

ADMITTED
STUDENT
INFORMATION

Class of 2021

MS IN
HEALTH
COMMUNICATION

Northwestern
SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION



**"My work develops solutions to
reduce disparities in healthcare"**

Chelea Lanham, Class of 2019

WELCOME

Congratulations on your admission to Northwestern University's Master of Science in Health Communication program.

In the weeks ahead, you will make a very important decision about your education and your future. As you consider the possibility of joining the Northwestern community, we encourage you to reflect on your goals and the ways in which we can help you realize them.

In our learning community, we believe the most effective students and healthcare leaders are comfortable working with and among people from diverse disciplines, levels of experience, and backgrounds. Throughout the program, you will interact with diverse classmates, addressing difficult conversations that are often missed in the healthcare realm. Northwestern offers more than world-class graduate programs for its talented students. We support our students to thrive in and out of the classroom. Improving the health for both macro and micro-communities. You are in good company at Northwestern.

We believe that it is critical for students to make connections with healthcare leaders in the industry. Thus, we devote an hour of each class day to exposing you to different professionals and career development options within the Health Communication space through the Proseminar course. This course helps expose you to career paths you might not have known existed, expands your network of professional contacts in the field, and supports your career development.

Our goals for you are simple. We want you to leave Northwestern with more knowledge, skills, and experience that will prepare you to positively impact cost, quality, safety, and patient experience in healthcare. We hope you will participate as an active, engaged student. And we trust that you will create the kind of change and innovation that moves the industry forward.

We are proud to be part of that mission and wish to personally welcome you to Northwestern in the Fall.

– MSHC Program Team

ENROLLMENT CHECKLIST

Step 1: Activate NetID and Email

Activate your NetID and create a Northwestern University email address. Review your welcome email for instructions.



Log in with your NetID and new password. MSHC staff and faculty will use your Northwestern email account to communicate with you throughout the program.

Step 2: Provide Tuition Deposit

Provide a \$500 tuition deposit to secure your seat in the Master of Science in Health Communication (MSHC) program.

Review your welcome email for instructions to submit the online tuition deposit.

The deposit will be applied to your first quarter tuition. Should you later decide not to attend, the deposit is non-refundable.

Step 3: Review Financial Options

Merit or MSHC-funded scholarships, are awarded at the time of admission. Your admit notification letter will indicate if a scholarship has been awarded and the amount.

Review funding options that fit your needs outlined on pages 5 to 11.

Step 4: Complete Health Requirements

Complete the enclosed “Admission Health Record” form as mandated by the State of Illinois. For more information, see the Student Health section starting on page 13.

Admitted Student Portal

To visit the admitted student portal, go to:
it.northwestern.edu/education/login.html

The Admitted Student Portal contains documents, information, and updates that you may find useful as you transition into student life. You can use this space to connect and introduce yourself to fellow classmates, find roommates, or reference information.

The portal is hosted through Canvas. You will use Canvas to access assignments, readings, and more in all of your courses. New courses will appear on your dashboard when you are registered. This will happen about two weeks before each quarter. Using the portal is a great way to acclimate to program life. Use your NetID and password to log in.

You can also use the portal to order your student ID card.

Meet Your Classmates

Check your email for invitations to receptions and social events throughout year.

Save the Date for Orientation:

September 18th and 19th, 2020. Both days of orientation are **mandatory**.

"Our program allows students to advance their careers by helping them learn how to identify and solve communication problems in healthcare. Students make lifelong friends and connections, become part of the Northwestern alumni network, and have the opportunity to do meaningful work."

Dr. Bruce Lambert,
Professor and Director, MS Health Communication



What makes Northwestern's approach to Health Communication different from other schools?

Interaction Design.

Interaction Design is a process that focuses on creating and designing artifacts that are **Engaging, Logical, and Intentional**.

It uses technology and principles of good communication to create desired user experiences.

In Healthcare we can apply these concepts to create better:

- **Labels**
- **Interfaces**
- **Messages**
- **Interactions**

Interaction Design is an emerging theme in healthcare. Many other industries have adopted these concepts successfully. Banks have figured out how to give you a seamless and convenient interface to track your money at any time. Online gaming uses interaction design to retain and entertain for hours. Apple, the exemplar, knows exactly what you want to use and how you want to use it. Healthcare has been slow to adapt and has lagged in this respect. We believe that our students can change this.

TUITION AND FUNDING OPTIONS

Tuition for the Master of Science in Health Communication program is \$6,090* per class, billed at the rate of 2.25 classes per quarter during Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters and 3.25 classes during Summer for a total of \$60,900** for the ten courses. This includes four (4) quarters of instruction and course materials.



Students provide their own laptop computers at a cost of approximately \$500.

All students are billed per credit unit at the beginning of each quarter with payment due upon billing.

* The University recalculates tuition each Spring. The tuition listed is valid for the 2019-2020 academic year. Tuition rates may increase for the following school year.

** International students on visa must take at least three credits per quarter (at \$6,090* per credit) in order to meet visa requirements. Thus total tuition for an international student taking 12.25 total credits would be \$72,602.50.

FUNDING OPTIONS

Student Loans

If you are considering student loans, review pages 8 to 10, and visit: <https://www.northwestern.edu/sfs/financial-aid-and-loans/overview/index.html> for information on options.

Your contact for all loan-related questions is:

Evanston Office of Graduate Aid
gradfinaid@northwestern.edu
 847-491-8950

Students may complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Financial Student Aid) online at fafsa.ed.gov. Northwestern University's school code is **001739**.

Students can borrow up to their cost of attendance in federal loans, which includes full tuition plus an amount per quarter for living expenses. Once a student has been admitted into the MSHC program, the completed FAFSA data will appear in the Student Financial Services system. After being assigned a Northwestern email account, Student Financial Services will send an email notice with instructions on how to view, accept, or decline student loan funds.

Merit Awards

Merit awards (or MSHC-funded scholarships) are awarded at the time of admission. There is no application process for merit awards. All admitted students are considered for awards. Your admit notification letter will indicate the amount of scholarship funding, if any. Please reference your admit letter before contacting the office about scholarship awards.

Need Based Awards

Students interested in being considered for need-based awards must complete a FAFSA online at studentaid.gov as soon as possible. Northwestern University's school code is **001739**.

Student Financial Services will determine an admitted student's financial need based on the student's FAFSA. Those meeting need criteria will be strongly considered for awards.

Q: How is need determined?

A: Need is determined by financial information the student provides in the FAFSA. This includes previous educational loans and current financial information based on tax returns.

Q: If I received a merit award, can I receive an additional need-based award?

A: Yes.

Q: When will I find out if I have a need-based award?

A: The need-based funding process is determined on a monthly basis starting in May. Admitted students receiving a need-based award will be notified by email.

Q: How are awards dispersed?

A: Scholarships from the MSHC program are valid for the 2020-2021 academic year. Scholarships are typically applied evenly to each of your four quarters of the MSHC program. For example, $\frac{1}{4}$ of your total scholarship amount will be applied to Fall 2020 tuition, $\frac{1}{4}$ will be applied to Winter 2021, $\frac{1}{4}$ applied to Spring 2021, and $\frac{1}{4}$ applied to Summer 2021. Rare exceptions are made. For example, Northwestern University employees who are receiving Northwestern's tuition benefit can apply funds to maximize the benefit.

Employer Funded

Employer-sponsored students should determine whether their organization prefers to be billed directly by the university or to reimburse the employee/student.

Students with employers preferring to be billed by the university must submit a letter on organization letterhead stating that Northwestern University should bill the company directly for Master of Science in Health Communication tuition each term. The letter must clearly state that the employer agrees to pay tuition regardless of the courses taken or the grades received. Please also specify the appropriate contact person's name and telephone number, the address to which invoices should be sent, and the period covered by the authorization. Additionally, the employer should indicate any funding cap or reimbursement limitations.

Send the letter to:

Northwestern University

Office of Student Accounts

555 Clark St., Evanston, IL 60208

Students with employers preferring to reimburse the employee/student are not exempt from payment due dates. Should the student require financial assistance to make payments by the due dates, he or she should apply for financial aid.

If a student needs a list of courses, tuition rates, or any other information provided by the program, they must alert program staff well in advance.

Military Programs

Eligible veterans can utilize the GI Bill. Admissions staff will contact the Registrar's Office to begin the appropriate paperwork once requested by the student.

Fellowships

The MSHC program does not award fellowships in the form of teaching or research assistantships. However, students are encouraged to review the various fellowship opportunities available to graduate students through:

Northwestern University's Fellowship Office

Web: northwestern.edu/fellowships

Email: fellowships@northwestern.edu

Phone: 847-491-2617



Student Loans

Student loans are available to help finance the cost of education. The application process is completed one academic year at a time. The amount borrowed must be for educational expenses and cannot exceed (including all other sources of financial aid) the Cost of Attendance for the loan period.

Your Cost of Attendance includes tuition plus an additional Cost of Living allowance for other expenses (books, rent, food, etc.).

The loan period is the term for which the funds are being borrowed. In any academic year, the minimum loan period is (1) quarter; the maximum loan period is (4) quarters.

You can borrow loan funds only for the quarters during which you will be enrolled. You cannot include (in the loan period) terms for which you will not be charged tuition.

Student loans may be federal or private. To be eligible for federal loans, you must be:

1. Matriculated.
2. A Citizen or Permanent Resident of the United States.
3. Enrolled at least half-time (2 credits per quarter) in a degree program.
4. Borrowing for a current loan period.
5. In good standing on any prior federal loans.

Check the status of your prior federal loans on the National Student Loan Data System at: nslds.ed.gov/npas/index.htm



Private Loans

If you are not eligible for federal loans, you may apply for a private student loan. The following webpage will assist you in selecting the appropriate loan product:

<https://www.northwestern.edu/evanston-graduate-financial-aid/forms-and-resources/index.html>

Once you make your selection, you can complete the loan application process directly on the lender's website. When your loan is approved, your lender will contact us for school certification. Your loan funds will then be scheduled for disbursement. (See the "Loan Disbursement" section in the following pages.)

International students: Not all lenders offer loan products for international students. Those that do usually require a creditworthy cosigner who is either a citizen or a Permanent Resident of the United States. Contact the lender directly for further information.

GRADUATE STUDENT LOANS

Applying For Federal Loans

To confirm your eligibility for federal loans, you must complete the FAFSA each academic year.

We recommend filing your federal tax return before the FAFSA so you can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool when you complete your FAFSA.

In addition to the FAFSA, PhD, and MS returning students must submit a Request for Student Loans form. The form can be completed online in your To Do list on CAESAR or by completing the pdf available at:

northwestern.edu/evanston-graduate-financial-aid/forms-and-resources/index.html

To ensure that loan funds will be available for the first day of class, please complete your loan application materials at least six weeks prior to your first quarter of enrollment.



Federal Loan Award Notice

Once you have completed your loan application(s), activated your NetID* and password, Student Financial Services will send an email award notice to your NU email address within one to two weeks.**

Your loan award will usually consist of Federal Direct Unsubsidized (Stafford) Loans and Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans. GradPLUS loans are subject to credit approval by the U.S. Department of Education.

Your award email notice will include a link to our webpage which provides instructions for accepting or declining the loans you were offered and completing your loan requirements. You can also view your outstanding loan requirements on your To Do list in CAESAR.

*Your NetID and password are included in your welcome email and is necessary to access your NU email and loan award in CAESAR.

**If you are receiving financial aid other than student loans, your loan award may be delayed until your departmental funding is entered in CAESAR.

GRADUATE STUDENT LOANS

Loan Disbursement

All student loan funds (federal and private) are disbursed directly to your Northwestern University Customer Account. Monitor your account in CAESAR at **Student Financial Services > View My Account**.

Because you enroll on a quarterly basis, tuition is billed quarterly and loan funds are disbursed quarter by quarter. Check the quarterly distribution of your loans via CAESAR at **Student Financial Services > View My Financial Aid**.

Assuming that you are enrolled appropriately and have completed all your loan requirements, your loan funds will disburse just prior to the start of each quarter. Until the actual funds are disbursed, the loan credit will be listed as anticipated aid on your Northwestern Customer Account. You do not need to pay any balance that is covered by anticipated loan funds.

Loan funds (in excess of your tuition charges) borrowed for your Cost of Living (housing, books, transportation, etc.), can be accessed on the first day of each quarter via CAESAR at **Student Financial Services > More Student Financials > Request a Refund**

If you have entered your bank information in CAESAR at **Student Financial Services > More Student Financials > Setup Direct Deposit**, the funds can be transferred by electronic funds transfer from your Northwestern Customer Account to your bank account. Otherwise, a refund check will go out in the U.S. mail to the address you select.

IMPORTANT: You can request a loan adjustment (increase, reduction, cancellation or redistribution) at any time by contacting Student Financial Services. We will always try to accommodate your request within federal regulations.

Additional Resources

CAESAR (Computer Assisted Electronic Student Access Route):
northwestern.edu/caesar

Our student loan web pages:
northwestern.edu/sfs/graduate-financial-aid

Tuition billing and payment:
northwestern.edu/sfs/payments

US Department of Education student loan:
studentloans.gov/mydirectloan

Loan repayment, deferment, forgiveness, etc:
studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans



APPLYING FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

1. Filling Out & Submitting The FAFSA

You will want to fill out and submit your FAFSA to the US Dept. of Education as early as possible.

The FAFSA will ask you for information from your most-recent tax return; this is how the government calculates your expected “out-of-pocket” contribution to graduate school, and the loans you are eligible for. Therefore, you will want to have your most recent W2 to reference when filling out the FAFSA.

Graduate students are eligible to receive three different types of federal loans: Perkins loans (up to \$8,000 per calendar year) Direct Unsubsidized loans (up to \$20,500 per school year), and PLUS loans.

2. Dispersing Your Loans

The FAFSA (and the information you put into it) calculates how much you are expected to contribute to your education out of your own pocket; this number, subtracted from the total cost of tuition equals how much in federal loans the government will initially offer you.

You can apply to have your loan amount increased or decreased by contacting Northwestern’s Student Financial Services office. You have a few days after your loan is dispersed at the beginning of each quarter to make changes. Some students opt to have all of their tuition covered by loans, to ensure no lapses in payments.

Loans are dispersed on a quarterly-basis at Northwestern, at the start of each quarter. Stay on top of all communications from Northwestern, the Department of Education, and any affiliated loan providers. This includes emails, letters, and messages posted to your NU CAESAR account.

3. Paying Back Your Loans

You are not required to make any payments on your federal loans while you are an enrolled student/ currently taking classes in the MSHC program.

Repayment typically starts 6 months after your graduation date for Stafford and Perkins loans; PLUS loans enter repayment upon graduation.

Some federal loans accrue interest while you are enrolled in school; some do not accrue interest until you start repayment. Be sure to check the terms and conditions of your loans.

For more information on repayment, visit: studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment

The Northwestern Difference

Think Bigger: Interaction Design

Traditionally, health communication focuses on campaigns and education with the intention of influencing health behavior. While these skills and concepts are an important part of our curriculum, the Northwestern MS in Health Communication introduces you to a broader understanding of how you can apply communication arts, sciences, methods, programs, and interventions to solve problems in healthcare.

Themes of interaction design are woven through the curriculum, developing your ability to create better products, environments, systems, and services. Your diverse set of knowledge and skills in behavior change strategies and design thinking helps you amplify your impact in healthcare companies and organizations.

Think More Broadly: Interdisciplinary Nature

Problems of cost, quality, safety, and patient experience are large and complex. No single discipline can give you all the tools to fully address these issues. The MS in Health Communication draws faculty from several disciplines around the university with the goal of providing you with a robust set of tools and skills to solve problems in healthcare. Primarily, the program draws faculty from Communication, Health Services Research, and Engineering.

STUDENT HEALTH

This section covers:

1. The health requirements incoming students must meet in order to start classes at Northwestern
2. Health Insurance options

Illinois law (Illinois Administrative Code Section 694.100) and Northwestern University regulations require that all full-time and half-time students (undergraduate, graduate, professional, and continuing studies) as well as students previously enrolled at Northwestern starting a new full-time or half-time academic program meet specific health requirements.



REQUIREMENTS**Who must fulfill Health Requirements?**

All students must fulfill health requirements. This includes students returning to NU and/or starting a new academic program.

What must be submitted?

Carefully read and complete the **Admission Health Record for Non-Healthcare Students** form with the help of your healthcare provider. For more information, visit:

northwestern.edu/healthservice-evanston/new-students/immunization-requirements/non-healthcare-students

Where do I submit completed forms?

Mail your completed forms to the address listed on the Admission Health Record form. Before mailing, make a copy to save for your reference. Submit the Admission Health Record and proof of immunizations to:

Northwestern University Health Service
Health Information Management Services
633 Emerson Street, Evanston IL 60208-4000

The MSHC Office cannot accept your completed forms.

What is the deadline for completion of these requirements?

MSHC students must complete the Admission Health Record and proof of immunizations by October 1st, but other Northwestern University programs require students to submit these documents by July 1st. You may receive a notification in July if you have not yet completed your health forms.

What is the penalty for not completing the Health Requirements by the deadline?

Students who fail to submit the Admission Health Record and required immunization verification or fail to rectify ALL deficiencies by 30 days after the start of classes will be barred from future class registration (including adding or changing classes) until compliant and assessed a non-refundable \$100 late fee.

Submitting materials by the deadline allows Health Services staff enough time to process your documents and notify you of any deficiencies. Furthermore, it provides you with the time to rectify any deficiencies prior to arriving on campus. Please note: students completing series vaccinations will be allowed additional time to complete these requirements. Later round applicants will have to submit materials after the deadline.

Will I need to fulfill these requirements every term?

No, you only need to fulfill these requirements once upon entrance into the program.

I am starting the Health Communication program. Why does the form mention “non-healthcare academic programs?” Do I have the correct form?

Yes, this is the correct form. For purposes of this form, “non-healthcare” really means “non-clinical.” The MS Health Communication program does not involve physical contact with patients. Programs that involve patient contact (med, PA, AUD, etc.) have a different form.

Questions Regarding Health Requirements?

Visit northwestern.edu/healthservice-evanston/index.html or call 847-491-2117.

Personally identifiable information on these forms is confidential and for Health Services use only. Such information cannot be released without a student’s written consent. No information contained in these forms will be used to discriminate, deny health care, or affect admission status.





ABBOTT HALL



“So many of the health challenges we face are amenable to improvements through communication design.”

Dr. Daniel J. O'Keefe,
Owen L. Coon Professor, Department of Communication Studies

HEALTH INSURANCE

Northwestern University offers a NU-SHIP health insurance plan. Domestic students enrolling in two or more courses per quarter may enroll in the NU-SHIP plan on a voluntary basis. International students will be automatically enrolled in the NU-SHIP Plan.

“International Student” is defined as holding a F-1 or J-1 United States visa

For information about the NU-SHIP Plan, visit:
northwestern.edu/student-insurance

Domestic Students

If you have private or employer-sponsored health insurance, you do NOT need to purchase student health insurance.

Domestic students who wish to enroll in the NU-SHIP plan should complete the Part-Time Application form and make payment to the Insurance Office prior to the close of Open Enrollment (the first week in October).

Note: If you have your own coverage, you must opt out of student insurance in CAESAR. You can opt out in September.

International Students

A mandate has been set by the NU Office of the Provost requiring all new international students attending NU be automatically enrolled in the NU-SHIP Plan.

As an entering International Student, you do not need to complete the Coverage Selection Form. Upon your full time class registration posting in the CAESAR* system, your CAESAR account will automatically be charged and enrollment into the NU-SHIP plan completed. The effective coverage period will be retroactive back to September 1st of your program start year, valid through August 31st of the following calendar year. Please confirm that your local Illinois address is updated in the CAESAR system, as this where Student Affairs will forward your active membership card for proof of coverage.

*CAESAR is the system where students view or pay tuition bills, view grades, view course registration, and update personal information.

**"I help patients understand
complex health information."**

Nicole Stachura, Class of 2018



Important Information for Incoming Students

Deeply discounted or free software:

<https://www.it.northwestern.edu/software-catalog/device-management/software/index.html>

Includes Microsoft Office, Mathematica, EndNote, and other software.

Hardware purchase options:

Custom Apple store: store.apple.com/us_edu_14359

Dell Personal Purchase: dell.com/northwestern

Questions?

Contact Northwestern IT Help Desk:

847-491-HELP (491-4357)

consultant@northwestern.edu



GETTING CONNECTED

NU Network

What is my NetID?

A Northwestern NetID is your passport to the Northwestern Network, an array of websites, resources, and online tools. When you receive your NetID and activation code in your welcome email, go to northwestern.edu/login.

- 1: Use the activation code to activate your NetID
- 2: Set your NetID password
- 3: Choose your security questions and answers to reset your password in case you forget it
- 4: Activate your @u.northwestern.edu email account

What if I forget my NetID or password?

If you forget your NetID, call the NUIT Support Center at **847-491-4357**. They will confirm your identity and remind you of your NetID.

If you forget your NetID password...

- 1: Navigate to nvalidate.northwestern.edu
- 2: Enter your NetID and leave Password field blank
- 3: Click ForgotYour Password?
- 4: Answer at least two of your security questions
- 5: Follow password change prompts and click Change Password
- 6: Reset your password

How do I access my Northwestern email services?

Once you've activated your @u.northwestern.edu account at uemail.northwestern.edu/activate, just log in at u.northwestern.edu.

To access your @u account from your smartphone, be sure to keep your full account name and password handy.

Your @u.northwestern.edu account also gives you access to calendaring, instant messaging, document, spreadsheet, and presentation applications. Read more about collaboration, including how to create account nicknames, at it.northwestern.edu/stucollab.



Computers

What kind of computer do I need?

All computers should meet NUIT's minimum recommendations to access Northwestern resources. Find the most current recommendations at it.northwestern.edu/hardware.

Desktop or laptop?

Most students find it easiest to use a laptop at NU; since much of the campus is wireless, you can connect to the NU Wireless Network from just about anywhere.

Windows or Mac?

Take your pick, NUIT supports both operating systems.

Connecting Around Campus

Where can I find wireless access on campus?

Pretty much everywhere. There are access points across campus, including all residence halls.

TIP: For safe and secure connections, use the University network SSID "Northwestern."

Where can I find computer and media labs?

Wherever you are on campus, a computer lab is not far away.

Connecting Off Campus

How do I connect to the NU Network from off campus?

It's simple. First get Internet service, then connect to the Northwestern Network via a secure VPN.

What is a VPN and why do I need it?

Virtual Private Network (VPN) allows you to securely connect to the NU Network and all University resources from off campus. VPN is included in your operating system and easy to configure. Find instructions at it.northwestern.edu/oncampus/vpn.

How can I take NU to go?

NUIT offers a host of opportunities to enhance your academic and campus life and bring NU with you, wherever you go.

Northwestern Mobile Application Suite

NU has developed a suite of mobile applications that delivers on-demand, real-time access to University information, including:

News: Get the latest news from NU

Events: View Plan-It Purple listings

Maps: Search for buildings by name, find them and see your location

Transit: Check shuttle times, view stop locations, and track active shuttles

Directory: Find students, faculty, and staff; store contact information; send e-mail or make a call

Library: Search by title, author, or keyword; and check media availability

Athletics: Find Northwestern Wildcat sports schedules, news, and scores

"I bridge the divide between healthcare, research and practice."

Emily Kirkwood, Class of 2017



iPhone and Android

Search for “Northwestern University” in your device’s native app store and download the app.

Other Smartphones and Tablets

Visit mobile.northwestern.edu on any web-enabled mobile device.

For more information about mobility at Northwestern, including how to set up your mobile devices to use University resources, visit it.northwestern.edu/mobility.

Computer Security

All students have a responsibility to use University resources in a safe, secure, and legal way. Keep your NetID and NetID password secret and respect the rights of other users of the NU Network.

Don’t get caught by surprise; review policies and guidelines at it.northwestern.edu/policies.

What about file sharing?

The best rule of thumb is to assume you cannot download or distribute anything you find on the Internet unless you have written permission, such as a license agreement. Downloading streaming video from questionable websites also puts your computer at a high risk for catching a virus. To learn more, visit it.northwestern.edu/security/illegaldownloading and it.northwestern.edu/security/nubayu/.

NOTE: For your protection and the security of the NU Network, do not share software or music files even when you legally purchase them. If you do, you will lose the right to access the NU Network.

Reality Check

Secure Passwords

Your NetID and password give you access to your personal data and many NU resources. Don’t compromise your security and risk losing network access or worse by sharing your password.

Stop Malware

Malware comes in many forms, protect yourself in more ways than one. Use multiple types of security: antivirus, antispyware, a junk e-mail blocker, and a firewall. Links to University-provided antivirus software, plus instructions on how to use them, are at it.northwestern.edu/software/sav.

Stay Current

Even a brand new computer isn’t perfect. Install software updates when prompted to improve performance and protect against cybercriminals. Find instructions on how to automate updates at kb.northwestern.edu.

Don’t Get Phished

Phishing scams often use trustworthy names and fake links to trick you into clicking and sharing your personal information, or to install malware on your computer. Learn how to spot and avoid these scams and view recent phishing attempts that have been reported to NUIT at it.northwestern.edu/security/phishing.

TIP: To protect your computer from theft, tether your computer to an object that is not easily moved with a universally compatible security cable. And if you’re working in the library or elsewhere, keep your laptop in your sight at all times.

STUDENT RESOURCES

MSHC students are able to use the following Northwestern University resources, among others.

Available before classes begin:

AccessibleNU

Students with disabilities and other conditions that require accommodation may contact AccessibleNU at **847-467-5530**, or visit northwestern.edu/accessiblenu.

Housing

The University's Department of Graduate and Off Campus Housing serves to support graduate students seeking housing.

Visit northwestern.edu/living

Email grad-housing@northwestern.edu or call **847-491-5127** to learn more.

Available after classes begin:

Career Services

Northwestern University Career Services offers free career counseling catered specifically to current graduate students. Students are encouraged to participate in MSHC-specific workshops and make appointments with the Associate Director of External Programs, Internships, and Career Services (**EPICS**). Students can also access a variety of university-wide career services at northwestern.edu/careers.

Events

The MSHC Program occasionally organizes social events and activities. The greater university offers daily opportunities to attend a diverse range of events from academic speakers, to performing arts. To view all campus visit planitpurple.northwestern.edu.

Food

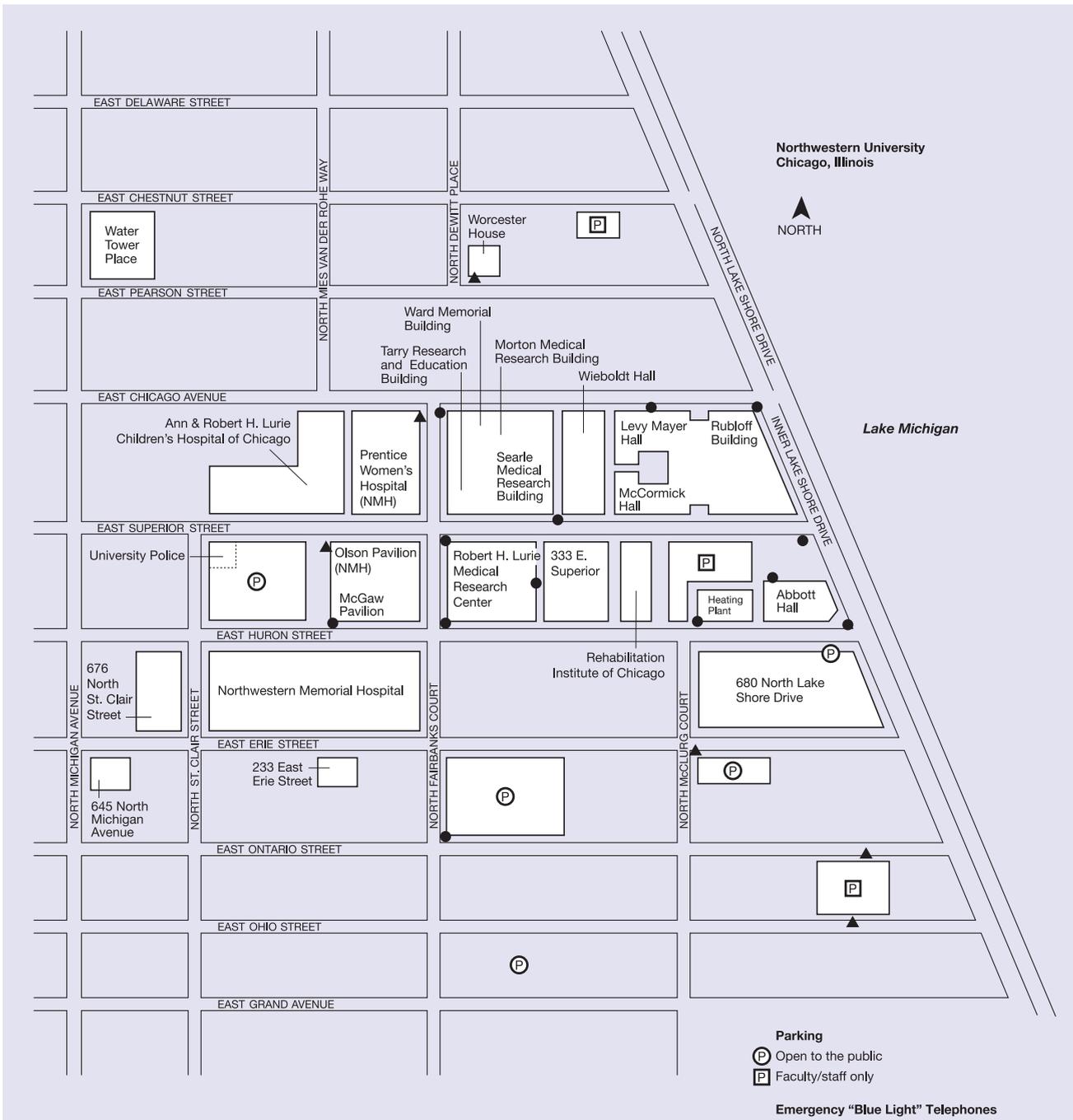
Class break refreshments are offered and lunch is provided each class day for MSHC students. This cost is included in program tuition.

Health Services

NU Health Services provides quality physical and mental health care to NU students. To view available resources, see northwestern.edu/healthservice-chicago and northwestern.edu/counseling.

Transportation

MSHC students can elect to receive parking passes or CTA tickets to support transportation costs to and from class on Saturdays. Students will select these options in a survey prior to beginning class. This cost is included in program tuition.



CAMPUS MAP

02/14



HOUSING

Northwestern University partners with [Places4Students.com](https://www.places4students.com), a website that provides off-campus housing solutions for post-secondary students, faculty, staff and other community members. This service is free for students to use.

For more housing options, please visit: <https://www.northwestern.edu/offcampus/housing/find-housing/index.html>

Students Can:

- View rental listings
- View sublet listings
- Find a roommate
- Post a free sublet ad
- Post a “roommates needed” profile

Program Disclaimer

The NU Off-Campus Life Office does not endorse any landlord, management company, or individual who lists with the Places4Students or other residence finding-services on this website.

Neither Northwestern University nor the NU Off-Campus Life Office guarantees in any manner the service or quality of service offered by listed landlord, management companies, or individuals. Students, parents, and other members of the University and Evanston or Chicago-metro community are under no obligation to utilize the NU Off-Campus Life Office or to rent from companies or individuals listed with the NU Off-Campus Life Office.

The NU Off-Campus Life office acts in an advisory capacity only and does not make reservations, appointments, rental commitments or participate in any negotiations with landlords. Individuals must, on their own, meet with the landlords, inspect the apartments, and make the lease arrangements, which are civil contracts not involving the university.

FINDING HOUSING

Location, Location, Location

How far from campus do you want to live?

Do not forget about rain, snow, and heat.

Identify the neighborhood you want to live in.

Think about your safety.

Think About Your Budget

Rent and deposit amount. Will you live with a roommate?

Cost of monthly utilities. Which utilities are included?

Is it furnished? Can you afford furnishing it?

Where do you plan to eat?

Find Your Perfect Place

Search [Places4Students.com](https://www.places4students.com) for listings.

Talk to rental companies about availability in your preferred location.

Try to visit the actual apartment before signing or arrange a video call from the place.

Ask The Landlord

What are the measurements of your room?

Who are the neighbors?

Will your landlord take care of repairs and maintenance promptly?

Where can I do laundry?

Is the place heated in winter?

Before Signing Your Lease

Understand your lease. Learn more on the NU Off-Campus Life website.

Record property conditions in the 'Property Checklist' available on our website.

Take pictures with the landlord to avoid unnecessary costs when moving out.

Move In & Stay Involved

Stay in touch with the International Office and/or NU Off-Campus Life.

Check NU Calendar of events:

planitpurple.northwestern.edu.

Find “NU Off-Campus Life” on Facebook.

Don't miss events for off-campus students!

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