



FRESHMEN

Survival Guide

NU McSA presents

The **Muslim**
guide to surviving
Northwestern



Preview of
Welcome Week

Halal Bites
on campus

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NOTE: VIEW THIS ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE:
<http://groups.northwestern.edu/mcsa>

EDITOR'S *Note*

Building a community

Salaam and Welcome! First and foremost, congratulations on your admission into Northwestern University! On behalf of the Muslim-cultural Student Association (McSA), we are very excited that you will be joining the Northwestern community this year. This packet is your survival guide. It will help you navigate these first few hectic weeks on campus and the weeks beyond. Officially, the primary goals of our student group are to increase awareness of Islamic culture at NU and to provide an Islamic environment for Muslim students. To do this, we strive to:

1. Present Islam to Northwestern students and promote discussions that lead to peace and understanding.
2. Foster unity among McSA members, and other students, faculty members, administrators and organizations by coordinating events.

3. Promote Islam's basic values of community, equality, justice, mercy, compassion, and most of all, peace.

Besides these goals we host a number of formal and informal community bonding activities like picnics, trips to the beach, and excursions for ice cream.

McSA is your family at NU. We'll take care of you when you're sick, we'll entertain you when you're bored, and we'll stick it out with you in the library when you pull your first all nighter. Even before we meet you, we know that you're somebody we'll be friends with and someone we'll come to love in the upcoming years. We'll never let you down.

So welcome to Northwestern, your home away from home. We think you'll come to find that it's one of the best places in the world.



Northwestern McSA members put together care packages for a local women's shelter

EVENTS



Wildcat Welcome Week

To help you survive one of the most hectic weeks of your college career, McSA has compiled a schedule of events just for you. During this time, we wish to welcome you into our community. From shenanigans to older siblings to advice, we hope you will come out and join us at any or all of the following events.

Moving In

Your assigned older sibling along with other McSA members will help you move in, give you a special care package from all of us and answer any of your questions!

Enjoying Evanston

After dark, we'll take you exploring the streets of Downtown Evanston. From grabbing some coffee at Kafein or catching a movie at Century 12 Theaters, you'll learn the best spots to escape campus and relax in the local community instead.

Some Sisterly/Brotherly Bonding

At some point, you'll be contacted by your Big Sister/Brother to lunch or hangout! We're here to answer any questions, help you get adjusted, and get to know y'all more.

Game On

One night, we'll get together in the Multi-Cultural Center (MCC) for a Game Night. Show off your competitive side as we play board and card games, feast on a late-night grub, and enjoy each other's company.

Eat, Pray, Love

McSA will host its weekly Juma'a in Parkes Hall 122. Then on Tuesday, we will have some delicious burgers from Mr. Broast as we have a Welcome Picnic on the Lakefill.

Other Shenanigans

Join us in cheering on our football team at the game, screaming as we ride roller coasters at Six Flags, and more! Many of us are on campus before school begins, so we'll be enjoying all the fun stuff Wildcat Welcome has planned.

EVENTS

Executive Board Meetings

The exec board meets on Sundays at 9 pm in the MCC. Times are announced per quarter. All constituents are welcome to attend and contribute.

General Body Meetings

GBMs are held once a week on Thursday evenings. This will be a chance for you to interact with other members of McSA and enjoy speakers, social events, and snacks!

Juma'a

Friday prayers are held in Parkes Hall Room 122 (as soon as you walk in) from 1:15 to 2pm (we know you have class, so we keep it short).

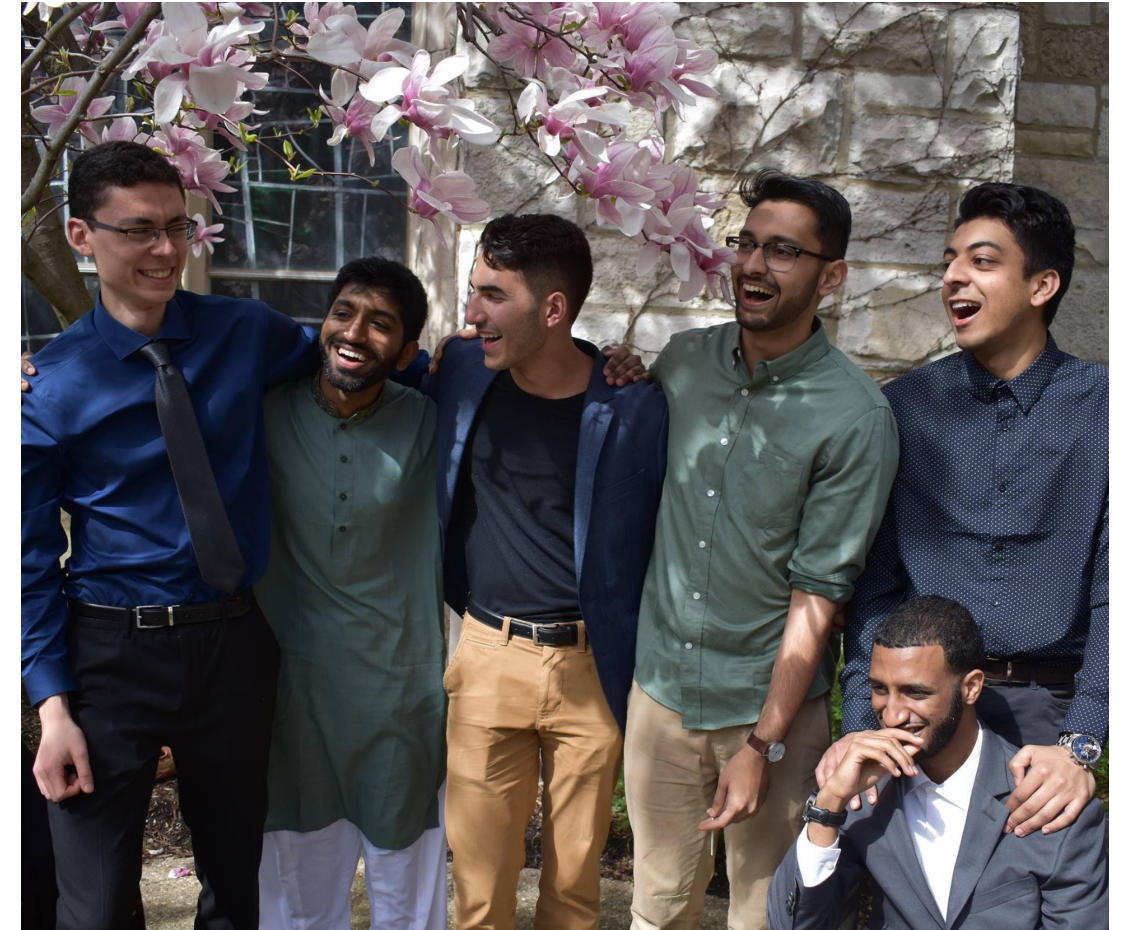
For those of you with conflicting classes or engagements, there are alternative times to pray at the MCC. Contact Deen if you have this problem, as we make accommodations based on your schedule.

Discover Islam Week

Every year, we designate a specific week as Islam Awareness Week. During DIW, we serve hot chocolate on campus, have booths with Islamic trivia and pamphlets, and hold daily firesides for the Northwestern community.

Quarterly Speakers

Every quarter we host a speaker who discusses topics relevant to the Muslim community, as well as the greater Northwestern and Chicago communities. In the past we've had speakers like Riz Ahmed and Bilqis Abdul-Qadir.



MEMBERS

Executive Board

Co-Presidents

- Fidak Khan, Biology and History '19
- Jaafar Zaidi, Biologi 19'

Administrative VP

- Maie Zagloul, Communication Sciences and Disorders 19'

Executive VP

- Jihad Esmail, Economics and Computer Science 21'

External Relations

- Manal Mohiuddin, Biological Anthropology 21'

Public Relations

- Ali Abdullah, Political Science 21'

Treasurer

- Khalid Gazi, Chemical Engineering and ISP 21'

Secretary

- Abdur Qureshi, Economics 20'

ASG Representative

- Rahma Almajid, Communication Sciences and Disorders 21'

Membership

How to become a member

McSA is for Muslims and Non-Muslims interested in getting involved with the Muslim community at Northwestern. Anyone is welcome to join. See listserv information for details.

Our listserv: Deen

Deen is our mailing list (listserv) and our primary means of contacting the constituents of McSA. If you are not on Deen and would like to be informed about McSA activities/ join our organization, please contact numcsa@gmail.com.

There are also respective listservs for your class, for the sisters and the brothers, but you'll learn more about them when you get here! :)

How to become involved in McSA

McSA is one of the largest, most prestigious student groups on campus and we wouldn't be so without the help of constituents like you! You'll find many opportunities to get involved, particularly during our main events.

We also have committees for each executive member. For instance, PR committee takes care of advertising. If you'd like to get involved with anything specific, email the respective chair or Deen. Don't be shy! We strongly encourage you to come out to our events and make them your own!

McSA on Social Media

McSA is also available to you through Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. If you wish to attend an event and need more information, check out our Facebook. All of our social media will contain advertisements for our large events such as Discover Islam Week.

Twitter: @NUMcSA

Facebook: Northwestern University Muslim Cultural Students Association

Instagram: numcsa

LIFE

Where We Live

On Campus

Hobart House: 630 Emerson Street
Hobart is a women's residential college on campus. You will meet a few female Muslims here! It's located in the middle of the sorority quad.

Allison Hall: 1820 Chicago Avenue
A newly renovated co-ed dorm where some freshmen and sophomore McSA guys and girls choose to live.

Lincoln Hall: 560 Lincoln Street A North Campus co-ed dorm where a few McSA guys and girls live. With lounges and plenty of space to study and hang out.

Off Campus

The Haus: 643 Library Place
The Haus is where most of the upperclassmen Muslim boys live. It's traditionally a place where guys are welcome to chill, eat, crash, and relax no matter the time.

The Villa: 1901 Sherman Avenue
A few of the apartments where the upperclassmen girls live. Come relax, study, eat, and chill with your sistaz!



McSA Office and Prayer Spaces

Multicultural Center: 1936 Sheridan Rd.

Home to multicultural student affairs, the MCC is our base. The third floor hosts our office, a large prayer space as well as study rooms. We meet there to hang out, study, and pray. Typically exec meetings are held here as well.

NOTE: The MCC is open until midnight, although we are often there even after it closes, so feel free to come by whenever.

Norris Prayer Room

The University recently added another communal prayer space at the Norris student center. This prayer room is on the underground level across from Artica and the WildCard office. This space also has a wudu' station inside to help avoid the common "foot-in-sink" conundrum for those shy ablution-ers.

Parkes Hall Prayer Room

This space on the second floor of Parkes Hall is our oldest prayer space on campus. It's not large enough for lounging and the communal post-prayer gatherings that often occur, but for the quick before class prayer - this room will do the job!

Tech Prayer Room

Our newest prayer space on campus is located in room F328 in the Technological Institute. For all our folk who have most of their classes North campus (lookin' at you pre-meds and engineers) here is space for you!

LIFE



On Campus

All Dining Halls:

All dining halls now have zabihah options, with all chicken in dishes being zabiha, but also serving burgers, sliced gyro meat, and hot dogs. There will be at least two options available, but they'll vary at each dining hall. You will typically see many members eating at Foster-Walker, or Plex, because you'll get the most zabihah options possible. Simply go straight to the grill and request your halal food. The wait is along the lines of 10 to 15 minutes.



Off Campus

Olive Mountain:

A mediterranean restaurant in Evanston, just a few blocks away from campus. It takes about 15 minutes for them to prepare food, so call ahead.

Olive Mediterranean Gril (OMG!):

Another mediterranean restaurant in Evanston that serves in a Chipotle-like style. It's a quick and tasty and perfect for post-Juma'a lunch.

Devon Avenue:

This street is far enough that you need a car, but it's the holy grail of zabihah food, so go with the upperclassmen. You can also take the intercampus shuttle to the Sheridan/Loyola stop. Then stay there until Bus 155 comes to take you to the restaurant you want!

LIFE

Being safe on campus

Safety Tips:

Don't talk to strangers. Just Kidding! Everyone's going to be a stranger.... just watch out for the sketchy ones.

Don't walk alone at night. It's pretty safe, but we like to walk in groups. If you can't walk in a group, keep your phone out, even call someone else (perfect time to call home!).

Resources:

[SafeRide](#)

It's a great resource especially when it's cold. SafeRide cars drive you anywhere on campus and in the surrounding area from 7pm-3am. You just have to call ahead and wait until they arrive. When the weather's bad, the wait can be an hour, so make sure to plan ahead.

Shuttles

There is a number of various shuttles that run routes in and around the campus and even to the downtown campus. Check the shuttle website (shuttle.northwestern.edu), and you'll find a live shuttle tracker, schedules, and routes. You can download the new app!



LIFE



Course Advice

The number of courses, the variety, and the information piled on you can seem really overwhelming. Luckily, we're here to help!

NU has an excellent class rating system called CTEC's where you can see statistics on the course (difficulty, rating of teaching, etc.) and students' comments. Also be sure to ask the upperclassmen because they know their way around!

Buying Books

The price of books can add up, so buy your books soon and shop around. Below are some options:

[Norris Bookstore](#) (Ground Floor): You can find all your books here, but they'll be expensive.

[Becks Books](#) (716 Clark St.): Becks is a bit cheaper than Norris, but runs out quickly!

Online ([Amazon](#), [Half.com](#), etc.):

Buying online tends to be the cheapest option, but requires waiting for shipping. Try using Amazon student to get Prime (Two-day shipping) free!

Academics

DISCUSS

Frequently asked questions

Where are the dining halls?
Most large dorms have their own dining halls, but you can go to any dining hall on campus if you have a meal plan (which you will). Check out nucuisine.com for more details about dining halls, cafes, and the Norris food court.

Where's the student center?
[Norris](#) is our student center. It's located midcampus on the lake. Just walk all the way east past the library. It has a bookstore, Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, other eateries, and lots of space to lounge or study.

Where's the gym?
There are three gyms on campus: SPAC, Patten, and Blomquist. You can find more information about their hours and locations on Northwestern [Fitrec](#).

How do I get involved in other organizations?

At the beginning of the year there will be an activities fair where most student groups have booths. Be sure to check it out and put your name on

the listservs you're interested in. It's that easy!

What's there to do in and around Evanston?

Go to sporting events. They're all free! Check out [Evanston](#) for restaurants and shopping. We're also only a [train](#) or [shuttle](#) ride away from downtown Chicago. Be sure to go! And don't forget, we live on the beach!

Where can I get everyday essentials?

You can buy some things in the convenience stores at dining halls (c-stores). They can be pricey though, so check out [Target](#) and [CVS](#), which are only a block from campus. There's also a [shop-and-ride shuttle](#) on Saturdays that takes you to nearby stores like Walmart.

How do I get around / use public transportation?

Most people walk around campus, but it's always nice to have a faster means of travel when you're in a rush, so consider bringing a bike, skateboard,

scooter (don't worry, we won't judge), roller blades, whatever you have that has wheels.... that will get you to class on time.

Northwestern has an [intercampus shuttle](#) (previously mentioned). Take it to class or all the way to our downtown campus! It's free (but you need your wildcard)! You can also travel downtown using the Union Pacific North [Metra](#) or Purple Line [CTA](#) ('L').

What if I need to see a doctor?

There's a health center on campus. [Searle Health Center](#) is located across the street from Hobart at 633 Emerson St. They're usually open from 8:30 - 5/6 depending on the day. They also have an after hours physician if you need it. See <http://www.nuhs.northwestern.edu/evanston/default.aspx> for details.

Should you need to be taken to the hospital. Call 911 or Best Taxi (847-864-2500) which will take you for free if you show your wildcard. They will take you to [Northshore Hospital](#), about a mile off campus.

Where can I buy Northwestern apparel?

The places that sell books! [Norris book store](#) and [Becks](#) sell NU attire, as does [Campus Gear](#).

Where can I study on campus?

There are two libraries on campus. The [main library](#) is on south campus, near Norris. There's also a [library in Tech](#). (Also be sure to check out [Deering](#), the original part of the main library. It

looks like Hogwarts... seriously.) The Starbucks at Norris (aka Norbucks) can be a great place to work if you're writing a paper or doing some chill work (WARNING: DO NOT TRY TO STUDY HARDCORE HERE).

The [MCC](#) is always a good place to study because there are three floors of study rooms and lots of Muslims who have and are taking the same classes you are.

You can always study in an empty classroom in any building on campus. Usually they're easiest to snag in the evening.

Your room! Believe it or not, it's often overlooked. And always remember: pajamas + studying = WIN.

Weather permitting, you can study outside by the lake, in Deering field, outside dorms and campus buildings, or in the courtyards around the library and Tech (WARNING: DO NOT TRY TO STUDY HARDCORE HERE).

What about my questions that weren't answered here?

Don't be nervous! You can come up to any of us and ask anything. We don't bite. Also be sure to use resources like your Peer Advisor (during Welcome Week), Community Assistants (who are in charge at the dorms), and professors. Everyone has a wealth of information to share and really want you to have a great experience at Northwestern!

DISCUSS

Advice from Alumni



Umber Waheed

"Say yes to trying anything and everything (in moderation). Try exploring whatever may intellectually stimulate you - so don't take classes for the A. Make spontaneous memories! Remember your iman, nurturing it and developing it throughout your journey at NU. Lastly, remember a good time isn't a good time unless your friends are there to enjoy



Imane Ridouh

"Try making a schedule and sticking to it. Whether it be praying 5 times a day or going to the gym every morning, dedicating consistent time to activities that you care



Narmeen Khan

"Try taking classes that count as distro/major/etc. requirements but that are also interesting! My most memorable classes have been ones that were enjoyable but that also did not make me feel too guilty for taking up unnecessary 'space' in my class schedule (there are obviously many exceptions to this, especially if you're still deciding on a major). That being said, you'll hopefully have plenty of time to take totally random and fun classes your senior year so don't sweat it!"



Husam Khatir

"Make sure to take a wide variety of courses your freshman year. A lot of people may come in having already decided their whole careers and then realized too late that it's not something they're passionate about."



Athif Wulandana

"Don't be afraid to reach out to upperclassmen and the alumni network within McSA! If you're having issues with your major or choosing a career path, chances are that someone has had the exact same problem as you. We're here for you!"



Zain Shaikh

"Don't listen to those who tell you to take easy classes for the easy grade. Although maintaining a good GPA is important, remember to have a balance, ensuring that you are taking classes the interest and challenge you."

"My advice to you would be a few points. Throughout your time at Northwestern, I suggest that you don't waste your time by making sure you are always doing something, don't compare yourself to others as everyone progresses at different rates, don't divide the McSA into cliques as that can cause enmity between people, make to be exercising regularly, and, finally, it's great to be a part of the McSA but make sure you have additional hobbies as well."-Anonymous

DISCUSS



Contact Info and Resources

[Canvas](#)
[Caesar](#)

good advice. Call them.

Northwestern has many resources on campus for academic support including tutoring, professors' office hours, peer-led study groups, AMP (Academic Mentoring Program), and GSW (Gateway Science Workshop).

McSA

numcsa@gmail.com
abdurqureshi2020@u.northwestern.edu

There are also resources for students that come from low-income and/or first generation backgrounds. These resources can include anything from financial aid for technology to studying abroad to the dues for groups on campus. Students can reach out to the Student Enrichment Services office by emailing them at enrichment@northwestern.edu or by calling at 847-491-5591.

SafeRide

847-491-7000
check twitter or the app for wait time: [@saferidewait](#)

[NU Shuttle Schedule \(shuttle.northwestern.edu\)](#)

NUPD

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 847-491-3456

Maps

[Northwestern](#)
[Evanston](#)
[Chicago](#)

Professors

Talk to your professors. They design the classes they teach and are an invaluable resource. Many of our professors are well-known, well-versed in their respective fields and will be most willing to talk! They really are some of the most interesting people you'll meet during your time here.

- [SES Website](#)
- [Compass: Peer-Mentor Program](#)

Northwestern's Financial Wellness Office has some really great strategies for getting your textbooks for classes [here](#)

Mom and Dad : (INSERT PHONE NUMBER HERE)

You'll be busy, but they love you. And believe it or not, they have a lot of



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