



Academic  
Career Programs

## Academic Career Programs at Northwestern Law

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*The market for law teaching has become increasingly competitive, and the need for comprehensive career preparation has become an essential — if often overlooked — area of training.*

*Northwestern Law understands the importance and necessity of this training, and offers an extensive series of programs that helps prepare individuals for careers in academia. We also actively recruit students who demonstrate special interest and promise in legal academics and offer generous scholarships to qualified individuals.*



*Our emphasis on comprehensive academic training is also reflected in our own faculty. At more than 50 percent, Northwestern Law has more PhD-trained faculty members than any other law school. As a result, students who come here do not just study law in a vacuum; they get the perspective of how it interacts with society.*

*Take a look at the programs Northwestern Law offers to students who plan on pursuing academic careers. We think you will find a law school ready to train tomorrow's scholars today.*

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## A Taste of Academic Life

Two Northwestern Law programs give law students an idea of what life as a legal scholar entails.

Our **Owen L. Coon/James A. Rahl Senior Research Program** gives third-year students the opportunity to work closely with our distinguished faculty, exploring answers to challenging questions of doctrine and policy. Under the guidance of a supervising professor, participating students conduct research on pertinent current and historical legal issues. Last year, 49 students participated in the program. Past projects include a study of cases and codes of ethics and professional responsibility, a look at the legal issues businesses face when they expand internationally through the Internet, and an analysis of race, class, abortion, and crime in Chicago at the turn of the 20th century. Often, these student-faculty collaborations have led to further study and publication of a significant body of work.

Led by renowned scholars, the **Northwestern Law Scholars Program**, a new program launched in 2008, provides students with the theoretical and methodological skills necessary for careers in legal teaching. During their first summer, program participants focus on a faculty-student research project. Thereafter, each student gets assigned to a faculty mentor who helps facilitate the scholar's ongoing, individual research interests, as well as provides them with advice and guidance regarding potential academic careers. The program includes a series of specialized classes in a choice of concentrations, complemented by empirical/theoretical perspectives, intensive writing, workshops with leading scholars, teaching experience, and faculty mentors.

By the end of the fall semester of their third year, Northwestern Law Scholars will have co-authored a paper with a professor and, at a minimum, have a working paper for job market presentation. Also, the program includes organized job talk evaluations with faculty input and letters of recommendation for prospective employers, where appropriate.

## Educating Future Scholars

Northwestern University offers the most integrated **JD-PhD program** in the country. Open to a small number of students who intend to pursue an academic career and whose teaching and research will be enriched by both a JD and a PhD, the program provides participants with a more effective way of earning the two degrees than through consecutive degree programs. Students complete the entire program, including dissertation, in six years.

Northwestern offers full-funding for all JD-PhD students — the most financially generous program available.

Northwestern's JD-PhD program has a strong relationship with the American Bar Foundation (ABF), a research institution dedicated to the study of law and legal institutions through the lens of social science. Several ABF researchers teach at Northwestern University and are eager to work with JD-PhD students.

## Opening Doors

Northwestern Law offers a series of positions in our **Visiting Assistant Professor program** (VAP). These positions function similarly to post-doctoral programs, permitting scholars to make progress on research and teaching prior to entering a tenure-track position.

VAPs join the Northwestern Law faculty on a full-time basis for at least one semester, and stay up to two academic years. They typically teach one course per semester while receiving research support. Each VAP is expected to present one or more research papers to the faculty in a workshop series. With the support of the Law School, VAPs seek out permanent tenure-line positions at other universities and law schools.

Recently, Northwestern Law offered subject matter specific VAPs in securities regulation and taxation. In addition, we offer up to three post-doctoral/VAP positions in conjunction with the Kellogg School of Management for PhDs or JD-PhDs in the fields of healthcare economics, finance, and negotiations.



## *Extending a Tradition of Excellence*

*Northwestern Law ranks among the top law schools in the nation. For years, our graduates have carried on this tradition of excellence as deans and faculty members at many prominent law and graduate schools, including:*

Barry University	Northern Illinois University	University of Georgia
Baylor University	Northern Kentucky University	University of Houston
Boston University	Northwestern University	University of Illinois
California Western School of Law	Ohio State University	University of Kentucky
Chapman University	Pepperdine University Law School	University of Miami
Chicago-Kent College of Law	St. John's University School of Law	University of Minnesota Law School
Columbia University	Samford University	University of Missouri
Cornell University Law School	Seton Hall University School of Law	University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School
DePaul University College of Law	South Texas College of Law	University of New Mexico
Duke University School of Law	Southern Methodist University School of Law	University of Oregon School of Law
Emory University School of Law	Southern University	University of the Pacific-McGeorge School of Law
Flinders University	Southwestern University	University of Pennsylvania Law School
Florida International University	St. Louis University School of Law	University of Pittsburgh
Florida State University	Stanford Law School	University of San Diego Law School
George Mason University	SUNY-Buffalo Law School	University of Sydney Law School
George Washington University Law School	Trinity University	University of Tennessee
Georgetown University Law Center	Tulane University	University of Texas
Golden Gate University	UCLA School of Law	University of Tulsa
Harvard Law School	University of Alabama	University of Utah
Howard University	University of Arizona	University of Washington
John Marshall Law School	University of Arkansas	University of Wisconsin Law School
Lewis & Clark Law School	University of California, Berkeley, School of Law	Vanderbilt University
Loyola University School of Law	University of California, Davis	Washington University
Mercer University	University of California Hastings College of Law	Washington and Lee University
Mississippi College School of Law	University of Chicago	West Virginia University
MIT Sloan School of Management	University of Cincinnati	Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania
New York Law School	University of Denver	Widener University
New York University Stern School of Business	University of Detroit Law School	Willamette University
	University of Florida	Yeshiva University School of Law



Northwestern University School of Law  
375 East Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-3069

[www.law.northwestern.edu](http://www.law.northwestern.edu)

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