

HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

2025-2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR (version May 27, 2025)

*Date Policy: Deadlines are listed according to the calendar date on which they fall, even if that date falls on a weekend or is a legal holiday. Such deadlines must be met by close of business of the business day immediately following a weekend or legal holiday.

Please visit the Howard University financial aid website for updates and deadlines concerning financial aid. Certain dates intend to correspond to the Howard University Academic Calendar and may change pursuant to changes therein. Consult the HU main campus calendar by searching on the HU website. Please contact the relevant HUSL office or team if you have further questions.

FALL SEMESTER 2025

July 27, Sunday	Recommended last day to submit non-emergency ADA accommodation requests for Fall 2025 to the Howard University Office of Student Services (HU OSS). Submissions made after this date may not be processed in time for exams this semester. For full information on how to submit a request, visit: Accommodations Howard University School of Law . Note that students must recertify with HU OSS every semester and then provide an approval letter to HUSL OSA by the deadline below.
August 1, Friday to August 8, Friday	Fall orientation for 1L, LL.M., transfer, and exchange students.
August 8, Friday	Pinning Ceremony, Cramton Auditorium. Time TBD.
August 8, Friday	Externship Application Deadline for fall externships
August 11, Monday	FORMAL CLASSES BEGIN FOR 1L STUDENTS ONLY
August 11, Monday to August 14, Thursday	Orientation for Clinics. Each clinic supervisor will contact students to inform them of the specific times, dates, and locations for their clinic orientations.
August 15, Friday	All Clinic and Externship Orientation. All clinic and externship students must be present to remain enrolled in the course.
August 18, Monday	FORMAL CLASSES BEGIN FOR 2L AND 3L STUDENTS.
August 18, Monday to August 29, Friday	Late Registration/Add/Drop period. August 29 is the last date to add or drop a course. After this date, students must withdraw before the deadline and will have a “W” for the course.
August 18 through October 17	3L academic advisement with Dean Powell to ensure graduation. Come to office hours. Ensure compliance with all requirements in the Graduation Checklist and the Student Handbook before your advising appointment.
September 1, Monday	University Closed – Labor Day Observed
September 2, Tuesday	Deadline for instructors to verify enrollment in all courses in BisonHub.
September 4, Thursday	Deadline to send Fall 2025 exam conflicts alternate exam day request. See eligibility below. The form and instructions are posted on the Office of Academic Affairs Lexis Classroom site.
September 6, Saturday	Deadline to withdraw from the University to receive 100% refund of tuition/fees.

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	To fully withdraw from the University, students must drop all courses via BisonHub and request an Institutional Withdrawal https://howard.edu/registrar/withdrawal
September 8, Monday	Graduation Application available via BisonHub for Fall 2025 prospective candidates.
September 13, Saturday	Office of Career Services orientation (time and location TBD)
September 15, Monday	Deadline to provide a copy of your letter to the HUSL Office of Student Affairs of approved, non-emergency ADA accommodations for Fall 2025 <u>midterm</u> exams and midterm assessments. For complete information on the process, visit: Accommodations Howard University School of Law . Note that students must recertify with HU OSS and then provide their approval letter to HUSL OSA every semester.
September 19, Friday	Opening Convocation Cramton Auditorium, 11:00 a.m. (Classes suspended from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
September 19, Friday	Deadline to withdraw from the University to receive 50% refund of tuition/fees. To fully withdraw from the University, students must drop all courses via BisonHub and request an Institutional Withdrawal https://howard.edu/registrar/withdrawal
September 29- October 3 1L Midterm week All 1L class meetings are cancelled.	Fall 1L assessments and exams - All assessments occur during this time. Midterm exams will occur during class time.
October 3, Friday	Preliminary Enrollment Census Date
October 6-October 10	Upper-class midterm or assessments. Upper-class students may have multiple midterm assessments in one day. There are no alternate exam day requests for midterm assessments.
October 13, Monday	University Closed- Mental Health Day
October 17, Friday	Final Enrollment Census Date check
October 17, Friday	Graduation Application Deadline for prospective Fall 2025 graduates to apply for graduation via BisonHub.

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October 24, Friday	Deadline for Independent Study proposals; petitions to study abroad, visit another institution, or participate in an exchange program for Spring 2026 and Summer 2026. Review procedures in Student Handbook and information on Lexis Classroom and submit proposals and petitions to the Dean of Academic Affairs.
October 24, Friday	Deadline to withdraw from the University to receive 25% refund of tuition/fees (Last day for tuition/fee refunds). To fully withdraw from the University, students must drop all courses via BisonHub and request an Institutional Withdrawal https://howard.edu/registrar/withdrawal
November 10, Monday	Deadline to provide a copy of your letter to the HUSL Office of Student Affairs of approved, non-emergency ADA accommodations for Fall 2025 final exams. See above for recommended deadlines to request accommodations with the Office of Student Services. Note that students must recertify with HU OSS and then provide their approval letter to HUSL OSA by the deadline every semester.
November 11, Tuesday	University Closed – Veteran’s Day Observed
November 14, Friday	Last day to withdraw from a course. Last day to complete a withdrawal from the University (no refunds). Students will receive 0% refund of tuition/fees. Students must complete withdrawal process before this date or will receive an “F” grade for the course. To fully withdraw from the University, students must drop all courses via BisonHub and request an Institutional Withdrawal https://howard.edu/registrar/withdrawal
November 18, Tuesday	Spring 2026 registration begins at 9 a.m. (3L students only) Note that registration is available every day (24/7) on BisonHub until the end of the Add/Drop period.
November 20, Thursday	Spring 2026 registration begins at 9 a.m. (2L and LLM students) Note that registration is available every day (24/7) on BisonHub until the end of the Add/Drop period.
November 26, Wednesday	FORMAL CLASSES END FOR ALL STUDENTS. Afternoon and evening classes meet on this day unless the professor otherwise assures class meeting times are complete.

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November 26, Wednesday	Deadline for students to clear spring and summer 2025 incomplete grades.
November 27, Thursday to November 30, Sunday	University Closed – Thanksgiving Recess
November 28, Friday to December 1, Monday	Reading Period for all students
December 2, Tuesday December 12, Friday	Final examinations- see schedule below
December 3, Wednesday	Deadline for instructors to input grade changes in BisonHub for removal of spring 2025 and summer 2025 incomplete grades.
December 16, Tuesday	FALL 2025 SEMESTER ENDS
December 16, Tuesday	Official GRADUATION DATE for Fall 2025 degree recipients
December 17, Wednesday to January 1, Thursday	UNIVERSITY CLOSED- WINTER RECESS

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FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

FALL 2025

(dated)

You may seek an alternative exam day **only** if you have more than one exam scheduled on the same day. If you are eligible, request an alternate exam by filling out the Alternate Exam Day Request form on the Office of Academic Affairs Lexis Classroom site.

Students given an alternate exam date can expect to take the alternate exam on any of the test dates during the final exam period, including Saturday. Students should expect to take an alternate exam on any of the final exam dates and should keep this entire time open. Alternate dates are based on capacity and personnel availability, not on student preference. Alternate exam dates are for upper-level students. Alternate exam dates are not provided for personal or professional conflicts. You will be given your alternate exam date as soon as possible after the deadline.

Take-home exams will be provided to students on or after the last day of classes or as provided by your professor. Take home exams will be DUE during the final exam period and not during reading period. Take home exams will not create an exam conflict. If you have any questions, please email your professor and Dean Powell as soon as possible.

TBD

Take Home Exams:

In-person, proctored exams:

Tuesday, December 2

Wednesday, December 3

Thursday, December 4

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Friday, December 5

Monday, December 8

Tuesday, December 9

Wednesday, December 10

Thursday, December 11

Friday, December 12

END OF EXAMS

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SPRING SEMESTER 2026

January 2, Friday	Externship Application deadline for Spring 2026 Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis up until the deadline or until the class is full, whichever is earlier. Applications after the deadline will be on a waitlist.
January 5, Monday	FORMAL CLASSES BEGIN FOR ALL STUDENTS
January 6, Tuesday	Recommended last day to submit non-emergency ADA accommodation requests for Spring 2026 to the Howard University Office of Student Services (HU OSS). Submissions made after this date may not be processed in time for exams this semester. For full information on how to submit a request visit: Accommodations Howard University School of Law . Note that students must recertify with HU OSS every semester and then provide an approval letter to HUSL OSA by the deadline below.
January 5, Monday to January 16, Friday	Late Registration/Add/Drop period. January 16 is the last date to add or drop a course. After this date, students must withdraw before the deadline and will have a “W” for the course.
January 7, Wednesday	Spring Clinic and Externship Orientation (12:30 pm).
January 19, Monday	University Closed – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 23, Friday	Deadline for receipt of Fall 2025 graduation recommendations in the Office of the Registrar.
January 23, Friday	Spring 1L Orientation- 1Ls are mandated to attend. 1L courses that conflict with the orientation schedule are cancelled.
January 28, Wednesday	Deadline to send Spring 2026 exam conflicts alternate exam day request. See eligibility below. The form and information are posted on Office of Academic Affairs Lexis Classroom.
January 19, Friday	Deadline to withdraw from the University to receive 100% refund of tuition/fees. To fully withdraw from the University, students must drop all courses via BisonHub and request an Institutional Withdrawal https://howard.edu/registrar/withdrawal
February 3, Tuesday	Deadline to provide a copy of your letter to the HUSL Office of Student Affairs of approved, non-emergency ADA accommodations for Spring

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	2026 midterm exams and midterm assessments. For complete information on the process, visit: Accommodations Howard University School of Law . Note that students must recertify with HU OSS and then provide their approval letter to HUSL OSA every semester.
February 9, Monday to April 17, Friday	Graduation application is available via BisonHub for Spring 2026 prospective candidates.
February 13, Friday	<p>Deadline to withdraw from the University to receive 50% refund of tuition/fees.</p> <p>To fully withdraw from the University, students must drop all courses via BisonHub and request an Institutional Withdrawal https://howard.edu/registrar/withdrawal</p> <p>Preliminary Enrollment Census Date</p>
February 16, Monday	University Closed – President’s Day Observed
February 17- February 26	<p>Spring Midterm assessments and exams - All assessments occur during this time.</p> <p>1L Midterm assessments and exams will occur this week during class time.</p> <p>Upper-class students may have multiple midterm assessments on one day. There are no alternate exam day requests for midterm assessments.</p>
March 2, Monday OR TBD	Summer 2026 Registration begins for continuing students via BisonHub.
March 20, Friday	<p>Charter Day Convocation – Cramton Auditorium 11:00 A.M. (Classes suspended 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.)</p> <p>Deadline to withdraw from the university to receive 25% refund of tuition/fees (Last day for tuition/fees refund). To fully withdraw from the University, students must drop all courses via BisonHub and request an Institutional Withdrawal https://howard.edu/registrar/withdrawal</p>
March 7, Saturday to March 15, Sunday	Howard University School of Law closed – Spring Break
March 13, Friday	Final Enrollment Census Date
March 20, Friday	Deadline for petitions for readmission for Fall 2026. Review the provisions and information in the Student Handbook and on OAA Lexis Classroom. Meet with the Dean of Academic Affairs if you have any questions.

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April 1, Wednesday OR TBD	Summer 2026 Registration begins for continuing students and continues through the deadline in summer. Note that financial aid awards are tentatively set to disburse in June 2026, after all spring 2026 grades are posted. If a student is near the academic probation minimum of 75 GPA, they should be aware that they are ineligible for summer financial aid if they are below a 75 GPA. Moreover, students in danger of academic dismissal should not register for summer school.
April 3, Friday	UNIVERSITY CLOSED- MENTAL HEALTH DAY
April 6, Monday	Deadline for Independent Study proposals; petitions to study abroad, visit another institution, or participate in an exchange program for Summer 2026 and Fall 2026. Review the rules and processes in the Student Handbook and in OAA Lexis Classroom and submit proposals and petitions to the Office of Academic Affairs.
April 7, Tuesday	Fall 2026 registration begins for current 2L students.
April 7, Tuesday	Deadline to provide a copy of your letter to the HUSL Office of Student Affairs of approved, non-emergency ADA accommodations for Spring 2026 final exams. See above for recommended deadlines to <u>request</u> accommodations with the Office of Student Services. Note that students must recertify with HU OSS and then provide their approval letter to HUSL OSA by the deadline every semester.
April 9, Thursday	Fall 2026 registration for current 1L and LLM students.
April 10, Friday	LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM A SPRING 2026 COURSE and LAST DAY TO COMPLETE A TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY. (No refunds) To fully withdraw from the University, students must drop all courses via BisonHub and request an Institutional Withdrawal https://howard.edu/registrar/withdrawal
April 17, Friday	Deadline for prospective Spring 2026 graduates to apply for graduation via Bison Hub (fees apply).
April 22, Wednesday	Formal Classes End
April 23, Thursday to April 27, Monday	Reading Period
April 27, Monday	Deadline for students to clear Fall 2025 incomplete grades with instructors. Note that no student can graduate with an Incomplete or a blank grade.

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April 28, Tuesday to May 7, Thursday	Final Examinations - see schedule below.
April 29, Wednesday	Deadline for instructors to input grade changes in BisonHub for removal of Fall 2025 incomplete grades.
May 5, Tuesday	Main Commencement Ceremony Participation Orientation for Prospective Graduates (virtual webinar; 7-8:30pm)
May 6, Wednesday to May 7, Thursday	Graduation clearance for spring graduates.
May 7, Thursday	Annual President's Reception for Prospective Graduates and Their Families (Blackburn Center; 4-6pm)
May 8, Friday	SPRING SEMESTER ENDS
May 8, Friday	Baccalaureate – Howard University School of Law—Dunbarton Chapel, Time TBD Note: limited tickets for guests will be required. Further information will be provided by the HUSL Office of Student Affairs in the spring semester.
May 8 or May 9, exact date and time TBD by the University	School of Law Hooding Ceremony Note: limited tickets for guests will be required. Further information will be provided by the HUSL Office of Student Affairs in the spring semester.
May 9, Saturday	Commencement Place TBD, 10:00 a.m. Note: limited tickets for guests will be required. Further information will be provided by the HUSL Office of Student Affairs in the spring semester.
May 29, Friday	Deadline for receipt of Spring 2026 Graduation Recommendations in the Office of the Registrar.

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SPRING 2026 FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

(dated)

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Students given an alternate exam date can expect to take the alternate exam on any of the test dates during the final exam period, including Saturday. Students should expect to take an alternate exam on any of the final exam dates and should keep this entire time open. Alternate dates are based on capacity and personnel availability, not on student preference. Alternate exam dates are for upper-level students. Alternate exam dates are not provided for personal or professional conflicts. You will be given your alternate exam date as soon as possible after the deadline.

Take-home exams will be provided to students on or after the last day of classes or as provided by your professor. Take home exams will be DUE during the final exam period and not during reading period. Take home exams will not create an exam conflict. If you have any questions, please email your professor and Dean Powell as soon as possible.

TBD

Take Home Exams:

In-person, proctored exams

Tuesday, April 28

Wednesday, April 29

Thursday, April 30

Friday, May 1

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Monday, May 4

EXAM MAKE UP DAY

Tuesday, May 5

Thursday, May 7

*Note that make-up exams may occur after May 7.

END OF EXAMS

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SUMMER SEMESTER 2026 (SCHOOL OF LAW ONLY)

Note that students will not receive financial aid for summer school until all spring 2026 grades are posted. This usually does not occur until at least mid-June. Students therefore should plan to not receive aid until at least then. Please also communicate with finaidlaw@howard.edu for other eligibility guidelines for summer aid.

Note that this schedule may change, and that your summer school professor may elect to start classes a week earlier than noted here. More information will be provided closer to the beginning of summer school.

March 2, Monday (TBD) to May 18, Monday	Registration for all students; payment-in-full due upon registration. The deadline to register is May 18. The last day to add/drop with no penalty and without a grade of "W" is May 18.
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May 18, Monday	Deadline to withdraw from the University to receive 100% refund of tuition/fees. To fully withdraw from the University, students must drop all courses via BisonHub and request an Institutional Withdrawal https://howard.edu/registrar/withdrawal
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May 11, Monday OR May 18, Monday	First day of first week of classes (see note above)
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May 22, Friday	Deadline to withdraw from the University to receive 50% refund of tuition/fees. To fully withdraw from the University, students must drop all courses via BisonHub and request an Institutional Withdrawal https://howard.edu/registrar/withdrawal
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May 25, Monday	University Closed – Memorial Day
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May 29, Friday	Deadline to withdraw from the University to receive 25% refund of tuition/fees. To fully withdraw from the University, students must drop all courses via BisonHub and request an Institutional Withdrawal https://howard.edu/registrar/withdrawal
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June 1, Monday	Graduation Application available via BisonHub for Summer 2026 prospective candidates.
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June 5, Friday	LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE
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Last day to complete a total withdrawal from the University (Summer session only) (no refunds). To fully withdraw from the University,

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students must drop all courses via BisonHub and request an Institutional Withdrawal <https://howard.edu/registrar/withdrawal>

June 19, Friday	University Closed- Juneteenth Observed
June 29, Monday	Deadline to inform the HUSL Office of Student Affairs of approved, non-emergency ADA accommodations for Summer 2026 exams. Note the Office of Disability Services needs at least 3-4 weeks to process requests so submit them in May.
July 3, Friday	University Closed – Independence Day Observed
July 6, Monday	Last week of doctrinal classes.
July 13, Monday	Last week for externship classes.
July 10, Friday to July 13, Monday	Reading Period
July 13 week	Final Examinations
July 17, Friday	School of Law Summer 2026 semester ends
July 25, Saturday	Official graduation date for Summer 2026 graduates
August 7, Friday	Deadline for receipt of Summer 2026 Graduation Recommendations to the Office of the Registrar

Final Examination Schedule

Exams will be administered in a take-home format. The take-home exam may be distributed prior to the exam date but will be due on the exam date below. There will be no additional time provided for any reason, including job conflicts.

- Tuesday, July 14, 2026 – Final Exam is due.
- Wednesday, July 15, 2026 – Final Exam is due.