

Northern Illinois University College of Law

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■ Introduction

Northern Illinois University was founded in 1895, and the College of Law was established in 1978. The College of Law seeks to prepare its graduates not only for the traditional role of lawyers, but also for the tasks we can assume will be performed in the future by lawyers. The school has a diverse and professionally distinguished faculty dedicated to teaching and scholarship.

■ Our Campus

The College of Law is located in DeKalb, a community conveniently located approximately 65 miles west of Chicago and 25 miles from the suburban area on the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88). DeKalb is close enough to the Chicago metropolitan area to draw on its many resources, yet retain its own college town flavor—a safe and affordable environment with a high quality of life.

Northern's main campus is set on 756 acres of rolling country land. The lush campus features two lagoons, museums, and a vast variety of cultural opportunities. It ultimately provides an excellent environment for the study of law.

Though on a relatively large campus with all of the associated activities and opportunities, the College of Law is a small oasis at its center. For an online tour go to our website at law.niu.edu.

■ Libraries

The David C. Shapiro Memorial Law Library provides one of the best ratios of library materials to students of any American law school. The law library offers in-depth research-level coverage of more than 32 areas of American law and study-level coverage of almost all other areas. Coverage of international, European Union, and British law is provided at study level. As a federally designated depository, the law library also receives selected government documents. In addition to its physical collection of over 242,000 volumes and volume equivalents, the library also offers access to Westlaw, LexisNexis, and a wide range of other web-based legal resources. Laptop users enjoy convenient access to these electronic products anywhere in the law school through the College of Law's wireless network. Access to most of these resources is available off campus as well. The library also features a student computer lab that offers desktop high-speed Internet access and laser printing.

Further research support is provided through Founders Memorial Library, the university's main library, which is conveniently located adjacent to the College of Law. Founders Memorial Library contains roughly 2 million volumes and an additional 1.2 million federal, state, and international government documents. It also subscribes to diverse collections of nonlegal web-based resources that may be accessed either on or off campus.

■ Enrollment/Student Body

Northern's student body represents universities from coast to coast and reflects a broad spectrum of ethnic, cultural, and geographic diversity. Our low student-faculty ratio, which is

normally 15 to 1, facilitates a supportive environment with a lively exchange of ideas. The law school provides an atmosphere of shared goals and achievement and a genuine sense of community.

■ Curriculum and Clinical Experience Opportunities

The College of Law provides its students with a curriculum that will make them well-rounded legal professionals. The first-year program consists of the traditional ABA-required courses. After the first year, the only required courses are Constitutional Law II, Professional Responsibility, and a seminar; the remaining 90 hours are from a wide range of electives. Northern offers an Academic Support Program during the first year of classes. The ultimate goal is to help students succeed in law school.

During the summer, electives are offered on the main campus. Also during the summer, NIU offers an international law program in France. During this program, students receive six hours of credit in international and comparative law.

The clinical lawyering skills programs offer students the opportunity to acquire essential techniques needed in pretrial and trial work through structured simulations and experiences in an array of legal settings. The externship programs provide students with sound experience under the supervision of a highly qualified practicing attorney or the opportunity to be a law clerk for a state or federal judge. The Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic in Rockford gives students the opportunity to apply legal theory by representing clients and resolving disputes in a real-world setting.

■ Admission

Considering Northern's small entering class size of between 110 to 120 out of an applicant pool ranging from 1,200 to 1,600, we are a relatively selective institution. The College of Law grants admission on a competitive basis through an evaluation of an applicant's aptitude and professional promise. Factors of most importance to the admission committee are the applicant's undergraduate record, LSAT score, reasons for seeking admission, school or community activities and accomplishments, employment background, and ability to add diversity to the law school community and the legal profession.

Applicants may submit their application either online at law.niu.edu or by paper form. In addition to the application, prospective students must submit a personal statement and application fee directly to the Office of Admission and Financial Aid. Northern requires applicants to use the LSDAS (international students should refer to law.niu.edu for instructions on this subject). In order for Northern to receive LSAT scores, applicants need to submit official undergraduate and graduate transcripts as well as two letters of recommendation to LSAC. To be considered for the part-time option, an additional application, also available online, is required. Applicants are encouraged to submit their application early, even if the LSAT has not yet been taken, due to the limited number of seats in each entering class. Prospective students are encouraged to visit the College of Law.

■ Student Activities

Students are offered a wide variety of educational and professionally oriented activities. Among these are the *Law Review*, a forum for the expression of serious legal scholarship (and *The Advocate*, a newspaper published by law students). Students compete in a wide selection of Moot Court and Alternative Dispute Resolution competitions. Organizations range from AALSA to the Women's Law Caucus.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

Northern offers its students small class sizes and a quality legal education all at an affordable cost. For the 2005–2006 academic year, in-state tuition is \$9,810 and out-of-state is \$17,820.

Out-of-state residents can also qualify for in-state tuition in six months, which is why so few students after the first year are classified as out-of-state.

Scholarships and grants are available for students from a variety of sources. After the first year, students may qualify for research assistantships.

Scholarship, grant, and loan information is on our website at law.niu.edu/go/cfm. The priority deadline for the FAFSA form is March 1.

■ Career Opportunities

The Career Opportunities Office has a strong track record in assisting and preparing our graduates for rewarding careers through references to prospective employers and on-campus interviews. The office assists current students in obtaining enriching summer legal employment. Due to Northern's small class size, personalized counseling, normally not available at larger law schools, is offered.

■ Housing

Affordable housing is available both on and off campus. University Apartments offer unfurnished efficiencies or one bedroom units, as well as options for living in the University Residence Halls. Married and handicap accessible housing is available. For information about on-campus housing you may telephone 815.753.5125, or visit our website at www.shds.niu.edu.

Many moderately priced apartments are available close to the university. The housing budget is \$7,850. You may contact off-campus housing at 815.753.5105 or visit our website at www.niu.edu/housing/och/och.shtml.

■ Correspondence

We encourage you to visit our campus and our website. Check our calendar on our website at law.niu.edu for activities, or call us toll free. Once you visit us, we are confident that you will agree that Northern is the law school for you.

Applicant Profile

Northern Illinois University College of Law

This grid includes only applicants who earned 120-180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

LSAT Score	GPA																	
	3.75 +		3.50 - 3.74		3.25 - 3.49		3.00 - 3.24		2.75 - 2.99		2.50 - 2.74		Below 2.50		No GPA		Total	
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm
170-180	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	3
165-169	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	4	4	4	9	9	3	1	0	0	27	24
160-164	12	12	18	16	17	17	20	20	19	18	8	7	14	9	0	0	108	99
155-159	33	32	45	44	47	43	57	51	35	28	30	13	14	6	0	0	261	217
150-154	39	30	52	28	86	35	91	23	71	11	32	4	27	2	7	0	405	133
145-149	21	2	44	3	58	6	67	5	65	4	48	5	41	1	1	0	345	26
140-149	2	0	31	0	26	1	20	1	37	0	34	2	30	0	4	0	184	4
Below 140	4	0	2	0	12	0	20	0	20	0	24	0	36	0	5	0	123	0
Total	113	78	195	94	249	104	280	105	251	65	185	40	166	20	17	0	1456	506

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.