

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT

General Admissions Information

Office: Undergraduate Admissions

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Northern Kentucky University invites people to apply for admission to NKU as freshmen, transfer students, readmitted students, post-baccalaureate students, international students, and non-degree students. This chapter discusses the application process for all prospective students except international students. Information for international students is provided in the next chapter.

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions if they have questions or would like assistance with the application process.

Important Admission Deadlines

	For Fall Semester	For Spring Semester
Freshman		
Early Action	January 15	
Priority		November 1
Assured Consideration	May 1	
Enrollment Confirmation	May 1	December 1
Final Deadline	August 1	December 1
Transfer/Post-baccalaureate/ Readmission/Non-Degree		
Priority	May 1	November 1
Assured Consideration	June 1	
Enrollment Confirmation (does not apply to post-baccalaureate or readmits)	May 1	December 1
Final Deadline	August 1	December 1

Deadline Definitions

Early Action

Students interested in NKU freshman scholarship opportunities must apply by this deadline. A separate scholarship application must be submitted by the early action date.

Priority

For freshman applicants applying for January admission: Students meeting this deadline will be invited to participate in a December orientation and advising session.

For transfer/post-bachelor/readmission applicants: This deadline ensures adequate time for full consideration of the application file and allows time to schedule an advising appointment prior to selecting classes.

Assured Consideration

Students applying after this deadline risk not being admitted if NKU reaches capacity for new freshmen or transfer students. Applicants could be placed on a waiting list, deferred to a subsequent semester, or denied admission.

Enrollment Confirmation

This is the deadline by which students must confirm their intention to enroll by submitting the nonrefundable confirmation fee.

Final Deadline

This is the last date a student can submit an application for admission consideration.

Admission Requirements and Procedures

Freshman Applicants

A freshman applicant is a prospective student who has not attempted coursework at a regionally accredited college or university (other than college credit earned while in high school). Prospective freshmen are strongly encouraged to apply for admission early in their senior year. To be considered for admission as a freshman, applicants must submit the following:

1. An online application form* (<http://apply.nku.edu>).
2. A \$25 nonrefundable application fee**.
3. Official high school transcripts or GED scores.
4. ACT or SAT scores.
5. A pre-college curriculum form completed by the high school guidance counselor.

*Applicants may submit a paper application, but they will be assessed a \$40 application fee.

**See the section on Application and Enrollment Fee Policies later in this chapter for information on fee waivers and fee exclusions.

NOTE: Effective September 1, 2011, a \$40 fee will be assessed for both online and paper applications.

Home School and Independent Study Applicants

Applicants who are home schooled or completing their high school diploma through an independent study program must submit the following:

1. An online application form* (<http://apply.nku.edu>).
2. A \$25 nonrefundable application fee**.
3. ACT or SAT scores.
4. A notarized statement from the home school teacher detailing the content of the student's home school curriculum, letter grades, and the duration of each course.
5. A pre-college curriculum form completed by the home school teacher.

*Applicants may submit a paper application, but they will be assessed a \$40 application fee.

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Application Evaluation

The Office of Admissions evaluates the applications of every degree-seeking freshman. Only completed applications are reviewed. The evaluation focuses on:

1. Completed high school classes and their relation to the Kentucky Pre-College Curriculum.
2. High school GPA.
3. High school class rank.
4. ACT composite and sub-scores in English, mathematics, and reading; or SAT total* and sub-scores in writing, mathematics, and critical reading. Applicants 21 years of age and older may submit a COMPASS score in place of ACT or SAT scores.

*Combined mathematics and critical reading score

The purpose of this evaluation is to determine the applicant's preparation for college-level coursework. The evaluation considers whether the applicant meets the minimum requirements set forth by both the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and NKU for admission. NKU's freshman admission standards are available online.

Kentucky Pre-College Curriculum

The Kentucky Pre-College Curriculum (PCC) was established by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. It is a prescribed set of high school courses required for admission to an associate or baccalaureate degree program at a Kentucky public institution. Completion of the PCC is required for all applicants younger than 21 years of age with fewer than 24 transferrable semester credit hours. Students admitted to the university not meeting a specific PCC area (or areas) are considered to have one or more academic deficiencies that must be remediated by completing prescribed courses in mathematics, English, social studies, sciences, and/or foreign language areas.

Exception: A student with a PCC deficiency who achieved an ACT or SAT score that falls within the top 60 percent of all ACT/SAT test takers on a particular test date for English, mathematics, or science will not be considered to have a PCC deficiency in that specific area.

The Kentucky Pre-College Curriculum includes the following:

Area	Credits
English Language Arts -- English I, II, III, IV, or AP English	4
Mathematics -- Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry*	3
Science -- Biology I, Chemistry I, Physics I or life science, physical science, and earth/space sciences (at least one lab course)	3
Social Studies -- U.S. history, economics, government, world geography, and world civilization	3
Foreign Language -- Two credits in the same language or demonstrated competency	2
Health	1/2
Physical Education	1/2
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts -- History and appreciation of visual and performing arts or another arts course that incorporates such content	1
Electives -- Strongly recommended: one or more courses that develop computer literacy	5
TOTAL CREDITS	22

*A student may substitute an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, or higher-level course within a program of study if the substituted course offers the same or greater

academic rigor and the course covers or exceeds the minimum required content.

Admission Status - Freshmen

All freshman students offered admission to NKU will be placed in one of two categories: regular admission or admission with conditions.

Regular Admission

To be granted regular admission an applicant must meet the following three conditions:

1. High school or equivalent completion as evidenced by:
 - a. A diploma from an accredited high school with a minimum cumulative high school GPA of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale (high school rank of top 60 percent will be accepted in lieu of the 2.00 GPA requirement).
OR
 - b. A general equivalency diploma (GED).
OR
 - c. Documented completion of an approved home school or distance learning high school program.
2. Satisfactory standardized test performance as evidenced by:
 - a. A minimum ACT composite score of 20 and minimum English, mathematics, and reading subject scores of 18.
OR
 - b. A minimum SAT composite score of 940 (combined mathematics and critical reading scores) and minimum subject scores of 430 in writing, 430 in mathematics, and 450 in reading.
OR
 - c. (For applicants 21 years of age or older) A minimum COMPASS score of English 70 or higher, mathematics 35 or higher, and reading 81 or higher.
3. Completion of the Kentucky Pre-College Curriculum (waived for applicants 21 years of age or older).

Admission with Conditions

Admission with conditions may be granted to a limited number of students who do not meet all criteria for regular admission.

1. Conditionally admitted students are required to take placement test(s) and enroll in any required developmental courses during their first year.
2. Students who are granted admission with two or more academic deficiencies are assigned to the Academic Advising Resource Center (AARC) as undeclared majors. AARC advises students regarding their academic plan and refers students to appropriate support programs. The students may have a limited course load for their first semester. The limited course load and mandatory academic support may be continued if a student is not in good standing after his or her initial semester.

Some applicants with two or more academic deficiencies could be placed on a waiting list to have their files reviewed by an admissions committee. A limited number of wait-listed students with the strongest academic record may be offered admission if there is space remaining in the freshman class.

Students Denied Admission

Applicants who are denied admission are encouraged to complete 24 semester credits of coursework at a regionally accredited institution or one with which NKU has an articulation agreement, and successfully complete all required

developmental academic work prior to applying as a transfer student.

Admission Status - Transfer Students

Transfer applicants are prospective students who have graduated from high school and have previously attempted coursework at another regionally accredited college or university for credit (other than college credits taken while in high school).

Potential transfer students who have a **GPA of at least a 2.00** from a regionally accredited institution and who have **24 or more transferrable credit hours** must submit the following:

1. An online application form* (<http://apply.nku.edu>).
2. A \$25 nonrefundable application fee**.
3. Official transcripts from each college attended.

*Applicants may submit a paper application, but they will be assessed a \$40 application fee.

**See the section on Application and Enrollment Fee Policies later in this chapter for information on fee waivers and fee exclusions.

NOTE: Effective September 1, 2011, a \$40 fee will be assessed for both online and paper applications.

Potential transfer students with a **GPA of at least 2.00** and **fewer than 24 transferrable credit hours** must supply the following credentials; applicants are evaluated based on the freshman admission standards.

1. An online application form* (<http://apply.nku.edu>).
2. A \$25 nonrefundable application fee**.
3. Official transcripts from each college attended.
4. Official and final high school transcript or GED scores.
5. ACT or SAT or COMPASS test scores.

*Applicants may submit a paper application, but they will be assessed a \$40 application fee.

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Potential transfer students **with less than a 2.00 GPA** may apply but are not guaranteed admission to NKU. They must adhere to the following deadline dates and submit all required application materials. Their applications are reviewed by a committee, and decisions of the committee are final.

Fall applicants	July 1
Spring applicants	November 1
Summer applicants	April 1

1. An online application form* (<http://apply.nku.edu>).
2. A \$25 nonrefundable application fee**.
3. Official transcripts from each college attended.
4. Official and final high school transcripts or GED scores.
5. ACT or SAT or COMPASS test scores.
6. A letter of appeal.

*Applicants may submit a paper application, but they will be assessed a \$40 application fee.

**Fee waivers are possible. See the section on Application Fee Waiver Policy later in this chapter.

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Regular Admission - Transfer Students

To be considered for regular admission, transfer applicants must have a 2.00 GPA.

Admission with Conditions - Transfer Students

Admission with conditions may be granted to a limited number of transfer students who do not meet all criteria for regular admission.

1. Conditionally admitted students may be ineligible to declare a major.
2. Conditionally admitted students may be limited to a 12-credit course load for their first semester.

Advising and Registration of Transfer Students

Once admitted to NKU, transfer students will receive a full transfer credit evaluation applying NKU's policies on transfer credit which are given later in this catalog. A completed transfer credit evaluation report shows which courses have been accepted and how each course will transfer to NKU. Once the student receives this report, the student is ready to meet with an academic advisor who will answer questions such as what courses are needed for the student's chosen major and how the transfer work will apply to the student's general education, major, and minor requirements. Academic advisors also assist students with course selection for registration.

Kentucky Postsecondary General Education/Framework Transfer Agreement

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and other Kentucky public institutions developed and approved the Kentucky Transfer Policy to facilitate student progress toward graduation and to ease the transition between state institutions within Kentucky. Under this agreement, students who complete a general education category at a Kentucky public institution from which they are transferring will have that category fulfilled at NKU.

In addition to general education, the Baccalaureate Program Transfer Frameworks identify 12 hours of coursework in specific majors that may be successfully transferred. Each framework has a specific guide to the exact courses that a student needs to follow. Students should work closely with advisors at their home institutions to ensure they are taking framework courses for transfer to NKU. For more information regarding this policy, students should contact Office of Transfer Services within the Office of Admissions at 859-572-5220.

Articulation Agreements

Northern Kentucky University has established formal articulation agreements with a variety of colleges and universities. These agreements facilitate the transfer of credits to NKU and specify how the credits will contribute to satisfying general education or other degree requirements. Students should alert their academic advisor if they have completed a program that is governed by a formal, approved articulation agreement between their prior institution and NKU. For specific information, contact the Office of Transfer Services within the Office of Admissions at 859-572-5220.

Placement Testing

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education has established the following college readiness standards for all incoming freshmen and transfer students with fewer than 24 semester credits. Failure to meet one of the standards constitutes a deficiency.

Students who do not meet the college readiness standards are required to take a placement test in every area in which the standard is not met. Placement tests must be taken prior to orientation and registration in any course at NKU. Each

placement test can be taken only once. Students register for placement tests online.

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Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education College Readiness Standards	
ACT Scores (After October 1989)	College Ready Score
English	18 or higher
Mathematics	19 or higher
Reading	20 or higher
SAT Scores	College Ready Score
English	430 or higher on Writing OR 450 or higher on Critical Reading
Mathematics	460 or higher
Reading	470 or higher
COMPASS Scores	College Ready Score
English	70 or higher
Mathematics	41 or higher
Reading	84 or higher

Students with an academic deficiency are required to enroll in all necessary developmental courses during their first two semesters at NKU. Developmental courses do not contribute to the credits required for graduation and will not be calculated in the GPA. The following developmental courses are available:

Developmental Literacy Courses

ENGD 080: Writing Lab	1 credit
ENGD 090: Writing Workshop	3 credits
RDG 091: Reading Workshop	3 credits
RDG 110: Critical Reading	3 credits

Developmental Mathematics Courses

MAHD 090: Basic Mathematical Skills	3 credits
MAHD 091: Elementary Geometry	3 credits
MAHD 094: Essential Algebra (Part III)	1 credit
MAHD 095: Essential Algebra	4 credits
MAHD 099: Intermediate Algebra	3 credits

Students must complete their developmental courses prior to completing 45 credit hours at the 100 level or above. Students who do not remove their academic deficiencies by the time they complete 45 credit hours will not be permitted to continue enrollment at NKU. Students may take courses at another institution to meet their academic deficiencies and then return to NKU to finish their degree. More information about the developmental program is available online.

NOTE: Some college-level courses have a prerequisite that is higher than the CPE college readiness standards and could result in a student needing a developmental course(s). Additionally, some academic programs or courses may require higher ACT/SAT/COMPASS scores as prerequisites to enter those programs or courses.

Readmission Applicants

Readmission applicants are undergraduate students who have previously attended NKU but have not been enrolled during the previous 4 years. Graduation requirements for readmitted students will change to the current year's catalog (catalog of record). Applicants for readmission should submit the following:

1. Online application form *(<http://apply.nku.edu>).
2. \$25 nonrefundable application fee**.
3. Official transcripts from each college attended since leaving NKU.