



Northwestern State University Admissions Guide

Minimum Admission Standards for **First-Time First Year** Students – Fall 2023 and Beyond

☑ Who is a First-Time First-Year Student?

You're considered a first-time first-year student if:

- You've never attended college after high school, OR
- You earned college credit (like dual enrollment) before finishing high school

📖 Section A: High School Curriculum Options

You must meet one of the following high school curriculum paths:

Option 1: TOPS Core (19 Units)

- Cumulative GPA: 2.35 or higher

Option 2: 17–18 Core Units

(Jump Start or Modified Curriculum)

- Cumulative GPA: 2.35 or higher
- PLUS meet one of these:
 - Core GPA of 2.50 or higher, OR
 - ACT English 21 and Math 22, OR
 - Early college GPA of 2.60+, OR
 - Meet 2 of the 3 items in **Section B** to the right

Option 3: Less Than 17 Core Units

- Cumulative GPA: 2.35 or higher
- PLUS meet one of these:
 - Core GPA of 2.50 or higher, OR
 - ACT English 21 and Math 22, OR
 - Early college GPA of 2.60+

Option 4: HiSET or Alternative Diploma

(For Students Under 25)

- HiSET score: 15+ on ANY subset & 4+ on HiSET essay, OR
- NRS-approved test: Level 6+

ACT also needed if applying to Flagship or Statewide schools—not required for NSU

Option 5: Graduated from a Non-U.S. High School

- Students must have completed a recognized secondary program comparable to a U.S. high school preparatory core.
- English language proficiency required (See International Students.)

📋 What Do You Need to Be Admitted?

NSU is a 4-year regional public university, and admission is based on two parts:

1. Your High School Courses
2. Your GPA and/or Test Scores

📖 Section B: NSU's Additional Requirements (Pick One)

Once you meet the high school curriculum in **Section A**, you ALSO need to meet one of the following:

- 2.0 GPA in core high school classes, OR
- Associate degree, OR
- 12+ college credit hours with at least a 2.0 GPA, OR
- ACT Composite Score of 20+, OR
- Meet course placement for college-level Math or English
(This can be shown through ACT, SAT, or Accuplacer scores)

➡ You don't need to meet placement for both Math and English — just one!

📋 Provisional Admission

If you're close to meeting the requirements but still finishing courses or waiting on final grades, NSU may allow provisional admission. You'll need to meet all standards by the end of your first semester.

🌐 International Students

If you graduated from a non-U.S. high school, you must:

1. Show English proficiency using one of the following:
 - TOEFL (paper) – 550
 - TOEFL iBT – 79
 - IELTS – 6.5
 - Duolingo – 100
 - ACT English – 18
 - SAT Reading/Writing – 500
 - Accuplacer Writing – 250
 - Completed English Comp I or II in college
2. Be eligible for admission to a university in your home country.

⚠️ Test-Optional Exception (DB Admit)

If you meet all these conditions:

- Have a 2.75 GPA or higher
- Completed 19 core courses with at least a 2.0 Core GPA
- Have no ACT/SAT scores

You can still be admitted! You'll just take placement tests like Accuplacer to determine which courses you start with.