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Chicago has over 70 neighborhoods. But how do you decide which neighborhood is best for you and which neighborhood is best during your law school career? It would be best to start by researching some of Chicago’s neighborhoods and finding your fit. A majority of Loyola University Chicago law students choose to live off campus.

Popular neighborhoods for Loyola Chicago Law students are:
- Lincoln Park
- Lakeview
- Bucktown
- Uptown/Andersonville
- Ravenswood
- Gold Coast
- Wicker Park
- Rogers Park
- Logan Square

Check out Chicago neighborhoods for descriptions and hot spots in Chicago Neighborhoods.
WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS:

**Lincoln Park.** "I live in Lincoln Park (right by DePaul's campus). It's a younger area, which has its upsides and downsides. I go to Bally's Total Fitness (Clark/Diversey). It's very reasonably priced. BYOB restaurants are almost always cheaper than other places and usually better food. You can really save a lot. Plus, they are great with big groups of people."

"Lincoln Park has one of the best selections of restaurants in the city. Other than Wrigleyville, there is no other area in the city with more bars, clubs or lounges. Ambiance is best summed up by Lincoln Park's proximity to beautiful Lake Michigan. In both my apartments I've been no further than a 15-minute walk to the lake, which offers the beaches as well as miles of jogging/biking trails. Knowing the long nights of studying the first year curriculum, it was essential that I be close to school, and with the Brown & Red lines or the Clark Street bus within walking distance, I'm never more than a few minutes from school."

**Lakeview.** "I live in Lakeview and I love it. I especially recommend it for women living on their own. It's a very safe neighborhood. I live right off of Broadway, and there are plenty of restaurants, stores, and bars. It's a short walk to Lincoln Park and Wrigleyville. A downside is that this area is extremely crowded on the weekends. So if you are expecting to study at a coffee shop, better get there early. There is an express bus that picks up on Lake Shore Drive (the 145 or the 146) and it goes straight to Michigan Ave. It takes about 10 minutes to get to school."

"I would strongly recommend students to live in the Lakeview neighborhood. I lived there my first two years of law school and loved it. It feels more like a neighborhood than Gold Coast and is considerably cheaper. There's plenty to see/do to get a break from studying, and for students with pets, it's perfect. Plus, it was only a 15-20 minute train ride and a 7 minute ride on the express bus on Lake Shore Drive."

**Wrigleyville.** "I LOVE living in Wrigleyville! Wrigleyville is a small neighborhood within Lakeview. What can be better? Living so close to Wrigley Field, great restaurants and bars, so close to the Red Line. It is the perfect place to live with so much to do, the perfect place for someone new to Chicago. Being a little bit North also makes the apartments a little cheaper and we get more for our money."

**East Lakeview.** "I used to live in East Lakeview near the Clark / Halsted / Belmont triangle intersection, and I loved it. Great area, although it is a little expensive. Don't move to Wrigleyville unless you are a die-hard Cubs fan. The annoyance factor is too much."

"I live in the Lakeview East neighborhood, also known as Boystown. Specifically, I live near Lake Shore Drive and Belmont. This area is really one of the best the city has to offer. With walk-ups, mid-rise apartments and lofts, and even condominiums, Lakeview East boasts all types of housing arrangements with prices that nearly any budget can afford. It is a lively and welcoming area as it has one of the largest LGBT communities in the nation and is notable for a large Jewish population. This area is right on the lake so you are never more than a few minutes from the beach. Further, there is an express bus that goes directly to the school, which makes commute simple. If you live further west, the red line is also an available option to get to the school. The area is known for good eats, small independent shops, and an eclectic feel that you don't get in many other neighborhoods. Finally, you are never more than a few blocks from a variety of grocery stores including Whole Foods, and Jewel Osco."

**Ravenswood.** "I live in Ravenswood, which is a neighborhood on the North Side of the city. Ravenswood is comprised of a nice mixture of young professionals and families getting their first start in the city with folks who have lived in the city their whole life. It is a quiet neighborhood, which was great for law school and close to parks and restaurants for those times when you need to decompress. When you need to get to school there is the Brown line or Lake Shore Drive. Don't be scared to live further away from school, it may do you some good!"
I live in the Boystown/Wrigleyville area, and think it is a very good fit for Loyola Law students. It is much less expensive than the Streeterville/Gold Coast areas around the law school, and also a better value than Lincoln Park, without sacrificing other amenities. There are lots of independently run shops, bars and restaurants that serve a very diverse clientele, from hardcore Cubs fans to the GLBT community. I use "community" purposefully, because there really is a tight-knit community along the North Halsted area, which is always banding together for benefit functions and safety causes.

**Uptown/Andersonville.** "Uptown Rocks! Near the red line (Argyle, Berwyn) and bus lines 144, 146, 147 Express to Water Tower. Walk to the beach! Great cheap places to eat, especially Vietnamese. Near Aragon, Riviera and Green Mill (live music venues). Near Andersonville, with lots of cute shops and cafes. Near lakefront bike path."

"I highly recommend living in Uptown or Andersonville. There is ample, free parking, but you don’t need a car because it is so close to public transportation. Uptown is not as much of a “party” neighborhood as Lakeview/Wrigleyville. The neighborhood is still mis-perceived as dangerous, which helps keep the rent relatively low. My boyfriend and I shared a very nice 1-bedroom. Also, we felt that Hunter Properties, our property manager at the Carmen rental, was very responsive."

"Andersonville/Bryn Mawr. A very progressive area, the Andersonville/Bryn Mawr areas blend to make up some of Chicago’s north side. Loads of small storefronts along Clark give the feeling of a busy small town with a Main Street/High Street. Housing tends to be 2- or 3-flats or row houses – you’ll almost always have a yard! Transportation is OK, with the Red Line running near the lakefront and a few major north/south buses, however a commute to WTC will likely take 45 mins or more. The longer commute is offset by the very cheap housing, where a 2 bedroom can easily be found for under $1000/mo. It’s also very close to Loyola’s Lake Shore Campus, including the Klarchek IC.

Overall: A very LGBT friendly area, Edgewater will let you get away from the hustle of downtown, while still living in the city and having lots of local-businesses nearby for shopping and food. Highly recommended; cheap pricing."

"I live in Buena Park (Irving Park Rd & Marine Drive) and pay $1050 + utilities for a 2 bedroom (entire apt). [Buena Park is a neighborhood within Uptown]"

**WickerPark/Bucktown.** "Just west of Lincoln Park is Wicker Park and Bucktown (Blue line: Division, Damen, Western). Comparable to New York’s “The Village”. …known as Chicago’s “up and coming” neighborhood, filled with liberal, artsy crowd. The action centers on the intersection of North, Damen and Milwaukee avenues. (Rent) Prices reflect the proximity to this location. …parking is not difficult to find. The area is littered with boutiques and restaurants; there is ample public transportation and grocery stores. A good rule of thumb is to stay north of Division and east of Western. I take the North Avenue bus east to the North/Clybourn Red Line stop which I take south to Loyola."

“Don’t feel tied to moving to the Gold Coast, Lincoln Park, or Lakeview. Look west of school for cheaper rent and more space, without losing a great neighborhood vibe. The blue line and the near west side have a lot to offer. Check out Ukrainian Village, West Town, Logan Square, and Bucktown--you won’t be disappointed!”

“I love Wicker Park! It is by far the funkiest neighborhood in Chicago. This amazing bohemian community is comprised mainly of working artists, up-and-coming fashion designers, and hipsters . Also, the nightlife is great as it’s never a simple weekend in Wicker Park. There’s always some new hip club or restaurant opening.”
“My 3L year I moved to Bucktown/Wicker Park area. The commute to school was about 30 minutes but the neighborhood is fantastic. It’s great for dog-owners.”

**Roscoe Village.** “I live in Roscoe Village, just west of Lakeview (Western 2400 W and Belmont 3200 N). I think it’s great -- it’s quiet, very friendly... I live half a block from a police station so I feel very safe. It’s about a 30-minute bus/train ride for me to get to school, but it gives me a chance to wake up in the mornings. Roscoe Blvd. is very “neighbor-hood”, lots of little restaurants, bars, boutiques, etc. It’s a great place to hang out in the summer. It’s a very mixed neighborhood, lots of families, lots of singles, mostly middle class. There’s always PLENTY of parking (HOORAY) and I have never felt awkward talking to people or walking home late at night.”

**River North/Gold Coast.** “I live at One West Superior, 2 blocks from the school. I have enjoyed the convenience and location. What sets this apartment apart from others is the square footage is better here than most in the area, for the same price. Nice exercise rooms, computer room and free Starbucks Coffee from 5 am to 12 pm. I would recommend it.”

“I’ve lived in the Gold Coast for 2 years at 1140 N LaSalle. Despite settling for a smaller apartment, the neighborhood is great. It’s a 10-minute walk to school and a 15-minute bus ride to the loop. Also, the Clark/Division red line stop is a block away if it’s too cold to walk to class. There are plenty of grocery stores, bars, restaurants, and coffee shops within walking distance.”

“I came from Tennessee and chose to live close to school. It was a perfect choice. I jumped right into the city life and was acclimated quickly. The Gold Coast is amazing. I walk to school. The redline train stop is on the same block as the school so if I have to take the train, that is close by as well. Michigan Avenue is a half block from my apartment. There are tons of restaurants near my apartment. I am able to walk to the grocery store and bank. There are numerous parking garages. I am also one block from the Oak Street Beach, which can be seen from my rooftop. The location is more expensive than where some other students live but I am close to everything. In the end, it’s about preferences. I chose to pay for convenience and location."

“River North is one of the hottest neighborhoods in the city. Some of the best restaurants and bars that Chicago has to offer are right here. Rents can get a little pricey, but it’s worth it when you can walk a couple blocks to school and anywhere else downtown.”

“I could not be happier with Asbury Plaza. Not only was the location terrific--across the street from Whole Foods, the Red line, and minutes from the campus—the rent is very reasonable considering the Gold Coast location. I pay $1215 for a studio that’s decently sized (675 sq.ft.) and the fact that I can walk to school in four minutes makes paying the price of living in this area so worth it. Plus, I am just minutes from Michigan Avenue!”
Baumhart. "Loyola's graduate campus housing is located right across the street from the law school, as part of the Water Tower Campus. You can choose between a two bedroom/two bath apartment or a three bedroom/two bath apartment. There are floor plans and video tours of the rooms located on their website. The apartments are furnished, really nicely updated, and have awesome views of the city or Lake Michigan. The commute to school is basically nonexistent, since it's just across the street. It's just two blocks from the famous "Magnificent Mile," so there's tons of shopping and dining options. Gold Coast is very much "downtown," so living in Baumhart comes with both the pros and the cons of that. It can be really fun to live so close to all the "action," but it also can be frustrating to have crowds of people around, all the time.

Baumhart is one block away from the Chicago/State Street Red Line stop on the L, so getting where you're going is never a problem. There are two grocery stores within walking distance. You must have your ID to scan into the building, and guests must also give security an ID to enter.

Overall: The neighborhood streets are quiet and friendly, but easy walking distance to fun. Highly recommended, although expensive: $1250/mo for a high-rise studio (view of the park and the lake)."

Old Town. "Old Town, love it. Lots to do on Wells St., only a mile from school, feels neighborhood-y, on the lake, near Lincoln Park/Lakeview/Bucktown/Wicker Park social scenes."

"Old Town. It's a fun area, only a 20 min walk to WTC, but loads of buses and the Red and Brown Lines for transportation as well. Being right at the border of Lincoln Park, there is TONS of green space around and people are always running or walking their dogs; easy access to North Ave beach and the lakefront! Two options for bars and nightlife include the Clark/Division area and the Wells strip near North Ave – one can find every type of bar possible between these two spots. Shopping along North Ave near Halstead is also easily accessible, and Old Town is home to Second City and the Steppenwolf Theater!

Overall: The neighborhood streets are quiet and friendly, but easy walking distance to fun. Highly recommended, although expensive: $1250/mo for a high-rise studio (view of the park and the lake)."

South Loop. "One of Chicago's fast up-and-coming neighborhoods, the South Loop has tons of new restaurants and easy access to Grant Park, Museum Campus and downtown. Transportation is easy with the Red, Orange and Green Lines, and numerous major north/south buses along State and Michigan (30 mins to WTC).

Living in the South Loop area is nice because you're so close to downtown that you still feel intimately connected, but far enough so that you don't need to worry about traffic. The area is always alive, although there isn't a lot of direct nightlife nearby (although Reggie’s Music Joint provides some great shows and is always a fun time).

Overall: A great place to live as a young professional, with unmatched access to downtown."
**Greater Chicagoland.** "I am married and my husband and I tried the city life for a year and found it too noisy and way too expensive for us to handle. We found Oak Park to be a great compromise. We both needed access to the city and Oak Park has a direct connection with both the Green Line of the "EL" and the Metra trains. There are plenty of apartments near Green Line stops in Oak Park and the rent and parking fees are much less money. We ended up getting an apartment double the size of the one we had in the city and we still pay less in rent! It’s also a great community for older students who may have families or married students who have spouses that work in the "burbs. I would recommend that students interested in Oak Park buy a Chicago Tribune to look for apartments and then go on-line to the Oak Park website to find more ads for apartments. Any apartment between Harlem and Austin would be a great find, especially if it is within walking distance to the train!"

**TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING**

**Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)**

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) carries over 1.6 million customers a day throughout Chicago and 40 suburbs. Several daily bus routes and a 24-hour railway system enable students to travel to any area of the city. Regular bus fares are $2.00 if you have a Venta card, or $2.25 if paying by cash. Train fares are $2.25 and you cannot pay with cash. Ven tra cards can be reloaded at rail stations or you can use the Ventra app to reload and manage your account.

**The Ventra U-PASS**

Loyola University Chicago offers students CTA/Ventra Chicago U-Passes that provide unlimited access to CTA buses and trains. The Ventra U-Pass is your ticket to unlimited riding aboard CTA buses and trains. The fee is included in your student fees at a greatly reduced cost. For more information: [http://www.luc.edu/upass/index.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/upass/index.shtml)

**Car Sharing Programs**

Many students use car sharing programs which provides an alternative to owning or renting a vehicle.

I-GO Car Sharing: [www.igocars.org/](http://www.igocars.org/)

Zipcar: [www.zipcar.com](http://www.zipcar.com)

**Parking**

Loyola University Chicago's Water Tower Campus does not offer parking accommodations for its students. However, there are several commercial parking facilities in the area. Loyola has a partnership with some of the nearby parking garages on our website. Tickets must be validated at the Corboy Law Center information desk, located in the lobby of the building. Also, there are a limited number of metered area offer discounted rates to Loyola parking spaces surrounding the law school.

**Transit Tracker App**

Many students use the Transit Tracker app for real-time arrival information for the CTA, buses and trains, Pace buses, and Metra.

**Loyola’s Intercampus Shuttle Bus**

Loyola University has its own transportation shuttle bus service, which is free for Loyola students. The shuttle bus travels several times each day (about every 20 minutes) between the Lake Shore and Water Tower campuses during the academic sessions. There is no shuttle service on Saturday or Sunday. There is one shuttle that travels to Metra Stations from the Water Tower Campus at 9:05 p.m. Monday through Friday. You can track the shuttle using LUCbus.com.
Things to Know...

Finding housing in Chicago can be stressful and competitive. Here are some tips to help you:

- Start looking early, and give yourself 2-4 weeks or more to find housing.
- When you see a "For Rent" sign, be prepared to contact the landlord immediately.
- If you like the place, you should be prepared to make a deposit immediately.
- Plan ahead because you may need to put down a security deposit and first months rent before any student loans are disbursed.

Renter's Insurance

The owners of apartment buildings carry general insurance that only insures the building structure itself. Any damage to your possessions due to fire, smoke, flood, theft, etc. is your responsibility. Renter's insurance is relatively inexpensive and a very wise purchase. Most insurance companies that insure cars also offer renter's insurance.

Know Your Rights as a Tenant

http://www.tenant.org/

Leases

A lease is a contract between you and the landlord. A basic lease lists the amount of rent due and the length of time the agreement is valid. The landlord has the right to modify the lease to include anything he wants, as long as he doesn't ask you to waive your legal rights, such as the right to hire an attorney for an eviction. Some examples of what may appear on a lease include: guest policy, pets, utilities and maintenance. Always request a copy of the agreement in writing.

Security Deposits

The landlord can charge a security deposit before you move into the property. When you move out, the landlord will inspect the rental unit and deduct the cost of repairing any damages you caused, beyond normal wear and tear, from the deposit.

Rent

Most states do not allow the landlord to raise the rent during a lease agreement. However, the landlord can raise the rent before you renew your lease, providing the landlord gives you written notice of intent to do so. If you have a month-to-month rental agreement with your landlord, different rules may apply.

Privacy

In most areas, a landlord must notify a tenant in writing, at least 24 hours before entering the property.

Iggys list

Iggy’s list is a "craigslist" type website for Loyola to post apartment rentals, books, furniture etc.

www.luc.edu/iggy

Additional Resources

Loyola's Off-Campus Student Life Office offers other insights into student life.

Cars

If you are considering bringing a car to campus you have to consider parking costs. Depending on the location, a parking spot could run you anywhere from $50-$300 per month. Some apartments may come with a parking spot included in the rent but for most a parking spot will be extra.

Most of our students do not have cars in the city. Most of our students use public transportation, bikes, or walk.

Pets

If you have a pet or are considering getting a pet, check with the landlord. Some apartments only allow cats or dogs under a certain weight.
The Rev. Raymond C. Baumhart, S.J., Residence Hall and Terry Student Center is a high-rise on Loyola’s Water Tower Campus Located at 26 E. Pearson St. The building is named after Father Baumhart, a past president of Loyola University Chicago. Baumhart is next to the Schrieber Center’s Quinnlan School of Business and directly across the street from the Corboy Law Center and Law Library. Baumhart is for upper class, graduate, and professional students.

- Experience contemporary living in fully furnished apartments with spectacular city views.
- Live in the heart of the city at Pearson and Wabash, two blocks west of Chicago’s Magnificent Mile, and steps from CTA bus and el stops.
- Walk across the street to the Corboy Law Center and Law Library, Graduate School of Business, University Library and classrooms, and Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA). Approximately 40 law students from all levels choose to live in Baumhart. Roommates can be other law students or other Loyola graduate students from other fields of study. The Terry Student Center houses the Wellness Center, Ministry Services, and Water Tower Campus Life are on the lower levels.

Rent includes all utilities, heat and air-conditioning, cable and high-speed Internet access.

For more information, including a virtual tour and pricing go to the website or contact 773.508.3300 or res-life@luc.edu. Some of the amenities include:

- Fitness center (free for residents)
- Study lounge
- University chapel
- Fully furnished
- Wireless access throughout the building
- Laundry room

20 floors
550 residents
24-hour security staff
SEARCHING FOR AN APARTMENT IN CHICAGO

1. Select a neighborhood
To begin the search for an apartment in Chicago, you may start by looking at a map of the public transportation system and locate apartments within easy walking distance of the bus and train stops. This information may be available on the buses and trains and may also be found by visiting www.transitchicago.com and clicking on “Maps.”

Keep in mind that many smaller landlords do not place ads but simply post “For Rent” signs on their buildings. If possible, walk the neighborhoods in which you want to live.

2. Decide if you want a roommate(s)
It is important to decide whether or not you will have a roommate, or if living alone, whether or not you would be willing to live in a studio apartment instead of a one-bedroom.

3. Select apartment size

4. Name your price
Price ranges will vary dramatically, even within one neighborhood. Decide now how much you would like to spend so that you can limit subsequent searches accordingly.

5. Start your search
The Internet

The best place to start is probably with online resources. Though you may be overwhelmed at first, many students do find that surfing the web is the easiest way to narrow their options.

Even if this is not your preferred search method, you can get a ballpark figure for rent in a certain area and/or find a few specific buildings or streets of interest to you in a matter of minutes.

Some web resources that our students have found most helpful are:

- http://www.rent.com/illinois/chicago-apartments/2-795
- www.apartments.com
- RentHop.com
- www.apartmentpeople.com
- padmapper.com
- https://chicago.craigslist.org/apartments
- http://www.apartmentlist.com/il/chicago

DISCLAIMER: LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW PROVIDES INFORMATION REGARDING HOUSING IN THE CHICAGO AREA FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE ONLY. THE SCHOOL OF LAW MAKES NO REPRESENTATION AS TO THE CONDITION OR SUITABILITY OF THE LISTED RESOURCES. THIS IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE.

Apartment Rental Services
Many apartment locator services offer FREE assistance to renters (they are paid by the owners of the apartments after the apartment is rented). Their listings are constantly updated, and most companies offer to drive prospective renters to their listed properties.

Some of our students have used the following:

- The Apartment People www.apartmentpeople.com
  - Lakeview: 773.248.8800
  - River North 312.335.8802

- Chicago Apartment Finders www.chicagoapartmentfinders.com
  - 1-888-FINDERS

- Home Scout Realty www.homescoutrealty.com
  - 312.377.4663
  - *student recommendation for long distance search

- Planned Property www.plannedproperty.com
  - 773-435-9177
  - *student recommendation for long distance search

- Student Space www.student-space.com

- Trulia http://www.trulia.com/for_rent/Chicago,IL

- Domu www.domu.com
  - 312-642-3668

Resources for students with disabilities

- Access Living https://www.accessliving.org/housing
  - (312) 640-2100

“Access Living is an organization that advocates for fair housing for people with disabilities. Notably, Access Living is less than a mile away from Loyola law school. Additionally, Access Living has a page with information about accessible listings; they also have a housing counseling program.” - Jon, Loyola Alum

Realtors

Another option for finding an apartment is to go through a realtor. There is no cost involved for using a realtor for rentals - it’s the same as going through the other locator services mentioned above. The landlord usually pays the realtor for the service provided.