

About Chicago

A vibrant world-class city.

A respected institution of higher learning. Chicago is a name synonymous with opportunity. It is no surprise that one of the nation's leading public policy schools is found here.

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Crescat scientia; vita excolatur

(Let knowledge grow from more to more; And so be human life enriched)

The University of Chicago is six graduate professional schools, four graduate divisions, and a College that together stand as an internationally recognized model for higher education. It is home to eighty-two Nobel Laureates, seven of whom currently serve on the faculty. It is the Regenstein Library, the Oriental Institute, the Court Theatre, and the Chapin Hall Center for Children. From the gargoyles of its neo-Gothic architecture to the steel and glass façade of the Center for Integrative Science and the greenspace of the Midway Plaisance, Chicago is like no other university.



Enduring values

During his inaugural address, President Robert Zimmer asked, “What is the lesson of this history of a university with such a clear set of enduring values? It is not that our predecessors discovered the right shape of the University once and for all, but rather that the University has flourished because those who preceded us acted with boldness, imagination, and discipline.

They advanced the University and its values for the long run by making changes within the context of the opportunities and challenges of their time. Enduring values have been the guide to action, not a sanctuary for complacency. Enduring values have not been, and should not be, confused with enduring answers.”

Distinguished Chicago scholars include:

Alf Alving

who developed the standard malaria preventive pill.

Saul Bellow

Literature Nobel Laureate “for the human understanding and subtle analysis of contemporary culture that are combined in his work.”

James Henry Breasted

who established the Oriental Institute, a pioneer institution in the study and exploration of the ancient Near East.

John Carlstrom

whose measurements of the cosmic microwave background radiation—the afterglow of the big bang—verified the framework that supports modern cosmological theory.

Subramanyan Chandrasekhar

Nobel Laureate who won the Prize in Physics for his theoretical studies of stars, which led to greater understanding of black holes and extremely dense neutron stars.

John Hope Franklin

the nation’s leading scholar of African-American history, whose work changed the way American history is studied and taught.

Milton Friedman

Nobel Laureate who won the Prize in Economics for his study of monetary policy and is recognized as one of the world’s leading proponents of free markets.

James Heckman

Economics Nobel Laureate whose work in analyzing selective samples has been used to measure the impact of social programs in education, job training, minimum wage legislation, anti-discrimination laws, and civil rights.

Nathaniel Kleitman

who identified REM sleep, the stage when most dreaming occurs.

Robert Lucas

Economics Nobel Laureate who developed and applied the hypothesis of rational expectations and transformed traditional macroeconomic analysis.

Albert A. Michelson

whose measurements of the speed of light made him in 1907 the first scientist from the United States to win the Nobel Prize.

Mertin Miller

Nobel Laureate who won the Prize in Economics for his work in assessing the use of debt as a source of corporate capital.

Howard Ricketts

who showed that Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is caused by an unusual microbe spread by ticks.

Janet Davison Rowley

National Medal of Science winner who demonstrated that cancer is a genetic disease by linking it with consistent chromosomal abnormalities.

Michael Schreiber

who found that nitric oxide decreases the risk of death by nearly one-fourth in premature infants with respiratory distress syndrome.

Paul Sereno

paleontologist, who has discovered several previously-unknown species of dinosaur.

George Stigler

Economics Nobel Laureate, who was cited for his research on government regulation.

Wei-Jen Tang

who discovered the structure of edema factor, one of the three toxins that make the anthrax bacterium deadly, and the drugs to treat it.

Training in the city that works

Applied experience is a key factor in Harris School training—and the city of Chicago offers abundant opportunity to put policy skills to the test. This world-class city is the birthplace of community organizing, a center for international finance and trade, home of a world-renowned arts community, a model of architectural achievement, and a vibrant arena for policy issues and political life. Chicago provides endless opportunity for Harris School students to apply their public policy training—as well as to simply kick back and relax.





Legacy of Irving Harris

Established in 1988, the Harris School emerged from the University of Chicago's interdepartmental Committee on Public Policy Studies. Influential founding supporters include sociologists James Coleman and William Julius Wilson, and the 2000 Nobel Laureate economist James Heckman.

In 1990, the School was named in honor of Chicago businessman, visionary, and philanthropist Irving B. Harris, who recognized the value of groundbreaking research and its application to improve the public good. Mr. Harris was instrumental in the School's early development. He created the Harris School's unique mentor program to match students with senior public policy practitioners in their fields of interest. He also inspired and endowed the School's Center for Human Potential and Public Policy, which integrates research and training on improving the health, welfare, and development of children and their families. Mr. Harris infused the School with his belief that attracting the best and the brightest young leaders to address key policy challenges would help the world work toward solving its most pressing problems.

“Problems like poverty are not preordained. Poverty is a problem created by man. If we really want to, we can solve it. But the skills needed to solve our problems—welfare, homelessness, finding people jobs—don’t come without thought or practice. We must use the tools at our disposal, including education and research in public policy.”

IRVING B. HARRIS

Visit the Harris School.

The Harris School welcomes prospective students to visit campus, meet current students and faculty, and attend classes. Classes meet Monday through Thursday, and the School is in session from October through late May. In addition, every April the School hosts “On the MaPP,” a two-day open house for admitted students.

See the prospective students section of our website for more information. Or call the Office of Admission at 773.702.8401.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Dan Dry pages 6, 10-11, 12, 13, 17, 19, 20-21 (background), 25, 30-31, (background, Cracraft), 33, 38-39, 48-49, 50-51, 52 (Philipson, Glaser), 53 (Kalil, Grogger, Charles), 54 (Manning, Howell, Meltzer, Meyer), 57, 60, 61 (Krasik), 55, 65, 66, 68-69, 72-73, 74-75, 76-77 (runners, business woman, businessman, street scene, Cloud Gate, Field Museum); **Paul Elledge** pages 14-15, 16, 28 (background), 32, 53 (Coursey); **Joan Hackett** 30-31 (McCarter, Stirling), 43; **Cathy Lange** 26, 30-31 (Grossman); **Eileen Ryan** page 78; **Unknown** (rights secured): 4, 20-21 (black and white images), 27, 28 (black and white images), 30-31 (Conlon, Bouton, Willis, Barrett, Learner, Lockett, Sullivan, Shapiro, Zaidi, Whelan), 34, 35, 40, 44-45, 61 (Hong, Davis, Clement), 62-63, 64 (Reardon, Grabowski, Heinrich, Velazquez), 76-77 (background)

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