



Torch Can Change Lives. Torch Scholars Can Change the World.

About the Torch Scholars Program

Northeastern University's Torch Scholars Program is a bold and innovative endeavor that empowers students to put their ability and will to succeed into action. Each year, the program provides hardworking, first-generation college students with full scholarships and support from their peers and community. These students have persevered despite limited financial resources, challenging family situations, or unfavorable educational environments. While Torch candidates have not yet reached their full academic potential, they demonstrate great promise and would succeed at Northeastern with individualized academic support.

Program Support

Torch is dedicated to providing that support with:

- › A scholarship that covers tuition, campus housing, food, course materials, and fees for up to eight semesters of undergraduate study.
- › A four-week, comprehensive college readiness program held the summer prior to the first year of college.
- › Intensive academic planning and assessments, including a time-to-degree plan to help Torch Scholars graduate on time.
- › In-depth professional mentoring from staff, faculty, and alumni.
- › Student development workshops.
- › Designated community learning spaces with peer tutors twice per week.
- › One-on-one meetings with academic advisors to develop skills in self-advocacy, communication, study habits, and goal setting.
- › Social events to foster group identity and camaraderie.

Torch Scholars have the opportunity to participate in co-ops, service, global experiences, athletics, activities, and more, allowing them to explore their passions, expand their global horizons, and become stronger leaders. They form tight community bonds and work with other Torch Scholars and Torch alumni to succeed as a team.

"My advisors at Torch have guided me through academic decisions, offered valuable advice about college, and supported me through personal challenges as a first-generation college student. Torch has played a key role in helping me find my place and shaping my personal journey."

—MIRIAM KABA, BS IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION '28



Who Is a Torch Scholar?

Torch Scholars are game changers who work to make a difference within their communities. They show leadership in their jobs, at school, or through service to their communities and represent a variety of interests, backgrounds, and hometowns. Recognizing that a student's GPA may not tell the full story of their potential to succeed in college, we seek Torch candidates who have taken a challenging high school course load and have enrolled in college prep classes.

Candidates must be first-generation college students whose parents or guardians do not have a U.S. undergraduate degree or its equivalent. Students must be eligible for federal financial aid and demonstrate high need on the FAFSA.

What to Expect

All candidates for the Torch Scholars Program must submit their Common Application or Coalition Application, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), CSS Profile, and any required supporting financial aid documents to Northeastern University. A Torch nomination form must be submitted by a nonfamily member—such as a teacher, employer, or community leader—who knows the candidate on a personal level and is prepared to talk about the candidate's family responsibilities, motivation, and college readiness.

The selection committee will review application and nomination materials, then invite finalists to participate in an interview day.

Finalists receive their admission decisions by April 1.

Questions?

Visit torch.northeastern.edu for more information, including links to virtual events about the Torch Scholars Program and nomination process.

If you have further questions about the Torch Scholars Program or the application process, contact Jennifer Schoen, director of Opportunity Scholarship and Outreach Programs (OSOP) at 617.373.7705 or torch@northeastern.edu.

“Torch puts you on a more level playing field, giving you the opportunity to achieve what may have once felt out of reach.”

—FERDOSS IBRAHIM, BS IN BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE '26



Important Dates

January

Northeastern Application

All Torch applicants must complete the Common Application at commonapp.org or the Coalition Application at coalitionforcollegeaccess.org by Northeastern's Regular Decision application deadline of January 1.

Nomination Submission

Torch candidates must be nominated for the program by a nonfamily member who knows the nominee on a personal level. Go to torch.northeastern.edu to begin a nomination. Nominations will open by October 15 and are due by January 1.

Financial Aid Application

Applicants must submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and CSS Profile by the priority filing deadline of January 1 to be considered for the Torch Scholars Program, as well as other federal and institutional assistance for eligible U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

February

Finalists Notified

Finalists will be notified and asked to complete an assessment prior to their interview day.

March

Interview Day

Finalists will participate in an individual interview, group interview, math assessment, and faculty lecture in early March.

Decision Release

Torch finalists will receive their admission decisions from Northeastern by April 1.

The information contained in this brochure is current as of its printing (September 2025). The contents are subject to change without notification if there is a change in federal and/or state regulations and/or university policy.

Tuition rates, all fees, rules and regulations, and courses and course content are subject to revision by the president and the Board of Trustees at any time.