The National Name Exchange

Founded in 1976, the National Name Exchange is a consortium of over fifty nationally-known universities which annually collect and exchange the names of their talented and underrepresented ethnic minority students in an effort to increase the enrollment of traditionally underrepresented peoples in graduate education.

The Exchange seeks to increase the number of qualified minority students accepted into graduate school, improve student access to information on graduate school opportunities, work towards personalizing the recruitment effort by designating a National Name Exchange institutional representative to facilitate information exchange between the institution and prospective students; and assist graduate schools in identifying qualified minority candidates for consideration for graduate study.

How Students Benefit

Pursuing a graduate degree is often not a consideration for many underrepresented students—particularly those who may be first generation college students. By providing students easy access to information on the many graduate opportunities available to them, the NNE hopes that students will see graduate study as a viable goal. Here’s what student participants are saying:

- Participating in the National Name Exchange has really been valuable to me. It’s been an eye opening experience. It really feels good when top institutions contact you to let you know about their graduate programs. This has taught me not to limit myself when applying to graduate school and to aim for nothing less than the stars. —Participant, University of Maryland
- I am hearing from schools that I’m not sure I would have pursued otherwise, such as Harvard, Stanford, and Berkeley. —Participant, University of Florida

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

The National Name Exchange seeks to ensure that participating universities continue to identify a pool of qualified students who could be recruited to the graduate programs at member institutions and conduct activities consistent with the national efforts to increase the enrollment of traditionally underrepresented peoples in graduate education.

Arizona State University
Boise State University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Florida A & M University
Harvard University
Howard University
Miami University (OH)
New Mexico State University
Northwestern University
Oregon State University
Princeton University
Rutgers University
Stanford University
Texas A & M University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Idaho
University of Illinois, Chicago
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Kansas
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Nevada
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina
University of North Texas
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Southern California
University of Utah
University of Washington
University of Wyoming
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Tech
Washington State University
Washington University
Yale University

www.grad.washington.edu/nne
Institutional Requirements

Each institution participating in the National Name Exchange must demonstrate that it will be able to carry out the following functions which are required by the Consortium:

1. Institutions must offer Ph.D. programs.
2. Generate a list of qualified minority sophomores, juniors and seniors at the institution.
3. Return the information to the central collecting institution (the University of Washington) at the agreed upon time.
4. Devise a mechanism to successfully use the names supplied to the institution by the other members of the Consortium.
5. Identify someone who can serve as a contact person for students and faculty who desire information about the institution.
6. Provide a mechanism to assist students to make an informed decision regarding their graduate and professional careers.
7. Attend the annual conferences and pay annual membership dues.

Application and Nomination to Participate in the Name Exchange

Institutions wishing to participate in the Consortium may apply or may be nominated by any current member university. Applications are made in writing to the Chair of the Consortium, who informs the applying institution of the criteria used to evaluate applicants. All applications are discussed and voted upon by the entire body at the annual meeting.

The following criteria are used to evaluate applicants:

1. The institution should have both undergraduate and graduate programs of a quality comparable to those offered by the present member institutions and should offer qualities which would enhance the educational opportunities of the students at the member institutions. This is necessary if “true exchange” among institutions is to be maintained.
2. The institution must demonstrate and document how interest in increasing the enrollments of traditionally under-represented students is manifested on their campus. An expression of interest in the recruitment of minority students is not sufficient to warrant admission.
3. The representative of the institution should be a person in a position to make decisions that are honored and respected by the institution.

Frequently asked questions

What is the typical timeline for participation in the NNE?

In February, the University of Washington announces that a new Name Exchange cycle has begun, and provides member institutions information regarding collecting student information and submission deadlines. From March–June, student data is collected and entered into the Name Exchange database. Institutions provide students access to an online, password-protected form to enter their profiles directly into the database.

In late summer, the NNE recruitment cycle ceases, and the UW prepares the Name Exchange database and invites institutions to download the student lists to distribute student information to their graduate programs.

When and where is the annual meeting held?

Typically, the meeting is held in the month of April. The location rotates among member institutions, and is voted on the year prior.

Is there a member fee?

Yes. Currently, the membership fee is $600 per institution*.

Is there a limit to the number of departments at our institution who may use the Name Exchange data?

No. Your membership covers as many graduate departments/schools as you wish to share it with.

Who do I contact to inquire about membership?

You may contact the University of Washington’s Graduate Opportunities & Minority Achievement Program (GO-MAP), the NNE’s coordinating office, at nne@u.washington.edu or by calling: 1.800.524.9122.

www.grad.washington.edu/nne

*I originally was only looking at graduate schools in my state because it was easier and the idea was comforting to stick with what I knew. The information I received from other schools eased my mind that I could find other schools offering similar programs. —Student Participant, University of Michigan

* Subject to change.