Northern Illinois University
College of Law

Admitted Student Guide
2017
Message from Dean Mark Cordes

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Northern Illinois University College of Law!

NIU College of Law is a young, vibrant, intentionally close-knit law school community that puts our students at the forefront of everything we do. In my over 30 years at the law school, I have had the pleasure of teaching with faculty that deliver an excellent legal education for a great value – a combination that produces alumni who love the law school and who possess the financial freedom to make meaningful career choices in either the private or public sector.

While more than half our graduates work in the private sector, just recently, NIU College of Law was again ranked as a leader in graduating students who choose careers in public service. One of the top five law schools in the country for the percentage of graduates who choose careers in public service, NIU College of Law alumni hold coveted positions as public servants, in careers as public defenders, prosecutors, immigration lawyers, civil rights lawyers, and judges in national, state, and local government.

Our students graduate law school prepared to succeed, both in passing the bar exam as well as securing competitive employment. Our curriculum and academic success program are designed to teach you the fundamentals of the law and support you in bar passage strategies and practice skills. After successfully passing the bar, our new alumni work all over the state and country at placement rates that are higher than many other area law schools.

In preparation for practice in any area of law, we offer myriad experiential learning opportunities. Students can gain hands-on experience in one of our legal clinics in cities that span a diverse geographic area. Our legal clinics include fields like domestic violence, criminal law, and health care advocacy. Students can take specialized coursework in one of several areas of law and earn a certificate in business law, civil advocacy, criminal practice, international law, law & women’s studies, or public interest law. Outside of the law school, students can immerse themselves in field work across the state through our externship program, with recent placements at sites like the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, Prairie State Legal Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

With a history of strong employment numbers, solid bar passage rates and student indebtedness amongst the lowest in the country, NIU College of Law has been named for a number of years as one of the Best Value Law Schools in the nation.

On behalf of the faculty, students and entire administration at the College of Law, I am thrilled to welcome you into our community in August!

Mark Cordes
Who is NIU College of Law?

“I am thankful I chose NIU because of the relationships I have developed here. I have a whole community of great people I can count on, and I’m confident that the bonds that I have forged will be lifelong.”

Keith Stiggers, Class of 2018

“I really enjoy the NIU program because of the smaller class sizes. Small class sizes create more learning opportunities for students to understand the material better and to create a more personal relationship with my professors and classmates.”

Michelle Aggacid, Class of 2019

“I love the small class sizes and brilliant professors. If anyone needs help with anything, at any time, a professor or faculty member is literally a few steps away and ready to help.”

Tiana Sarto, Class of 2018

“NIU places student success at the forefront of its educational mission. During my time at NIU I have learned from renowned educators who have invested in me and have provided me with the confidence to succeed.”

John McWard, Class of 2017
# Course List – What Can You Study?

## First Year Courses
- Basic Legal Research I
- Civil Procedure I, II
- Constitutional Law I: The Federal System
- Contracts I, II
- Criminal Law
- Introduction to the Legal Profession: History, Culture and Values
- Legal Methods
- Legal Writing and Advocacy I
- Property
- Torts

## Additional Required Courses
- Basic Legal Research II
- Constitutional Law II: 14th Amendment and Individual Rights
- Introduction to Lawyering Skills
- Legal Writing and Advocacy II
- Professional Responsibility
- Upper Level Writing Requirement
  - Seminars
  - Directed Research
  - Law Review

## Bar Courses
- Administrative Law
- Advanced Torts: Economic and Dignitary Torts
- Agency & Unincorporated Business Associations
- Conflict of Laws
- Corporations
- Criminal Procedure: Adjudication
- Criminal Procedure: Police Investigation
- Evidence
- Family Law
- Federal Courts
- First Amendment
- Illinois Civil Procedure
- Introduction to Federal Income Taxation
- Sales
- Secured Transactions
- Trusts and Estates

## Practical Skills Courses
- Advanced Legal Research: Prepare to Practice
- Advanced Legal Research: Illinois Law
- Advanced Trial Advocacy
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Appellate Advocacy
- Business Planning
- Criminal Practice Skills
- Legal Analysis: Skills and Strategies
- Mediation Theory and Practice
- Negotiation
- The Practicing Lawyer
- Trial Advocacy
- Writing for Practice
### Clinics*
- Civil Justice Clinic
- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Foreclosure Mediation Clinic
- Health Advocacy Clinic

### Externships*
- Appellate Defender Externship
- Illinois Innocence Project Externship
- Judicial Externship Program

*Fulfills the Experiential Learning Requirement

### Additional Courses
- Antitrust Law
- Bankruptcy
- Children in the Legal System
- Civil Claim Settlement Law
- Civil Rights
- Co-Curricular Competition
- Copyright Law
- Education Law
- Employment Law
- Entertainment Law
- Environmental Law
- Health Law
- Immigration Law
- Insurance Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Business Transactions
- International Criminal Law
- International Human Rights
- Jurisprudence
- Labor Law
- Land Use Control
- Landlord and Tenant Law
- Legal History
- Legislation
- Patent Law
- Poverty Law in Theory and Practice
- Public International Law
- Real Estate Transactions
- Remedies
- Securities Regulation
- Sexuality and the Law
- Sports Law
- Taxation of Business Enterprises
- Trademark Law
- Workers' Compensation

### Courses Offered Abroad
- Civil Law and Civil Lawyers: The French Experience
- The Legal System of the European Union
Specializing in an Area of Law

NIU College of Law is consistently recognized for its holistic approach to the training and development of successful lawyers through challenging coursework, skills training, experiential clinics, externships, pro-bono opportunities, and a variety of specialized certificate programs.

Certificate programs capitalize on our faculty’s expertise and provide focused training to heighten students’ visibility to prospective employers.

To earn a certificate, students must satisfy minimum grade and course requirements, with coursework selected from a mix of substantive courses, directed research opportunities, clinical programs, and externships devoted to the specific field of interest. Students who successfully complete the program receive a certificate notation on their law school transcripts.

Certificate Programs

Business Law Certificate

The Certificate in Business Law enables students to explore a broad range of business-related topics to begin a successful career as a business lawyer. The program provides students with a solid understanding of the basic principles of business and commercial law and the complex regulatory environment that business lawyers must navigate. The curriculum includes traditional focus on business organizations, securities regulation, and taxation, as well as special-interest topics such as intellectual property, bankruptcy and labor law.

Genevieve Tokić, Assistant Professor of Law
gtokic@niu.edu

“Obtaining the business law certificate provides students with a strong foundation for careers in business-related practice, and signals to potential employers a student’s interest in and familiarity with the subject matter.”

Civil Advocacy Certificate

Students who earn a Certificate in Civil Advocacy will have successfully completed coursework concentrated in civil litigation and alternative dispute resolution, as well as engaged in a hands-on practice experience in an externship or clinic. In the practice skills courses, students engage in simulations of all aspects of client representation, from initial client interview to jury trial. The practice experiences give them the opportunity to put those skills to use in representation of actual clients. Students who earn the Certificate in Civil Advocacy receive solid training in the fundamentals necessary to be a practice-ready law graduate.

David H. Taylor, Distinguished Teaching Professor of Law & Director of Skills Training
dtaylor@niu.edu

“Students who have earned the Civil Advocacy Certificate have the necessary foundation on which to build successful careers in the practice of general civil law or to begin to immerse themselves in specialty areas.”
Criminal Practice Certificate
The Certificate in Criminal Practice is available for students who wish to focus their legal coursework on understanding and addressing key issues confronting the American criminal justice system, as well as policy analysis and the contemporary decision-making models. This certificate is designed to expose students to litigation procedures within the criminal courts, and within corrections, security, and associated support agencies. The Certificate in Criminal Practice is designed help prepare students to be defense attorneys or prosecutors. Students will study the theory and practice of criminal law, criminal procedure, and criminal litigation. They will also gain real-world experience in the criminal justice system and begin to develop core professional competencies to be successful practitioners.

Daniel S. McConkie, Jr., Assistant Professor of Law
mcconkie@niu.edu
“Criminal law is not for the faint of heart.”

International Law Certificate
The Certificate in International Law provides students insight into how to conduct international business, understand how to tackle important public international issues and learn the inner workings of institutions such as the International Criminal Court and the World Trade Organization. The program also offers opportunities to expand and apply their knowledge through the study abroad program in France, in-class simulations, and other opportunities.

Morse Tan, Professor of Law
mtan1@niu.edu
“If it is even close to true that ‘almost all countries follow almost all international law almost all the time’ then international law matters tremendously in our widely interconnected world.”

Public Interest Law Certificate
The Certificate in Public Interest Law offers students significant educational exposure to the field of public interest law through rigorous coursework focusing on the legal structures and operations of national, state and local governments, as well as an examination of social issues affecting those who are disenfranchised and lack access to justice. The coursework provides students valuable firsthand experiences working with a number of our public service legal clinics in areas such as Health Advocacy, Criminal Defense, Civil Justice, and Foreclosure Mediation.

Michael Oswalt, Assistant Professor of Law
moswalt@niu.edu
“A law degree confers one of life’s greatest gifts: the power to serve others. The Certificate in Public Interest Law allows students to start that work right now.”
Clinical Programs

Our Mission: To provide hands-on learning opportunities for law students to advocate on behalf of real clients under the supervision of clinical faculty. Through the clinic’s commitment to social justice and providing free legal services, students’ advocacy and hard work can dramatically improve the life circumstances of people in need.

Whether representing an adult charged with a crime or a victim of domestic violence seeking an order of protection, participating students gain a better understanding of the legal system and a greater appreciation for the impact a lawyer can have on the lives of others.

Through these experiences, NIU College of Law helps build strong “holistically trained” lawyers prepared for any practice setting with built-in connection to lawyers and judges in the field while meeting needs in our community.

The clinic courses are taught by our clinical professors, all of whom are experienced attorneys.

Anita Maddali, Director of Clinics & Associate Professor of Law
amaddali@niu.edu

“Our clinical partnerships afford students essential practice-based experiences, while modeling for them the importance of using those skills to meaningfully assist those most vulnerable in our communities.”

Health Advocacy Clinic

The Health Advocacy Clinic is a joint venture between NIU College of Law, Hesed House – a homeless and recuperative shelter that houses the clinic in Aurora – and Aunt Martha’s Health Center – an organization supporting numerous child welfare and family services across multiple facilities in Illinois. Participating students and faculty join forces with medical professionals and social workers to provide free legal, medical and social services to clients with limited resources from across the region. Clinical faculty and students address legal issues impeding good health, specifically assisting clients with accessing life-stabilizing public benefits such as Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare and food stamps.

Colleen Boraca, Health Advocacy Clinic Director & Clinical Assistant Professor
cboraca@niu.edu

“I was drawn to NIU Law for its commitment to public interest law. Teaching students how to represent and make a difference in the lives of real-world clients is everything I was looking for in my academic career.”
Foreclosure Mediation Clinic
This clinical program is part of a community engagement project to address the residential foreclosure crisis in Kane County, Illinois. The clinic is a joint effort between NIU College of Law, the Kane County Courts, Resolution Systems Institute – a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening justice by enhancing court Alternative Dispute Resolution systems, Prairie State Legal Service – a provider of legal services to low-income families and groups, and several other community partners. Participating students and faculty work with homeowners facing foreclosure to advise them on their legal options, negotiate with lenders, identify possible mortgage modifications, and represent them during foreclosure mediation sessions.

Alan Boudreau, Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor
aboudreau@niu.edu

“Foreclosure can be incredibly frustrating for homeowners. By representing them, our students gain practical legal experience helping families navigate and identify options within the foreclosure process.”

Civil Justice Clinic
Students and clinical faculty represent vulnerable residents of Winnebago County, Illinois. The clinic prioritizes the needs of low-income senior citizens and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Students develop transactional experience by drafting estate planning documents and litigation experience by representing clients in civil matters involving orders of protection, domestic violence related family law, small claims, and probate issues.

Wendy Hinton Vaughn, Clinical Associate Professor
wvaughn@niu.edu

“Students in our clinics serve a diverse population and are exposed to multiple issues challenging their clients, many of whom live in poverty. Through clinical experience, students develop cultural awareness and sensitivity, empathy and professionalism.”

Criminal Defense Clinic
Students in the Criminal Defense Clinic represent adults charged with criminal offenses. The offenses are often misdemeanor offenses or major traffic offenses. In addition, the clinic represents individuals in petitioning for removal from the sex offender registry as a result of juvenile sex offense adjudications. The clinic provides a holistic approach to representation in addressing underlying causes of criminal behavior like mental health or substance abuse issues.

Paul Cain, Clinical Professor
pcain@niu.edu

“Criminal defendants are among those least regarded in society, and even in the legal system. Students have the opportunity to vigorously defend the Constitutional rights of defendants, protect them from the power of the State, and see that they obtain justice.”
New Experiential Opportunities

At NIU College of Law, we are working to expand experiential offerings with initiatives in business law and entrepreneurial counseling, environmental and resource development law, and immigration law. These new programs will help to assure that the public interest is served by supporting enterprise competitiveness and sustainable growth, and will continue to serve the needs of the most vulnerable among us. And like our clinics, these new experiential offerings will provide great learning opportunities for students in developing hands-on practice skills necessary for a successful career in law. We hope to have more information about these programs in the near future.

Advanced Field Research

Advanced field research projects are a law course credit mechanism being developed to engage students in real-life public policy experiences through individualized projects that illuminate issues or public concern and advance public policy ideas. Students work outside the classroom under the direct supervision of a faculty member to conduct factual investigations, interviews, and legal research aimed at 1) identifying or advancing potential solutions to a legal or public policy problem; or 2) examining the relevance of legal doctrine to a legal or public policy problem. The course emphasizes the deployment of doctrinal learning through experiential projects and offers a flexible mechanism for engaging the educational and research capabilities of the NIU College of Law with business, policy, and community leaders.
Career Opportunities for NIU College of Law Graduates

Most of our graduates take jobs that require a JD and bar passage, including positions as lawyers in firms and prosecutors’ or defenders’ offices. The latest published employment statistics show that NIU College of Law ranks among the top 10 law schools in the country in the percentage of students who graduate to careers in government and public service, and over 90 of our alums are members of the judiciary. Many graduates also choose to pursue careers as leaders in government, business, and with public interest organizations where the JD degree is not required, but provides an advantage. NIU College of Law will assist you if you choose one of these “JD advantage” careers, including careers in public service.

In addition to coursework, support for bar passage, pro bono service, and clinical and experiential placements, NIU College of Law offers the services of professionals who will assist you directly with your career goals. Our career services office does more than simply post jobs; they also:

➢ Introduce you to potential employers through networking and other in-person connections.
➢ Arrange employer interviews on campus and at NIU facilities in Chicago and other satellite campuses.
➢ Match first-year students with attorney mentors.
➢ Review your resume and help you prepare professional correspondence.
➢ Offer direct, in-person counseling sessions that will help you clarify your goals, prepare you for interviews, and personalize your job search.
➢ Publish a weekly bulletin with details on networking events, job postings, and career guidance.

Our support for your career doesn’t end at graduation. NIU College of Law continues to support our alumni who are thinking about changing jobs, making a move, or simply looking for professional mentoring. Among our many initiatives, the career services office has partnered with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism to develop a Lawyer-to-Lawyer mentoring program for alumni attorneys.

Careers by the Numbers

Employment data compiled and reported to the American Bar Association (ABA) for the class of 2015 show that ten months following graduation, 85.15% of the *NIU Law Class of 2015* was employed. Graduates in 2015 found jobs in

➢ *Private Practice*: 51.16%
➢ *Government & Public Interest*: 34.88%
➢ *Business & Industry*: 11.63%
➢ *Education*: 2.33%
Our employment outcomes are competitive with Illinois law schools, and a comparison of the 2015 “all job” ABA reports for the nine Illinois law schools shows that NIU College of Law’s employment data are stronger than the other two state universities as well as DePaul and John Marshall. The following is a comparison of the 2015 ABA reports for all nine Illinois law schools.

1. University of Chicago  98.47%
2. Northwestern      94.44%
3. Chicago-Kent     91.30%
4. NIU                **89.80%**
5. Loyola            87.74%
6. University of Illinois  86.67%
7. DePaul           85.60%
8. John Marshall    85.09%
9. Southern Illinois University  84.69%

We place graduates throughout Illinois and the country, although the city where the single largest percentage of our graduates go on to practice is Chicago. Over 22% of NIU College of Law’s Class of 2015, for example, obtained positions in Chicago. It is important to note that these favorable employment rates at NIU College of Law come at a significantly lower tuition (and lower cost of living) than schools located in the center of Chicago. This means for most students a much lower debt at graduation, and the flexibility to take a wider range of jobs that fulfill your individual goals and interests.

Of course, no law school can or should assure employment outcomes. But in a challenging market, students are well advised to choose a school that supports their goals through career-relevant coursework, experiential learning opportunities, and career services support that is adapted to individual student needs.

“Involvement in student organizations was crucial to my success in law school and beyond! It was a great opportunity to showcase my leadership skills and meet like-minded people who were passionate about the same aspects of the law that I am.”

Michael Mehlick, Class of 2016
Student Organizations

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>American Constitution Society (ACS)</td>
<td>Law Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Law Students Association (BLSA)</td>
<td>Moot Court Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Legal Society</td>
<td>Lawyers Opposing Violence Everywhere (LOVE)</td>
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<td>Criminal Law Society</td>
<td>Phi Alpha Delta (PAD)</td>
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<td>Delta Theta Phi (Delta)</td>
<td>Professionalism and Ethics Society (PES)</td>
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<td>Family Law Society (FLS)</td>
<td>Second Amendment Society</td>
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<td>Federalist Society</td>
<td>Sports and Entertainment Law Society (SELS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA)</td>
<td>Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF)</td>
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<td>Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA)</td>
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<td>Latino/a Law Student Association (LLSA)</td>
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“Explore all the options that law school offers – from clubs to classes. I signed up for different clubs and activities and made some great friendships while learning about different causes. Take a class you don’t think will help in your career – it may surprise you and cause you to change your career path.”

Karen Donnelly, Class of 2014
Campus Services

NIU College of Law students have access to all services provided by Northern Illinois University.

Counseling
The University provides counseling services through the Counseling and Student Development Center in the Campus Life Building (Room 200) at the corner of Normal Road and Lucinda Avenue (815-753-1206). Walk-in appointments are generally available from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Students may also discuss their concerns and obtain information about University policies and procedures on a confidential basis at the Office of the Ombudsperson on the sixth floor of the Holmes Student Center (815-753-1414).

Disability Resource Center
NIU and the College of Law are committed to providing an accessible educational environment in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Students who need classroom or exam accommodations based on the impact of a disability are encouraged to contact the DRC and Dean Coles. The DRC is located on the fourth floor of the Health Services Building and can be reached at 815-753-1303 or drc@niu.edu.

Food Services
- Blackhawk Food Court
- Subway
- The Center Market
- Coffee Corner
- College Grind
- Three-course luncheons are available Tuesdays and Thursdays during the academic year at Ellington’s Restaurant.
- Resident and non-resident students may also sign up for various meal plans at residence halls.

Health Insurance
- Available to all NIU students registered for six or more class hours.
- 815-753-0122
- StudentInsurance@niu.edu

Huskie Bus System
The Huskie Bus Line is the transportation service around campus and on key routes in the City of DeKalb for use by students. The NIU Student Association provides route maps and time schedules for the Huskie Bus System at the information desk located on the main floor of the Holmes Student Center, across the street from the law school. During the academic year, the Huskie Bus System also runs a shuttle to the Elburn train station on Fridays and Sundays. Students may track the bus routes in real time online.
Huskie Safe Line

- Runs from 11 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. (the last route leaves the HSC at 5:00 a.m.)
- Travels a fixed route with 35 pick-up and drop-off locations for your convenience. Look for the signs that say “Huskie Safe Line” and wait for the van at the stop.
- Available to NIU students, faculty and staff as well as community members with disabilities.
- All you need in order to ride is a valid NIU One Card or a Disability Identification Card.
- You can even bring a guest.
- Driven by the Department of Public Safety’s security guards.
- Call (815) 753-2222 to request a handicap accessible shuttle.

Military and Post-Traditional Student Services
A resource center and lounge space is provided for NIU students who live off campus, commute from home, have children, are military students, and are online learners and/or over 24.

The staff is dedicated to helping students find the resources to be successful in their NIU studies—from locating housing options to computer access and even free coffee.

Holmes Student Center, Room 23K
Phone: 815-753-9999
Email: ocntss@niu.edu

Register to stay informed about activities for military and post-traditional students.
http://www.niu.edu/mptss/forms/intake-form.shtml

Military Student Benefits Counseling
- Campus Life Building 240
- Phone: 815-753-0691
- Email: mss@niu.edu

Parking
- Purchase parking permits online or at NIU’s Campus Parking Service, located at the corner of Normal Road and Lincoln Terrace, across from the Parking Deck.
- The parking service may be contacted at 815-753-1045 or parking@niu.edu.

Recreation and Athletic Facilities
Campus Recreation, which forms part of the NIU Division of Student Affairs, provides a wide variety of activities for students and has equipment available for rental by students for camping, canoeing, basketball, racquetball, skiing, volleyball, softball, tennis, soccer, football, bocce ball, badminton and other sports. The recreation facilities are available to all students enrolled at NIU. Gymnasiums, tracks, swimming pools, tennis and racquetball courts and other facilities are available when not in use by the physical education or sports departments.

The Student Recreation Center includes a multi-purpose area, indoor track, strength training room, saunas, racquetball courts, and a boxing and plyometric room. Further information is available at 815-753-0231.
In addition to the Campus Recreation facilities, the Holmes Student Center Huskies Den has bowling alleys, billiards, and video games available.

**Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Events**
As a major university, NIU provides many activities that are open for student participation and enjoyment, including sporting events, music and theatre, and visiting speakers. For information about activities and events on campus generally, check the NIU Calendar of Events. Sporting and other events are hosted regularly at the 10,000-seat NIU Convocation Center, on Highway 38 west of DeKalb.

For a description of NIU athletics and services provided to students, see the NIU Athletics website.

Through the College of Visual and Performing Arts, a wide variety of cultural events are open to the public through the year, including performances by the Avalon String Quartet and the internationally recognized NIU Jazz Orchestra. The School of Theatre and Dance presents a series of productions throughout the academic year, and art exhibitions and special events are also scheduled periodically through the NIU Art Museum and the School of Art and Design. Students can also visit other museums, galleries and collections around campus, including the Jack Olson Gallery.

**Student Health Services**
- NIU Health Services is located in the Health Services Building on the corner of Lucinda and Wirtz next to the Campus Police Station.
- 815-753-1311

**Students’ Legal Assistance Office**
Through the Students’ Legal Assistance Office, legal services are available to all current fee-paying NIU students. The Students’ Legal Assistance Office is located in the Campus Life Building, Room 120, at the corner of Normal Road and Lucinda Avenue (815-753-1701).

**Additional Information**
For additional information about the University and its resources, visit the NIU website. Information about current events at the University may be followed on NIU Today or by reading the student newspaper, The Northern Star.

**On Campus Housing**
Northern View Community is NIU's on-campus apartment alternative to traditional residence hall living. Five apartment buildings, a spacious courtyard, and a Community Center with 24-hour access provide students with the opportunity to enjoy the comforts of individual apartments with the convenience of on-campus staff and resources. Conveniently located on NIU's Huskie Bus Line, residents are able to easily take the bus to class, library, and other areas of campus or the DeKalb Community. Residents enjoy being close to class and building community with other students/families while avoiding the everyday hustle and bustle or busy traffic.
Beginning in fall 2017, a limited number of apartments at Northern View will be reserved for an exclusive Learning Living Community for College of Law students. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at law-admit@niu.edu.

**Off Campus Housing**
Looking for affordable off-campus housing? Many law students live within a short walking distance from our building. Our office has resources to help you find an apartment and roommate. Please contact the Admissions Office for questions about the area. We offer a helpful law student survey for off-campus students and guidebook information on popular management companies in the area.

**Meal Plans**
Campus Dining Services offer a variety of flexible meal plans to commuters and students living off campus. It is a great option for law students as you can use meals at a variety of locations across campus including Gilbert, Neptune, New Hall and Stevenson. You can also use your allocated meals and Flex Dollars to treat friends and family.

**Commuting**
While most students live close to campus, many law students also choose to commute. While making the choice, we recommend that students consider things such as parking, commuting costs, time management and more. The Admissions Office has lots of tips and guidelines to help you on your transition to law school.
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Financial Aid
Admitted Students should complete and submit the Free Application for Financial Student Aid at www.fafsa.gov. You will need your federal income tax return and W-2 forms to complete the FAFSA. Be certain to select NIU (School Code 001737) as a recipient of your FAFSA. Should you decide to attend NIU Law, you will receive more detailed instructions about how to apply for financial aid in the spring. A request to have a student's loan eligibility reviewed can be made by contacting the Student Financial Aid Office (815-753-1395).

Types of Aid

Scholarships: Scholarships and grants through NIU Law provide full or partial tuition waivers. Scholarships are based on LSAT scores and GPAs, as well as on residency, special interests, or demonstrated leadership qualities.

Federal Direct Loans: Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans are low interest loans for students that are borrowed directly through the U.S. Department of Education. To apply for a Direct Student Loan, a student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov, and complete a Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling at www.studentloans.gov.

Graduate students may borrow up to $20,500 per year in Federal Stafford Loans. The current interest rate for these loans is 5.31% annually, and a 1.073% loan fee is deducted at disbursement. Borrowers have a Federal Direct Loan Lifetime Aggregate Maximum limit of $138,500. As of July 1, 2012, there are no longer any subsidized Direct Stafford Loans available to graduate or law students: as soon as your loan is disbursed, interest begins to accrue. After you graduate, these loans have a six-month grace period before repayment begins. A Federal Direct Loan has forbearance and deferment options, may be consolidated, may be paid back under several different repayment plans, and may be eligible for forgiveness under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

Graduate PLUS Loans for Law Students: A Graduate PLUS loan is federally guaranteed, interest accrues while you are in school, and repayment begins following graduation. The interest rate is fixed at 6.31% annually, and a 4.276% loan fee is deducted from the disbursement. If you do not have adverse credit, you may secure aid to cover the cost of attendance by applying for Graduate PLUS Loans.

Applicants must fill out a brief application at StudentLoans.gov. A Federal Student ID (FSA ID) is required for the student to apply for the PLUS Loan, as well as to sign a Master Promissory Note. The Direct PLUS Loan request consists of four sections: personal information, school and loan information, review application, and credit check. If your application is declined, you may be able to re-apply after you have settled your debts or have obtained a cosigner. Additionally, you must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) for your loans. A Graduate PLUS loan has forbearance and deferment options, may be consolidated, may be paid back under several different repayment plans, and may be eligible for forgiveness under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.
**Private Loans:** Private loans are available from private lenders and offer additional financial assistance to you if you have exhausted all other sources of funding for your education. These programs are meant to supplement federal and state aid when the Cost of Attendance is not fully covered by these programs.

**Planning Your Courses**

First-year students are automatically registered for their courses. The required first-year courses are listed on the course list. An example of a first-year schedule is shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<td>Torts 9:00-9:50</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:50</td>
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<td>9:00-9:50</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Contracts 10:30-</td>
<td>Torts 10:30-</td>
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<td>11:45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Procedure</td>
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<td>Student Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00-1:50</td>
<td></td>
<td>Meetings 12:00-</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Methods</td>
<td>Introduction to</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00-3:50</td>
<td>Legal profession</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:00-4:15</td>
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Second and third year students get the freedom to select their courses. An example of an upper-level class schedule is shown below.

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<td>Immigration</td>
<td>Internship at</td>
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<td>Law 10:30-11:45</td>
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<td>Law 10:30-11:45</td>
<td>the public</td>
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<td>11:45</td>
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<td>defender’s office</td>
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<td>Student</td>
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<td>Organization</td>
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<td>Meetings 12:00-</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Evidence 1:00-2:</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Secured Transactions</td>
<td>Family Law</td>
<td>Secured Transactions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30-4:20</td>
<td>2:30-4:20</td>
<td>2:30-4:20</td>
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