

RANK
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Boston University School of Law



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Overview³⁻⁴

From the day Boston University School of Law opened its doors in 1872, the school has admitted students without regard to race, gender or religion. Graduates have been pioneers in society and in their chosen fields. Boston University Law is a top-tier law school that offers a wide-ranging curriculum taught by professors recognized nationally as exceptional teachers and preeminent scholars. Approximately 800 students are enrolled in the full-time J.D. degree program and about 200 in the School's five LL.M. degree programs in American Law, Banking & Financial Law, Intellectual Property, International Business Law, and Taxation.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁵

12.0:1

Admission Criteria⁶

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	161-166	3.44-3.77
Median*	165	3.67

The above LSAT and GPA data pertain to the 2013 entering class.

*Medians have been calculated by averaging the 25th- and 75th-percentile values released by the law schools and have been rounded up to the nearest whole number for LSAT scores and to the nearest one-hundredth for GPAs.

Admission Statistics⁷

Approximate number of applications	4584
Number accepted	1582

Percentage accepted	34.5%
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The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades⁸

In coursework for which a letter grade is assigned, the minimum passing grade is D.

The Faculty has established the following scale of numerical equivalents for letter grades:

A+	4.3
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D	1.0
F	0.0

If a graded seminar or course is taken by a student on a Credit/No Credit/Honors basis, the student must earn a C or better on the graded work in the course or seminar to pass. A student who does not satisfy that standard will not receive credit for the course.

Grade Normalization (Curve)⁹

For all courses and seminars with enrollments of 26 or more, the following grade distribution is mandatory:

A+	0-5%
A+, A, A-	20-25% (A+ subject to 5% limitation above)
B+ and above	40-60% (subject to limitations on A range above)
B	10-50% (subject to limitations above and below)
B- and below	10-30% (subject to limitations below on ranges C+ and below)
C+ and above	5-10%
D, F	0-5%

For seminars and courses with enrollment of 25 or fewer students, the above distributions are not mandatory, but a median of B+ is recommended.

Class of 2014**Honors & GRADE CUT-OFF POINTS -Based on Third Year Cumulative Average:**

Cut-off point for summa cum laude and top 1%	3.92
Cut-off point for top 5%	3.77
Cut-off point for magna cum laude and top 10%	3.73
Cut-off point for top 15%	3.68
Cut-off point for top 20%	3.65
Cut-off point for top 25%	3.61
Cut-off point for cum laude and top one-third	3.56

Scholarly Categories & GRADE CUT-OFF POINTS - Based on Third Year Average Only:

Cut-off point for top 5%	3.95
Cut-off point for Edward F. Hennessey Distinguished Scholars and top 15 students	3.94
Cut-off point for Edward F. Hennessey Scholars and top 10%	3.9
Cut-off point for top 15%	3.85
Cut-off point for top 20%	3.79
Cut-off point for top 25%	3.76
Cut-off point for top one-third	3.72

Class of 2015**MID-YEAR RANK * Based on FALL 2013 Cumulative Average:**

Cut-off point for top 5%	3.79
Cut-off point for top 10%	3.7
Cut-off point for top 15%	3.66
Cut-off point for top 20%	3.58
Cut-off point for top 25%	3.54
Cut-off point for top one-third	3.46

* This rank includes only second-year students who have completed at least three semesters at BU Law.

Scholarly Categories & GRADE CUT-OFF POINTS - Based on Second Year Average Only:

Cut-off point for top 5%	3.96
Cut-off point for Paul J. Liacos Distinguished Scholars	3.93

Cut-off point for Paul J. Liacos Scholars and top 10%	3.89
Cut-off point for top 15%	3.81
Cut-off point for top 20%	3.76
Cut-off point for top 25%	3.72
Cut-off point for top one-third	3.63

GRADE CUT-OFF POINTS -Based on Second Year Cumulative Average:

Cut-off point for top 5%	3.82
Cut-off point for top 10%	3.73
Cut-off point for top 15%	3.67
Cut-off point for top 20%	3.62
Cut-off point for top 25%	3.58
Cut-off point for top one-third	3.49

Class of 2016

Scholarly Categories & GRADE CUT-OFF POINTS -Based on First Year Average:

First Year by Section	A (71)	B (74)	C (72)
Cut-off point for top 5%	3.9	3.93	3.83
Cut-off point for G. Joseph Tauro Distinguished Scholars	3.89	3.82	3.83
Cut-off point for G. Joseph Tauro Scholars and top 10%	3.81	3.73	3.72
Cut-off point for top 15%	3.74	3.69	3.7
Cut-off point for top 20%	3.62	3.65	3.65
Cut-off point for top 25%	3.56	3.61	-- *
Cut-off point for top one-third	3.48	3.46	3.57

* Due to a statistical tie, students in the top 25% also qualify for the top 20%

Awards¹¹

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
Sebastian Horsten Prize	to the LL.M. in American Law student who has achieved the highest cumulative average
American Law Outstanding Achievement Award	for excellence in academic achievement, honorable conduct and contributions to the class
Graduate Tax Program Academic Achievement Award	for the highest cumulative average

Ernest M. Haddad Award	to the graduating Graduate Tax Program student who best exhibits overall ability, taking into consideration academic achievement, character, and potential to serve the public interest
A. John Serino Outstanding Graduate Banking and Financial Law Student Prize	for overall performance, in terms of academic achievement and dedication to the highest standards of scholarship and service
Dennis S. Aronowitz Award for Academic Excellence in Banking and Financial Law	for the highest cumulative average
Faculty Award for Academic Accomplishment	for the most scholarly progress in the third year
William L. and Lillian Berger Achievement Prizes	for exemplary scholastic achievement
Faculty Awards for Community Service	for exceptional dedication to the ideals of community service
Peter Bennett Prize	to the graduating third-year J.D. law student receiving the highest grade point average
Spencer R. Koch Memorial Award	for outstanding contributions to achieving the goals of the Esdaile Alumni Center through alumni outreach
Honorable Albert P. Pettoruto Memorial Award	for excellence in the field of probate or family law
Melville M. Bigelow Scholarship Awards	to members of the graduating class who show the greatest promise as scholars and teachers in law
Warren S. Gilford Humanity and Law Prize	to a student who shows humanitarian interest in law, primarily by taking a job in the public sector after graduation
Alumni Academic Achievement Award	for the highest cumulative average in the three-year program of law study
Sylvia Beinecke Robinson Award	for a significant contribution to the life of the School of Law
Dr. John Ordronaux Prize	awarded to a member of the graduating class for the most exemplary academic performance and leadership
Michael Melton Award	for excellence in teaching
John Stephen Baerst Award	for excellence in teaching

Journals¹²

The **Boston University Law Review** provides analysis and commentary on all areas of the law. Published five times a year, the Law Review contains articles contributed by law professors and practicing attorneys from all over the world, along with notes written by student members. The wide cross-section of topics published in the Law Review gives students broad exposure to issues of concern to the legal community.

The **American Journal of Law and Medicine** is published jointly with the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics. The Journal is an interdisciplinary periodical containing professional articles, student notes and case comments; summaries of recent legislative and judicial developments; and book reviews in the area of health law and policy. The Journal specializes in domestic and international health care law. Articles explore topics such as bioethics, health care financing, health policy, fraud and abuse, intellectual property, among others.

The **Review of Banking & Financial Law** is a scholarly journal of banking and financial law. Sponsored by the Boston University Center for Finance, Law and Policy, the Review contains professional articles by academics and practicing lawyers, student notes and comments on topics ranging from banking law and regulation to commercial law, bankruptcy and administrative and constitutional law.

The **Boston University International Law Journal** was established in 1980 to provide a forum for student interests and scholarship in the field of international law. The biannual journal strives to publish groundbreaking and even controversial professional articles and student-written notes analyzing current issues of public and private international law, foreign and comparative law and trade law.

The **Journal of Science and Technology Law** carries on BU Law's longstanding tradition as a leader in Intellectual Property Law programs. The Journal publishes twice a year and provides the best practical scholarship regarding the intersection of science, technology and the law. Its subject matter encompasses biotechnology, computers, communications, intellectual property, the Internet, technology transfer and business for science and technology-based companies. Professional articles, symposia, student-written notes, legal updates and case notes appear in each print issue as well as online.

The **Public Interest Law Journal** is a non-partisan publication dedicated to the academic discussion of legal issues in the public interest. The Journal focuses on constitutional law, criminal law, family and legal ethics, environmental issues, education and civil rights law, and is particularly interested in submissions that combine theory and practical application.

Moot Court¹³⁻¹⁵

Boston University Law sponsors moot court programs for its students. These moot court competitions include the Homer Albers Prize Moot Court Competition, which in past years has been judged by Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Associate Justices Antonin Scalia, Byron R. White, Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and David Souter; and the Edward C. Stone Moot Court Competition, which is open to second-year J.D. students. Students also can participate in the Jessup Moot Court Competition, a prestigious moot court competition that attracts law students from over 500 law schools in more than 80 countries.

Clinical Programs^{16, 17}

Boston University School of Law has come a long way since its first clinical program in 1965. Today - as the school approaches the 50th anniversary of the clinics - the school is proud of the variety of exciting opportunities for students to get real legal experience. Students are taking on modern-day slavery in the Human Trafficking Clinic; fighting for children's rights in Haiti; and defending or prosecuting juveniles and adults in criminal matters. In the civil litigation clinics, students are representing clients fighting for employment rights, seeking to maintain their housing, or escaping from abusive marriages. The Uganda Parliament has debated a bill that BU Law students drafted in the legislative clinics.

The **Civil Litigation Program** is a partnership between BU Law and Greater Boston Legal Services. Students represent low-income clients in all phases of litigation under the supervision of full-time clinical faculty. Students participate in one of three program areas: the Housing, Employment, Family & Disability Clinic; the Immigrants' Rights Clinic; or the Employment Rights Clinic.

The **Criminal Clinical Program** allows students to conduct investigations, participate in plea bargaining, try cases and make sentencing arguments, all under faculty supervision. After a semester of training and supporting senior members of the clinic, students lead their own cases during their second semester of participation. During this semester, students can act as a prosecutor, an adult defender, or a juvenile defender.

The **Wrongful Convictions Clinic** enables students to screen applications from prisoners claiming innocence. Students scrutinize transcripts, forensic evidence, motions and appeals, and report to the New England Innocence Project.

The **Human Trafficking Clinic** provides a variety of legal services, including direct representation of non-citizens trafficked into the U.S., advocacy for trafficking survivors, and community education and training.

The **Human Rights Clinic** gives students the chance to work on human rights projects, including representing international NGO's in advocacy in the UN Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, the regional human rights organs (in the American, African, and European human rights systems); filing briefs and amicus briefs on international human rights law issues in US domestic courts; and participating in universal jurisdiction claims in the US and other courts.

The **Africa Parliaments Clinic** provides an opportunity for students to draft bill language and produce high-quality research reports supporting the African Parliamentary Knowledge Network, which helps to build the capacity of African parliaments to draft and enact more effective legislation.

The **American Legislative Practice** is the school's most comprehensive program for learning about the law-making process. Students participate either in the in-house clinic or through an externship at the Massachusetts State House, and work on projects typically handled by the legal and research staff of a legislative committee.

The **Semester-in-Practice** allows students to spend the semester in Washington, D.C., working for a federal agency or congressional committee.

Placement Facts¹⁸

Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$125,000 - \$160,000
Private sector - Median	\$160,000
Public service - Median	\$57,000

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	46.9%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	68.1%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	48.4%
Business and Industry	10.2%
Government	12.7%
Judicial Clerkships	8.2%
Public Interest Organizations	18.9%
Academia	1.2%
Unknown	0.4%

Externships/Internships

Externships¹⁸

BU Law encourages externships. An externship consists of a weekly seminar and a field experience at a public interest or government organization, in-house counsel placement, or a law firm (pro bono only). The majority of programs are part-time, and students work 12-20 hrs/wk at the field placement. BU Law also offers five part-time externship programs. Each program accommodates 10-16 students. Once students are accepted into an externship program, students then begin searching and applying for placements. Students are expected to conduct their own placement search, although the Office of Clinical Programs offers resources to help students identify good placements based on their individual interests.

Affordable Housing Externship Program - Students extern at state, local or nonprofit community development organizations, such as the Mass. Dep't of Housing and Community Development, and Cambridge Housing Authority.

Community Courts - Students work one day a week with a judge in a community based court.

Government Lawyering Externship Program - Placements include the US Attorney's Office, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, and other federal and state agencies in Boston.

Health Law Externship Program - Students work at health care institutions, biotech firms, or health advocacy nonprofits.

Independent Proposal Externship - Under this option, students satisfy the academic component of the externship by doing an independent study with a faculty sponsor.

Judicial Externship Program - Students work at a trial or appellate court in the Massachusetts or federal court system. Unlike the other programs, acceptance to the JEP is competitive.

Legal Externship Program - BU Law's general externship program. Popular placements include environmental law organizations, WGBH, BU General Counsel's Office, PAIR, and the Federal Reserve Bank, to name a few.

Internships¹⁹

The American Legislative Practice

The American Legislative Practice program focuses on the legislative process and combines a seminar with a placement in the field. The seminar covers subjects that affect the legislative process including: constitutional interpretation by legislatures; theories of representation; legislative organization and rules; lobbying; legislative oversight powers; and legislature-executive agency relationships. In their field placements, students work on projects that highlight different aspects of the legislative process, including the operation of legislative committees, the building of coalitions, and the collection of legislative history.

Student Organizations²⁰

- American Constitution Society
- Art Law Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)
- Black Law Student Association
- Boston University School of Law American Civil Liberties Union
- Business Law Society
- Communication, Entertainment, and Sports Law Association
- Education and School Law Association
- Environmental and Energy Law Association
- Federalist Society
- Health Law Association
- Human Rights Law Society
- Immigration Law and Policy Society
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- International Law Society
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- Jewish Law Student Association
- Latin American Law Student Association
- Law Christian Fellowship
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Legal Follies
- Middle Eastern & Southeast Asian Law Students Association
- National Security Law Society
- Native American and other Indigenous Peoples Law Students Association & Peoples
- OutLaw
- OWLS (Older Wiser Law Students)
- Public Interest Project
- Softball
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Student Government Association
- Women's Law Association

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