

University of Wisconsin Law School





Public and Preeminent

The University of Wisconsin Law School is an extremely rewarding and stimulating place to study law. It offers a world-class legal education and provides access to the impressive resources of an internationally renowned research university. In addition, the University of Wisconsin Law School is the beneficiary of a rich scholarly legacy, a commitment to diversity, and a long-standing national reputation.

The Law School is located in the heart of campus in Madison, Wisconsin. As the capital city, Madison is a vibrant urban community teeming with political, judicial, and cultural activity. It offers the amenities of a big city while also providing the benefits and warmth of a strikingly beautiful college town.



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The University of Wisconsin Law School welcomes you.

Welcome from the Dean



Dean Margaret Raymond

Welcome to the University of Wisconsin Law School! In these pages, you'll discover what makes the University of Wisconsin a special place to study law. Of course, this book is just the beginning. I encourage you to explore our website at law.wisc.edu and to visit the law school to learn more about the experience of being a University of Wisconsin law student. As you start exploring, let me encourage you to take a close look at several features that make our law school unique:

■ Our focus on “law in action”

The University of Wisconsin Law School has a distinctive “law in action” teaching approach that will equip you not just to analyze sophisticated legal problems, but to think about crafting creative solutions appropriate to the twenty-first century world. Your courses will focus not only on learning legal rules, but on understanding how those rules operate in the real world and what that means for the kind of advice, counseling and advocacy you will provide for your clients.

■ A supportive and collaborative educational environment

We structure your first year so that you have the opportunity to study in small sections with the same group of students with whom you'll also be grouped in your large classes. The small group size and the intensity of the experiences that you share together means that you develop close and supportive relationships with your peers. You may have heard that law school is a competitive place in which individuals are all out for themselves, but the small section program encourages a very different feel, one that makes your experience here as a student collaborative and positive. You'll work hard, and you'll be challenged, but you'll be among friends.

■ Broad and varied opportunities for experiential learning

Recent commentary on legal education emphasizes the need for experiential learning, which provides students with hands-on experience, facilitates the development of practical skills, judgment and professional identity, and equips them to hit the ground running as new lawyers. The University of Wisconsin's curriculum provides an extraordinary range of opportunities for experiential learning. We offer clinical education—hands-on work with live clients—in areas as varied as criminal law, consumer law, and family law. We offer a wide range of opportunities for externship and internship placements with judges, state agencies, and advocacy organizations. And we provide a network of sophisticated simulation courses that prepare students for the real-life challenges of law practice. Given the breadth of what we offer, you will find an experiential learning opportunity at Wisconsin to suit your interests and develop your talents.

■ Our extraordinary faculty

The backgrounds, talents and experiences of the Wisconsin faculty are remarkable. They are gifted lawyers, scholars, and teachers. Many have advanced degrees in areas other than law, which enables them to bring



unique and sophisticated perspectives to their teaching and research. They are committed to your success and to working with you.

■ **Our commitment to diversity in all its forms**

Learning happens best in an environment where individuals with differing experiences, viewpoints and perspectives interact. Wisconsin recognizes the value of bringing together a wide range of diverse individuals with varying backgrounds, interests, skills and talents in its admissions process and also in its hiring. Accordingly, you will experience a broad and inclusive community at Wisconsin, one in which everyone finds a place.

■ **Being part of a great university**

The University of Wisconsin Law School is an extraordinary law school, but it's also part of an extraordinary university. Here you can take advantage of a vast range of opportunities for interdisciplinary study and

dual degrees and certificate programs. You can enjoy the expansive array of speakers, conferences, and arts, cultural and political events that are a daily feature of life on the campus. And if you like intercollegiate sports, get ready; you've never seen anything like a Big Ten campus on a football Saturday.

■ **A beautiful and affordable community in the state's capital**

Madison is a beautiful college town. It provides amazing access to outdoor recreation, the arts, sports and a thriving intellectual community. At the same time, down the hill from the law school, the state capitol provides unparalleled opportunities to intern in state government, to work with judges, state agencies, or advocacy groups, or to be involved in politics. Madison provides the best of both worlds to law students looking to engage with the real world while living in a comfortable, inclusive and affordable community.

I could go on, but instead, let me invite you to explore the Law School for yourself. I guarantee that legal education will excite you, engage you, and transform you. I hope I've encouraged you to let the University of Wisconsin Law School be a part of that experience for you. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can help you learn more.

DEAN MARGARET RAYMOND

An Environment for Learning

The University of Wisconsin Law School is located on historic Bascom Hill in the heart of the beautiful UW–Madison campus. It boasts a renowned faculty, an extensive curriculum, and a dynamic student body. As part of a world-class university located in the state’s capital, the Law School also offers an unparalleled wealth of experiences beyond its walls.

An Intellectually Exciting Place to Be

Established in 1868, the University of Wisconsin Law School has a tradition of excellence and a national reputation. For more than a century, Wisconsin has educated outstanding men and women who have become accomplished and successful professionals in both the public and private sectors. The combination of interdisciplinary research, innovative teaching, law-in-action programs, and other attractions makes the University of Wisconsin Law School one of the most intellectually exciting law schools in the country. The University of Wisconsin Law School is an ABA-approved law school and a member of the Association of American Law Schools. This booklet and our website, law.wisc.edu, provide detailed information about the Law School.



The Community of Students

Because of an admission process that emphasizes diversity and life-learning achievements as well as outstanding academic success, University of Wisconsin law students are an incredibly diverse and accomplished group. Out of a student body of approximately 800 students, about forty percent of the students come from outside Wisconsin. Forty-seven percent of our enrolled students are women; twenty-five percent are students of color. There is a special feeling of community in the school and an informal, supportive atmosphere, reflecting a special commitment by faculty and administrators to student learning, morale, and well-being.

As a University of Wisconsin Law School student, you have access to the resources of a world-class university. The University of Wisconsin–Madison is a public land-grant institution, founded in 1848. It combines nine schools and three colleges on a single campus, and enrolls approximately 40,000 students from more than 115 countries and every state in the United States.

The University has both national and international reputations for excellence shared by few other universities. In every published survey of faculty and administrators, from the early 1900s to the present, the University of Wisconsin has ranked among the top educational institutions in terms of academic quality. It is a



The city of Madison often tops many “best” lists: best place to live and work, best college sports town, best for walking and cycling, one of America’s safest cities, and a top green city.

The University

place where scholarship and academic freedom are highly valued.

The University also offers extensive social, cultural, and recreational opportunities. The 900-acre campus on the shores of Lake Mendota is considered one of the most beautiful in the country.

Madison, Wisconsin

Madison, with a population of over 200,000, is a beautiful and affordable city that regularly makes the national “Best Of” lists. As the state capital, Madison is home to the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, the Dane County Circuit Court, the Western District of Wisconsin Federal District Court, and various state and federal government agencies. All of these institutions are within walking distance of the Law School, giving our students vast opportunities to work directly with judges and Justices, observe influential court and governmental proceedings, and experience multiple areas of law.

In addition, the Wisconsin Union Theater, the Overture Center for the Arts, the Kohl Center, and other facilities provide endless opportunities for you to enjoy national and local cultural events.

The four lakes in Madison are an ideal backdrop for the city, which is augmented by a 1,200-acre arboretum, a free zoo, more than 200 city parks, 11 beaches, and lots of scenic countryside accessible by car, boat, bicycle and foot.

Local gems such as the Dane County Farmers Market, the largest producer-only farmers’ market in the country, and the annual Wisconsin Film Festival, which brings over 200 independent films to screens across the city, also make the city of Madison an incredible place to live.



The Curriculum: Law in Action



“Law in Action” reminds us that no matter how interesting or elegant the theory or idea, we always need to ask, “Why should this matter to people in the real world?”

**Kenneth B. Davis, Jr.,
Professor and Dean Emeritus**

Students at the Law School have many opportunities to experience what is known as the “law-in-action” idea. An extensive curriculum places emphasis on the dynamics of law—how the law relates to social change and to society as a whole—while at the same time stressing skill development. In addition to nationally recognized programs in several substantive areas, the Law School also has one of the largest clinical programs in the country.

First-Year Program

The first-year program at Wisconsin is designed to teach the fundamentals of legal analysis and reasoning in a supportive setting. Our small-group program is the cornerstone of the first-year curriculum. In the first year, two of your classes will be small sections of 15 to 25 students to give you the opportunity to receive one-on-one feedback on your analysis and your writing. Students from your small sections will also be with you in some of your other first-year classes, making it easy to form study groups and, perhaps more importantly, to form friendships.

Second- and Third-Year Programs

In your second and third years of law school you will have time both to explore the curriculum to determine where your interests lie and to continue to develop the lawyering skills you will need when you graduate. You will choose your courses from an extraordinary breadth of offerings that will afford you the opportunity to explore cutting-edge legal issues in the classroom and to apply your knowledge in one of our many clinical programs. The University of Wisconsin Law School is

a national law school that prepares students to practice wherever they choose, and our graduates have an excellent record for passing state bar exams across the country.

The Diploma Privilege

Graduates who complete specific course requirements and meet character standards are admitted to practice in Wisconsin without taking a bar examination. The Diploma Privilege also qualifies students to practice before the federal courts.

Part-Time Program

If you are offered admission to the Law School, you may choose to attend on a part-time basis. There is no separate application procedure, but upon acceptance you will be asked to choose full-time or part-time enrollment, though you may subsequently change your enrollment status. Part-time students must complete the first-year curriculum within two years of entering and must complete the course work required for the J.D. degree within six years. First-year courses generally require you to be on campus four times per week and some are offered in the late afternoon and early evening. Part-time students wishing to take courses only in the late



afternoon and early evening should note that one-half of the first-year program courses are generally offered in the evenings of alternate years, thus making it possible to complete the first-year program in the evening within the requisite two years.

Dual Degree Programs

The University of Wisconsin Law School offers many opportunities for you to combine the study of law with a graduate degree in another subject. If you choose to pursue a dual degree, in most instances, you will save approximately one year of study compared to completing two programs separately. Dual degree programs are established between the Law School and the Business School, the La Follette School

of Public Affairs, the Latin American and Iberian Studies Program, the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, the Neuroscience and Public Policy Program, the Department of Philosophy, the Department of Political Science, the Departments of Sociology and Rural Sociology, and the School of Library and Information Studies. In addition, the Law School is committed to helping students create individual dual degree programs if the existing ones do not meet your academic needs.



The first-year small-section program teaches the fundamentals of legal analysis, research, and writing in a supportive setting. In the first year, two of your classes—a substantive law class and a legal research and writing class—have 25 or fewer students.

Curricular Concentrations and Certificate Programs



Curricular Concentrations

The University of Wisconsin Law School has established Curricular Concentrations in several areas of studies.

These areas include:

- Criminal Law
- Family Law
- Estate Planning
- International Law
- Labor and Employment Law
- Real Estate Law

Students interested in pursuing a Curricular Concentration must complete 15-20 credits from a specified list of selected courses. For a detailed explanation of the individual requirements for each Curricular Concentration, please visit: law.wisc.edu/academics/dualdegree/certificateprograms.html.

Certificate Programs

The University of Wisconsin Law School also offers interdisciplinary certificate programs that provide an

opportunity for concentrated study, but do not involve pursuing an additional degree. Certificates are available in the following subject areas:

- Environmental Law
- Russian Area Studies
- International Law and Business
- Consumer Health Advocacy

For more detailed information about these certificate programs, please visit: law.wisc.edu/academics/dualdegree/certificateprograms.html.

Clinicals, Internships and Externships

The Law School is committed to practical experience as a part of legal education. The University of Wisconsin Law School was one of the first law schools to initiate a clinical program, and since then, it has maintained a national reputation for the strength and number of clinical opportunities it provides. Clinicals, internships, and externships provide hands-on lawyering experiences with real people—clients, victims, witnesses, family members, lawyers and judges—and give you a better understanding of the role and responsibilities of a lawyer. Students under the direct supervision of clinical professors or supervising attorneys meet with clients, perform factual investigations, research legal issues, prepare client letters, draft legal documents and write briefs. Clinical placements are not required, but they are available for those wishing to participate.

The Remington Center

The Frank J. Remington Center is the Law School's oldest and largest clinical program and includes a variety of projects focusing on different aspects of the justice system. Students who participate in these projects have primary control over the management of cases, which gives them a chance to develop lawyering skills that are not taught in traditional law school classes. The projects are:

Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Project (LAIP)

LAIP provides assistance to inmates in state and federal prison throughout Wisconsin. Under the direct supervision of clinical faculty, students visit the prisons, interview clients and develop a varied caseload. Students receive valuable training in areas such as factual investigation, case strategy, legal research, writing, and negotiation. LAIP also allows students to develop an understanding of the lawyer's professional responsibility to the client and to the justice system.

Re-Entry Project

The Re-entry Project seeks to help clients successfully re-enter the community by providing a wide range of legal assistance to clients close to their release from prison, and those who are on community supervision. The clinic emphasizes a problem-solving and interdisciplinary approach to legal representation and assists clients with civil, criminal, and administrative matters.

Criminal Appeals Project

The Criminal Appeals Project combines class work on appellate procedure, client-centered representation on appeal, issue spotting, and persuasive writing, with work on an actual criminal appeal assigned by the State Public Defender's Office. The appeals are timed to allow students to participate in the full range of work on an appeal, from initial interview with the client through briefing in the Court of Appeals.



Family Law Project

The Family Law Project allows students the opportunity to represent prison inmates in family law cases involving divorce, paternity, custody, visitation, and child support issues. In addition to their clinical work, students in the Family Law Project enroll in a family law seminar, which covers substantive legal issues as well as such lawyering skills as interviewing, counseling, and negotiation.



Wisconsin Innocence Project

The Innocence Project investigates and litigates claims-of-innocence cases involving inmates in state and federal prisons. The project focuses on the discovery and analysis of new evidence, particularly DNA

evidence, that can prove a defendant's innocence. In addition to their clinical work, students in the Innocence Project enroll in an advanced criminal justice administration class, which focuses on substantive legal issues and scientific evidence.

Oxford Federal Project

The Oxford Federal Project assists inmates of the Federal Correctional Institution in Oxford, Wisconsin with a wide variety of problems including: the validity of federal convictions and sentences under the federal sentencing guidelines; the resolution of outstanding criminal matters from other jurisdictions; family law matters; return of property; release hearings before the immigration service; and U.S. Parole Commission hearings. Students strive to find creative, thoughtful, and exacting ways to answer clients' questions and help solve their problems.

Restorative Justice Project

The Restorative Justice Project attempts to involve crime victims more fully in the criminal justice system by providing mediation between the victims of the crime and the criminal offenders. Students work with victims and offenders to facilitate in-person meetings, practice mediation skills, and assess the effectiveness of an alternative dispute resolution process in the criminal justice field.

Economic Justice Institute

The Economic Justice Institute (EJI) handles various aspects of civil law that relate to economic inequality and poverty, including housing, employment, family, and consumer law. EJI students have extensive client contact and gain experience in interviewing, negotiation, client counseling, factual investigation, legal research and writing, and litigation. EJI students also work on community impact projects such as legislation, community legal education, immigra-

tion information and petitions, or other work with local anti-poverty groups. The major projects within EJI are: *the Neighborhood Law Project*, which provides general counseling and representation in lower-income Madison neighborhoods; the *Consumer Law Litigation Clinic*, which litigates on behalf of lower-income consumers statewide on issues such as fraud, credit and debt, health insurance denials and violations of the Wisconsin Consumer Act; the *Family Court Assistance Project*, which assists self-represented litigants by providing information, forms and education in a variety of family law issues; the *Domestic Violence Immigration Clinic*, which assists undocumented immigrant victims of domestic violence with federal petitions for U Visa interim relief or permanent VAWA status; and the *Foreclosure Mediation Clinic*, which assists homeowners facing foreclosure by explaining the legal process, communicating with mortgage lenders, and preparing for mediation.

Center for Patient Partnerships

The Center for Patient Partnerships is a national resource for strengthening the consumer perspective in health care and building more effective partnerships among patients, providers, and other stakeholders. The Center teaches future doctors, lawyers, nurses, social workers and pharmacists to work together to become better advocates for their patients. Students are placed in multidisciplinary teams to work with individual patients recently diagnosed with cancer or other serious illnesses. The Center focuses on the principles and practices of patient-centered care and patient

advocacy, and emphasizes caring for the whole patient, including issues related to insurance law, HMO coverage policies, and medical ethics.

Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic

The Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic provides essential legal services to start-up entrepreneurs. Students, trained in the legal challenges of creating a new business, counsel their clients in diverse matters including corporate structure, finance, intellectual property, tax, insurance and other legal issues confronting the new businesses.

Externships and Internships

The *Judicial Intern Program* places students at the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, the Dane County Circuit Court, the Western District of Wisconsin Federal Court, and other state and federal courts throughout Wisconsin. Placements generally involve significant research and writing obligations and, in trial court placements, the opportunity to observe court proceedings. The program provides students with a

unique opportunity to view trial and appellate advocacy from the judge's point of view.

In addition, the *Prosecution Project* and the *Public Defender Project* place students in a Wisconsin public defender's office or district attorney's office during the summer after their second year of law school. Students typically acquire experience in appearing at arraignments, bail hearings, preliminary hearings, and trials; researching and preparing trial briefs; and negotiating plea agreements. Two classes supplement the hands-on work of these clinical programs.

Other placements include:

- Labor Law Externship
- Civil Rights Internships
- Thurgood Marshall Externship
- Health Law Externship
- Wisconsin Department of Justice
- Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Unemployment Appeals Clinic
- Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy
- Disability Rights Wisconsin
- Land Law and Tenure Security Externship
- Midwest Environmental Advocates Externship



Going Global: International Law and Study Abroad

We live in a global society in which new economic, political, and legal issues transcend traditional boundaries and challenge people to solve problems in new ways. The Law School is no stranger to the challenges of globalization. Several professors devote their scholarship and teaching primarily to international or comparative law, and several other faculty members integrate analysis of foreign legal developments into their domestic law courses. The Law School hosts international students and professors, bringing diverse international perspectives to the classroom, and the University has one of the largest groups of international students in the country. You also can study with one of the many foreign law schools with which the Law School has exchange agreements, create your own foreign study program, or participate in the foreign study programs of other U.S. law schools. The Law School currently

offers programs in the following countries:

- European University Institute, Florence, Italy
- JLU-Giessen, Giessen, Germany
- University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- Diego Portales University, Santiago, Chile
- Catholic University, Lima, Peru
- University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
- University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom
- University of Paris X, Nanterre, Paris, France
- Pontifical Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- National Law School of India University, Bangalore, India

For more information about our international and comparative law program, visit our website at law.wisc.edu/academics/international.

East Asian Legal Studies Center

The East Asian Legal Studies Center was established at the Law School in 1990 to formalize and increase the Law School's interactions with universities, government ministries, and the private sector in East and Southeast Asia. The Center is actively involved in graduate legal education, student exchanges and internships, scholarly exchanges, professional programs, and outreach. Student jobs working with international masters students at the Law School as well as other international opportunities are available for J.D. students through the Center.

Global Legal Studies Center

Under the aegis of the Institute for Legal Studies, the Global Legal Studies Center (GLSC) is a joint project of the University of Wisconsin Law School and the Division of International Studies. Through this initiative, the Law School and International Studies work together to promote the understanding of international, transnational, and comparative legal systems, processes and regimes and disseminate this knowledge to students and constituencies on and off campus. The Center's goal is to support research in international legal studies, organize workshops and conferences, expand connections with scholars and institutions in the U.S. and overseas, deepen links with the International Institute and other international programs on campus, and share expertise.



The Law School participates in ten exchange programs with foreign universities and has internship opportunities in India, Vietnam, Thailand and other Asian countries. There is also a summer program in Giessen, Germany.

Resources and Opportunities



The University of Wisconsin Law School stands at the center of the University on historic Bascom Hill. The central atrium located in the heart of the building is a place for students and faculty to gather informally in study groups, meet for extracurricular activities, or simply relax between classes. Our spacious classrooms surround the atrium. The Law Library is one of the most sought-after places to study on campus.

An important indication of the breadth of interest within the student body is the range of extracurricular activities and organizations in which students participate. University of Wisconsin Law School students have a wide range of choices and are active participants in many new organizations ranging from professional groups to intramural sports.

The Law Library

The Law School's expanded and renovated library is one of the major resource libraries on the UW–Madison campus. Its collections, hours and services are geared to the special needs of the Law School community. With a collection of over 500,000 volume equivalents, it ranks among the top academic law libraries nationally. The library provides easy access in both print and electronic formats to a full range of state and federal law, international law, and the law of certain foreign jurisdictions. The Law Library also has significant holdings of Canadian and British legal materials and large collections of U.S. Government and United Nations documents. The library has a permanent staff of 12 professional librarians and 11 support staff and is open over 100 hours each week. A wireless network is available throughout the library. The online catalog, MadCat, includes the resources of all the UW–Madison campus libraries, consisting of over six million volumes.

Publications



Three student journals give students an opportunity to assist with and contribute to the Law School's scholarly publications. These publications provide invaluable training in legal research and writing.

The *Wisconsin Law Review* is a student-run journal of legal analysis and commentary used by professors, judges, and practitioners for research and discussion of current legal issues. Today, the *Law Review* is one of the

most respected legal journals in the country. Distributed six times each year, the *Law Review* publishes professional and student articles, with content spanning local, state, national, and international topics. Students earn membership on the *Law Review* through a writing competition at the end of their first year.

The *Wisconsin International Law Journal*, established in 1982, is a student-run publication that publishes

The *Wisconsin International Law Journal*, established in 1982, is a student-run publication that publishes articles on international and comparative legal topics. The *Journal* publishes four times a year; each issue includes student scholarship as well as articles written by professionals. The *Journal* also hosts an annual Symposium on a recent topic of interest in international law, resulting in a special issue. Students are selected for participation through a write-on process in the spring.

The *Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender & Society*, open to all students, is a student-edited journal, national in scope, which publishes contributions from students, teachers, and practitioners. *The Journal*, established in 1985, combines the University of Wisconsin's "law-in-action" tradition with the interdisciplinary nature of gender studies. Articles on all legal topics are considered, including corporate, environmental, and criminal law issues.

Moot Court

Competitions at the University of Wisconsin Law School provide an outstanding opportunity for students to gain experience with brief-writing and oral advocacy. Students learn practical skills and work as a team to present their case. The University of Wisconsin Moot Court Board organizes, promotes, and supports intramural and intercollegiate moot court competition, and annually sends dozens of UW law students to competitions at law schools across the country and to Europe. Each spring, the Law School also hosts the Evan A. Evans Competition, a moot court event in which students from around the country argue a constitutional law case.

Mock Trial

Mock Trial is a student-run organization that teaches members how to litigate. Members learn to give opening and closing statements, and to direct and cross-examine witnesses under

the guidance of Madison area trial lawyers. Members refine these skills by competing in a number of regional and national competitions across the country each year. For students interested in litigation, Mock Trial represents an invaluable opportunity to learn trial advocacy skills that are not part of the 1L curriculum. Tryouts are held each fall for interested students.

Pro Bono Program

The Pro Bono Program provides students with opportunities to deliver legal services to underrepresented community members. Students are assisted and supported by Pro Bono Program staff with placements in private and nonprofit law firms, legal aid groups, in-house programs and other organizations, where their pro bono work will be performed under direct attorney supervision.

The Student Bar Association

SBA is a self-governing organization with a council composed of seven





representatives from each of the three classes plus a president, three vice-presidents, a treasurer, and a secretary elected by the student body at large. The association acts generally for the student body in Law School matters. The officers and council of the association appoint the student members of various Law School committees. These committees play an important role in the governance of the Law School, and the student committee members work to ensure representation of student views in this process.

Specialized Student Interest Organizations

Student organizations are an important part of student life at the Law School and offer many choices. But if no organization exists to suit your particular needs and interests, we encourage you to start one. A wealth of specialized student organizations provides outstanding opportunities to explore your interests with your fellow students, including:

- American Constitution Society
- Unemployment Compensation Appeals Clinic
- Student Division of the American Bar Association
- Student Chapter of the ACLU
- Asian Pacific American/South Asian Law Students Association

- Black Law Students Association
- Business and Tax Law Association
- Children’s Justice Project
- Christian Legal Society
- Democratic Law Student Association
- Environmental Law Society
- Federalist Society
- Health Law Students Association
- Indigenous Law Students Association
- Intellectual Property Student Organization
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Labor and Employment Law Society
- Latino Law Students Association
- Law School Family Association
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Legal Information Center
- Middle Eastern Law Students Association
- National Lawyer’s Guild
- Order of the Coif
- Phi Alpha Delta
- PTLaw (Part-time Law Students)
- Public Interest Law Foundation
- QLaw (Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Law Students)
- Stuart’s Law Revue
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Wisconsin International Law Society

- Wisconsin Public Interest Law Foundation
- Women Law Students Association

Graduate Studies Programs

The Law School offers two master’s and one doctoral program in its post-J.D. Graduate Studies Program. The Master of Laws–Legal Institutions (LL.M.-L.I.) is a course-based 24-credit master’s program designed specifically for individuals who have received their legal education (LL.B.) from universities outside the United States. The Master of Laws (LL.M.) and the Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) are both research programs that require a thesis or dissertation. These programs are open to J.D. holders and to individuals who have their basic law degree from a non-U.S. law school. Direct entry into the S.J.D. program is generally not available, but must be preceded by the earning of the Law School’s LL.M. More information about these three degree programs can be found on the Law School’s website at law.wisc.edu/grad, or by contacting the Graduate Programs Office at (608) 262-9120 or gradprog@law.wisc.edu.



Admissions



The University of Wisconsin Law School Admissions Committee takes a holistic approach to the application process. An applicant's competitiveness relies on a number of factors, not the least of which is the applicant's experience and background.

A major determinant of the strength and quality of any law school is the makeup of its student body. The admissions policies of the University of Wisconsin Law School are designed to enhance the diversity, vigor, social concern, and academic ability of the student community. We are looking for students who have the intellectual ability to meet the challenges of law school and who bring something special to our Law School community.

Preparation for Law Study

There is no course of study that is prerequisite for admission to law school. Current law students have undergraduate degrees in engineering, business, science, history, music, linguistics, English, and a host of other disciplines. The main guide to undergraduate study should be your interests and talent; however, because law is a “profession of words,” you should include communication skills, both oral and written, as part of your undergraduate education. In addition, courses that develop analytical reasoning are helpful.

Application Procedures for First-Year Students

First-year students are admitted for enrollment in the fall semester. Applications must be postmarked by March 1 preceding the fall semester in which applicants wish to enroll, but applicants are strongly encouraged to file by the preceding November or December. Students must graduate from an approved undergraduate institution before they enroll as a first-year law student, but graduation is not a prerequisite for applying.

Application Form and Fee

Our application is available online at law.wisc.edu/prospective.

Law School Admission Test

All applicants must submit scores from a recently taken Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and must subscribe to the Credential Assembly Service (CAS), sponsored by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). Applicants must take the LSAT no later than the February prior to the fall in which they seek to begin law school. Applicants should have LSAC send an official score report directly to the Law School as part of the CAS report. Contact LSAC directly at (215) 968-1001 or go to www.lsac.org to register online for the LSAT and subscribe to the CAS.

The Applicant File

In deciding to accept an applicant for admission to law school, the Admissions Committee reviews the written materials in the applicant's file. Interviews are not a part of the admissions process, although we are happy to answer your questions, and we invite you to visit the Law School. Your file will contain, at a minimum, your application form, the registrar's record of residence form, copies of your college transcripts (as reproduced by CAS), the CAS summary of college grades, the report of LSAT scores, and your résumé. Two letters of recommendation are also required. They should speak to your ability, intelligence, diligence, imagination,



and similar qualities. The Admissions Committee carefully considers whatever information we receive in your personal statement, application form, and letters of recommendation. If there is something that we have not asked you, or something you want to elaborate on, feel free to include a short separate addendum to the application.

Admissions Criteria

The University of Wisconsin Law School is committed to an admissions program that provides an academically qualified student body that is as diverse as possible. Having students with different interests, goals, life experiences, backgrounds and attitudes is critical in order to ensure the robust exchange of ideas that is called for in training lawyers and potential political leaders. And, just as a diverse student body enriches the educational process, so a diverse group of law graduates strengthens the legal profession and better enables it to

represent all segments of our society. No factor, however, will outweigh a judgment that a particular applicant's credentials, taken as a whole, represent unacceptably high academic risk. We accept only those we judge to be fully qualified academically and will not accept any applicant with a predicted first-year score of less than the equivalent to our Law School grade of "C" (2.0).

Admission to the University of Wisconsin Law School is very competitive, and we understand that you, as a prospective applicant, are interested in knowing how best to present your application, and whether you have a reasonable possibility of acceptance.

The following information is designed to help you answer those questions.

Out of a student body of approximately 850 students, about forty percent of the students come from outside of Wisconsin. Forty-seven percent of our enrolled students are women; twenty-five percent are students of color.

First-Year Students

When we receive your application, we take several things into consideration, such as: (1) strong academic credentials, including cumulative and undergraduate grade point and LSAT score; (2) diversity of experience, background, or career goals; (3) membership in a group historically underrepresented in the legal profession, including racial and ethnic minorities; and (4) Wisconsin residency. We also consider the factors listed below.

Trend of college grades

An applicant who started poorly in college but performed strongly in later college years may be judged more favorably than another with the same GPA but a level or declining record.

Letters of recommendation

A careful, thoughtful letter from a teacher or employer may tell us more about the applicant's prospects for academic success than mere numerical factors.

Graduate study

Although graduate study alone does not, in our judgment, significantly increase the quality of law school performance, strong recent graduate work plus a strong LSAT may overcome weaker college grades. Also, an interesting background of graduate study may be a favorable factor in itself.

Time interval between college graduation and application to law school

We have some evidence that applicants at least a year out of college, especially those with strong recent LSAT scores, will have a better academic record in law school than their numerical credentials suggest. An applicant's post-college experience, whether in work or volunteer activity, may be a favorable factor as well.

Quality of applicant's

undergraduate institution

Though difficult to measure, the quality of the institution where the applicant earned an undergraduate degree is a relevant factor.

College grading and course selection patterns

We examine transcripts individually. If an applicant has followed an unusually easy or difficult pattern of coursework, we try to take it into account. An occasional college pass-fail grade does not affect our evaluation of the GPA; however, a heavy load of un-graded, pass-fail work undermines whatever GPA remains and creates a need for candid letters of evaluation from the applicant's college teachers.

Outside work while in college

A full-time or extra-heavy part-time work load (or, rarely, an extraordinarily heavy load of extracurricular activity) may suggest that the applicant would have had a better GPA with a lesser load. We consider this factor in close cases.

Writing sample

The LSAT includes a short spontaneous essay that is sent to law schools. Writing is so important to law study that we may give weight to this sample if it shows exceptional writing skill or weakness.

Unusual cultural background

Our quest for diversity gives some advantage to fully qualified applicants from unusual or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Geographical diversity

Other factors being equal, a fully qualified applicant from an area of the country, or an area of Wisconsin, relatively unrepresented in our student body will receive slight preference in selection

Diversity of experience, background, or stated professional goals

A background of work experience, life experience, college activity, political activity, etc., that adds an additional or unusual perspective to the Law School student body may work in the applicant's favor. Additionally, we prefer an entering class made up of individuals with many different reasons for being here. For example, if most of our applicants say they want to use their legal training to be social reformers, a plus may go to the applicant who wants to be a small-city practitioner.

For additional admissions criteria and statistics, please visit law.wisc.edu/prospective.

Transferring, Visiting, or Attending Part-Time

Transfer Students

Students may apply to transfer to UW Law after their first year of law school. To apply as a transfer student, you must have attended an ABA-approved school and must be academically eligible to continue as a regular full-time student in the school you last attended. In addition, you must have completed the equivalent of the first-year curriculum, but no more than 45 credits.

The Law School Admissions Committee takes a holistic approach to the review of transfer applications. Applicants are generally accepted when they are able to demonstrate strong academic performance in their first-year curriculum, depending on the quality of the law school from which they are applying. The Law School matriculates approximately 25 transfer applicants each fall.

The competitiveness in any given year depends on the overall quality of the applicant pool, as well as the relative size of the class they will be joining. Preference is given to Wisconsin residents who apply for transfer on the basis of a strong academic showing at another law school. The transfer application becomes available April 1, and the deadline for submission is July 1. Transfers are admitted in the fall term only; there is no midyear admission.

Visiting Students

If you are in your final year or final semester of law study, you may apply to attend UW Law as a visiting student. To apply as a visiting student, you must be enrolled in an ABA-accredited law school, be in good standing, and be eligible to continue at that law school. In addition, you must have permission to attend another law school.

As a visiting student, it is your responsibility to: make certain that credits will transfer back to your home institution; ensure that our academic calendar will work with your law school's calendar with regard to the start and end dates for academic terms; and make financial aid arrangements with your home law school.

Visiting students are accepted in the fall term only and as space permits. The deadline for visiting student applications is July 1.

There is no separate application procedure for part-time students. Students who are accepted to UW Law may choose to attend on a full or part-time basis prior to matriculating. Part-time students follow a required sequence of first-year courses, taking a minimum of two or three courses per semester. The first-year courses generally require a student to be on campus four evenings or days per week. As a part-time student, you will need to complete the first-year curriculum within two years after entering and must complete the course work required for the J.D. degree within six years.

Part-time student status is entirely the choice of the individual student, and students may change from part-time to full-time status or vice versa when they choose, subject to the usual rules about dropping and adding classes.

Part-Time Students



Career Opportunities



For the past three years, more than 94% of our graduates who actively sought employment secured it within nine months of graduation.

The Career Services Office at the University of Wisconsin Law School provides a wealth of resources to assist you in obtaining employment. From your first semester of law school, up to graduation and beyond, you will receive information and advice on a broad range of legal career opportunities.

Leading law firms, government agencies, businesses and public interest organizations hire our graduates. A broad range of legal employers from many major cities participate in the Law School's on-campus interview program. We also participate in nine off-campus job fairs each year, in New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Chicago and Minneapolis, in order to increase the interview opportunities for students interested in those areas. Other employers post positions at the Law School. Still other employers are contacted by our students, using networking and search techniques with assistance from our alumni throughout the country. In any given year, our graduates typically accept jobs in more than 20 different states.

The Career Services Office provides group programs on career options, interviewing techniques, and résumé writing as well as individual sessions with students. Because each student brings very different skills and interests to law school and the job search process, employment decisions and issues are a very personal matter. You are encouraged to discuss your goals, ideas and concerns with the staff frequently during your law school career.

Many students use the summers after their first and second year of

school to work in cities where they think they might like to practice. This gives them the advantage of establishing their professional contact network in that area, including connecting to our alumni network in their chosen locale.

Because of our long-standing reputation as a top national law school, employers from New York to San Francisco (and all points in between) seek to hire our graduates. This past year, our graduates and current students could be found in practice in major cities across the United States including Washington, D.C., Minneapolis, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New Orleans, Miami, Atlanta, Chicago and Dallas, in a range of practice settings, including clerking for federal and state judges. Our alumni are in practice literally all over the world, and are a testament to the international reputation of the Law School and its graduates.

Law School Faculty

The University of Wisconsin faculty is recognized nationally for its preeminence and represents diverse interests and expertise. Our faculty members are leading scholars and also are actively involved in the law. They represent clients on death row, advise the White House on biotech issues, draft legislation, provide legal advice to poor farmers in the South, and work with the European Union on monetary policy and with former Soviet Bloc countries on social reforms. They are interesting people doing interesting things. First and foremost, they are excellent teachers.

LISA ALEXANDER. Assistant Professor of Law; J.D., Columbia University. Business Organizations, Contracts, Community Development Law

ANN ALTHOUSE. Robert W. and Irma M. Arthur-Bascom Professor of Law; J.D., New York University. Civil Procedure, Evidence, Federal Jurisdiction, Constitutional Law

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Visiting the Law School

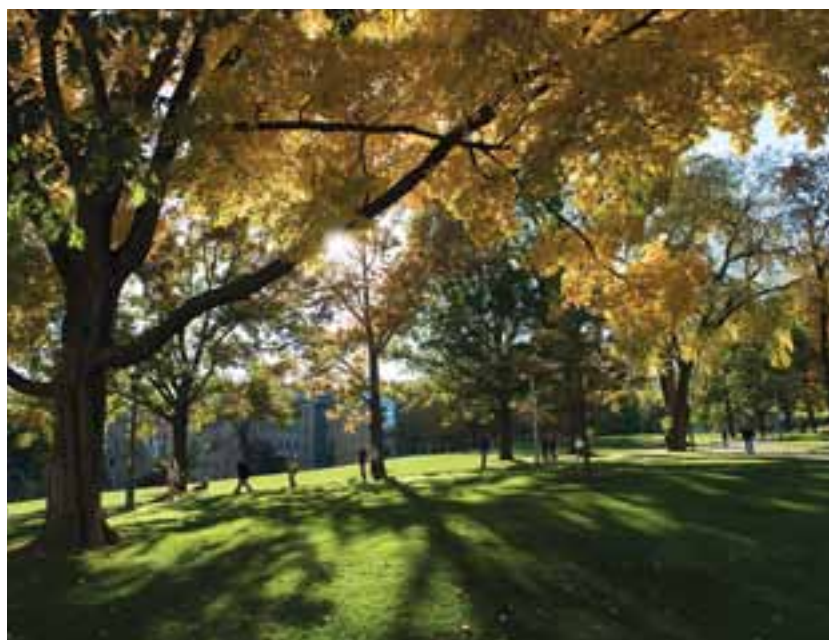
Our doors at Wisconsin are open, and we hope you'll visit us. We believe that once you explore the beautiful city of Madison, visit the Law School, sit in on a class, and meet some of our students, you'll know why the UW Law School is such a terrific choice.

Whether you choose to visit during a public event, such as our Fall Open House, or to schedule an individual visit, we would be delighted to welcome you to the Law School campus. Information about our public events is posted online at law.wisc.edu. If you would prefer to schedule an individual visit, contact the Admissions Office by emailing admissions@law.wisc.edu or calling (608) 262-5914. If possible, give us at least two weeks notice so that we can arrange class visits, a building tour, and time to speak with current students. The University also offers campus tours, and we would be happy to give you information about those as well.

If you would like more information about where to stay and what to see during your visit to Madison, please visit UW's Visitor & Information Programs' website at visit.wisc.edu.

Walking Directions from the Lake Street Parking Ramp to the Law School

When you come by car to visit the Law School, we recommend that you park at the State Street Campus public parking ramp located at 415 North Lake Street. To arrive at the Law School from the parking ramp, cross Lake Street to Library Mall. Memorial Library will be on your right and the University Book Store will be on your left. Ahead of you is Bascom Hill. The Law School is located on the left side of the hill between Music Hall and South Hall. You will see the Law Library's glass-enclosed study area as you are walking up the hill. Enter the Law School's front door from this point and you will arrive on Level 3 of the Law School Atrium.



For airline and bus information, visit www.visit.wisc.edu. Also see www.map.wisc.edu for a campus map.



Directions to the University of Wisconsin Law School by car

From Chicago (via I-90)

Take Interstate 90 to Highway 12/18 West. Follow Hwy. 12/18 for six miles to John Nolen Drive. Exit at John Nolen Drive and follow John Nolen over the water toward the city until you come to US-151 S/Proudfit Street. Turn left onto Proudfit (toward West Washington Ave.) and continue on to Regent Street. Turn right onto CR-D N/North Park Street and continue a block or two. Take a right on Johnson Street, then the next left at Lake Street. Go 1 1/2 blocks to the public parking lot nearest the Law School, the Lake Street Parking Ramp, located to the right on Lake Street. (See walking directions to Law School on page 24.)

From Minneapolis (via I-90/94)

Take Interstate 94 South to Highway 151 West (East Washington Avenue). Take East Washington west for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto First Street (Highway 113). At the first light, turn left onto East Johnson Street. Johnson becomes Gorham Street after a few blocks. Gorham becomes University Avenue after two more miles. The public parking lot nearest the Law School is the Lake Street Parking Ramp. To get there, turn right on Lake Street. (See walking directions to Law School on page 24.)

From Milwaukee (via I-94)

Take Interstate 94 to Highway 30 West. Exit at East Washington Avenue. Take East Washington west for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto First Street (Highway 113). At the first light, turn left onto East Johnson Street. Johnson becomes Gorham Street after a few blocks. Gorham becomes University Avenue after two more miles. The public parking lot nearest the Law School is the Lake Street Parking Ramp. To get there, turn right on Lake Street. (See walking directions to Law School on page 24.)



The University of Wisconsin–Madison does not discriminate in its employment practices and programs and activities on a variety of bases including: race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age. For information on other covered bases, and the names of the Title IX and Americans with Disabilities Act coordinators, contact the Office for Equity and Diversity at 179A Bascom Hall, Madison WI 53706, 608-263-2378, WTRS 7-1-1; Web site: www.oed.wisc.edu.

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