University of Wisconsin
Law School
The intellectual rigor of a University of Wisconsin Law School education, and our commitment to support every student, will prepare you for the profound responsibility of being a lawyer. Our graduates create a more just world. Become part of our tradition and join a world-class university.
WELCOME

Thanks for taking the time to get to know our law school.

At UW Law, you’ll learn to analyze legal problems and issues in an exciting, intellectually rigorous program with award-winning teachers and scholars. You’ll serve real clients and needs in our rich and diverse array of clinics and externships, where you’ll find an experiential learning opportunity that will capture your interest and commitment.

If you choose to remain in Wisconsin to practice, you can be licensed as a lawyer in our state without sitting for a bar examination. That means you can appear in court about a month after you finish your law study, and many of our new graduates do just that.

For 150 years, the UW Law School has transformed lives and made the world a more just place. We look forward to being part of your transformation.

Dean Margaret Raymond
Be a part of our legacy.
The hallmark of a UW Law education, our distinctive “law-in-action” teaching tradition, gives students the tools to understand the law and graduate practice-ready. Our faculty are — and always have been — innovators who put student learning first. You will be equipped to analyze sophisticated legal problems and craft creative solutions. Your courses will focus not only on learning legal rules, but on understanding how those rules operate in the real world.

Make a difference.
The UW Law School experience is rooted in public service. From their first year in law school, students take pride in using their individual interests and skills to meet community needs. Through service, students gain experience, learn to lead, and advance the public good. Our students change lives, and their lives are changed.
“UW Law professors have immense experience. I have taken classes from professors who have worked in the Supreme Court, the NAACP, the Senate Judiciary Committee, as well as the top corporations and firms throughout this nation and abroad. I know I am benefiting from those experiences when I am in the classroom.”

SYDIE PARKER, LAW STUDENT

Design your legal education.

Our curriculum emphasizes the dynamics of law — how the law relates to social change and to society as a whole — while at the same time stressing experiential learning. Customize your program with a concentration or a dual degree, taking advantage of the great university around us. Or, stay right here in the Law School, focusing on our broad and innovative curriculum, and the opportunity to lead, to serve, and to grow by staffing a journal, or participating on a moot court, mock trial, or transactional competition team.

Learn from the best.

Our faculty members are gifted lawyers, scholars, and teachers. Many have advanced degrees in areas other than law which enables them to bring unique perspectives to their teaching and research. They are at the forefront of teaching excellence and are committed to your success. We have an extensive curriculum, small classes, and a wealth of opportunities to work closely with faculty members who are leading scholars.

Take advantage of diploma privilege.

Graduates who complete specific course and grade requirements and meet character and fitness standards are admitted to practice in Wisconsin without taking a bar examination. In 2017, all JD graduates earned diploma privilege.

7 curricular concentrations
12 international exchange programs
15+ moot court competitions annually
Choose from extensive hands-on learning opportunities.

At UW Law School, experiential learning is an integral part of legal education. With one of the largest and most diverse clinical programs in the country, the Law School offers a wide variety of hands-on lawyering experiences with real clients, under the supervision of practicing attorneys. Students represent low-income clients in civil and criminal cases, team up with medical students as advocates for terminally ill patients, and assist start-up companies with entity formation and intellectual property issues. Many students also take advantage of judicial internships, internships abroad, externships, and our innovative lawyering skills program during their UW Law careers.

Participate in one of the largest clinical programs in the country.

Our clinical programs include:

- The Center for Patient Partnerships
- Consumer Law Clinic
- Criminal Appeals Project
- Family Court Clinic
- Family Law Project
- Federal Appeals Project
- Government and Legislative Clinic
- Immigrant Justice Clinic
- Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic
- Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Project
- Neighborhood Law Clinic
- Oxford Federal Project
- Prosecution Project
- Public Defender Project
- Restorative Justice Project
- Wisconsin Innocence Project

Through these hands-on experiences, students practice fundamental lawyering skills and learn how to:

- Interact with clients
- Perform factual investigations
- Research legal issues
- Evaluate legal strategy
- Advise clients
- Draft legal documents
- Try cases
- Handle appeals

"My experience at the Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic jump-started my legal career. I developed some of the core skills of a successful lawyer, including clear and effective client communication, managing client expectations, and time management. By the end of my experience, I was able to research a complex area of law, boil it down to plain English, and provide legal advice to a client with confidence.”

KIERRE ELVINGTON, LAW STUDENT
Start at UW Law, go anywhere.
Leading law firms, government agencies, businesses, and public interest organizations hire UW Law School graduates. A broad range of legal employers participate in the on-campus interview program. The Law School also participates in off-campus job fairs each year in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington, DC, and our students receive support, mentorship, and guidance from our alumni around the world.

Our complete career guidance is tailored to you.
From your first semester of law school to graduation and beyond, the Office of Career and Professional Development provides expert resources to help you achieve your professional goals.
- Receive individual career counseling, from self-assessments to salary negotiations.
- Learn effective resume and cover letter writing, interviewing techniques, and social media etiquette.
- Participate in on-campus and remote interview programs.
- Network with potential employers and learn from practicing attorneys.

40+ Career development workshops per year
90% of graduates are employed 10 months after graduation
95% of first-year students report doing legal work the first summer of law school

Network with our remarkable alumni.
With a powerful community of more than 15,000 graduates living around the world, our alumni are very committed to the next generation of UW lawyers. The UW Law alumni listed below illustrate the breadth of experience and accomplishments of our alumni.

Tammy Baldwin, ’89
US Senator from Wisconsin
Bridget Brennan ’83
New York City’s Special Narcotics Prosecutor
Stephen Jarchow ’76
Chairman of Here Media and Regent Entertainment
Sheldon Lubar ’53
Founder and Chairman of Lubar & Co.
James Sensenbrenner ’68
US Congressman from Wisconsin
Leticia Smith-Evans ’03
Vice President for Institutional Diversity and Equity at Williams College
Amanda WhiteEagle ’05
Attorney General for the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice
Marti Wronski ’97
Vice President and General Counsel for the Milwaukee Brewers

2017 graduate employment by job sector
- Law Firm 43%
- Public Interest 11%
- Clerkship 11%
- Business 11%
- Government 24.5%
- Education 5%
Thrive in a Big Ten university environment. UW Law School offers the best of both worlds: a small and supportive community within the Law School and a major university right outside our doors. The Law School is situated on historic Bascom Hill, in the heart of the beautiful University of Wisconsin–Madison campus. As a UW Law School student, you have access to the resources of a world-class research university. UW–Madison combines nine schools and three colleges on a single campus and enrolls over 40,000 students from more than 120 countries and every state in the Union. Boasting national and international reputations for excellence shared by few other universities, UW–Madison offers extensive intellectual, social, cultural, and recreational opportunities.

15th in Public Institutions
(2019 U.S. News & World Report)

Top 6 Research Institution
(2017 National Science Foundation)
Live in Madison, Wisconsin, a beautiful community in the state’s capital.

Madison is a quintessential college town. It provides amazing access to outdoor recreation, the arts, sports, and a thriving intellectual community. Just down the hill from the Law School, the waterfront terrace at the Wisconsin Union offers a relaxing spot to connect with colleagues. Madison is a vibrant 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 US District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, and various state and federal government agencies, all within walking distance of the Law School. In addition, the Wisconsin Union Theater, the Overture Center for the Arts, the Kohl Center, Camp Randall, and other facilities provide many opportunities to enjoy cultural and athletic 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 scenic countryside.

#1 City for an Active Lifestyle
(2017 Wallethub)

#16 Best U.S. Cities
(2018 U.S. News & World Report)

#3 America’s Friendliest Cities
(2016 Travel + Leisure)

“As a Los Angeles native, living in a smaller city has helped me focus on my studies and build my professional career. There are fewer distractions and the people are wonderful. Upon my arrival two years ago, I immediately noticed the difference in the quality of life compared to other cities that I have lived in or visited. Madison allows law students to have unparalleled access to a variety of jobs located within walking distance of the law building. Madison also offers a great, affordable night life for graduate students and young professionals. Overall, moving here for law school was one of the best decisions I have ever made and I plan to stick around long after graduation.”

REZA HAJISANEI, LAW STUDENT

Minneapolis
Madison
Milwaukee
Chicago
Join UW Law, an engaged and diverse community.

A major indicator of the strength of any law school is its student body. The admissions policies of UW 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 unique to our Law School community.

There is a special feeling of community in the school and an informal, supportive atmosphere, reflecting a strong commitment by faculty and administrators to student learning, morale, and well-being.

Invest in your future.

UW Law’s diverse and intellectually rigorous curriculum combined with its affordable tuition and Midwestern living expenses yield a high return on student investment. We'll help you minimize your debt load while maximizing career opportunities.

Visit UW Law School.

Experience UW Law in person. To set up a tour or learn more, visit law.wisc.edu/prospective/
The University of Wisconsin Law School is approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association, 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654, 312-988-6738.

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