entrepreneur and founder of ParkWhiz, which matches drivers with open parking spots

MAJORS: Biology, psychology

Dalal started ParkWhiz after a job with McMaster-Carr, a graduate program in information systems, and stints with Soft Choice and IBM. “I took some risks, but followed my heart and pursued happiness.”

Veronica Roth ’10
Writer of the bestselling Divergent trilogy

MAJOR: English

Roth credits the demanding Creative Writing Program with teaching her “everything.” Her very first story at Northwestern “had all these crazy car accidents.” At Northwestern, “I learned how to write clearly and how to construct stories that were subtle and not heavy-handed.”

Ben Parr ’08
Co-founder and managing partner of DominateFund, a venture capital and marketing firm. Former editor-at-large of Mashable.

MAJORS: Political science, science in human culture, minor in business institutions

Parr helps tech startups win customers and attention in the press.

“At Northwestern, I had to collaborate with people very different from me. That prepared me well for Silicon Valley, where diversity can be a problem.”

“‘I’ll figure it out. Because that’s what liberal arts majors do, right? We figure things out.’

JEFFREY MAY’S ’74
Weinberg history major, former five-term state representative in Illinois, president of the Illinois Business Roundtable

Matt Begusz ’09
Mayor of Des Plaines, Illinois, and the youngest mayor in the northwest Chicago suburbs

MAJOR: Political science

“There’s no class for local politics, but Northwestern teaches you how to think.”

Jackie Brown ’07
Business executive specializing in hotel real estate finance

MAJOR: History

Brown, who oversees a global portfolio of iconic hotels, including the Carlyle in New York and the Beverly Wilshire in Los Angeles, credits her quick rise to the “critical thinking skills, quantitative and qualitative reasoning, and exposure to many disciplines” that she received at Weinberg.

Natasha Singh ’12
After teaching algebra and developing intervention programs at the Chicago Vocational Career Academy through City Year, she sought a graduate teaching degree at the University of Chicago.

MAJORS: Asian language and civilization

“Whether it was the university’s abundant service opportunities or insightful sociology classes, I discovered a world outside myself. A world where I wanted to make better things happen.”

Jane Andrews ’05
Attending hospitalist at University Hospital in New Orleans after completing MD/MDH program at Johns Hopkins University

MAJOR: Political science

“Northeastern surrounded me with brilliant and socially-minded classmates, whose worldview has shaped mine to this day. I had faculty who modeled exciting and brave careers, mentors who were unfailingly convinced of my abilities, and the resources available to help me study abroad more than once.”

Some notable Weinberg alumni

Cody Keenan ’02, chief speechwriter for President Barack Obama
William Butler ’05, musician, Arcade Fire
Daniel Pink ’86, bestselling author and cultural critic
John Musker ’75, animation director at Disney
Terry O’Neil ’75, president of the National Organization for Women
Steven Preston ’82, secretary of housing and urban development under President George W. Bush
Karen Russell ’03, author of Swamplandia! and MacArthur Foundation “genius grant” winner
Howard Tullman ’67, CEO of Chicago tech incubator 1871
Douglas Conant ’73, former CEO Campbell Soup Company
Angela Jackson ’77, award-winning poet
Alice Hayes ’72, University of San Diego
Dan Chaon ’86, novelist and short story writer
Eva Jefferson Paterson ’71, president and founder of the Equal Justice Society
Why Weinberg?
Traditions and more.

DILLO DAY
This annual blowout celebrates spring with music, dancing, fireworks, and general cavorting.

PAINTING THE ROCK
It started in the 1940s as a prank. Now a new message appears almost every night. A “rock cam” provides a live online feed.

LOU MALNATI’S
Yes, this Chicago deep-dish pizza legend has a location in Evanston.

LAKE MICHIGAN
The lake gives us beauty, grandeur, spectacular sunrises, and fun.

WEE STING CAKE
Bennison’s Bakery is beloved for its incredible variety of pastries, including the lusciously creamy Bienenstich, or “bee sting cake.”

WILDCAT WELCOME
By the end of our week-long orientation, everyone knows the campus, knows the ropes, and speaks fluent Northwestern—with new friends.

POLAR PLUNGE
Embrace winter (or at least defy it) and raise money for a good cause.

DIANCE MARATHON
It’s 30 hours of adrenaline. This student-run event raises more than $1 million for charity every year.

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LAKEFILL
Northwestern’s own shoreline, everyone’s favorite place to bask.

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