

The University of Chicago Law School was established in 1902. It aims to give a thorough legal training to students whose education and maturity have fitted them to pursue serious professional study. The method of instruction employed—the study and discussion of cases—is designed to give an effective knowledge of legal principles and to develop the power of independent legal reasoning. The course of study offered, requiring three academic years for completion, is not local in its scope, but constitutes a thorough preparation for the practice of law in any English-speaking jurisdiction. By taking advantage of the quarter system (see “General Information,” p. 5, below) students may complete the course in two and one-fourth calendar years.

Only college graduates or students who have had college work equivalent to three years in the University are admitted as candidates for the degree of Doctor of Law (J.D.), which is conferred upon college graduates only. The University permits one year of law to be counted as the fourth year of college work, and confers an academic Bachelor’s degree upon candidates for J.D. who have completed one year in the Law School, thus enabling them to obtain both the academic and the professional degree in six years. (See “Degrees,” below, p. 8.) Students over twenty-one years old are admitted as candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) upon the conditions stated below, p. 7, under “Admission.”

It is very desirable that the preliminary education of law students should include work in the social sciences, and provision has been made in the third college year for pre-legal study devoted chiefly to these subjects. This course is not required, but students expecting to study law are strongly advised to pursue it. Its suggested topics are found below, p. 10, under “Pre-legal Courses.”

THE LAW BUILDING

The Law School occupies a building within the University quadrangles, erected especially for it in 1904. It is three stories high, 175 feet long, and 80 feet wide, built of stone in the English Gothic style of architecture. On the first floor are four lecture rooms, two of which are in theater form. The mezzanine floor is occupied by the library stack-room, connected with the reading-room above by electric book lifts and designed to contain steel stacks for 90,000 volumes. Opening into the stack-room are studies for members of the Faculty and the Librarian’s room. On the third floor is the reading-room, a great hall with high timbered ceiling, 160 feet long and 50 feet wide, lighted on all sides by Gothic windows. It has wall shelves for 14,000 books and provides space for tables accommodating 400 readers. Adjoining the reading-room is the office of the Dean. In the basement is a smoking-room and the locker-room, containing several hundred steel-mesh lockers for the use of students.

THE LIBRARY

The Law Library contains about 40,500 volumes. Except a few county court decisions, it includes all of the American, English, Irish, Scotch, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, and higher Indian reports, with their digests; all

past and present codes and statutory revisions of those jurisdictions; the recent South African reports; all English, Irish, and Scotch statutes, and (except the early laws of some of the older states) the session laws of all the American states and Canadian provinces; all collateral reports and series of classified cases in use; an extensive collection of treatises, periodicals, trials, and legal miscellany, including a large amount of old English historical material; and a working library in French, German, Spanish, and Mexican law.

Students in the Law School may use the other University libraries, containing over 415,000 volumes.