



# GOLD RUSH

SEPT. 2024

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## GO FIGURE

FALL SEMESTER 2024

15,000+

Students

49

States

47

Countries



### NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES DIRECT ADMIT

Northern Kentucky University is the first public university in Kentucky and the region to offer direct admission.

NKU modernized the college admissions process through Direct Admit, which launched in August 2024. It's important to note that NKU did not change its admissions criteria. Rather, the university simplified the admissions process and removed a series of traditional application barriers for students and families.

"The introduction of Direct Admit reflects NKU's commitment to fostering an inclusive learning environment by removing barriers to higher education," says Dr. Ryan Padgett, associate provost for strategic enrollment planning and student success for the university. "By simplifying the admissions process - including removing the application and application fee - and offering a transparent pathway to enrollment, NKU hopes to empower students from all backgrounds to pursue their academic aspirations."

This means that high school seniors with a GPA at or above a 2.75 will be directly admitted into NKU. No application or application fees are required. High school seniors with a GPA between 2.0-2.749 are still eligible to enroll at NKU. These students will complete an abbreviated application and receive an admissions decision within a couple of days.

"Direct Admit is another example of how NKU is supporting our students and families within the region," says NKU President Cady Short-Thompson. "By offering direct admission to qualified students, we are leading the region and Commonwealth of Kentucky in what it means to be a higher education university in the 21st century."

**LEARN MORE:** [nku.edu/directadmit](https://nku.edu/directadmit)

## COLLEGE CORNER

NKU plans to renovate and expand the Dorothy Westerman Hermann Science Center this fall. The addition will add 85,400 square feet of teaching and research space. The university will break ground on Oct. 31, 2024, and construction is expected to take 30 months.





## NKU SOPHOMORE SARAH OGDEN MAKES FIRST-EVER U.S. WOMEN'S CYBER TEAM

Northern Kentucky University sophomore Sarah Ogden has been selected to represent the United States on the inaugural U.S. Women's Cyber Team. The team will compete in global cybersecurity competitions while serving as ambassadors and influencing future generations with inspiration, mentorship and guidance. Ogden is one of 12 women chosen for the semi-pro esports team, and will travel to Tokyo in November to participate in a special women's cyber games exhibition, the Kunoichi Cyber Games, at the 2024 Code Blue Conference. Sarah says making the team is a big accomplishment, one that she never imagined she would achieve.

"For me, it's about being a representative and a role model for young women and girls who think cybersecurity is too hard," Sarah says. "This is a field that's attainable. I didn't think that I could do it, but because I can, someone else can too."

The U.S. Women's Cyber Team is an extension of the U.S. Cyber Games, whose mission is to inspire new generations to achieve higher levels of competencies in cybersecurity. The U.S. Women's Cyber Team's purpose is to empower women to showcase their talents, represent the United States on the world stage and stand as role models for girls who dream big. **LEARN MORE:** [tinyurl.com/nkuogden](https://tinyurl.com/nkuogden)



## THE SCOREBOARD

It was a historic day on July 17, 2024, in Highland Heights as Northern Kentucky University head coach Steve Kruse announced the addition of a combined 41 new student-athletes to the men's and women's cross country and track & field programs at NKU ahead of the highly anticipated 2024-25 campaigns. It is the largest incoming class for the program in school history.

**LEARN MORE:** [tinyurl.com/nkustrackfieldcrosscountry](https://tinyurl.com/nkustrackfieldcrosscountry)

## BRIEFS

### NKU BOARD OF REGENTS ELECTS NEW CHAIR VICE CHAIR

The Northern Kentucky University Board of Regents announced the election of Nathan Smith as chair, Kara Williams as vice chair and Ashley Himes as secretary in July. The board also welcomed Lucy Burns as the new student regent for the upcoming school year. Additionally, Cori Henderson and Sandra Spataro were re-elected as staff regent and faculty regent respectively. The Board of Regents is the governing body responsible for overseeing the strategic direction and policies of NKU.

**LEARN MORE:** [tinyurl.com/nkuboardofregents2024](https://tinyurl.com/nkuboardofregents2024)

### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANTS NKU MORE THAN \$250,000 FOR PRIMATE RESEARCH

Northern Kentucky University has been awarded a three-year, \$257,596 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to conduct research on the effects of early life adversity on juvenile primates. Monica Wakefield, director of the anthropology and evolutionary studies programs at NKU and co-director of the Uaso Ng'iro Baboon Project (UNBP), will spearhead the research. The project will examine the development of social skills and timing of social patterns among baboons, and the impact of early life adversity on stress and social development.

**LEARN MORE:** [tinyurl.com/nkunsfwakefield](https://tinyurl.com/nkunsfwakefield)

## FACULTY FOCUS

Zac Strobl, director of Northern Kentucky University's Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and a professor of entrepreneurship, recently won the NKYP Next Generation Leadership Award in Education. The award, presented by the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, recognizes professionals under the age of 40 for their leadership ability, contributions to their field and community impact. Strobl, who has been at NKU for 12 years, co-founded and grew NKU's INKUBATOR, a pre-seed stage accelerator, into one of the country's top five university business accelerators.

**LEARN MORE:** [tinyurl.com/nkustroblaward](https://tinyurl.com/nkustroblaward)

### U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT AWARDS NKU GRANT TO EXPAND STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

The United States Department of State awarded Northern Kentucky University a \$35,000 grant as part of the Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students (IDEAS) program. NKU is one of 37 colleges and universities selected to receive the grant, which aims to develop institutional study abroad programs in support of U.S. foreign policy goals. The IDEAS grant will allow NKU to provide study abroad programs that will help future leaders build important cross-cultural relationships and develop relevant job skills.

**LEARN MORE:** [tinyurl.com/nkustudyabroadgrant](https://tinyurl.com/nkustudyabroadgrant)

### NKU AWARDED NEARLY \$300,000 FOR 5-YEAR STATEWIDE CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH PROJECT

Northern Kentucky University faculty and students will participate in a five-year, \$20 million National Science Foundation (NSF) project aimed at advancing Kentucky's climate resiliency. NKU is one of eight Kentucky institutions chosen to participate and will receive \$296,269 over the next five years to provide research opportunities in stream ecology and changes with climate, geography and land cover for undergraduates. This is a unique opportunity for students, as this level of research is typically conducted at the graduate level.

**LEARN MORE:** [tinyurl.com/nkunsclimatechange](https://tinyurl.com/nkunsclimatechange)

## ALUMNI NEWS

### NKU ALUMNA JOINS 30 UNDER 30 LOCAL CINCINNATI CLASS OF 2024



Jaeydah Edwards, the senior program director at Groundwork Ohio River Valley, was named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 Local Cincinnati List this year. The 2021 graduate of Northern Kentucky University has a bachelor's degree in biology with a focus on ecology, evolution and organismal biology. Edwards, 25, connects with Cincinnati residents—youth and adults—and educates the community on water quality, pollution hazards and green infrastructure. She is a 2023 NAEF CEE-Change Fellow and has helped raise more than \$600,000 in funding for Groundwork Ohio River Valley.

**LEARN MORE:** [tinyurl.com/nku202430under30](https://tinyurl.com/nku202430under30)