

**INFORMATION FOR MASTER DEGREE STUDENTS**  
**IN MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**  
**2024-2025**

### **Nondiscrimination Statement**

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, or any other classification protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates. Harassment, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on any of these characteristics is a form of discrimination. Further prohibited by law is discrimination against any employee and/or job applicant who chooses to inquire about, discuss, or disclose their own compensation or the compensation of another employee or applicant.

Northwestern University complies with federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination based on the protected categories listed above, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX requires educational institutions, such as Northwestern, to prohibit discrimination based on sex (including sexual harassment) in the University's educational programs and activities, including in matters of employment and admissions. In addition, Northwestern provides reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants, students, and employees with disabilities and to individuals who are pregnant.

Any alleged violations of this policy or questions with respect to nondiscrimination or reasonable accommodations should be directed to Northwestern's Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, [equity@northwestern.edu](mailto:equity@northwestern.edu).

Questions specific to sex discrimination (including sexual misconduct and sexual harassment) should be directed to Northwestern's Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165:  
[TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu](mailto:TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu).

A person may also file a complaint with the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights regarding an alleged violation of Title IX by visiting:

[www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html) or calling 800-421-3481.

Inquiries about the application of Title IX to Northwestern may be referred to Northwestern's Title IX Coordinator, the United States Department of Education's Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, or both.

September 3, 2024

Dear Incoming MS Graduate Students,

Welcome to our Department!

This booklet is prepared to aid you in your educational endeavors. Please read it carefully and be aware of the requirements and responsibilities described. The information supplied herein is more specific than that in the Graduate School's [Academic Policies and Procedures](#). You should also familiarize yourself with the general regulations of The Graduate School. We also invite you to peruse [our department website](#) for more information about the [services](#) and [resources](#) available to you.

We hope your stay with us will be a most rewarding and pleasant experience. I look forward to getting to know you and working with you. Faculty and staff are always available to help you with problems and to discuss your life at Northwestern. Please feel free to come in to see me.

Mark Hersam  
Professor and Chair

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## INFORMATION FOR MS GRADUATE STUDENTS

Welcome to the Materials Science and Engineering Department. Please keep and refer to this booklet throughout your tenure as a graduate student. Every effort has been made to anticipate your questions. You are responsible for knowing this material!

### I. ADVISING

Professor Yip-Wah Chung serves as the MS program Director and advisor to MS students. Make sure you attend the new student orientation and schedule time to meet with the MS Program Director before the online course registration for new students.

### II. MS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Courses

The MS degree requires a total of twelve advanced (graduate level) 300 and 400 level courses. Eight of the twelve must be advanced MSE courses, of which 5 must be 400 levels, not including Mat Sci 499. The remaining four courses may be in other science or engineering disciplines. One unit of Mat Sci 499 (independent projects) may be taken to enhance your research experience. Classes must be taken for a grade rather than pass/fail. Our department course offering for the current academic year is shown at:

<https://www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/materials-science/academics/courses/>

Other McCormick departments have analogous listings on their websites.

The Department provides \$750 to each student enrolled in MatSci 499 to support his/her research. These expenses are to be charged to specific department accounts. Please contact the department business administrator Marilyn Hall ([mhall@northwestern.edu](mailto:mhall@northwestern.edu)) to obtain such account numbers. Students in this program are not eligible for financial support such as research assistantship or tuition support from the department.

#### B. Part-time Students

Part-time students may study for the MS degree in Materials Science and Engineering. Responsibility lies with the student to be aware of modified residency requirements and other conditions described by the Graduate School:

<http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academics/academic-services/index.html>

### III. GENERAL INFORMATION

#### A. Pass/No-Credit Option

Students working toward an MS in Materials Science and Engineering may not use courses taken on a P/N basis to satisfy course requirements.

## B. Academic Honesty

Students are strongly advised that originality is essential in all laboratory reports, term papers, exams, etc. associated with graduate work. Students are required to do their own work. Ideas, data, or word-for-word quotations taken from other sources (including the work of fellow students) must be appropriately referenced; otherwise, plagiarism will have been committed. The following statements should help define what is meant by "appropriately referenced":

- a. All ideas, data, mathematical expressions, and word quotes taken from the works of others should be clearly and directly referenced to the original author. This is best accomplished by listing a reference number after the material with the numbered references appearing at the end of the manuscript. The following format is also acceptable:

"The equation can be derived following the approach of Jones<sup>33</sup> as follows ..."

- b. Word-for-word quotes must have quotation marks at the beginning and end and be referenced in the manner described above.
- c. Photocopied figures should be referenced as described in a. above.
- d. Redrawn figures or plots made from other people's table of data can be appropriately labeled "after Smith<sup>43</sup>".
- e. Each person should receive proper recognition for contributions made.

Special note: group collaboration on homework assignments is at the discretion of the professor. Unless otherwise stated, students are expected to turn in their own original work.

In accordance with Graduate School regulations, "All cases of alleged academic dishonesty involving students of The Graduate School are to be referred by members of the faculty to the Dean of The Graduate School" as well as the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies of McCormick. **A student found guilty of academic dishonesty, e.g., copying a sentence from a paper in his/her report or term paper without citation, runs the risk of failing the course or being dismissed immediately from the graduate program.**

*On Being a Scientist* by the Governing Board of the National Research Council is available at:

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/12192/on-being-a-scientist-a-guide-to-responsibleconductin>

Northwestern's Office for Research Integrity policies are available online at:

<http://www.researchintegrity.northwestern.edu/research-misconduct/>

These two documents discuss ethical standards in the scientific community. Students should be familiar with the contents of these two documents. The Department expects the highest levels of integrity from students and faculty.

### **C. Student Support and Conflict Resolution**

The department has designated the following representatives as points of contact to interact in a confidential manner with students who have concerns as they arise:

Professor Mark Hersam, Department Chair  
Professor Kathleen Stair, Assistant Department Chair  
Marilyn Hall, Department Business Administrator

Students who may benefit from support due to personal difficulties or interactions with persons outside the department are encouraged to contact any of the above representatives for guidance to appropriate university counseling resources. Students who have concerns arising from personal interactions within the department should raise said concerns as early as possible with any of the above representatives. We encourage students with a personal conflict to first attempt to resolve the conflict by speaking directly with the other party. If the student is not comfortable doing so for any reason, or the student is not sure whether there really is a “problem”, Kathleen Stair and Marilyn Hall serve as confidential, non-research faculty points of contact. If a problematic situation is identified, and the student agrees, the Department Chair will be informed of the situation and the plan to address the conflict. If at any time the student feels that his or her concerns are not being understood or addressed, he or she may contact the Department Chair directly.

### **D. Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages**

Consumption of alcoholic beverages, except at official departmental functions, is incompatible with sound safety and work-place practices and is therefore unacceptable. We expect our students to abide by Illinois laws concerning all controlled substances.

### **E. Student's File**

Each student has an electronic file in the Graduate Student Tracking System. It contains application materials, approved study programs, grades for completed courses, current address, phone numbers, etc. In accordance with Government regulations, a student is allowed access to his/her file. Educational records cannot be released to any outside agency without the student's written consent.

### **F. Change of Address**

The Department Office must be notified of any change of address. Students may change their addresses in CAESAR.

The US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) requires every international student or scholar to report a change of address within 10 days of the move. It is critical for F-1 and J-1 students to update their addresses in CAESAR immediately upon their relocation. For J-1 and H-1 scholars, they will need to inform the international office as soon as possible. All F-1 students, J-1 students and scholars, and H-1B scholars will also need to complete a change of address form (AR-11) available on the USCIS website at: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). Failure to do so will be a violation of their F1 or J1 status and could result in severe consequences for them and their dependent(s)!

### **G. International Students**

Upon arrival, all international students must register immediately with the International Student Office, 630 Dartmouth Place, Evanston Campus, who will provide advice and assistance on all matters concerning visa renewals, etc.

### **H. Colloquium Series**

The Department organizes, at considerable expense, the colloquium series in materials science and engineering. Its primary purpose is to broaden the education of each student by bringing to campus the leaders in our field. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

### **I. Safety**

Although the University and faculty project advisers strive to maintain a safe environment, students must continually be vigilant regarding safe laboratory practice and equipment. No amount of information and training can replace common sense on the part of the experimenter. If you are uncertain about the safety of a procedure, contact your lab instructor or 499 research advisor. If this is still not resolved, please notify the MS Program Director.

The department has taken a number of steps to help provide a safe environment for your research. Each incoming student is given a copy of the Cook Hall Emergency Plan, which describes the building's alarm system and evacuation procedures. You must read this material carefully and retain it for future reference. Safety glasses and appropriate clothing must be worn at all times when carrying out experiments in the laboratory or the shop. Safety glasses are available through the Office of Research Safety. Handbooks of dangerous materials and lists of biohazardous/carcinogenic chemicals are available from Research Safety in Tech NG71. Attendance at department safety meetings is required.

Special safety procedures apply to the Instrument Shop. Students are encouraged to use certain shop equipment only when they are familiar with the equipment.

Students are not to enter the office of a faculty member at any time when the faculty member is not present, and students may not be in the Department Office after normal working hours, generally 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.



### **J. Computer/Design Labs**

Computers are available for individual use in the Bodeen-Lindberg Materials Design Studio in Tech C115 and the teaching lab in Cook Hall. Access is generally limited: classes and MSE undergraduates are given first and second priority use of the machines. The room may be unavailable during lab periods. These facilities are intended for academic use only. New students are assigned a user ID based on their NU net ID. Other individuals who require access may submit their request to the lab/studio manager, Prof. Kathleen Stair. Do not add or delete software or hardware to these computers. Access to the lab is by an access code for a numeric pad (Tech C115). Please do not share the access code with non-MSE people.

### **K. Mail Service**

Mail is delivered once a day to the Department Office, usually in the early afternoon. Your larger packages will be held in the front of the office, while standard envelopes are kept in the wall-mounted mail slots (alphabetized by last name) in the office hallway.

**We strongly encourage you to send all mail to your personal address as we receive excessive amount of paper mail to the department office which can lead to mailings being lost.** Use of the University mailing address for personal mail is not allowed by NU regulations. The outgoing US mail basket in the office is for university business only.

### **L. Photocopying, Copy Cards, and Faxing**

Copy cards for use in copying machines at the library are available through the Wildcard Office or at Seeley Mudd Library. Photocopying services are also located at Norris Center and 2020 Ridge for large orders. A fax machine is located in the Department Office. International faxes require an access code. See the department for personal faxes.

### **M. Automobile Regulations**

The University Police Parking Division controls the NU parking lots. Students requiring a sticker that will enable them to park in the various University parking lots should obtain an application from the Parking Office located at 1841 Sheridan Road, Evanston (open Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.). Applications are issued upon presenting your University I.D. card, driver's license, and payment of a fee. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.northwestern.edu/up/parking>

For your information, all students who park cars on campus are required to register the car with the Parking Office. Bicycles should also be registered.

**N. The Materials Science Student Association (MSSA)**

The MSSA was established in 1960 as the Student Chapter of ASM/AIME. Jointly with the undergraduates' Materials Science Club, it is an official student chapter of ASM and TMS-AIME. The officers serve as liaison to the Faculty and Department administration in representing the students' interests. They also organize various social and professional activities throughout the year. Students are automatically members and are encouraged to participate. For international students, the club provides valuable interaction for the development of English proficiency.

**O. U-Pass**

All full-time students will receive a U-Pass, which allows unlimited rides on the CTA. Information about use of the U-Pass and distribution dates is available at:

<https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/campus-life/housing-transportation/u-pass.html>

**P. Bike Riding and Skateboarding**

For safety reasons, bike riding and skate boarding are prohibited in the corridors of Tech and Cook. In addition, bikes may not be stored in labs or in public spaces in the building.

## APPENDIX: Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Courses and Minors

Q. What are the course requirements of the MS program in materials science and engineering?

A. The program requires 12 courses: 8 must be in materials science and engineering (MSE), and 4 can be any 400- or advanced 300-level courses from science or any engineering departments. Of the 8 MSE courses, 5 must be 400-level lecture-taught while the other 3 can be any 400- or advanced 300-level courses.

Q. How do I know if a specific 300-level course qualifies as an advanced course?

A. The 300-level course should be given by a science or engineering department at Northwestern and must be listed in the Graduate School catalog, as noted below:

<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/courses-az/>

Q. I took a course from another university two years ago equivalent to one of the advanced 300-level courses listed in the Northwestern Graduate School catalog. I now feel that I need a refresher. Can I take such a course at Northwestern, and have it counted towards my MS degree requirements?

A. No, you cannot.

Q. Can I take courses outside of engineering to satisfy my MS degree requirements?

A. You can enroll in as many as four courses from mathematics or any science departments (physical and bio sciences).

Q. I heard that there are opportunities to have minors. What are the possible minors?

A. There are several minor/certificate programs available to MS students: entrepreneurship, engineering management, scientific computing, and predictive science and engineering design. Please go to the respective websites to obtain more details about these programs and application forms. It is your responsibility to check if your chosen minor can be accommodated within the 12-unit course requirement of the MS program, or if you need to take additional courses beyond 12 units.

Caution: You must get approved for the minor program first before taking the required courses. You may not receive the minor certification by taking the courses and retroactively applying for the minor certificate.

Q. Where can I find information about courses given in a certain quarter?

A. Please check out the following link:

<https://www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/materials-science/academics/courses/>

Q. What should I do when the enrollment of the course I want to take is full?

A. Certain courses are very popular and are filled up very quickly. Therefore, when it is your turn to register, do so immediately. If the course is full and the registration software allows it, put yourself on the waitlist. For a course in our department, please contact the graduate program assistant (currently Willie James) to see if a permission number can be issued to you to enroll in that course.

Q. Can I obtain my MS degree by enrolling part-time?

A. Yes. The only requirement is that you must complete all course requirements in five years. Part-time study is not permitted for international students due to immigration restrictions.

Q. How long does a full-time student take to finish the program?

A. By enrolling in four courses per quarter, a student can complete the program in three quarters. Many international students entering in the fall quarter complete the MS program the following fall quarter. This timetable allows international students more time for research or opportunities to explore summer internships. With this strategy, the student enrolls only one or two courses in the final quarter. This less than full-time enrollment for international students is allowed in the final quarter.

Q. Do I have to pay full tuition when I enroll in one or two courses in the final quarter?

A. No. When you enroll in less than three courses per quarter, you pay tuition for each course.

Q. Can I take more than 12 courses?

A. You may, but only 12 will be counted towards your MS degree.

Q. What advice do you give a new MS student on doing well in this program?

A. Northwestern operates on a fast-paced quarter system. Each quarter lasts only 10 weeks. Things happen very quickly. There is no time to relax. You must keep up with coursework. If you don't understand anything during class, raise your hand and ask questions. Further, go to office hours hosted by the professor or teaching assistants if you want to clarify anything in the course, or seek help in solving homework assignments and in preparing for exams. Most exams require more than regurgitation of facts – they demand understanding of phenomena and principles. Form study groups. You will feel more connected and more secure. Grades are given on an absolute scale and not according to a curve. This means that helping one another to do well has absolutely no effect on your own grade. After all the heavy studies, do relax over weekends, quarter breaks, and holidays. It is good for the soul!

## **2. Research**

Q. Can I do a thesis or research?

A. There is no thesis option, as our MS program is lecture-course-based. However, you can still involve in research by enrolling in MSE-499 (Independent Studies) to work with faculty members on research projects that may interest you. A typical MSE-499 project continues for two or three quarters, although you will only receive one unit of credit. To enroll in MSE-499, please obtain the consent of a faculty research advisor in writing (an email is acceptable). Then contact the graduate program assistant to secure a permission number to enroll in MSE-499.

Q. Can I do 499 research with a professor in another department?

A. Yes, you can. In that case, your 499 course will have a non-MSE code and cannot be counted as one of the 8 MSE courses.

Q. Related to the above question, is there a way to allow registration of MSE-499 even though I will be working with a professor in a different department?

A. This is only possible if that professor has a joint, courtesy, or adjunct appointment in our department. One way to find out if the professor has an appointment in our department is to check the department website:

<https://www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/materials-science/people/faculty/>

Q. Does MSE-499 count as one of the five MSE 400-level courses?

A. No, it does not because the five MSE 400-level courses must be lecture-taught courses. It counts as one of the remaining 3 MSE course requirements.

Q. How is my MSE-499 graded?

A. Your faculty research advisor will decide the grade. Some advisors may require a report at the end of the project; some may not. Please have a detailed discussion with your research advisor on requirements and expectations for your MSE-499 project.

Q. Once I start the MSE-499 project, do I need to re-enroll in MSE-499 every quarter until the project is complete?

A. No. You only need to register MSE-499 once. Since it takes on average two quarters to complete the project, it is very likely that you won't finish the project at the end of the first quarter. Your research advisor will give you an incomplete grade (Y). When the project is complete, your research advisor will change the Y grade into a regular letter grade.

Q. How do I choose or find a research advisor?

A. Your first step is to find out from department webpages faculty research projects that may interest you. Once the project(s) and potential research advisor(s) are identified, you can approach the faculty research advisors directly. Alternatively, you can seek the help of the MS Program Director.

Q. Can I enroll in two units of 499?

A. No, you cannot. Only one unit of 499 can be counted towards the MS degree.

Q. Can I obtain paid research assistant positions with professors?

A. We do not have RA positions set aside for MS students. However, sometimes faculty members have paid positions for engaging in short-term research over the summer. For international students on F1 visas, please work with your international office advisors to apply for curricular practical training (CPT). To proceed with CPT application, they will need an offer letter that spells out the pay rate, duration of and work involved in this position. Please provide the same letter to the MS program director, since he/she is the one who officially endorses the CPT application.

Q. Although this is not related to research, can I obtain paid teaching assistant positions from the department during the academic year?

A. Yes. In that case, please let the MS program director know about your intent, who will then connect you with the appropriate instructor when such a position becomes available.

### **3. PhD Programs**

Q. If I want to apply for PhD either at Northwestern or elsewhere, what are the most important things I should have in my application?

A. Competitive PhD programs use grade point averages (GPA) as the initial filter. Therefore, it is imperative that you obtain excellent GPA. Admission officers also look for research potential and leadership or any unusual experience or qualities. The former is best measured by the inclusion of research experience description and/or publications in your resume, the latter by extracurricular activities as listed in your resume. Finally, please make sure you have at least two people who can write strong letters of recommendation on your behalf, highlighting your intellectual ability, research accomplishments, capacity to work well in teams, and display of leadership qualities, plus any other unusual attributes. If you enroll in MSE-499, a strong letter from your faculty research advisor will be very important.

Q. Can I transfer into the Northwestern MSE PhD program after completing my MS degree?

A. We do not have a formal transfer option. Instead, you can apply for admission to our PhD program. You will be evaluated along with the other PhD applicants without bias. You might have an advantage if you impress your faculty research advisor while conducting research at Northwestern.

Q. I heard a rumor about Northwestern not taking international students from the MS program into the PhD program?

A. The rumor is false. We do take our MS graduates into the PhD program. The rumor may have arisen from the fact that our PhD program is very competitive and that we admit a very small percentage of international applicants.

Q. Can I apply to the PhD program of another department at Northwestern?

A. Of course you can. There is no bias or restriction.

Q. As an MS student, I am planning to take a few MSE 400-level courses that are also required for all MSE PhD students at Northwestern. If I get admitted to the MSE PhD program at Northwestern, do I need to repeat taking these courses?

A. No, you don't. Courses taken as an MS student at Northwestern will be counted towards the PhD course requirements.

### **4. Visas, Internships, and Graduation**

Q. I am an international student. Can I extend my stay after I have completed the MS program?

A. Your student visa is only valid for 15 months, and as an international student, you must be enrolled full time (i.e., enrolling in 3 or 4 units) except for the last quarter of study. To stay beyond

the initial 15-month period after completing the MS degree, please work with your International Office advisor to apply for the optional practical training (OPT) extension.

Q. Can I take a paid internship position during the summer as an international student?

A. Yes, if the internship is related to your degree curriculum. In this case, please inform the Director of the MS Program and work with the International Office advisor to apply for curricular practical training (CPT), so that it can be approved by the Director of the MS Program as soon as possible after you accept the internship offer.

Q. Does Northwestern provide help for MS students to look for jobs or internships?

A. Yes, we do. The McCormick Career Development provides a full range of services, from how to put together a resume and conduct an interview to alerting students of job fairs and career opportunities. See, for example, the following weblink:

<https://www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/career-development/programs/internships.html>

This office also puts weekly announcements in front of the first-floor entrance to Tech (the engineering school building). It is important that you take the initiative to explore these opportunities and services.

Q. What are the career paths of your MS graduates?

A. The majority (2/3) of MS graduates continue as PhD students at Northwestern or elsewhere, while others (1/3) obtain full-time jobs or internships in the US or overseas.

Q. What paperwork must I submit to obtain the MS degree after completing all course requirement?

A. There are two graduation dates: June and December. Regardless of when you wish to graduate, all you need to do is to submit the application-for-degree form before the Graduate School deadline for each graduation date. That's it!

Q. Do I have to attend the graduation ceremony to obtain my MS degree?

A. No, you do not have to attend the graduation ceremony to obtain your MS degree. However, if your work or travel schedule allows it, we would strongly encourage you to attend the June graduation. It is festive, and you will have lots of fun and fond memories.

Q. My parents wish to attend my graduation ceremony, and they require visas to visit the US. Can the department provide an invitation letter to my parents to apply for visa?

A. Yes, of course. Just provide the names of your parents and their contact information to the graduate program assistant. We will generate an invitation letter as soon as possible.

## **5. Coming to Northwestern**

Q. What is the typical size of the MS class?

A. It varies from year to year and averages to between 20 and 30 students per class.

Q. How should I prepare myself before coming to Northwestern?

A. If you are an international student, please apply for the student visa right away. For all students, the most important action item is to look for housing (unless you are local). Northwestern has weblinks for off-campus life and housing information as shown below:

[Off-campus life information](#)

[How to Find Housing - International: Off-Campus Life - Northwestern University](#)

For courses you are likely to take, you may want to do some background studies so that you will be fully prepared by the beginning of the academic year. Next year's course offerings should be available by early summer and can be accessed from:

<https://www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/materials-science/academics/courses/>.

Finally, you may wish to read a travel article or two about Evanston and Chicago and check out some YouTube videos about sightseeing in Chicago to learn more about the neighborhood.

Q. May I approach potential 499 faculty research advisors before my arrival at Northwestern?

A. Yes, you may. Identify yourself as a first-year MS student, describe your background, and provide your application file to the potential faculty research advisors. In this way, they can determine the fit between your background and the requirements of the available research projects.

Q. How is the weather in Evanston and the greater Chicago area?

A. The weather in Evanston and Chicago is typical of Northeastern Illinois: quite pleasant from spring to summer and fall and cold in the winter. The warmest month is July with average high of 85°F and low of 68°F; the coldest month is January with average high of 33°F and low of 20°F (based on weather data from 1991 to 2020). Chicago is called the Windy City, not necessarily because it is windy; rather, it describes the attributes of some city politicians. Lake Michigan has a moderating effect on the local climate of lakeshore communities like Evanston, making them a little bit warmer and perhaps snowier in the winter and a little bit cooler in the summer.

Q. How is Evanston as a community?

A. Evanston is a college town with a population of about 75,000. It is a safe and diverse community with lots of parks, shops, grocery stores, and restaurants of almost any ethnicity. There are plenty of hiking trails and bike paths to explore the outdoors. Public transportation around town and beyond is convenient. In addition, Northwestern University provides free campus shuttles for travel in Evanston and to/from Chicago. Evanston is only 30 minutes from the O'Hare International Airport by private car, Uber, or Lyft. You can fly nonstop to almost any major city in the US and the world from O'Hare.

Q. Is Chicago safe?

A. When traveling to any large city around the world, we should be street-smart and avoid certain parts of the city, especially late night and alone. Chicago is no exception. With that as precaution, you should feel perfectly safe to enjoy the ambience of the Magnificent Mile, cruise up and down the Chicago River and into Lake Michigan, stroll around downtown Chicago and its beautiful lakeshore parks, and explore museums, hiking trails, and various ethnic neighborhoods.