Northwestern University School of Law

375 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611-3069
Phone: 312.503.3100 • Fax: 312.503.0178 • Email: admissions@law.northwestern.edu
Website: www.law.northwestern.edu

THE BASICS

Chicago’s first law school, founded in 1859, Northwestern University School of Law (or Northwestern Law) was originally named the Union College of Law; it was initially a department of what is now known as the Old Chicago University. The law school was incorporated into the Northwestern University system in 1891 and subsequently renamed. The school was accredited in 1923.

A major selling point of Northwestern Law is its location. Situated in the heart of downtown Chicago, students love the easy access to great nightlife, shopping, restaurants, museums and more. With the costs of studying at NU Law and living in Chicago, students can expect pay around $67,500 a year for tuition and living expenses.

Incoming class sizes at the school are about average with roughly 240 JD and JD/MBA students in each class. The school is also known for placing particular emphasis on the interview process, requiring all Early Decision applicants to schedule an interview and strongly recommending it to the rest. According to their admissions office, the reason for emphasizing the interview is quite simple. They consider the Northwestern Law system to be a diverse community and the interview process provides officers the ability to review candidates at a deeper level, also granting each applicant ample opportunity to shine. Northwestern’s reputation is recognized not only in Chicago and the Midwest but throughout the entire nation, with grads obtaining positions in major markets throughout the nation.

**Application deadline:** 12/1 (Early); 2/15 (Regular)
**Application fee:** $100
**Financial aid deadline:** 2/15

**Type of school:** Private
**Tuition and fees:** $49,444 (2010 - 2011)

**Admissions:** Rolling (decisions by the end of May)
**Acceptance percentage:** 18% (2009)
**Incoming class size:** 271 (2009)
**Early Action/Early Decision available:** Yes, binding*
**Part-time program available:** No

**GPA AND STANDARDIZED TESTS**

**LSAT 25th - 75th percentile range:** 166 - 172
**GPA 25th - 75th percentile range:** 3.40 - 3.81

TOEFL not required for international applicants.

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Letters of recommendation:** 1 required (more accepted)
**Required essays:** Personal statement
**Optional essays:** Diversity essay; “Why Northwestern?”
**Dean’s Certification:** None required
**Additional documentation:** Résumé (required); Evaluative Interview (strongly recommended)*

*Interviews are mandatory for Early Decision applicants.
Northwestern Law: The PowerScore Perspective

Fabulous faculty
Northwestern’s faculty credentials are quite impressive, with a reported 47% of full-time research faculty holding a PhD in a social science, the highest percentage seen in the nation’s top 14 law schools. With an unheard-of student-to-faculty ratio of 8.8 to 1, students appreciate that their professors are not only highly accomplished, but also readily available. Students consistently praise the level of attention received while matriculating at NU Law, paying particularly attention to the small class and section sizes and genuine commitment the school has to creating a truly personal experience for every student.

Work history payback
Many of the nation’s top law schools tend to attract a very similar student type—the fresh grad with an impressive GPA, LSAT score and little to no work experience. NU Law delves deeper by utilizing the interview process and encouraging students with unique life experiences, work history, ethnic and geographic diversity to apply. Their reasoning is quite simple; they have a commitment to training future leaders to impact the world and seek to create a rich learning environment where instruction comes from its faculty but also from one another.

Multiple program options
Students can go down the traditional JD degree path or opt for the school’s two-year accelerated JD degree option. In developing a partnership with the Kellogg School of Management (conveniently located around the corner from NU Law), Northwestern became the first university to offer a joint three-year JD/MBA degree. The joint degree program has become very popular, with 10% of the total JD student body enrolled in the joint degree program. Northwestern and Kellogg also offer several LLM programs and even a unique Executive LLM program for international professionals outside the U.S. by utilizing partnerships with the IE Law School in Madrid, Spain, KAIST Graduate School of Management in Seoul, South Korea, and Tel Aviv University in Tel Aviv, Israel. Regardless of the path chosen, students are guaranteed a diverse curriculum with the goal of producing a well-rounded graduate, capable of navigating the legal, business, and many international sectors.

Chicago!
An added bonus in attending Northwestern is the school’s location in Chicago, Illinois. Whether you enjoy the theater, shopping, unique architecture, dining, or sailing, Chicago has something to offer. Both native Chicagoans and transplants appreciate the perks of living in a major U.S., often comparing it to living in Manhattan, but are quick to point out its Midwestern charm, a quality sometimes lacking in other major cities. Northwestern Law’s buildings are situated on the corner of East Chicago Avenue and North Lake Shore Drive, overlooking beautiful Lake Michigan. While life in Chicago may sound idyllic, there are a few possible drawbacks to consider; high cost of living—often ranked in the top 5 most expensive U.S. cities, capricious weather—uncomfortably hot and humid summers quickly turn into brutally cold and seemingly endless winters—and legendary traffic congestion from the throng of tourists and commuters descending on the city each day. However, even with these potential drawbacks, Chicago is still a favorite American city and worth your consideration.

Exceptional reputation
Though located in the heart of America, Northwestern Law’s reputation has spread from coast to coast. The school’s reputation is strongest in the Midwest and if you plan on remaining in the region after graduation, job prospects should be quite good. However, if you’ve set your sights on the Northeast or West coast, NU Law’s reputation will still open doors. Recruitment statistics reveal how well-respected the Northwestern Law name truly is: 28.5% of recruiters are from the Midwest, 28.5% from the Northeast, 23% from the West, 19% from the South, and 1% from international sectors. Unsurprisingly, the majority of graduates settle in Chicago but university reports also show strong numbers in New York, Washington D.C., Boston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, and Denver.
Northwestern Law: The Numbers

ACCEPTANCE RATES
Full-time: 18% (952 of 5,205 admitted)
Part-time: N/A

GPA AND LSAT SCORES
GPA - 75th percentile: 3.81
GPA - Median: 3.72
GPA - 25th percentile: 3.40
LSAT - 75th percentile: 172
LSAT - Median: 170
LSAT - 25th percentile: 166

ENROLLMENT AND ETHNICITY
African-American: 34 (M); 33 (F); 8.2% of student body
American Indian: 3 (M); 5 (F); 1.0% of student body
Asian-American: 64 (M); 69 (F); 16.3% of student body
Caucasian: 278 (M); 199 (F); 58.6% of student body
Hispanic: 14 (M); 21 (F); 4.3% of student body
Mexican-American: 11 (M); 17 (F); 3.4% of student body
Puerto Rican: 2 (M); 3 (F); 0.6% of student body
International: 32 (M); 29 (F); 7.5% of student body
Non-Reported: 0 (M); 0 (F); 0.0% of student body

TRANSFERS (FIRST-YEAR) AND ATTRITION
Transfers in: 37
Transfers out: 6
1L attrition: 6 (0 Academic, 6 Other)
2L attrition: None
3L attrition: None

FINANCIAL AID
Merit aid available? Yes
Grants and scholarships available? Yes
Students receiving grants: 274, 35.1% of student body
Median grant amount: $20,000.00
LRAP program available? Yes
The school administers an extensive program of grants and scholarships, all of which are awarded on a combined basis of merit and financial need. These awards are available through endowed funds, gifts from alumni, and general funds from the University.

LIBRARY RESOURCES
Wireless network availability? Yes
Number of wired connections available: 236
Hours per week the library is open: 96
Study seating capacity inside the library: 630
Number of full-time professional librarians: 12

CAREER SERVICES
On-campus Career Services Office? Yes
Number of full-time career services staffers? 7
Career services specializations: Corporate law, judicial clerkships, alumni placement assistance, alternative/non-traditional careers, public interest
On-Campus Interview (OCI) program? Yes, in the fall (for 2L and 3L students), and winter (for 1L students)

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS*
Employment status known: 282, 98.8% of class
Employment status unknown: 3, 1.1% of class
Employed: 264, 92.6% of class
Pursuing graduate degrees: 6, 2.1% of class
Unemployed: 4, 1.4% of class

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT
Academia: 1, 0.5% of class
Business and Industry: 21, 8.0% of class
Government/Public Interest: 26, 10.0% of class
Judicial Clerkship: 30, 11.0% of class
Law Firms: 164, 62.0% of class

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION
Northwestern Law graduates are employed primarily in the Midwest (50%), and Northeast (31%), although the West (12%) and South (5%) of the U.S. are also represented.

Students employed in-state: 41%
Students employed in foreign countries: 0.8%
Number of states where students are employed: 25
Chicago is the biggest market for grads, followed by New York, Washington D.C., Boston, and Philadelphia.

ALUMNI NETWORK
The almost 10,000 Northwestern Law alumni are part of the 200,000+ Northwestern University grads all over the world. The law school provides its graduates with social and employment resources for life, and has “Alumni Societies” all over the U.S. and the world.

BAR PASSAGE RATES
First-time takers: 197 (87.82% reporting)
Average school pass rate: 95.96%
Average state pass rate: 90.34%
Average pass rate difference: 5.62%

Northwestern University School of Law
Northwestern Law: The School

Northwestern Law has a great deal of academic opportunities available to its students, including (as per the school’s website) “the country’s largest JD/MBA program,” an accelerated 2-year JD program, and an accelerated 3-year JD/MBA program. The school’s acceptance requirements have risen along with its reputation; it also now places greater emphasis on students’ post-collegiate work experience.

Incoming class size: 271 (2009)
Typical first-year section size: 65

CURRICULUM

First-year students must take Civil Procedure, Communication and Legal Reasoning I and II (what is often known as Legal Research and Writing at other law schools), Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, and Torts. 1Ls can also take 2 upperclass electives during the spring semester.

After the first year, the only mandatory class is Legal Ethics.

Students in the Accelerated JD program have the same curricular requirements as traditional JD students. As per the school’s curriculum description, “Students in the Accelerated JD program complete the same number of credit hours as traditional three-year JD students in five semesters over the course of two calendar years. While this faster pace means students have a more set schedule of classes, they also have the opportunity to select from the full-range of electives offered by the Law School.”

FACULTY

Student-to-faculty ratio: 8.8 : 1

Among Northwestern Law’s prominent faculty are:

Robert W. Bennett, constitutional law expert and Dean of the school from 1985 to 1995.
David S. Ruder, expert on securities regulation and corporate finance; former Chairman of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (1987-1989), and former Dean of the school (1977-1985).
John O. McGinnis, constitutional and international law expert; winner of the Federalist Society’s Paul Betor award.

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

CLINICS, PROGRAMS, CENTERS, AND PRACTICUMS: All practical opportunities at Northwestern are fall under the Bluhm Legal Clinic, which currently has seven centers and four programs. These include: Children and Family Justice Center, Small Business Opportunity Center, Center for International Human Rights, Center on Wrongful Convictions, Center on Wrongful Convictions of Youth, Roderick MacArthur Justice Center, Investor Protection Center, Fred Bartlit Center for Trial Strategy, Program on Civil Litigation, Program on Advocacy and Professionalism, Program on Negotiation and Mediation, and Appellate Advocacy Program. The school also has six practicums: Civil Government, Corporate Counsel, Criminal Law, Judicial, Mediation, and Public Interest.

STUDY ABROAD: The school has both summer and semester-abroad opportunities. Students can select their own summer abroad institution in consultation with the school. Semester abroad opportunities have been negotiated by the school with institutions in France, The Netherlands, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, Germany, Israel, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, and Brazil.

JOINT DEGREE: Northwestern Law offers students the opportunity to obtain a JD/MBA, JD/PhD, JD/LLM in International Human Rights, and JD/LLM in Taxation.

JOURNALS AND PUBLICATIONS


MOCK TRIAL AND MOOT COURT

Northwestern has both moot court and trial advocacy (mock trial) programs. Trial advocacy teams are organized by The Fred Bartlit Center for Trial Strategy (part of the Bluhm Clinic). Moot court teams are determined through participation in the mandatory 1L Arlyn Miner First-Year Program, as well as various other intraschool competitions. Teams also participate in national competitions.

• NOTABLE ALUMNI •

Northwestern Law has prominent alumni in many fields, most notably politics, government, and academia. They include: John Paul Stevens ’47, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1975 to 2010; Arthur Goldberg SJ ’30, Associate Justice of the United States Court of the United States from 1962 to 1965; Matt Ferguson ’92, President and CEO of Careerbuilder.com; Dawn Clark Netsch ’52, the first woman elected to constitutional office in Illinois, and first female Northwestern Law faculty member; Jerry Reinsdorf ’60, Chairman of the Chicago White Sox (MLB) and the Chicago Bulls (NBA); Ada Kepley LLB 1870, the first woman to earn a law degree in America; and Harold Washington ’52, the first African-American mayor of Chicago.
Compared to the majority of law schools, Northwestern Law has a slightly older student body. Although exceptions do exist, by strongly encouraging a few years of work experience prior to applying, it comes as no surprise that the student body tends to be a bit more seasoned. As such, many faculty and students assert that it all translates to a more focused, dedicated, and diverse student body.

The school and its faculty are focused on creating a learning community and ensuring that students connect with one another during their time together. This effort can most prominently be seen by the unique interviewing process. By attempting to get to know each applicant through face-to-face interviews, the school hopes to identify and offer admission to those individuals who demonstrate the unique qualities they look for and also possess the drive and focus necessary to succeed at Northwestern Law. After admission, the school continues to nurture its student body by arranging topic-specific lunches, school-sponsored trips, volunteer opportunities, and other school activities.

When it comes to the emphasis on work experience, students are in agreement; it diversifies and elevates the quality of classroom discussions. By bringing a unique and practical personal experience to the classroom, the students we spoke with said they felt many discussions made learning more enriching and they appreciated the ability to apply real-life experiences. The results are clear and simple. Alumni are quick to note that, come graduation, they felt better-prepared for life outside of the classroom than friends graduating from other law schools.

Overall, Northwestern Law is a great school to consider and will certainly provide students with a unique learning experience. By building a team-based and collaborative framework into the curriculum, it helps to create a familial bond between faculty and its students but also fellow students.

Northwestern Law: The Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In addition to moot court and journals, students can also join close to 40 student organizations at the school. Northwestern Law also has various other co-curricular and extracurricular activities that students can take part in, including the Owen L. Coon/James L. Rahl Senior Research Program, the Northwestern Law Colloquium Series (where faculty and students meet with leading outside scholars specializing in either constitutional theory or law and economics), The Center for Legal Studies (which brings together students and scholars interested in combining their study of legal issues with the methodology and perspective of social sciences or humanities), and the Northwestern Law Program on Negotiation and Mediation (in which students learn effective negotiation and mediation theory and skills through a series of courses and workshops).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS PROFILE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern Law looks for students that combine strong academic credentials with strong interpersonal, communication and teamwork skills, at least two years of post-collegiate, full-time work experience (although some exceptions are made every year for some students), and leadership potential.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The incoming class of 2012 was 44% female, and 56% male.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The class was composed of 43% students of color (although the student body as a whole is around 33% minority).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The average age at matriculation is 26.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The age range for the class of 2012 was between 19 and 41 (for the class of 2011, it was between 20 and 41).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98% of the class had at least 1 year of work experience, and 84% had two or more years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of the class hailed from the Midwest (31%) and Northeast (24%); the South (18%) and West (19%) were also represented. 8% of the class came from outside the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The school interviewed over 3,500 applicants in consideration for entry into the class of 2012. The school conducts these interviews “to assess personal as well as intellectual potential.” The interviewing program “focuses on such personal qualities as superior speaking and writing skills, judgment, and ambition.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Northwestern Law: The Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In addition to moot court and journals, students can also join close to 40 student organizations at the school. Northwestern Law also has various other co-curricular and extracurricular activities that students can take part in, including the Owen L. Coon/James L. Rahl Senior Research Program, the Northwestern Law Colloquium Series (where faculty and students meet with leading outside scholars specializing in either constitutional theory or law and economics), The Center for Legal Studies (which brings together students and scholars interested in combining their study of legal issues with the methodology and perspective of social sciences or humanities), and the Northwestern Law Program on Negotiation and Mediation (in which students learn effective negotiation and mediation theory and skills through a series of courses and workshops).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS PROFILE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern Law looks for students that combine strong academic credentials with strong interpersonal, communication and teamwork skills, at least two years of post-collegiate, full-time work experience (although some exceptions are made every year for some students), and leadership potential.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The incoming class of 2012 was 44% female, and 56% male.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The class was composed of 43% students of color (although the student body as a whole is around 33% minority).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The average age at matriculation is 26.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The age range for the class of 2012 was between 19 and 41 (for the class of 2011, it was between 20 and 41).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98% of the class had at least 1 year of work experience, and 84% had two or more years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of the class hailed from the Midwest (31%) and Northeast (24%); the South (18%) and West (19%) were also represented. 8% of the class came from outside the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The school interviewed over 3,500 applicants in consideration for entry into the class of 2012. The school conducts these interviews “to assess personal as well as intellectual potential.” The interviewing program “focuses on such personal qualities as superior speaking and writing skills, judgment, and ambition.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Northwestern Law: The City

Setting: Urban

NU Law’s Michigan Avenue offers students the opportunity to explore and fall in love with one of America’s favorite cities. Whether you enjoy the opera, high-end shopping, museums, dining out, or a quiet walk in the park, NU Law’s location places you within walking distance to explore everything the city has to offer—many students list the school’s location as one of the primary perks of attending law school at Northwestern.

LIVING EXPENSES

The cost of living in Chicago, while not quite on par with the expenses associated with other large metropolises, is still high. Including tuition and fees, the expenses listed below, health insurance, loan fees, and the cost of obtaining a computer, the total yearly budget students should plan on is over $70,000 a year.

Estimated academic year living expenses*

| Room and board          | $12,376.00 |
| Books                   | $1,418.00  |
| Transportation          | $1,584.00  |
| Personal expenses       | $2,610.00  |
| **TOTAL**               | **$17,988.00** |

* Values provided by Northwestern Law

HOUSING

While on-campus housing options are available through Northwestern University’s Graduate Housing Office, they are somewhat limited and preference is given to students with spouses or partners and/or dependent children. Thankfully, numerous housing options are available in the neighborhoods surrounding the campus and are usually a short walk away.

On-campus housing available?  Y
Average apartment rental cost (1 BR/1 BA)  $1,200/mo

DEMOGRAPHICS

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the 2006 population of Chicago, IL to be 2,833,321 people, with 63.5% of the population between 18 and 65 years of age. 25.5% of the population has a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Population density in the Chicago area (as per the 2000 census) is 12,751 persons per square mile.

The 2000 census puts the ethnic makeup of the city as 42.0% white, 26.0% of Hispanic or Latino origin, 36.8% African American, 0.4% American Indian or Alaskan native, 4.3% Asian, 0.1% native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 2.9% from two or more races.

PARKING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Home to the second largest public transportation system in the nation, Chicago has your transportation needs covered. The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) has an extensive network which offers bus and rail service throughout the city and surrounding communities.

While Northwestern does offer permit-only campus parking, permits are steep ($465 for the Annual Commuter Permits), and finding available spaces can be a common problem. Most students will encourage you to leave your car at home and take advantage of the great public transportation options by purchasing a CTA U-Pass. The U-Pass is only available to full-time university students and gives you unlimited 24-hour access to all CTA transportation services throughout the semester. At a reduced rate of around $100 per semester, the U-Pass is well worth the expense and will give you even more freedom to explore Chicago.

AREA ATTRACTIONS & ENTERTAINMENT

When it comes to entertainment, Chicago keeps up with cities like New York and Los Angeles. Residents and tourists have an endless assortment of options: an abundance of dining choices, historical walking tours, improv comedy shows, art shows, festivals, bars and so much more.

The vibrant city is also very family friendly, with plenty of parks, museums, farmers markets, and music festivals to explore. Many events are free to the public or offer discounts to families.

For sports fanatics, Chicago will keep your addiction well-fed. Between the Chicago Bears (NFL), the Chicago Blackhawks (NHL), the Chicago Bulls (NBA), the Chicago Cubs (MLB), the Chicago Fire (MLB), the Chicago White Sox (MLB), and Chicago Wolves (AHL) sports-related activities can easily become a regular part of life in Chicago.

CITY MUST-DOs

Fully experiencing Chicago includes many must-dos. Ask any local and the list will likely include a visit to the John Hancock Observatory, Navy Pier, Lincoln Park Zoo, and Wrigley Field.

If you’re in Chicago over the summer, plan on attending several festivals, such as the Taste of Chicago food festival, Chicago Blues Festival, and Grant Park Music Festival. Summer festivals take place almost daily and you’ll find it hard to pick which ones to attend.

Finally, don’t forget to treat the inner foodie by sampling the city’s most cherished food—deep-dish pizza!