Self-Guided Tour

Founded in 1817, HLS is the oldest continuously operating law school in the United States.

Located in historic Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard Law School offers its students a challenging, supportive atmosphere, access to an unmatched array of course and academic offerings, a global alumni network, and bustling campus life.
Your tour begins at Austin Hall
Austin Hall (1883)

Austin Hall is considered one of the best examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in the world.

The first floor has three classrooms, which are some of the largest on campus.

Every year, students gather on the second floor for the acclaimed Ames Moot Court Competition that showcases the most talented oral advocates attending HLS and culminates in a final round, typically judged by a Supreme Court Justice.

★Fun fact: The floral design on the outside of the building was the inspiration for the new HLS shield.
As you leave Austin Hall, turn right and follow the pathway towards Gannett House and Hemenway Gymnasium.

Gannett House

(1838)

Gannett House is the oldest surviving building on campus.

It is home to the Harvard Law Review, a nationally renowned student-run organization whose purpose is to publish a journal of legal scholarship.

★ Fun fact: Approximately 100 students work on the Law Review each year.
Hemenway Gymnasium
(1940)

Fully renovated in 2005, this 28,000 square-foot recreational facility has two international-size squash courts, cardiovascular and weight areas, a multi-purpose room, and a gymnasium for pick-up basketball and HLS intramurals.

Gym membership at Hemenway as well as at the other Harvard athletic facilities is included with tuition.
Proceed a few yards north. Hastings Hall will be directly in front of you and Griswold Hall will be on your right.

Hastings Hall
(1889)

Hastings Hall is the oldest residence hall at HLS.

It consists of 56 suites accommodating 97 residents.

Approximately one-third of HLS students live on-campus in the dorms.

★ Fun fact: You may recognize this building as the dorm featured in The Paper Chase.
Griswold Hall (1969)

Griswold Hall is named for Erwin N. Griswold, who served as the sixth dean of Harvard Law School and as the United States Solicitor General.

Griswold is home to the First-Year Legal Research and Writing Program, a 1L course that introduces students to the way lawyers conduct legal research, analyze and frame legal positions, and present their work in writing and in oral argument.

Griswold also houses Dean John F. Manning’s office as well as faculty offices.
Proceed straight towards the north end of campus. To your right, you will see Areeda Hall

Areeda Hall
(1929)

In 1996, Harvard Law School renamed the west wing of Langdell Hall, naming it in honor of the late Langdell Professor of Law, Phillip E. Areeda, who received his law degree from HLS in 1954 and was an expert on antitrust law.

Areeda is where you will find a number of faculty offices at HLS.
Continue walking straight down the path towards the Lewis Center, which will be on your right.

Lewis Center
(1959)

The Reginald F. Lewis Law Center recently underwent a complete renovation and reopened to the HLS community in 2022.

Reginald F. Lewis graduated from Harvard Law School in 1968 and was the chair and chief executive officer at TLC Beatrice International. In 1992, the building was renamed in his honor.

Today, the center serves as a living laboratory for world-class research, learning, and innovation.

The fifth floor is a technology hub featuring the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, the Cyberlaw Clinic, and the HLS Library Innovation Lab.
Walk past the Lewis Center towards the dark brick building in front of you. This is Pound Hall.

Pound Hall
(1970)

Named after Roscoe Pound, who served as dean of the law school from 1916 to 1936, Pound Hall contains classrooms and faculty offices.

It also houses the Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinic, the Law School Alumni Center, and a Harvard University Health Services (HUHS) clinic in the basement.
Once you reach Pound Hall, turn right. You will see a large tan building to your left. This is the WCC, which stands for Wasserstein Hall, Caspersen Student Center, and Clinical Wing.

WCC Building
(2012)

The WCC is the hub of student life at Harvard Law School. The LEED Gold certified building contains state of the art classrooms, the Milstein Conference Center, study spaces, lounges, a pub, dining hall, and spaces for the school’s many clinics, student practice organizations, and journals.
Wasserstein Hall contains seven large classrooms, which are primarily used for 1L classes, as well as many small seminar rooms. Outside of each classroom are lounge areas where students meet informally before and after class.

Wasserstein is also the location of all Student Services Offices on campus including the Dean of Students Office; the Office of Community, Equity, Engagement, and Belonging; the Registrar; Student Financial Services; the Office of Public Interest Advising; and the Office of Career Services.
The clinical wing is home to the Clinical and Pro Bono Program where students gain hands-on legal experience under the supervision of licensed attorneys.

HLS has approximately 50 clinical and pro bono programs ranging from transactional law to human rights law.
The Caspersen Student Center contains three dining options, the Harkness Dining Room, Grill, and Café.

It also has a pub where students can grab a drink and socialize.

Students spend their free time in the Hark Game Room, which has board games, vending machines, a pool table, and two ping pong tables.

They also frequent Haas Lounge, which has lots of comfy seating options and two large fireplaces, which are utilized throughout the winter months.
Walk past the Caspersen Student Center until you see stairs that lead to a patio and field on your left. Just past the field, you will see several tan buildings. These make up the Gropius dormitories.

Gropius Dormitories
(1950)

The Gropius Complex consists of five interconnected residence halls (Holmes, Ames, Dane, Story, and Shaw Halls) for a total of 364 single furnished rooms.

Gropius offers traditional dormitory-style housing with approximately 20 residents per hall, common lounges, and shared kitchens and bathrooms.
From here, you will turn right and walk south past a brick building to your left. This building is Hauser Hall.

Hauser Hall

(1994)

The Law School completed construction and dedicated Hauser Hall in 1995. It houses classroom space and faculty offices.

The building, designed by the architectural firm Kallmann, McKinnell & Wood, claimed the 1994 Parker Medal as the most beautiful building in the Boston metropolitan area.
Walk south towards the middle of Langdell, the large white building with columns to your right. You will see Holmes Field on your left.

Holmes Field

Holmes Field is where commencement takes place each spring.

It is also a popular spot for students to socialize and share meals.
Langdell Hall

(1907)

The Harvard Law School Library, located in Langdell Hall, is the most extensive academic law library in the world and an invaluable resource for legal scholars.

The library’s collection contains more than 2 million items (physical and digital) in 170 languages, from 240 countries and territories.

Located on the fourth floor are the main reading room, the Historical & Special Collections reading room, and the Caspersen Room. In the Caspersen Room you’ll find an annually rotating exhibit along with art and objects that document the history of the law and HLS, such as Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes’s lunch box.

Two large classrooms bookend the building.