

The University of Chicago Law School

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■ Introduction

Chicago graduates lead and innovate in government, public causes, academia, and business, as well as law. For this reason, Chicago aims not to certify lawyers, but to train well-rounded, critical, and socially conscious thinkers and doers. Three cornerstones provide the foundation for Chicago's educational mission: the marketplace of ideas, participatory learning, and interdisciplinary inquiry.

■ Enrollment/Student Body

Our students' chief passion is intellectual rigor. They have shown this passion through their academic success, and they exhibit signs of great professional promise. About 5,000 applicants seek approximately 190–195 seats in each incoming class. Chicago students come from more than 100 undergraduate institutions with degrees in nearly every discipline, and one in ten have graduate degrees. Many of our students have also had interesting and successful careers before law school.

■ Faculty

What distinguishes Chicago faculty is their devotion to both teaching and scholarship. This might seem a contradiction at first, but at Chicago, teaching and scholarship complement each other. Chicago professors blaze trails in legal thought, and their revolutionary ideas infuse classroom discussion with immediacy and excitement. Our professors write the books, draft the statutes, and decide the cases that students read at law schools across America. During the 2006–2007 academic year, our faculty will teach more than 170 courses and seminars at the Law School.

■ Curriculum

As a first-year student, you will take a core sequence covering five principal areas of the law: contracts, torts, property, criminal law, and civil procedure; a required interdisciplinary course called Elements of the Law; an elective; and a year-long course on research and writing. This curriculum familiarizes you with the basic principles of Anglo-American law, cultivates legal reasoning, develops writing ability, and introduces students to interdisciplinary approaches to the law.

In the second and third years, you can choose courses from the full range of Chicago's more than 170 classes. Generally, classes are small; more than 60 percent have fewer than 25 students in them. Additionally, in an average year, about one-third of the second- and third-year students take classes in other divisions of the university.

■ Special Programs

The Law School encourages interdisciplinary work. All students may take 12 hours of coursework anywhere in the university. Students may also apply for three formal joint-degree programs either at the same time they apply to the Law School or in their first year. They may also work with Law School and university staff to arrange concurrent degrees. Formal joint-degree

programs are with the Graduate School of Business (MBA, PhD), the Harris School of Public Policy (MPP), and the Committee on International Relations (MA).

The Law School is home to a wide variety of research programs. These programs provide excellent outlets for both the theoretical and empirical work of both faculty and students. In addition, these programs host conferences, publish working papers, and support journals. Centers currently at the Law School include the Center on Civil Justice, the Center for Comparative Constitutionalism, the Center for Studies in Criminal Justice, and the John M. Olin Program in Law and Economics.

The Law School is committed to making big contributions to topics of national interest—health care, animal rights, and immigration policy just to name a few. The Chicago Policy Initiatives encourage faculty members and students to work together, think hard about important social problems, and propose solutions. Current projects include the Chicago Judges Project, Chicago Project on Animal Treatment, and Chicago Project on Foster Care.

■ Clinical Opportunities

Housed in the Arthur Kane Center, our clinics involve more than 100 students each year in representing clients with real-world problems. The Mandel Legal Aid Clinic handles matters involving appellate advocacy, criminal and juvenile justice, employment discrimination, civil rights, housing, immigration, and mental health. The Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship assists aspiring entry-level entrepreneurs from low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The Law School also partners with outside agencies to provide additional clinical opportunities to our students.

■ Student Activities

About 40 percent of upper-class students serve on one of the three student-edited journals, the newest of which is *The Chicago Journal of International Law*. The Hinton Moot Court Board conducts a program in appellate advocacy for upper-class students, and first-year students participate in a moot court as part of the writing and research program. More than 40 student organizations provide opportunities for the exploration of legal specialties, affiliation with like-minded students, or networking within identity groups.

■ Career Services

Our career services office assists students with permanent and summer employment. Four professional career advisors counsel students in one-on-one planning sessions. Programs on types of practices and nontraditional careers are organized throughout the year for students. Graduates of the Class of 2006 took jobs in these areas: 72 percent joined law firms, 21 percent are clerking for judges, 5 percent are in government/public service, and 2 percent are in business. The top four destinations for our graduates are Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington, DC.

■ Location

Hyde Park provides Chicago students with the best of all possible worlds: a campus with a college-town atmosphere just a few miles from the downtown of a vibrant city. Hyde Park is a dynamic community with parks, museums, and multiple bookstores. The Law School is located at the southern end of campus, facing an expansive “front lawn” known as the Midway Plaisance. Surrounding the Law School are a tree-lined, diverse residential neighborhood, a sandy Lake Michigan beach, and two sprawling parks. The campus itself is a Gothic masterpiece where limestone buildings, built around tree-shaded quadrangles, sport gargoyles, ivy, and turrets. The Law School’s modern building promotes interaction among faculty and students, while the recently remodeled classroom wing enhances the learning experience.

■ Housing

A graduate residence hall, located two blocks from the Law School, is available to law students. Most rooms are singles with private baths. In addition, the university has plenty of single and married student neighborhood housing available. Many students choose to rent housing from private landlords. Buses run frequently throughout the surrounding neighborhood, providing transportation to and from residences and the Law School. Public transportation is easily accessible to other neighborhoods in Chicago.

Applicant Profile

We seek to create a community from among the best, the brightest, and the most interesting law school applicants. We do not believe that the LSAT and GPA alone provide us with sufficient information to evaluate an applicant’s likely

■ Admission

Each year we seek to create a community from among the best and brightest law school applicants. We want students who are intellectually curious, lively, collegial, and rigorous in their academic approach. We want students who will take their legal education seriously but not take themselves too seriously. And because we are preparing students to enter a multifaceted profession, we want multidimensional students with a wide range of talents, backgrounds, experiences, and accomplishments. We do not use indices, formulas, or cutoffs.

■ Financial Aid

Your Chicago legal education is an investment in your future. Because many students will not have sufficient personal resources to make this investment, Chicago provides generous financial aid. Approximately 50 percent of the students receive scholarships and most of these are supplemented if the student engages in public interest work during the summer after second year. The Law School also guarantees funding for students who work in public interest positions during their first year summer. After graduation, the Law School provides financial assistance to graduates who enter careers in public interest legal work through our generous Hormel Public Interest Program.

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