

RANK

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University of Chicago Law School



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Overview^{3,4}

The University of Chicago Law School occupies a unique niche among this country's premier law schools. Located on a residential campus in one of America's great cities, Chicago offers a rigorous and interdisciplinary professional education that blends the study of law with the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. Students, faculty, and staff form a small, tightly knit community devoted to the life of the mind. Learning is participatory. Chicago does not seek to impose a single viewpoint or style of thought on its students. Instead, the faculty exposes students to contrasting views, confident in students' abilities to choose their own paths.

The Law School was a product of an innovative spirit and a devotion to intellectual inquiry. The objective, in the view of William Rainey Harper, the first president of the University, was to create a new kind of law school, professional in its purpose, but with a broader outlook than was then prevalent in the leading American law schools. The aspiration of the new school was set by Harper's conception of legal education in a university setting: education in law "implies a scientific knowledge of law and of legal and juristic methods. These are the crystallization of ages of human progress. They cannot be understood in their entirety without a clear comprehension of the historic forces of which they are the product, and of the social environment with which they are in living contact. A scientific study of law involves the related sciences of history, economics, philosophy - the whole field of man as social being."

This animating philosophy has resulted in the Law School playing a leading role in legal education since its founding. Chicago was pivotal in almost all of the innovations made in legal education during the last century: the recognition of administrative law, legislation, and comparative law as legitimate fields of law study; the introduction of other disciplines into the law school curriculum and the appointment of faculty outside the law; the extension of the field of legal research from concern with the rules of the law to empirically oriented investigations of the legal system; and the broadening of the curriculum to include clinical as well as academic offerings.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁵

11.0:1

Admission Criteria⁶

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	166-172	3.67-3.95
Median*	170	3.90

The above LSAT and GPA data pertain to the 2013 entering class.

*Medians have been calculated by averaging the 25th- and 75th-percentile values released by the law schools and have been rounded up to the nearest whole number for LSAT scores and to the nearest one-hundredth for GPAs.

Admission Statistics⁷

Approximate number of applications	4271
Number accepted	836
Acceptance rate	19.6%

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades⁸

The grading scale at the Law School is as follows:

A	180-186
B	174-179
C	168-173
D	160-167
F	155-159

Law School grades are recorded as numerical grades.

Ranking

The Law School does not rank students. Students MUST NOT provide estimates of their class rank on resumes, in job interviews, or in any other context. A key on the back of the transcript provides information about the rolling percentage of students graduating with honors.

Grade Normalization Curve

Law School grades are recorded as numerical grades for many course offerings. The median grade in all courses and all seminars in which students are graded primarily on the basis of an examination must be 177. The median grade in all paper seminars, clinics, and simulation classes must be no lower than 177 and no higher than 179. Courses in which all students write papers,

as well as courses and seminars in which students have the option to write a paper or sit for an examination, must have a median of 177 or 178.

In the absence of any contrary statement, it is understood that a student's grade in a course will be based entirely upon the written examination or paper in the class. Professors may choose to add a class participation component to the grade.

A grade of 160 or above is required to receive credit in a course. J.D. students must attain a minimum cumulative GPA of 168 at the conclusion of each academic year to maintain satisfactory academic standing. Maintenance of satisfactory academic standing is a prerequisite to continuing study in the Law School as well as to graduating from the Law School.

Honors⁹

Honor	Criteria
Order of the Coif	Top 10% of class
Highest Honors	182 and above
High Honors	180.5 and above
Honors	179 and above
Kirkland & Ellis Scholars	For outstanding students

Awards¹⁰

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
Beale Prize	Best in each legal research/writing section
Barber Prize	Best contribution to law school's culture
Mandel Award	Best contribution to Mandel Legal Aid Clinic
Casper Platt Award	Best paper written by a student annually
Kirkland Scholar	Top 5% of graduating class

Journals¹¹

The **University of Chicago Law Review** publishes articles and book reviews by leading scholars along with comments written by students. In recent years, approximately 20% of the students in each first-year class have been invited to join The Law Review on the basis of either academic performance or excellence in an annual writing competition. Students may also join the staff during their second or third years under certain circumstances.

The **University of Chicago Legal Forum** is the Law School's topical law journal. Its student board annually publishes a volume of articles (by academics and practitioners) and Comments (by students) that focus on a single area of the law.

The **Chicago Journal of International Law** is the Law School's newest journal. It is a biannual student-edited journal that publishes short Comments and articles by students and scholars on matters of international law and foreign affairs.

Moot Court¹²

Hinton Moot Court Competition

The Hinton Moot Court Competition, named for Judge Edward W. Hinton (Professor of Law, 1913-36), is open to all second- and third-year students (except those third-year students who made it to the semi-finals during the previous year). The Moot Court Competition is conducted by the Hinton Moot Court Board, which is typically made up of semi-finalists and finalists from the previous year, under the supervision of the Office of the Dean of Students and the Faculty Moot Court Committee.

Moot Court participants advance through three rounds:

- The Fall Round
- The Winter Round
- The Spring Round

Other Moot Court Competitions

Students often participate in moot court competitions hosted by other law schools. Students may participate in outside moot court competitions, so long as they do not require the student participants to miss any classes or exams or otherwise interfere with their coursework.

Clinical Programs¹³

Second- and third-year students may obtain practical training through the Law School's clinical and experiential programs, in which students represent clients and engage in other lawyering roles under the supervision of full-time clinical teachers, faculty, and practicing attorneys. The Law School's clinical and experiential programs give students an opportunity to learn litigation, legislative advocacy, and transactional skills. The following are recent clinical offerings:

- Abrams Environmental Law Clinic
- Civil Rights Clinic: Police Accountability
- Corporate Lab Transactional Clinic
- Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project Clinic
- Employment Law Clinic
- Exoneration Project Clinic
- Federal Criminal Justice Clinic
- Gendered Violence and the Law Clinic
- Housing Initiative Clinic
- Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship
- International Human Rights Clinic
- Mental Health Advocacy Clinic
- Poverty and Housing Law Clinic
- Prosecution and Defense Clinic
- Young Center Immigrant Child Advocacy Clinic

Placement Facts¹⁴

Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$150,000 - \$160,000
Private sector - Median	\$160,000
Public service - Median	\$57,000

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	94%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	96.7%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates employed	Percentage
Law Firms	68.1%
Business and Industry	3.8%
Government	2.8%
Judicial Clerkships	16.9%
Public Interest Organizations	8.5%
Academia	0%
Unknown	0%

Externships/Internships

Externships¹⁵

As a rule, the Law School does not grant academic credit for student externships with entities outside of the Law School. The sole exception to this prohibition is for work undertaken through a student's participation in one of the Law School's clinical programs involving an outside agency (e.g., the Gendered Violence and the Law Clinic or the Prosecution and Defense Clinic). Law School students have nevertheless chosen to participate in externships with outside entities (the FBI, Cook County State's Attorney, judges, etc.) and found the experience worthwhile.

Internships¹⁶

Summer Judicial Internship Program

The Law School encourages students to intern with judges and the Office of Career Services administers a judicial internship program to help connect students with judges who are interested in having volunteer interns work for them during the summer. In recent years approximately 15% of the 1L class had participated in internships with a judge.

JD International Human Rights Summer Internship Program

Through its JD-IHR Summer Program, the Law School coordinates with international human rights organizations to host University of Chicago JD students for summer fellowships. It is very competitive

to become a Human Rights Summer Fellow and each potential host organization operates with distinct eligibility criteria. Many of the programs are research-based and involve a considerable amount of comparative legal research.

Student Organizations¹⁷

- American Civil Liberties Union
- American Constitution Society
- Amicus
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Association for High Seas, Oceanic, and Yachting Law (AHOY)
- Black Law Students Association
- Chicago Journal of International Law
- Chicago Law Foundation
- China Law Society
- Christian Legal Society
- Creative Writing Forum
- Criminal Law Society
- Dallin H. Oaks Society
- Defenders
- Disability Law Society
- Domestic Violence Project
- Energy Law Society
- Entertainment & Sports Law Society
- Environmental Law Society
- Federalist Society
- Food and Drug Law Society
- Global Issues Society
- GreenBooks
- Health Law Society
- Hinton Moot Court
- Human Rights Law Society
- Immigration Law Society
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- International Law Society
- Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project
- JD/MBA Association
- Jessup Moot Court
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Labor and Employment Law Society
- Latino/a Law Students Association
- Law and Economics Society
- Law and Technology Society
- Law of the Land
- Law Review
- Law School Democrats
- Law School Film Festival
- Law School Musical
- Law School Republicans
- Law Students Association (LSA)

- Law Students for Life
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Law Women's Caucus
- Law, Inc.
- Legal Forum
- Muslim Law Students Association
- National Lawyers Guild
- Neighbors
- OutLaw
- Public Interest Law Society
- Scales of Justice
- Securities and Investment Law Society
- South Asian Law Students Association
- Spring Break of Service
- St. Thomas More Society
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- The Edmund Burke Society
- Trivia Contest
- Vis Arbitration Moot Team
- Wine Mess
- Winston Churchill Gaming Society
- Women's Mentoring Program

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