UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | LAW CENTER

INFORMATION FOR ADMITTED STUDENTS 2019
Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of Houston Law Center! A UH Law Center education will teach you to think like a lawyer, empower you to seek justice, and instill in you the confidence to achieve your professional goals. The supportive faculty and staff at the UH Law Center will provide you with the tools to not only survive the law school experience, but excel! You have the opportunity to begin your legal career in one of the most diverse cities in the country, with the nation’s sixth largest legal market. We hope this short guide will prepare you for your entrance into law school and the legal profession. Do not hesitate to reach out to the Admissions Office if you have any questions or concerns about starting law school or moving to Houston. We look forward to getting to know you better over the next few months and sincerely hope the UH Law Center will become your home.

Pilar Mensah  
Assistant Dean for Admissions

Important Dates

- **January 15**: Priority deadline for financial aid
- **March 28**: Welcome reception
- **March 29**: Admitted Student Day
- **April 12**: Diversity reception
- **April 13**: Admitted Student Day
- **April 15**: Enrollment fee due (unless acceptance letter gives a later date)
- **June 1**: Registration Commitment Form due (form sent via email in May)
- **July 1**: Bacterial meningitis vaccination forms due (for students under 22)
- **July 18**: Admitted Student Day
- **Mid-August**: New Student Orientation (mandatory for all incoming students)
- **August 19**: First day of classes
- **October 1**: Declaration of Intent due for 1Ls who plan to take the Texas Bar Exam

* To save your seat in the incoming class, you will need to pay the $200 non-refundable enrollment fee by the date in your acceptance letter. The fee can be paid by credit card (MasterCard or Visa) at law.uh.edu/admissions/payments.

** Around the end of May, we will email the Registration Commitment Form, which our office uses in lieu of a second payment. Completion of this form shows your intent to enroll at the Law Center. You must return this form by the deadline in order to retain your seat in the class and to allow the registrar’s office to register you for classes. Applicants who are accepted during the summer will return the enrollment fee and Registration Commitment Form at the same time.

*** For more information, visit law.uh.edu/admissions/admitted-students-imm.asp.

**** Information will be sent to entering students mid-summer: ble.texas.gov/home.

Contact Information

**University of Houston Law Center**
4604 Calhoun Road  
Houston, TX 77204-6060
law.uh.edu

**Dean**
Leonard M. Baynes  
713.743.2478
lawdean@uh.edu

**Office of Admissions**
713.743.2280
lawadmissions@uh.edu
law.uh.edu/admissions/

**Assistant Dean for Admissions**
Pilar Mensah
lpmensah@central.uh.edu

**Associate Director of Admissions**
Liz Clearman ‘04
eclearman@uh.edu

**Associate Director of Admissions**
Ann-Margaret Dudley
adudley@central.uh.edu

**Assistant Director of Admissions**
Angela Ambers-Henderson
amambers@central.uh.edu

**Admissions Program Manager**
Ray Morris
remorris2@central.uh.edu

**Financial Aid Advisor**
Laura Neal
713.743.2269
lawfinaid@uh.edu

**Associate Dean for Student Affairs**
Sondra Tennessee
713.743.2182
srichard@central.uh.edu

**Career Development Office**
713.743.2090
lawcareer@uh.edu
law.uh.edu/career/

**Assistant Dean for Career Development**
Tiffany Tucker
tjtucke2@central.uh.edu

Data accurate as of printing – March 2019.
Entering Class of 2018 - Class Profile

The 2018 incoming class included 205 students divided among three full-time sections and one part-time section. We have enjoyed getting to know this dynamic group of students. Here are a few interesting facts about our current 1Ls.

Number of applications 2654
Class Size 205
Median LSAT 160
Median GPA 3.61
Hispanic 23.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander 15%
Black/African American 5.9%
Native American 2%
Female 52.7%
Non-resident 13.7%
Average Age (entering) 25
Previous graduate degree 11.2%

More than 75 universities were represented.
The top feeder schools were:
1. The University of Texas at Austin (33)
2. University of Houston (30)
3. Texas A&M University (27)

More than 50 majors were represented.
The top majors were:
1. Political Science (38)
2. English (12)
3. Psychology (10)
4. Finance (8)
5. Economics (8)

Prior to law school, 24 students had earned graduate degrees in other disciplines. Members of the entering class have studied and worked all over the globe and collectively speak at least 22 languages.

Financial Aid

There are two types of financial aid — merit-based and need-based. Merit aid is awarded by the Office of Admissions based on application materials and consists of our Dean’s Scholarship program and a handful of privately-funded merit scholarships. If you are awarded a scholarship, notification will be included in your offer of admission.

Need-based aid is awarded by the main campus financial aid office based on the FAFSA, and awarding generally begins in mid- to late May. There are a limited number of need-based scholarships available for law students, so most need-based aid comes in the form of student loans. For additional information on financial aid, you can speak with Laura Neal at 713.743.2269 or lawfinaid@uh.edu.

**Estimated Cost of Attendance for 2019-2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Non-resident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full Time JD – 31 hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
<td>$33,180</td>
<td>$48,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>$2,900</td>
<td>$2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Expenses</td>
<td>$16,584</td>
<td>$16,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost of attendance</td>
<td>$52,664</td>
<td>$67,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part Time JD – 27 hours (fall/spring/summer)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
<td>$29,529</td>
<td>$42,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>$2,925</td>
<td>$2,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Expenses</td>
<td>$23,020</td>
<td>$23,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost of attendance</td>
<td>$55,474</td>
<td>$68,569</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Estimated expenses computed by financial aid officers for 2019-2020. Tuition, book costs, and living expenses may increase although UHLC is committed to keeping tuition competitive with other urban public schools. Tuition will be set in the spring of each academic year.

** Estimate for part-time program is based on three semesters of coursework: fall, spring, and summer.

“At UHLC, faculty members set high expectations but provide the support and availability to ensure that all students can be successful. Even in my larger courses, I have always felt that my professors were accessible and gladly willing to help with any confusion. Their commitment to our success consistently shines through and undoubtedly makes a difference in our academic growth.”

— Rocio Ruiz ’17
Associate attorney, Major Projects Practice Group, Baker McKenzie
B.A., Political Science and Spanish, Agnes Scott College
First Year

The registrar assigns all incoming students to a class section (Sections A, B, and C for full-time and Section E for part-time), and all first-year classes are taken with other students in that section. Students are also assigned individual study carrels, which are housed together by section. Students spend an entire academic year together, and as a result, the 1L sections form an important and lasting community. Relationships that begin with study groups, happy hours, and intramural teams develop into lifelong friendships and a strong career network.

Fall semester class schedules and section assignments are sent by email in mid-July. The exact order of classes is subject to change; however, the table below will give you an idea of what to expect. During the 1L year, full-time classes are generally scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (although Friday classes are not held every semester), and part-time classes are generally scheduled between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. There are typically no classes between noon and 1:00 p.m., leaving that time available for extracurricular programming and making it easier for students to be involved in campus life. Some programs are also held from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to allow part-time students to attend.

### FULL-TIME PROGRAM First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Procedure</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Torts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lawyering Skills and Strategies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester</td>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Property</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statutory Interpretation &amp; Regulation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lawyering Skills and Strategies</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PART-TIME PROGRAM First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>Property</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Procedure</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lawyering Skills and Strategies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester</td>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Torts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lawyering Skills and Strategies</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Semester</td>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statutory Interpretation &amp; Regulation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The order of classes is subject to change.

Brief course descriptions are available online for all the 1L classes listed above: [law.uh.edu/admissions/admitted-students-first-year-classes.asp](http://law.uh.edu/admissions/admitted-students-first-year-classes.asp)

1L Mentor Groups

All first-year students are assigned to a mentor group with a professor and an upper-level student. The mentor groups are small and include students from the same 1L section. Groups meet periodically during the year to provide support during the transition into law school. Mentors give advice on various topics such as adjusting to law school, preparing for final exams, getting involved in campus life, and selecting courses after the first year.

"I found the job that I had during the spring of my second year through the CDO’s job bank, Symplicity. It’s a great resource for students because of the connections the Law Center works diligently to foster with alumni all over the nation."

— Michael Ryan ’15
Associate attorney, Labor and Employment, Foley & Lardner
B.A., History; M.Ed., Curriculum & Instruction, Texas A&M University
Academic Enrichment Program

Upperclass student tutors are assigned to each first-year section to assist students with course material and to augment study and test-taking skills. Tutors attend class sessions with the section and work with the professor to develop session materials. Tutorial sessions are open to all students and provide a beneficial supplement to classroom instruction and faculty office hours. This program, coupled with our dedicated, student-centered faculty, helps foster student success in the first year.

Upper Division

The UH Law Center offers one of the largest course selections in the country. Access to our broad and deep curriculum will prepare you for almost any legal discipline and allows concentrations in specific areas. In your second and third years of study, you have only three course requirements: Professional Responsibility, six credit hours of experiential learning courses (including simulation courses, law clinics, and field placements), and the upper-level writing requirement. You may customize your remaining coursework with a range of elective courses, seminars, and clinical experiences. Some students enhance their studies through study abroad, a dual degree program, or by enrolling in approved classes from other graduate departments. At UHLC, students have a great deal of flexibility in creating their educational path, and faculty as well as the Director of Student Advisement are available to assist students in selecting courses best suited to their career goals.

The core of our curriculum is the traditional doctrinal courses that teach legal theory, critical analysis, and practical applications. UHLC offers courses in a wide range of legal specialties, including two nationally-ranked programs—Health Law and Intellectual Property & Information Law. Each of these specialty programs adds depth to our curriculum and creates educational opportunities that other law schools simply cannot match. Our courses are divided into the following areas:

- Blakely Advocacy Institute
- Business and Commercial Law
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law
- Employment and Labor Law
- Energy, Environmental, and Natural Resources Law
- Family Law
- Health Law
- Intellectual Property and Information Law
- International Law
- Law and Society/Interdisciplinary
- Practice Skills - Research and Writing
- Practice Skills - Clinics and Externships
- Procedure and Practice
- Real Property, Trusts, and Estates
- Taxation

law.uh.edu/academic

“One of my favorite things about the University of Houston Law Center by far is the externship class. It allows me to apply the law I have learned in my first-year theoretical courses to real-world legal situations, and it takes learning to a whole new level.”

— Shannon Terry ’18
Associate attorney, Business Litigation Practice Group, Winstead
B.S., Political Science, University of Houston
Clinical Legal Education
Our six clinics provide students with hands-on, practical legal experience while still in law school. Under the guidance of clinical faculty, students handle all aspects of cases. The clinical program trains students to be competent, professional, and ethical advocates and to serve the community by providing first-rate pro-bono legal representation to indigent clients. Examples of the types of cases handled in our clinics include:

- Civil Practice Clinic – bankruptcy, divorce, estate planning, juvenile cases
- Consumer Law Clinic – deceptive trade practices, credit and debt collection problems
- Criminal Defense Clinic – misdemeanor cases from arraignment to fact investigation to trial
- Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic – employment policies, lease agreements, and other legal issues encountered by small businesses and nonprofits
- Immigration Clinic – asylum, domestic violence, human trafficking
- Mediation Clinic – mediate consumer issues, landlord-tenant disputes, breach of contract cases

law.uh.edu/clinic/homepage.asp

Joint Degree Programs
UHLC is among the national leaders in the number of dual degree programs offered. Our innovative programs allow students to earn two degrees in less time than it would take to complete the degrees separately. Degrees that can be combined with your J.D. include:

- LL.M. with UH Law Center (admission as a 2L or 3L)
- M.B.A. with UH C.T. Bauer College of Business
- M.A. in History with UH History Department
- M.S.W. with UH Graduate College of Social Work
- M.P.H. with UT School of Public Health
- M.D. with Baylor College of Medicine
- J.D. with University of Calgary (International Energy Lawyers Program)
- M.P.P. with UH Hobby School of Public Affairs
- M.P.A. with UH College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

law.uh.edu/academic/dual-degree.asp

Blakely Advocacy Institute
Advocacy skills are central to the practice of law, and UHLC’s advocacy program is recognized as one of the broadest and best in the nation. The Institute oversees all of the practice skills courses, the intramural competitions, and the interscholastic advocacy teams. There are several ways that students can be involved with the advocacy program, including:

- Practice Skills Courses such as Trial Advocacy, Appellate Advocacy, Pretrial Litigation, Depositions, Attorney Communication & Persuasion Techniques, and Legal Negotiation
- Intramural competitions such as the John Black Moot Court Tournament, the Newhouse Mediation Competition, and the Hippard Novice Mock Trial Competition, which are all open to first-year students
- Competitive interscholastic teams that compete nationally and internationally in mock trial, moot court, and alternative dispute resolution (mediation, arbitration, and negotiation)

law.uh.edu/blakely/homepage.asp

“"The diversity of the students at UHLC is almost staggering at first, but it is one of the preeminent strengths of the school. We all learn from each other, making each of us a stronger advocate. I truly believe that Houston and UHLC are unique melting pots of backgrounds, education, and individual strengths that make our graduates especially suited for practice in today’s world. I chose to attend this law school because it has world-class professors with the ability to provide guidance for any field of law that you can imagine.”
— Cheuck Yee ’16
Assistant county attorney, Travis County
B.S., Kinesiology, The University of Texas
**Externships**

UHLC administers several programs to help upper-level students gain hands-on experience and exposure to the legal field, while building their résumés and expanding their professional networks. Our Judicial Externship Program gives students the opportunity to work with federal and state judges at the trial and appellate levels, allowing them to view the courts’ inner workings and gain insight into the legal system from the perspective of the bench. The Government and Nonprofit Externship Program is designed to expose law students to advocacy in action while gaining immeasurable experience. Our Criminal Practice Externship allows students to work at the Harris County District Attorney’s Office handling the prosecution of a variety of misdemeanor-level criminal cases with the possibility of some felony case work. Through the externship program, students take what they are learning in the classroom and see how it applies to real-world situations. A wealth of field placement opportunities are available in the Houston area, but UHLC students have earned credit for work performed in other areas of the country and abroad as well. [law.uh.edu/externship/externship.asp](http://law.uh.edu/externship/externship.asp)

**Journals**

After completing the first year of study, UHLC students can gain valuable writing experience while working on one of the school’s acclaimed and award-winning student-run journals. Although each journal has its own specific requirements for membership, generally, journals offer membership to candidates whose first-year grades place them within the required GPA threshold. If a student does not qualify for admission to a particular journal based on grades, there is an annual write-on competition. The write-on competition consists of a topic chosen by all of the journals and is administered the summer after the first year. Each individual journal has its own set of criteria to determine who is eligible for membership. Our journals include the following:

- Houston Business and Tax Law Journal
- Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy
- Houston Journal of International Law
- Houston Law Review
- Journal of Consumer & Commercial Law

[law.uh.edu/academic/journals-and-publications.asp](http://law.uh.edu/academic/journals-and-publications.asp)

**Student Life**

Learning extends beyond the classroom with a full range of student organizations, extracurricular activities, and alumni networking opportunities. Student groups represent special interests and provide important avenues to help law students succeed. Many arrange mentoring programs, plan social events, coordinate guest speaker forums, and organize law-related charitable efforts that benefit the community. [law.uh.edu/organizations/homepage.asp](http://law.uh.edu/organizations/homepage.asp)

The Campus Recreation and Wellness Center is located a few blocks from the Law Center. This amazing facility offers everything from a three-story rock-climbing wall to a world-class natatorium. A full range of exercise classes is available, along with multiple settings for indoor sports, ranging from soccer to basketball to martial arts. [uh.edu/recreation](http://uh.edu/recreation)

Houston’s low cost of living affords our students many options as far as housing. Off-campus, the choices for apartment living are vast while still allowing for a short commute to the UH Law Center. The University of Houston also has numerous on-campus housing options, including apartments on and near campus, dorms, and the University Lofts, which are conveniently located directly across the street from the Law Center. [uh.edu/housing/housing-options/](http://uh.edu/housing/housing-options/)

*“I love that the University of Houston Law Center has an extremely diverse student body, faculty, and staff. I’ve had the chance to meet people from many different backgrounds and walks of life, and it has allowed for a more stimulating and enjoyable learning environment. In the part-time program especially, we come from all types of backgrounds and career paths. This allows us to bring our experiences into classroom discussions, and creates a great learning atmosphere built on substantive subject matters.”*  

—Calvin McKnight ’19  
Part-time evening student  
Law clerk, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld  
B.S. Industrial Engineering, Louisiana State University
Career Development

2017 GRADUATING CLASS

Median Starting Salary $75,000*
Employed Within 10 Months 87%

For the most current and comprehensive employment statistics, please contact the Office of Career Development or visit law.uh.edu/career/employment-statistics.asp.

* Salary information is based on a 70% 2017 graduate response rate of those employed.

Class of 2017
Employment by category

Employers of our recent graduates include:

- Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
- Abraham, Watkins, Sorrels, Nichols, Agosto & Aziz
- Access Justice Houston
- alliantgroup, LP
- Andrews Myers PC
- Baker Botts LLP
- Baker McKenzie
- Bergquist Law Firm
- Blank Rome LLP
- BoyarMiller
- Carstens & Cahoon LLP
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
- Daw & Ray LLP
- Fletcher Yoder, P.C.
- Foley & Lardner LLP
- The Fuentes Firm, P.C.
- Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP
- Galveston County District Attorney’s Office
- Harris County District Attorney’s Office
- Haynes and Boone, LLP
- Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
- Jackson Walker LLP
- Jones Day
- King & Spalding
- Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- Latham & Watkins LLP
- Locke Lord LLP
- Norton Rose Fulbright LLP
- Osha Liang LLP
- Paul Hastings LLP
- Reddy & Neumann, PC
- Reed Smith LLP
- Roberts Markel Weinberg Butler Hailey PC
- Schlumberger
- Schouest, Bamdas, Soshea & BenMaier PLLC
- University of Houston System, Office of General Counsel
- U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- U.S. District Court, Eastern, Southern and Western Districts of Texas
- U.S. Secret Service
- Vinson & Elkins LLP
- Winstead PC
- Wong Fleming

“I was intrigued by the idea of doing a federal judicial clerkship after graduation and expressed my interest to my career counselor. The clerkship program manager reached out to me later when a local judge was interested in receiving applications. I applied and, thankfully, I was offered the clerkship! The staff in the CDO truly has the best interest of their students in mind, and the email that they sent informing me of this opportunity is just one example of that. I’m grateful for this experience.”

— Laura Duncan ’14
Trial Attorney, Attorney General’s Honor Program, U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division
Former Judicial Clerk, U.S. District Court Judge Gray Miller
B.S., Corporate Communications; M.A., Advertising, The University of Texas
The most important service provided by the Law Center Career Development Office (CDO) is individual career counseling. The office is staffed with six full-time counselors, all with law degrees and experience working in the legal field. Each student is assigned to a specific counselor, and the career counselors invest time getting to know their students so they can successfully assist them in finding jobs that meet their professional and personal goals. Alumni of the Law Center also receive access to the CDO and its services forever and for free.

In addition to individual counseling, the CDO provides a number of programs to assist law students in planning for their legal careers. These services and programs include:

**Job Bank**

The CDO maintains an online, password-protected job bank, Symplicity®, that is available to all law students to view available positions, from part-time law clerks to internships to full-time attorney roles. The CDO regularly meets with practitioners throughout Texas to highlight the diverse and adept student body of UHLC. Through these meetings, the CDO staff is able to appreciate market conditions, hiring preferences, and employer expectations, and they often return to campus with job opportunities for students. New jobs are posted in the Symplicity® job bank daily, and range from firm positions to opportunities with nonprofit organizations, as well as everything in between. The user-friendly Symplicity® system allows students to upload résumés, cover letters, and other necessary documents and contains resource materials for various practice areas. Symplicity® is available to all current students and alumni, so even after students have graduated, the system remains a viable tool to assist in finding employment.

**On-Campus Interview Program (OCI)**

Every year, over 100 prospective employers recruit on UHLC’s campus for summer and semester law clerks and post-graduate positions. OCI allows students the opportunity to interview with legal employers on campus, and takes place in three stages: 1) Early Week Fall, 2) Fall, and 3) Spring. Early Week Fall OCI occurs before classes begin and is the largest stage with mainly multi-national, large law firms participating. The second stage, Fall OCI, occurs in mid-October, drawing smaller, more regional firms, while the third stage, Spring OCI, occurs in January and hosts large law firms seeking to hire 1L students for summer associate positions.

"I’ve loved my time here at the Law Center, mainly because of the staff and the students. We have an exceptional Career Development Office that is responsive and helpful, the Admissions Office stays connected with students even after they’ve matriculated, and the Dean has clear goals to fundraise and develop even more beneficial programs for the Law Center."

— Sydney Nguyen ’17

Quality control attorney, alliantgroup
B.S., Political Science, B.A., Spanish, University of Houston Honors College
Government and Public Interest Table Talk

Culminating after a week-long series of career panels discussing the advantages and challenges of practicing in the public sector, the Government and Public Interest Table Talk (GPITT) gives students the opportunity to meet with public interest employers and discuss internship opportunities for the upcoming summer or academic year. During the event, local nonprofit organizations and government agencies come to campus and set up tables to share information on their organizations and their hiring needs.

Small & Midsize Firm Open House

Geared specifically towards firms with 50 or fewer attorneys, this event brings local legal employers to campus to speak to UHLC students about their practice, area of law, and potential employment opportunities. The open house occurs after a week-long series of career panels discussing the realities of day-to-day life for attorneys who practice at small, midsize, and growing firms. It provides students the opportunity to meet informally with employers, hand out résumés for upcoming positions, and introduce themselves to a large number of prospective employers.

First Year Initiative (FYI)

This program introduces first-year students to legal employment, and includes tailored one-on-one advising on résumé and cover letter drafting, networking, and first-year summer employment options.

Passport to Success Professional Development Series

A mandatory program for 1Ls, the Passport to Success program is co-sponsored by the CDO and Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP. The Series consists of four mandatory learning sessions that are each designed to cover facets of new attorney professionalism most sought after by legal employers. The sessions will be taught by nationally-known industry experts, law firm partners, and CDO staff with proven track records of teaching and training attorneys on these subjects.

Apprentice Program

The UHLC Apprentice Program allows 2Ls and 3Ls to work at a small law firm (fewer than five attorneys) in the Houston area year-round. The goal is to provide a true “apprentice” experience to 3Ls by immersing them in the daily life of an attorney, allowing them to work side by side with employers in a small firm setting. Firms participating in the Apprentice Program are encouraged to give their law clerks a meaningful opportunity to learn and be exposed to their practice and field of law. Students hired for this program are paid a competitive hourly wage, 50% of which is subsidized by UHLC.
Summer & Graduate Fellowships

**Summer Public Interest Fellowships:** The purpose of these fellowships is to provide opportunities for work exposure in the public interest legal community, thereby instilling excitement about, and a commitment to, public service in our students. Through this program, fellows get the opportunity to build legal skills, hone their portfolio of accomplishments, and contribute to their community. UHLC has a long history of subsidizing summer work for local nonprofit employers. This highly competitive program was greatly expanded to allow UHLC to quadruple the number of annual fellowships and add government employers as a placement option. law.uh.edu/pil/summer.asp

**Graduate Fellowships:** The UHLC Graduate Fellowship Program is designed to make it possible for our recent graduates who are dedicated to careers in public service to pursue unpaid internships as they await their bar results. Since nonprofits and government agencies often do not hire prior to receiving bar results, this program allows our graduates to bridge the gap between taking the bar exam and getting the results. UHLC provides up to $4,500 to selected graduates working with a government agency or a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Work schedules are flexible, but fellows are expected to work at least 30 hours per week for 10 weeks, generally beginning the last week in August and concluding the first week in November. law.uh.edu/pil/graduate-fellowship-program/

**Global Fellowships:** The UHLC Global Fellowship Program is a new venture that was started in 2015 to assist students pursuing international placements during the summer with government and nonprofit agencies. Although students have interned abroad in the past, this program helps to ensure a larger number of students have the funding to pursue international experience. Our goal with this program is to allow students to broaden their horizons, build their skill set, and pursue careers across the globe. law.uh.edu/pil/global-fellowship-program.asp

**Recent Fellowship placements include:** (* denotes a Global Fellowship placement)

- Children at Risk
- City Attorney's Office, League City
- City Attorney's Office, Missouri City
- City of Pearland/Court Prosecutor
- Disability Rights Texas
- Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office
- Harris County District Attorney's Office
- Harvard Law School Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation
- Houston Methodist Hospital
- Human Rights First
- Juvenile and Children's Advocacy Project
- Lone Star Legal Aid
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- Mexico's National Hydrocarbons Commission (CNH), Mexico City*
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), Mexico City*
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
- National Green Tribunal, New Delhi, India*
- Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
- Office of Counsel to the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.
- PEMEX, Mexico City*
- Tahirih Justice Center
- Texas Attorney General's Office
- Texas Civil Rights Project
- Texas Innocence Network – Capital Division
- Travis County Juvenile Public Defender
- U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Texas
- U.S. Department of Justice, ENRD
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston

---

"After I graduated from UHLC, I was awarded one of the Law Center's Graduate Fellowships in the Environmental Protection Division at the Office of the Attorney General in Austin, Texas, where I now represent the state of Texas in environmental enforcement matters. This fellowship allowed me to pursue my goal of practicing Environmental Law.”

— SIREESHA CHIRALA ’13
Assistant city attorney, City of Dallas
B.A., Government, The University of Texas
University of Houston Main Campus

Law Center students may avail themselves of upscale graduate housing in the University Lofts, dining halls and food courts, cross-campus shuttle service, a state-of-the-art recreation facility, and even a pub – all within walking distance of the Law Center. Even amidst a bustling city like Houston, UH offers a rich student life right on campus.

Midtown
A vibrant and trendy mixed-use community with a variety of dining, shopping, and entertainment venues within walking distance of large loft-style apartment communities. Home to young professionals who know how to work and play.

Downtown
Home to some of the world’s largest law firms and more than 100 courts, downtown Houston offers Law Center students a wealth of opportunity right outside their front door.

Historic Third Ward
Two new light rail lines and two institutions of higher learning – the University of Houston and Texas Southern University – make this close-in neighborhood one of the city’s most accessible and diverse.

Montrose
Historic. Eclectic. Bohemian. Artsy. LGBTQ-friendly. Pierced and tattooed. In addition to good times and great people-watching, the area offers plenty of affordable housing options less than four miles from the Law Center. Look for garage apartments, duplexes, fourplexes, or rooms for rent among the porch-swing bungalows.

Galleria/Greenway Plaza/River Oaks/Memorial
World-class shopping and dining, a thriving business district, upscale apartments, a high concentration of law firms, and quick access to Memorial Park, an inner-city green space nearly twice the size of New York’s Central Park.

Rice/West U./Bellaire/Upper Kirby
Rice Village is a unique dichotomy of upscale establishments and college haunts, while West University Place and Bellaire – cities within the city – are upper-middle class bedroom communities. New loft apartments and high-rise condos define the urban chic of Upper Kirby. Many of the Law Center’s second-career students live in these areas.

Texas Medical Center/NRG Park
The world’s largest medical complex offers Law Center students – especially those in our nationally-ranked Health Law program – unrivaled access to the broadest range of health-related internship and career opportunities imaginable. The area has a variety of apartments and condominiums with easy access to NRG Park’s sporting and entertainment events.

Museum District/Hermann Park
Hermann Park is a 445-acre urban oasis complete with a zoo, paddleboats, jogging trails, Japanese Gardens, and its own little railroad. Eighteen museums comprise the adjacent Museum District, an eclectic neighborhood with tree-lined streets, historic homes, small apartment communities, fourplexes, and other housing options.

“I always tell prospective law students to choose a law school with well-regarded faculty, a variety of well-run clinical programs, and a good record of placement in desirable legal markets. I believe that UHLC not only meets, but exceeds, all of these criteria.”
— JUSTICE JEFF BROWN ’95
Justice, Supreme Court of Texas
Former UHLC adjunct professor and moot court coach
B.A., English, The University of Texas
Visiting the UH Law Center

The Office of Admissions encourages all admitted applicants to visit UHLC. We host several visitation days to assist admitted applicants in learning more about what makes UHLC an exceptional school. If one of our formal programs does not fit your schedule, individual visits can also be arranged, including a tour of UHLC with one of our Student Ambassadors, a visit to a first-year class, or an appointment with a member of the admissions staff or others within the law school. Visits are best scheduled when classes are in session and should be arranged in advance online at law.uh.edu/admissions/visiting-uhlc.asp.

Directions and Parking

UHLC is located near Entrance 19, just off Calhoun Boulevard, metered parking is available in Lot 19B. In addition, the MetroRail’s purple line has stops both on and near the University of Houston campus. Learn more at ridemetro.org. For detailed directions and parking, visit law.uh.edu/about/maps.asp.

In an effort to better serve UH’s ever-growing campus and community, Parking and Transportation Services now offers eligible faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to join COAST (Coogs on Alternative and Sustainable Transportation), a new incentive program for individuals who carpool or utilize alternative and sustainable options, such as METRO, to get to campus. COAST aligns with a critical goal of the university’s long-term plan that aims to minimize the number of vehicles traveling to and parking on campus, while also reducing Houston’s carbon footprint by relieving traffic congestion and improving the region’s air quality. uh.edu/af-university-services/parking/transportation-options/

Houston

The economy is booming, the arts are thriving, and there’s a food truck on every corner. We are recognized as the nation’s fastest growing job market, creating new jobs at a rate unparalleled by other U.S. cities.

A Few Things We Love about Houston:

- Strong job market
- Big city living without the big city cost
- Diversity
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Local musicians
- Museums
- Shopping
- Food scene
- Craft beer
- Southern hospitality
- Texans, Rockets, Astros, and Dynamo
- Weather

“The professors at UHLC are amazing. Each one I’ve had is invested in my legal education and is willing to provide extra help outside of class hours. Another thing that I love about UHLC is the diversity of the student body. I’ve met people from many different backgrounds, and it has created a more interesting and fun learning environment.”

— Janan Sharaf ’17
Assistant district attorney, Harris County District Attorney’s Office
B.A., Music Performance, University of Houston
Frequently Asked Questions

Q I have sent in my enrollment fee to secure my seat in the entering class. What happens now?

A The $200 enrollment fee is the first commitment to secure your seat in the class. We will require you to complete a Registration Commitment Form in June, indicating your intent to matriculate. You also need to provide verification that you have been vaccinated against bacterial meningitis if you’re under 22. Visit the admitted students page for more details. Additionally, if your email (or mailing) address changes during the summer, you should notify our office. We will be communicating with you throughout the summer via email regarding registration and orientation.

Q When can I get my parking permit? Can I live on campus? How do I get student health insurance?

A Once you pay your $200 seat deposit, you will receive a detailed email from the Office of Admissions indicating how to obtain your parking permit, as well as information about on-campus housing options and health care coverage.

Q Can I defer my admission to law school?

A Deferments are available on a case-by-case basis. Admitted students seeking to defer must submit a request in writing to the Assistant Dean for Admissions.

Q I am excited to begin law school. When can I register for fall classes?

A Entering students will be separated into sections and registered administratively by the Office of Student Services (OSS), typically in July.

Q When will I receive my class schedule and book list?

A Once OSS has registered all entering students, it will send orientation and enrollment information via email. This email will include your first-year section and your class schedule. Book lists are posted on the UHLC webpage. This typically happens around mid-July.

Q Where can I purchase my books?

A The University Bookstore has a law school satellite located in the University Lofts, across from the law school. Required texts, study materials, and UHLC merchandise can be purchased there.

Q Am I required to attend all of the orientation activities?

A The Law Center will provide mandatory orientation for all entering students in mid-August. Orientation will introduce students to the expectations, policies, and procedures of the UH Law Center, including the Honor Code. Students will also meet their student and faculty mentors. If you have an unavoidable conflict with orientation, you should contact the Office of Admissions.

Q What else should I do to prepare myself for law school?

A The Admitted Students page includes a list of books that have been recommended by our faculty, but please don’t feel that you need to read all of them or that you will be behind if you choose not to read any of them. If you are not familiar with Houston, you probably will want to arrive in town well before school starts so that you can get familiar with the city. Things to consider include finding the closest branch and ATMs of your bank, finding the best route to get to school and back home, and finding convenient gas stations and grocery stores. Don’t forget to set aside time to relax and have fun; UH has a great recreation center available to law students, and there are lots of gyms, parks, museums, and live music venues that provide students with a break from law school.

Q What is expected of students on the first class day?

A First day assignments will be posted on the webpage one to two weeks before the first day of classes (law.uh.edu/student/). Students are expected to have read the assignments and be prepared to discuss them in class on the first day. Some professors will have already assigned seats, and others will create a seating chart on the first day, allowing you to select your seat.
Q **What about class attendance?**
A UHLC has a minimum 80 percent attendance requirement. Any student who attends fewer than the minimum percentage of classes may be automatically dropped from the class. Faculty are free to impose a stricter attendance requirement or consider students who are late or leave early absent for that day. Most will discuss their attendance policies in their syllabi. Faculty use different methods to monitor attendance, including roll calls, use of the seating chart, sign-in sheets, or requiring students to make an honor code certification at the end of the semester. Falsifying class attendance is a violation of the UHLC Honor Code.

Q **How are grades determined? Can you explain blind grading and the curve?**
A Most courses have one exam at the end of the course. Letter grades are given to students in all courses and seminars, with numerical equivalents on a four point scale. Prior to the exam period, students will be issued an exam number by OSS. This number will be used for all exams that semester. Faculty members submit grade sheets with exam numbers to OSS for processing. Professors who credit for class participation or other factors will submit a separate list of those students who are to receive bonus/deduction points. Courses in which seminar papers or projects are the basis of the grade are not subject to blind grading. As OSS processes grades, it will review the grades of all the students to verify that the class mean grade is within the guidelines of the curve. For first-year courses, the mandatory curve is 2.9-3.1. More information about the curve is available in the Student Handbook.

Q **At my undergraduate school, all you needed was a 2.0 GPA to be in good standing. Is this the policy in the J.D. program at UHLC?**
A No. The good standing policy requires that students maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.33 at the completion of each semester and summer session to remain in good standing. This policy is described in detail in the Student Handbook.

Q **Do I have to purchase one of the recommended laptops? What if I already have a laptop?**
A Students are not required to purchase a laptop. Please note, however, that the LIT department will provide a range of technical support (law.uh.edu/lit/). All students who plan to take exams on their laptops must complete a training program for the exam software utilized at UHLC. This program is not included with the recommended laptops. Cougar Byte at the University Center sells discounted software to members of the University of Houston community. cougarbyte.com

Q **I was admitted to the part-time program but now realize that I would prefer to be a full-time student (or vice-versa). How can I change programs?**
A Students wishing to switch to the full- or part-time program may petition the Associate Dean for Student Affairs to be re-classified after completion of the first year curriculum. (Petitions may be submitted before the 2L fall semester begins.) Petitions are considered on a space-available basis.

Q **Can a student take a leave of absence?**
A Leaves of absence are granted for compelling reasons, but whenever this occurs during the first year, it creates significant problems because of the sequencing of the first-year curriculum. For that reason, students requesting a leave of absence will be required to take a leave for an entire year. Students contemplating the need to have a mid-first-year leave of absence for pregnancy, business, or other reasons may be advised to defer beginning law school for a year, rather than taking a leave of absence. Deferment requests should be sent to the Assistant Dean for Admissions prior to the start of classes.

Q **I was looking over the character and fitness information on the Admitted Students Page, and I think I need to amend my application. What should I do?**
A If you need to amend your application, either because you failed to disclose an incident when you applied or because a new incident has arisen since you applied, you will need to send a written explanation (by email) to the Assistant Dean for Admissions. The explanation should include all the details of the underlying incident, including the outcome. You must also explain why the matter was not disclosed when you applied, and you must provide a copy of the official disposition from the jurisdiction/college. Additional information is available on the Admitted Students page.
The University of Houston, a Carnegie-designated Tier One university, provides equal treatment and opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, veteran status or sexual orientation except where such distinction is required by law. This statement reflects compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and all state and federal regulations.