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University of Minnesota Law School



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Overview^{3, 4}

One of the country's top public law schools, the University of Minnesota Law School is a leader in preparing students to solve the complex social, economic and business issues of our time. Exceptional faculty, innovative curriculum and unmatched clinical and experiential learning opportunities equip students for the demands of the 21st century.

For 125 years, the University of Minnesota Law School has had a tradition of curricular innovation. The Law School is recognized internationally for the breadth and depth of its legal writing and clinical education program, which offers 22 clinical education courses that range from bankruptcy to domestic violence to immigration. The Law School has particular strengths in business law; criminal justice; international law and human rights; and law, science and technology.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁵

11.1:1

Admission Criteria⁶

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	156-167	3.43-3.9
Median*	164	3.79

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 Statistics

Approximate number of applications	2946
Number accepted	907
Acceptance rate	30.8 %

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades⁷⁻⁹

The law school grading scale is as follows:

Letter	Grade
A+	4.333
A	4.000
A-	3.667
B+	3.333
B	3.000
B-	2.667
C+	2.333
C	2.000
C-	1.667
D	1.000
F	0.000

Class ranks are computed but not revealed to students or others except for qualifications for Order of the Coif and for the limited purpose of application for judicial clerkships or academic teaching positions.

The “grading basis” is the standard by which student performance is evaluated by instructors and reported on students’ official records.

The default grade basis for Law School courses, seminars, and other credited exercises is A/F, which equates to a numerical scale ranging from 0 (F) to 4.333 (A+). Grades received on the A/F grading basis factor into a student’s cumulative grade point average.

Under the Honors/Pass/Low Pass/Fail grading basis, a student receives credit for the exercise only if he or she receives a Pass, Honors, or Low Pass grade. An Honors grade indicates excellent performance. A Pass grade indicates adequate performance or better. A Low Pass grade indicates minimally acceptable performance.

Under the Satisfactory/No Credit grading basis, a student receives credit for the exercise only if he or she receives a Satisfactory grade, which indicates acceptable performance through completion of the assigned work.

Grade Normalization (Curve)¹⁰

Instructors in all first year courses, including first year electives, must assign grades such that:

- (1) the average (mean) grade for the course falls between 3.200 and 3.333 (when calculating the mean, Ds and Fs will not be included); and
- (2) at least 33% and no more than 39% of students shall receive "A" level grades (A+, A, and A-).

Instructors in all upper division courses with 35 or more enrolled J.D. candidates must assign grades such that:

- (1) the average (mean) grade for the course falls between 3.200 and 3.400 (when calculating the mean, Ds and Fs will not be included); and
- (2) at least 33% and no more than 39% of students shall receive "A" level grades (A+, A, and A-).

Instructors in all upper division courses with 17-34 enrolled J.D. candidates must assign grades such that at least 30% and no more than 50% of students shall receive "A" level grades (A+, A, and A-).

Instructors in all upper division courses with fewer than 17 enrolled J.D. candidates are encouraged to assign grades such that at least 30% and no more than 50% of students shall receive "A" level grades (A+, A, and A-).

Honors¹¹

The University of Minnesota Law School confers the following honors:

Honor	Criteria
Order of the Coif	Top 10% of graduating class.
<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Top 1% of graduating class and any other student with a GPA of 4.000 or higher.
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Top 15% of graduating class.
<i>Cum Laude</i>	Top 40% of graduating class.

Awards¹²

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
ALI-ABA Scholarship & Leadership Award	For the combined qualities of scholarship and leadership.
Steven M. Block Prize	For the most outstanding paper or article by a graduating student in the area of civil rights and/or civil liberties.
Sidney J. Kaplan Legal Scholarship Fund Award	For outstanding performance.

Lockhart Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Leadership, and Service	For a third-year student who best exemplifies the combined qualities of excellent scholarship, leadership, and service.
Mondale Hall Engagement Award	For graduating students who have enriched the Law School through student initiatives, activities, mentorship, and service to their peers, the Law School, and the community.
National Association of Women Lawyers Award	For a graduate who has contributed to the advancement of women in society and legal profession; exhibited motivation, tenacity, and enthusiasm; demonstrated high academic achievement; and earned the respect of her/his peers and instructors.
Dr. Matthew Stark Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Student Award	For demonstrated leadership in the areas of social justice, civil liberties, civil rights, and public education.
Book Award	For truly outstanding student performance.

Journals¹³

The **Minnesota Law Review** began in 1917. For the first forty years, the faculty of the University of Minnesota Law School directed the work of student editors. Despite their initial oversight, the faculty gradually handed the editorial mantle over to law students. Today, the Board of Editors, consisting of up to thirty-nine editors, governs the Law Review and determines its policies and procedures. Along with thirty-eight student staff members, each Board of Editors strives to “contribute a little something to the systematic growth of the whole law.”¹⁴

The **Minnesota Journal of International Law** is among the most prestigious academic journals in the field of International Law. In 2010, the Journal hosted the American Society of International Law’s biannual conference, drawing legal academics from across the globe for the largest symposium in the history of the University of Minnesota Law School. The Journal is committed to upholding its historic level of academic excellence, but is also exploring new forms of content to coincide with its online component, MJIL Online. The Minnesota Journal of International Law continues to welcome and publish articles on issues relating to global trade, as well as articles covering other areas of international law.¹⁵

Law and Inequality was founded in 1981 to examine the social impact of law on disadvantaged people. Law and Inequality publishes articles by legal scholars and practitioners, law students, and non-lawyers. Members of the staff are selected on the basis of their writing abilities and their commitment to eliminating inequality.¹⁶

Constitutional Commentary was founded in 1984 and is one of the few faculty-edited law journals in the country. It enjoys a wide following among legal scholars, historians, political scientists and others interested in constitutional law and history. Part of its popularity is due to the editors’ preference for “shorter and less ponderous articles” as opposed to the more lengthy and heavily footed noted articles found in traditional law reviews. In addition to its articles, Constitutional Commentary also features review essays, book reviews and a popular column titled, “But cf...” that offers “interesting and sometimes amusing tidbits from judicial opinions, old law reviews, and historical works.”¹⁷

Crime and Justice - A Review of Research specializes in publication of review essays on topical research or policy subjects relating to crime and the criminal justice system. Published by the

University of Chicago Press, it is among the world's most frequently cited Journals in the field. In 2005 and again in 2010 and 2012, it was the top-ranked criminology, penology, or criminal justice journal in the world according to the ISI Social Science Citations Index analyses of scholarly impact.¹⁸

The **ABA Journal of Labor & Employment Law** focuses on current developments in labor and employment law. The journal's circulation includes the 27,000 members of the ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law.¹⁹

The **Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology** is a multidisciplinary journal published twice annually, edited by faculty from across the University of Minnesota as well as by law students. MJLST addresses issues in intellectual property, technology policy and innovation, bioethics, and law and science. The journal is available to subscribers as a hard-copy print journal. Full text PDFs of the articles in each volume are available on this website upon publication of the journal. Issues include solicited content from lectures and symposia, as well as unsolicited submissions. In addition, issues include student Notes and Comments, book reviews, correspondence, and Recent Developments.²⁰

Moot Court²¹

The University of Minnesota Law School sponsors several moot court programs, including:

- Civil Rights Moot Court
- Environmental Law Moot Court
- Intellectual Property Moot Court
- International Moot Court
- Maynard Pirsig Moot Court
- National Moot Court

Clinical Programs²²

The University of Minnesota Law School offers one of the nation's largest and most distinguished programs of clinical education, with 22 diverse clinics ranging from bankruptcy to criminal justice, and from consumer protection to immigration. These clinics offer students opportunities to hone their legal skills and gain real-world experience with clients in a supportive setting. Students develop professional skills through a combination of theoretical classroom instruction and practical application in simulations and live-client cases. Nationwide, approximately 25 percent of law students participate in clinical education, but at the University of Minnesota, more than 50 percent of law students participate in at least one clinic program. These students provide more than 18,000 hours of pro bono legal service to the Twin Cities community each year, primarily to lower-income individuals who otherwise would have difficulty obtaining representation. The subjects of the Law School's clinics include:

- Bankruptcy
- Business Law
- Child Advocacy/Juvenile Justice
- Civil Rights Enforcement
- Community Mediation
- Community Practice and Policy Development
- Consumer Protection
- Criminal Justice
- Detainee Rights

- Environmental Sustainability: Land, Water and Energy
- Federal Defense
- Federal Immigration Litigation
- Housing Law
- Human Rights Litigation and International Legal Advocacy
- Immigration and Human Rights Law
- Indian Child Welfare Act
- Innocence Project
- Insurance Law
- Misdemeanor Prosecution
- Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi Civil Practice
- Ronald M. Mankoff Tax
- Workers' Rights

Placement Facts²³

Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$68,500- \$110,000
Private sector - Median	\$102,000
Public service - Median	\$49,000

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	66.1%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	75.2%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	41.9%
Business and Industry	18.6%
Government	5.6%
Judicial Clerkships	18.6%
Public Interest Organizations	9.3%
Academia	4.2%
Unknown	1.9%

Externships/Internships²⁴⁻³⁰

Corporate Externships

In this program, students are placed in company law departments to experience the work of in-house counsel. These externships give students the chance to work with substantive areas of law such as corporate policies and codes of conduct, employment law, vendor and supplier agreements, SEC filings and documents, international and comparative law, finance, and intellectual property. Students also participate in or observe meetings, telephone or videoconferences, and company events to experience day-to-day work of in-house counsel.

Human Trafficking Externship

Students gain a practical experience by participating in an externship at a human trafficking-related placement and apply the classroom lessons in the legal work place.

Immigration Law Externship

Students acquire legal experience in immigration law under the supervision of practicing attorneys at one of three non-profit legal services providers that are partners to the Law School's Center for New Americans: (1) the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, (2) Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, and (3) The Advocates for Human Rights.

Immigration Outreach and Education Externship

The Immigration Education and Outreach Externship is a year-long externship course, taught by human rights experts from The Advocates for Human Rights, and in collaboration with the Center for New Americans. Students learn about immigration policy from a human rights perspective, and put that learning to work in the real world by developing and engaging in important outreach and education initiatives.

Judicial Externship

Each student is assigned to a judge and serves as a part-time law clerk for one semester. Positions are available with federal district, bankruptcy, courts of appeals, and magistrate-judges, with state court of appeals, district court, and tax court judges, and with tribal courts.

Nonprofits and Public Sectors Externship

Students acquire legal experience in nonprofit and public sectors under the supervision of practicing attorneys. Placements may be made at nonprofits, government agencies, public interest organizations, or in law firm pro bono programs.

Summer Internships & Post-Graduate Fellowships

The Robina Foundation provides funding for numerous summer and post-graduate fellowships in public interest work. Fellowship and clerkship opportunities are also available through the Minnesota Justice Foundation, Albert & Anne Mansfield Foundation, University of Minnesota Human Rights Center, Equal Justice America, Equal Justice Works, Peggy Browning Fund, and many others. Clerkships with district, tribal, and federal courts are also available both locally and nationally. The Law School's Career Center provides additional support for summer and school-year field placements and work study opportunities in the public interest field.

Student Organizations³¹

- American Constitution Society For Law and Policy (ACS)- MN Chapter
- Amnesty International - Legal Support Network
- Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA)
- Asylum Law Project
- Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- Business Law Association (BLA)

- Christian Legal Society
- Criminal Justice League (CJL)
- Critical Legal Studies Reading Group
- Environmental & Energy Law Association
- Federal Bar Association (FBA)
- Federalist Society
- Fighting Mondales Ice Hockey Club
- Gamma Eta Gamma Law House
- Health Law & Bioethics Association (HLBA)
- Indian Services Project (ISP)
- International Law Society (ILS)
- Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA)
- Latino Law Students Association
- Law Council
- Law School Armed Forces Association
- Law School Democrats
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice (LSRJ)
- Litigation and Trial Advocacy Group (LTAG)
- Minnesota Justice Foundation (MJF) - Student Chapter
- Minnesota Law Whirlyball
- Muslim Law Students Association (MLSA)
- Native American Law Student Association (NALSA)
- National Lawyers Guild
- Older Wiser Law Students (OWLS)
- OutLaw
- St. Thomas More Real Catholic Club and Pre-Saint Society
- South Asian Law Students Association (SALSA)
- Sports Law Association (SLA)
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Student Bankruptcy Association
- Student Employment and Labor Law Association (SELLA)
- Student Intellectual Property Law Association (SIPLA)
- Theatre of the Relatively Talentless (TORT)
- Voices for Immigration Student Association
- Women's Law Student Association (WLSA)

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