



Admission at Northern Illinois University through **McKinley "Deacon" Davis** **CHANCE Program**

Northern Illinois University's Educational Services and Programs (ESP) is a comprehensive, coordinated collection of counseling, academic preparation, and support services designed to assist students in preparing for entry into and ultimate graduation from college.

Mission. The guiding mission of CHANCE is to identify, recruit, admit, and assist otherwise capable students whose pre-college education has not fully enabled them to take maximum advantage of their potential and the opportunities of higher education at NIU.

Freshman Admissions. A freshman applicant is defined as one who, at the time of enrollment at NIU, will have graduated from a recognized high school or have attained a high school equivalency through the General Educational Development (GED) test and will have attempted or earned no more than 12 semester hours of college credit. Freshman admission to NIU through CHANCE is available only to Illinois residents in the fall semester who attend target high schools or participate in certain academic programs or who are veterans of the U.S. armed services. For a complete listing of schools and programs please visit our website at www.chance.niu.edu.

Transfer Admissions. Each year CHANCE sets aside a limited number of admission slots for academically disadvantaged transfer students who have earned between 13 and 23 transferable college credits. The transfer applicant must have attained at least an overall college grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 (C) on a 4.00 scale, as computed by NIU standards. In addition, the applicant must have completed at least two of the four NIU core competency courses, preferably mathematics and English, and must have passed each core course with a grade of at least a C (2.00 on a 4.00 scale), as computed by NIU standards. Transfer admission to NIU through CHANCE is available only to Illinois residents in the fall and spring semesters who graduated from a target high school or participated in certain academic programs or who are veterans of the U.S. armed services. For a complete listing of schools and programs please visit our website at www.chance.niu.edu.

Admission Criteria. Students who demonstrate strong motivation and

potential for success in college but who do not meet one or more of the traditional criteria for admission to NIU may be considered for alternate admission using the services of ESP. Beyond the ACT and high school transcripts, CHANCE looks for characteristics such as special talents, significant activities and accomplishments, leadership potential, personal commitment, and goal orientation. Admission can thus be extended to students who agree to conscientiously make use of ESP and related university services as a means to ensure success at NIU.

McKinley "Deacon" Davis

August 3, 1932 – March 20, 2003

Mr. Davis, affectionately known as "Deacon", a basketball star at Freeport High School and the University of Iowa (where he earned a B.A. in 1955), was a member of the Harlem Globe Trotters from 1955 to 1957. During his travels across the country, he studied the conditions of U.S. high schools in the inner-cities and began to envision what one day would become the CHANCE Program.

In 1968 former NIU President Rhoten Smith hired Deacon to establish the CHANCE Program to recruit, retain, and graduate educationally disadvantaged students. He was the Director of the Program until 1978 when he became Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Assistant to the President until his departure from the University in 1983.

The CHANCE Program has welcomed more than 15,000 students to NIU, thousands of who graduated and continued their education to become doctors, lawyers, professors, teachers and other professionals who make positive contributions to society.

NIU President John Peters announced in May 2003 that he had changed the Program's official name to the Deacon Davis CHANCE Program.

Services provided. CHANCE (Counseling, Help and Assistance Necessary for a College Education) and ACCESS (Access to Courses and Careers through Educational Support Services) provide a full array of supportive and enabling services: personal, academic, career, and financial aid counseling; registration assistance; developmental academic courses; peer mentoring programs; and a high school-to-college transition course.

The ACCESS-PAL (Peer Assisted Learning) component offers tutoring by upper division and graduate students. ACCESS also offers course support services through the Supplemental Instruction (SI) component.

The Student Support Services component, a federally funded TRIO program, provides additional support services: academic counseling and tutoring.

Admission Procedures

March 1st 2009 is the priority deadline for admission applications. However, we are constantly reviewing completed applications and most of our decisions are made before March 1st. We receive approximately 2,200 applications annually, and only 500 students will be enrolled for fall 2009.

An admission file is complete and ready for review when the following items have been received:

- 1. A Northern Illinois University application for undergraduate admission,** which we encourage you to submit online, is available at www.admissions.niu.edu. Applicants are required to submit a \$30 (US) non-refundable application fee. This fee may be waived in the case of extreme economic hardship. Fee waiver form is available with online application or upon telephone request.
- 2. An official high school transcript with current class rank.** Upon the applicant's request, the high school will send the transcript to NIU. No faxes will be accepted.
- 3. Official ACT scores.** The ACT registration packet is available at your high school guidance office. The NIU ACT code is 1102. No faxes of score reports will be accepted.

<i>ACT Registration</i>	<i>ACT Testing</i>
<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Sept. 19, 2008	Oct. 25, 2008
Nov. 7, 2008	Dec. 13, 2008
Jan. 6, 2009	Feb. 7, 2009

4. Personal Statement. The personal statement is your opportunity to tell the CHANCE staff about yourself. Beyond your high school transcript and ACT scores, you have a lot you can share that you think is important for the staff to know. What are your goals and career interests and what has encouraged you to consider these goals and career interests? What successes have you experienced? In what academic areas have you experienced the most success and why? What are your academic strengths and weaknesses? If you have any low grades or attendance problems, please explain them. Why have you chosen NIU and the CHANCE Program? Personal statements may be mailed or faxed to (815) 753-1929. Be sure to include applicant's name, address, and birthdate.

5. Documentation of disability. If you are a student currently receiving accommodations, submit documentation from a qualified professional verifying your diagnosed disability. For immediate review please submit your Individual Education Plan (IEP), although alone the IEP may not be sufficient documentation.

Processing Your Application. Once your admission file is complete, it will take no longer than six weeks to process. If you have any questions, please feel free to telephone CHANCE toll-free (in Illinois only) at (800)892-3050. If that line is busy, you may reach CHANCE by dialing its direct line, (815) 753-0201 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Also, please feel free to write if you have any questions. Once you have submitted an application with payment or waiver, you can check the "To Do List" at www.myniu.niu.edu.

After reviewing the admission file, the CHANCE staff will determine those applicants ESP can best serve. Those applicants and their parents will be invited for an interview. Interviews are held weekly, both on the NIU campus and in Chicago.

Any documents to be mailed to NIU can be sent to: CHANCE Program
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2854

Students who are parents . . .

- o To locate and reserve childcare and housing it is imperative to start the search process now. For a DeKalb/NIU resource listing visit www.chance.niu.edu/SingleParent.html
- o To apply for or transfer your Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) benefits while at NIU you will need to find a job. For on-campus student employment information call (815) 753-1394.

University Expenses

Below is a breakdown of a typical student's expense budget for the 2008-2009 academic year. These costs are subject to change for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Tuition and fees, based on Illinois resident rate for 16 credit semester	\$ 8,930.00
Health insurance (can be eliminated with proof of insurance)	700.00
Room and board	8,344.00
Required expense for the year	\$17,974.00
Estimated additional expenses:	
Books and supplies	\$ 1200.00
Transportation	500.00
Personal/miscellaneous	1,625.00
Total budget	\$21,300.00

(Please note that some courses may charge extra fees for equipment and materials.) The room and board figure represents the average cost for a double room in a high-rise residence hall with a Basic Gold Meal Plan.

Students who are in need of financial aid must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.FAFSA.ed.gov and submit it online for processing.

By completing the FAFSA, students will be applying and considered for the following federal and state awards.

- o Federal Pell Grant
- o Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
- o Federal Work Study
- o Federal Perkins Loan
- o Federal Stafford (subsidized and unsubsidized) Loans
- o Illinois State Monetary Award Program (MAP)
- o Illinois Incentive for Access (IIA)

The above grants and loans are awarded on the basis of financial need. Evaluation and determination of need is primarily based on family income and assets, number of people in household and in college, and any untaxed income (food stamps are not included).

Financial Aid Requirements

The priority filing date for completing your financial aid application is March 1st 2009. Those students who apply for financial assistance by March 1 will receive first consideration. **After March 1, applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis,** as long as funds are available.

To apply for financial aid at NIU, you **must** complete and submit the following form as directed.

The 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), It is highly recommended that you complete the FAFSA online at www.FAFSA.ed.gov for the FASTEST SERVICE. A paper FAFSA may also be obtained from any high school, college or community college in your area. NIU will receive your FAFSA information electronically. You will be contacted by e-mail if you need to complete additional forms.

NOTE: It is highly recommended that you complete the FAFSA form as soon as possible after January 1, 2009.

Additional forms and information required for processing applications will not be returned; therefore, make sure you keep your original(s). Make sure the student's name and social security number are printed across the top of all additional information submitted.

University Billing

Following admission, orientation attendance and registration for classes, you will be able to **VIEW** your account and bill on your MY NIU page. The bill will include tuition, fees, health insurance, room/board charges and any related fees. This bill will be sent to student's NIU e-mail account approximately one month before the due date. The MY NIU and NIU e-mail accounts should be checked regularly for bill and financial aid information.

Any financial aid that has been **accepted** will show on the bill reducing the amount owed. Bills can be paid online by the student with a credit or debit card. The bill will be due in full 7 days prior to the first day of classes. A late fine will be added if bill is not paid in full by due date. Please check the FAQ section on the Bursar web page <http://www.niu.edu/bursar> for more information about billing.

Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin, disability, status based on the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA) or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran. Further, the Constitution and Bylaws of Northern Illinois University provides for equal treatment regardless of political views or affiliation, and sexual orientation.

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