

LAW SCHOOL CALENDAR

2025-2026 Academic Calendar

The Law School operates on a semester calendar, with optional terms during the Winter and Summer break periods. The Law School reserves the right to make changes in this calendar. A detailed current calendar can be found at https://www.law.northwestern.edu/academics/acad_calendar/

Fall Semester 2025

Date	Event
August 2025	
1-5	Fall bidding - round 1
8-12	Fall bidding - round 2
8	Summer classes end
11-15	Summer term exams
15-18	Last chance to cancel Fall bids
21	Fall open enrollment (through Sep 5)
19-22	Orientation
25	Fall semester classes begin
29	Last day to drop a clinic
September 2025	
1	Labor Day Holiday - University Closed
5	Last day to add any law course; last day to drop any law course other than clinic
12	Summer grades post
30 - Oct 1	Winter Intersession bidding
October 2025	
3-6	Last chance to cancel Winter bids
7	Follow Thursday schedule
8	Follow Friday schedule
9-10	Fall Break - no classes
31-Nov 4	Spring bidding - round 1
November 2025	
7-11	Spring bidding - round 2
26	Fall semester classes end
27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday - University Closed
30-Dec 5	Reading period
December 2025	
6-18	Fall semester exams

Winter Intersession 2026

Intersession offers 2L, 3L, and LLM students the option to enroll in one class during the Winter break. 1L and Tax students are not eligible for Intersession courses. Intersession is an optional term that does not count toward the residence requirement.

Date	Event
December 2025	
19-Jan 11	Winter Break
19	Winter Intersession courses begin
24	Winter Recess - University Closed Through Jan 1

January 2026

11	Winter Intersession courses end
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Spring Semester 2026

Date	Event
January 2026	
7-23	Spring open enrollment
12	Spring semester classes begin
16	Fall grades post
16	Last day to drop clinic
19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - University Closed
23	Last day to add any law course; last day to drop any law course other than clinic
February 2026	
6	Winter grades post
March 2026	
21-30	Spring Break - no classes
31	Spring semester classes resume (follow Monday schedule)
April 2026	
21	Spring classes end
22-24	Review sessions and reading period
25 - May 7	Spring semester exams

Summer Term 2026

Summer Term offers 1L and 2L students the option of enrolling in up to two courses during the break. Summer is an optional term that does not count toward the JD residence requirement.

Date	Event
May 2026	
7	Spring semester exams end
15	Law School Convocation ceremony
26	Memorial Day - University Closed
27	Summer practica classes begin
June 2026	
5	Spring grades post
15	Summer term non-practica classes begin
19	Juneteenth Holiday - University Closed
22	Degree conferral
July 2026	
4	Independence Day Holiday - University Closed
August 2026	
10	Summer term classes end
12-14	Summer term exams
24	Fall semester classes begin