



# Presidential Scholars Program

Celebrating your excellence



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"I have learned that having a solid foundation is essential to success, and Northeastern is preparing me to succeed in my career."

Presidential Scholarship Recipient,  
**Jesse Foresto**

## **Biology major Jesse Foresto**

learned early on that life does not always work out according to a plan. When Foresto was five years old his mother died after a battle with cancer. His father, determined to not have his children raised by babysitters, drastically cut back his work hours so he could spend time raising his two sons and daughter.

After graduating from high school a semester early, Foresto worked two jobs to help financially support his family instead of immediately enrolling in college. Foresto applied to Northeastern and was awarded the prestigious Presidential Scholarship.

"It's a big gift being able to go to school without the worries about financial stress," acknowledged Foresto. "I have learned that having a solid foundation is essential to success, and Northeastern is preparing me to succeed in my career. There are high standards that are demanded by Northeastern to maintain the Presidential Scholarship. I want and need to make the most of my time here by working hard and developing academically."

In trying to decide a course of study, Foresto turned to his father for advice. "Right now my dad is encouraging me to continue in the sciences. I like to help people and want to do that well. I could really help people through science."



# Presidential Scholarship Recipients

“The Presidential Scholarship has helped me better my experience at Northeastern by allowing me to meet other scholars and thus being able to make new friends and share my experiences. Northeastern has really pushed me to be the best I can be academically and allows me to get involved in things that I wouldn’t have otherwise been involved in.”

**Amanda Rzany**, Biology

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“Being one of the lucky and privileged few to have this scholarship has made me rethink my educational goals, both present and future. I’m a lot more open to trying courses from a broader range of subject matter than I ever was before. In fact, some of the classes I thought would be the least engrossing have been the most rewarding academic experiences of my life. There are also so many interesting faculty, staff, and students here that it’s almost incredible how many cool people you get to meet and talk and hang out with on a daily basis.”

**Mehdi Tazangi**, Computer Science

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“Not only has the Presidential Scholarship relieved me of the financial burden presented by college in general, but it has also allowed me to have a say in the future of Northeastern, while rewarding me for all of the hard work I have put forth in the past. The Presidential Scholarship provides a feeling of importance and assurance, helping me to further my academic success.”

**Elizabeth Perkins**, Environmental Studies



# Pathways to Excellence

Established in 2000, the first Northeastern Illinois University Presidential Scholarship was awarded to a recipient who, after graduating from Northeastern, attended and completed law school and is now a practicing attorney in Chicago. The Presidential Scholarship Program attracts graduating high school seniors from the Chicago metropolitan and suburban areas who demonstrate strong academic promise. Through the support of this scholarship students are able to concentrate on their college studies and be engaged in college life. Recipients of this scholarship major in academic fields such as music, social work, education, and the sciences. Presidential Scholars participate in the Honors Program, take advantage of study abroad opportunities, and are involved in a variety of student organizations on campus, which enhance their leadership skills and commitment to service learning.

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## Eligibility Requirements:

- **Must be admitted to Northeastern Illinois University.**
  - **Must have an earned composite score of 27 or better on the ACT (or SAT score of 1220).**
  - **Must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.35.**
  - **Must be a graduate of an Illinois high school and be an Illinois resident.**
  - **Must complete a scholarship application, which can be found in this brochure.**
  - **Must submit two essays. Please see the Essay Section on the application for instructions and requirements.**
  - **Must provide a listing of academic honors and involvement in extracurricular activities and community service.**
  - **Must Include three letters of recommendation from teachers or guidance counselors.**
  - **If selected to be a semi-finalist, you will be invited to campus for an interview with the University Scholarship Committee.**
  - **Students who are selected to receive the scholarship are required to participate in the University Honors Program.**
  - **Must maintain full-time enrollment.**
  - **Must maintain a minimum of 3.5 GPA.**
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## Mailing & Contact Information

**Michelle Morrow**, Director  
Scholarships Office

**Northeastern Illinois University**  
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Email: M-Morrow@neiu.edu • Phone: (773) 442-4606



## Presidential Scholarship Application

### Application Deadline: February 15

To apply for this scholarship you must have earned an ACT composite score of 27 or higher (or 1220 on the SAT) and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.35 or higher and submit an application. Semi-finalists will be invited to campus for an interview with the University Scholarship Committee.

### Personal Data and Educational Information (Please print clearly in ink or type):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ Intended Major \_\_\_\_\_

### High School Information:

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative Grade Point Average \_\_\_\_\_ Class Rank \_\_\_\_\_

ACT Test Date \_\_\_\_\_ ACT/SAT Composite Score \_\_\_\_\_

**The following materials must accompany this application. (Please include your name on all submitted materials.)**

### Recommendation Letters:

Please submit three recommendation letters that address your ability to succeed at Northeastern, including each recommender's name, address, telephone number, and title. Letters should be written by teachers, school counselors, and individuals who are familiar with you as a student.

### Essay:

Attach two essays to this application on the following topics:

1. How would you define educational success while attending Northeastern Illinois University? (Minimum two type-written pages.)
2. Submit with your application a writing sample that exemplifies your best critical written work completed during your senior year of high school. (Minimum two type-written pages; cite sources as appropriate).

### Resumé:

Please include a resumé highlighting leadership positions, academic honors, special awards, work experiences, and community activities.

### Financial Aid:

It is also encouraged that you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you need further information regarding the FAFSA, please go to the website at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). You may also contact Northeastern's Financial Aid Office at (773) 442-5000.

**Please check the appropriate response:**

☐ I have submitted my FAFSA    ☐ I am in the process of completing my FAFSA    ☐ I have not yet started the process of completing my FAFSA

### Release of Information:

I have completed this application myself and certify that all information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the Director of Scholarships to contact my references and to verify all information submitted on this application.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





**Scholarships Office**  
5500 N. St. Louis Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60625  
[www.neiu.edu](http://www.neiu.edu)

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## About Northeastern

**Northeastern Illinois University** is a fully accredited public university serving the Chicago metropolitan area. The University traces its origins to the beginnings of teacher training in Illinois. Founded in September 1867 in Blue Island as Cook County's first teacher training school, the institution has evolved into the comprehensive university that it is today.

The 67-acre main campus is a welcoming community near the north branch of the Chicago River. Our other locations at El Centro, the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies, the Chicago Teachers' Center and in Lake County enhance the University's ability to serve the entire metropolitan area.

Northeastern is the university of the future. The learning populace is richly diverse in ethnicity, culture, age, and language with a strong commitment to learning in the global community. Northeastern provides a high quality and affordable education to nearly 12,000 full and part-time undergraduate and graduate students.

### Scholarships at Northeastern:

Students are often faced with the dilemma of how they will pay for their education. For many, the cost of financing a university education becomes a barrier to learning. With this in mind, the Scholarships Office promotes and awards university scholarship funds to deserving students. Our goal is to assist in lessening the financial burden that many students seek to overcome.

**NEIU Thinking Green!**



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