Northwestern University School of Law
Housing Survey Information

This information was compiled from a recent housing survey of current law students. It is designed to highlight popular neighborhoods and housing options. It is only intended for use by current and prospective Northwestern Law students to provide more information about housing in Chicago.

Location

The Law School student population tends to be split between living in the neighborhoods surrounding the Law School and living a bit farther away. Of the survey respondents, nearly half live in the Gold Coast, River North, or Streeterville neighborhoods in close proximity to the Law School, with the neighborhoods immediately north of the Law School area, Lincoln Park and Lakeview, also popular. The Northern neighborhoods include areas north of Lakeview, including Uptown, Rogers Park, and Buena Park. The Western neighborhoods encompass areas west of the law school, such as Wicker Park, Ukrainian Village, and the West Loop.

Please see the StudentSpace map for further information about pricing and options in some of these areas.

Survey respondents found their apartments in several different ways. Close to 40% used one of the apartment finder services in Chicago, such as StudentSpace. These organizations generally offer free services and have access to hundreds of listings across the city. Around 35% found their apartment online, utilizing Craigslist.com or another housing site. Asking family, friends, or
current students for suggestions about where to live was also successful for several students, with 13% finding their apartment through this method. Other students used real estate agents or brokers, or walked around a neighborhood and spoke to building managers directly about available apartments.

Size

Students are fairly evenly split between living on their own in studios or one-bedroom apartments, and living with others in larger apartments.

![Apartment Type Pie Chart]

The decision of where to live in Chicago is often connected to whether students will be living with others or by oneself. Larger apartments tend to be more readily available in neighborhoods outside the city center.
Over half of the survey respondents live with others. Of those who live with roommates, 55% lived with a spouse or significant other, 34% roomed with someone they knew outside of law school, 7% lived with a law school classmate, and 4% found their roommate through a random search. This chart provides more information on the neighborhoods students chose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gold Coast/River North/Streeterville</th>
<th>Lakeview</th>
<th>Lincoln Park</th>
<th>Northern Areas</th>
<th>Western Areas</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>32%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Friend from outside of law school</td>
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<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Acquaintance</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</tr>
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Almost 20% of survey respondents have pets. Most students with dogs lived outside of the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the law school.
Transportation

How students get to school is highly dependent on where they live. Survey respondents living in Streeterville can walk to school in 5 to 10 minutes. Gold Coast and River North residents also usually walk to school, though it takes a bit longer, generally 10 to 20 minutes. Students living in Lincoln Park, Lakeview, and other neighborhoods outside of walking distance generally take public transportation and use their school-provided CTA pass. There are several convenient options for students taking public transportation.

Students living in Lakeview or in Lincoln Park close to the lake have access to the express bus that runs down Lake Shore Drive to Michigan Avenue. Taking the express bus, students can usually get to and from school in about 25 to 30 minutes. There are also non-express buses that run from Lake Shore Drive to Michigan Avenue, which adds a few extra minutes to the commute time. Students who live close to a red line or brown line stop can also take the ‘L’ to school. The red line Chicago ‘L’ stop is about a 10 minute walk west of the Law School, on the corner of Chicago Avenue and State Street. Depending on how close one lives to a stop and whether one has to transfer, the commute usually takes around 20 to 30 minutes from Lincoln Park or 30 to 40 minutes from Lakeview.

Those who live in neighborhoods farther north have multiple options. Most students take the non-express bus that runs along Lake Shore Drive and can get downtown in about 30 to 40 minutes. Students who live near the intercampus shuttle stop in Rogers Park can take the Northwestern shuttle, which takes about 30 minutes and stops at the corner of Chicago Avenue and Fairbanks, down the street from the Law School outside of the Feinberg School of Medicine.

For students living in the Western neighborhoods, transportation options tend to differ depending on where the student lives. Students living in Wicker Park, Ukrainian Village, or West Town near Chicago Avenue or Grand Avenue generally take the buses that run east-west along those streets. Depending on where one lives and traffic, the commute may take between 30 and 50 minutes. Students coming from farther south, such as the West Loop, or north, such as Bucktown, usually take the ‘L’ and transfer from another line to the red line, which usually takes about 30 to 40 minutes.

Neighborhood Highlights

Streeterville

- *Scene*: High-end, commercial, lots of grad students, safe
- *Reasons to live here*: proximity to school, easy access to the Loop, fitness options, close to Michigan Avenue shopping
- *Dining Highlights*: Yolk, Coco Pazzo Café, Gyu-Kaku, Dollop
- *Nightlife Highlights*: Timothy O’Toole’s, D4
- *Activity Highlights*: lakeside running path, Lake Michigan beaches, Navy Pier
- *Other Information*: very convenient neighborhood with multiple grocery stores and drug stores, lots of restaurants, and access to other neighborhoods, though it has less of a neighborhood feel and tends to be more expensive
Gold Coast/River North
• Scene: High-end, touristy, safe
• Reasons to live here: proximity to school, great shopping and restaurants, access to public transportation
• Dining Highlights: Bar Toma, FoodLife, Ginza, Chicago Q, Flaco’s Tacos, Silver Spoon, deep dish pizza
• Nightlife Highlights: Declan’s Irish Pub, Clark Street Ale House, The Lodge, Pump Room, Lux Bar, Dublin’s, Citizen Bar
• Activity Highlights: Museum of Contemporary Art, Division Street Farmer’s Market
• Other Information: Division Street, which forms the northern border of the neighborhood, has a lot of Irish bars and is more diverse than other areas of the neighborhood, which tend to have less of a neighborhood feel, higher prices, and many older residents.

Lincoln Park
• Scene: lots of young people, family friendly
• Reasons to live here: neighborhood feel, more affordable apartments, great restaurants and nightlife, good shopping options, great location in the heart of the city
• Dining Highlights: Nookies, Toro, Taco Joint, Butcher & the Burger, Macku
• Nightlife Highlights: Gamekeepers, Sedgewicks, Galway Bay, Mickey’s, Barrelhouse Flat, Prost
• Activity Highlights: Lincoln Park Zoo, Lincoln Park After Dark, summer intramural leagues and yoga in the parks
• Other Information: The stores on Diversey provide some of the city’s best shopping. North Avenue also has a great shopping district.

Lakeview
• Scene: lots of young people, diverse, progressive, trendy, relaxed
• Reasons to live here: neighborhood feel, more affordable apartments, great restaurants and nightlife
• Dining Highlights: Rocks, Taverna 750, Southport Grocery, Ann Sather’s, Joy’s Noodles, Art of Pizza, Bobtail, Troy, Cesar’s
• Nightlife Highlights: Holiday Club, Sidestreet Saloon, Will’s Bar, Sidetrack, Avenue Tavern, Bar Pastoral, Friar Tuck’s, Justin’s Bar, the Schoolyard
• Activity Highlights: window-shopping on Broadway, catching a movie at the Music Box Theatre, Reckless Records, the Brew & View
• Other Information: East Lakeview has a younger crowd, more nightlife options, and easy access to the lakefront. West Lakeview has more of a quiet, hipster vibe, and more public transportation options. Boystown, the LGBT area, tends to be the most progressive and eclectic part of Lakeview. As the neighborhood is also family-friendly, there are lots of kids and dogs.
Northern Neighborhoods

- **Scene**: diverse, relaxed, family and pet friendly
- **Reasons to live here**: affordability, easy access to shopping and public transportation, great restaurants and cultural activities
- **Dining Highlights**: Pizza Rustica, Gruppo di Amici, Act One Pub, Nori, Siam Noodle, Lao Sze Chaun Uptown, Starapolska
- **Nightlife Highlights**: Bar on Buena, Reservoir, Glenwood
- **Activity Highlights**: Glenwood Arts District, Lifeline Theater, iO Improv
- **Other Information**: The Uptown area is great for dog owners, with numerous dog parks and a dog beach. Rogers Park has more of an artsy vibe. Wrigleyville has a lot of sports bars and late-night activities.

Western Neighborhoods

- **Scene**: hipster, diverse, family friendly, lots of young people
- **Reasons to live here**: neighborhood feel, more affordable living and dining options, access to public transportation, more low-key than the neighborhoods north of the Law School
- **Dining Highlights**: Jaks Tap, Greek Islands, Kyu Sushi, Piece Pizza, Briciola, Smoke Daddy, La Pasadita, Ed’s
- **Nightlife Highlights**: Salud Tequila Lounge, Happy Village, Bar Deville, Bangers and Lace, Violet Hour, Beauty Bar, Maria’s Packaged Goods
- **Activity Highlights**: hanging out in the actual Wicker Park, window shopping on Milwaukee Avenue
- **Other Information**: Wicker Park is known as the hipster neighborhood, with a good, trendy nightlife scene. Many of the other areas, including Ukrainian Village, tend to be a bit cheaper and still have sizeable immigrant populations that create a vibrant and eclectic community.