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Florida State University College of Law



MAILING ADDRESS¹⁻⁴
425 W. Jefferson Street
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601

MAIN PHONE
850-644-3400

WEBSITE
www.law.fsu.edu

REGISTRAR'S PHONE
850-644-3787

ADMISSIONS PHONE
850-644-3288

CAREER SERVICES PHONE
850-644-4495

Overview⁵⁻⁷

Florida State University College of Law offers a solid foundational legal curriculum, a wide array of specialized courses that reflect the expertise of the faculty, a variety of externship opportunities – both international and domestic in location – and a certificate program for students interested in international law. In addition, Florida State offers four exchange programs and the longest-standing summer law program at Oxford University sponsored by an American law school.

The school's international law faculty members have deep expertise in a variety of areas, including international intellectual property, international trade, the global pharmaceutical industry, international human rights, laws of war, international intervention law, Chinese law, law of the sea and international environmental law. They have engaged in coastal management research in Central America for the United Nations, in efforts to make medicine available to AIDS victims in South Africa, in the struggle for human rights in South America and in developing a dispute resolution process among Caribbean nations.

The school offers an LL.M. program in environmental law and an LL.M. in American Law for lawyers around the world. J.D. students can also take advantage of one of nine joint-degree programs, which are offered in cooperation with other colleges, schools and departments at Florida State University. The most popular of these is the J.D.-M.B.A. program.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁸

13.1:1

Admission Criteria⁹

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	157-161	3.27-3.72
Median*	159	3.51

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 Statistics¹¹

Approximate number of applications	2022
Number accepted	848
Percentage accepted	41.9%

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades¹¹

The following numeric and letter grades are utilized by the College of Law and are shown on a student's official grade transcript:

A +	98-100	S+: Distinguished Satisfactory Work (hour credit only)
A	93-97	S, S-: Satisfactory (hour credit only)
A-	90-92	U: Unsatisfactory (no credit)
B+	86-89	I: Incomplete
B	80-85	
B-	77-79	AD: Administrative Disenrollment (no credit)
C+	74-76	AF: Administrative F (numeric grade = 60)
C	69-73	WD: Withdrawn from course by permission
C-	65-68	W: Withdrawn from College/ University
D	62-64	
F	60-61	

A student's official grade point average and class rank are determined using the student's numeric grades, not letter grades.

Upper-level students may elect to enroll in a law school course on an S/U basis subject to certain conditions. Students may receive grades of Incomplete (I) in certain cases.

Grade Normalization (Curve)¹²

In general, grades awarded in the College of Law are subject to the following grade normalization rules. In every class the median grade awarded must be between 79-81 and the distribution of the final grades awarded in the class must fall within the following percentages:

45-55%	93-100	5-15%, with < 3% for 98-100
	86-92	10-25%
	80-85	20-35%
45-55%	74-79	20-35%
	67-73	10-25%
	60-66	5-20%, except 0-20% for Legal Writing

Honors^{13, 14}

Honor	GPA Required
<i>summa cum laude</i>	93.000 or above
<i>magna cum laude</i>	89.000 to 92.999
<i>cum laude</i>	84.000 to 88.999
Dean's List	86.000 or better per semester

Awards¹³

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
Book Award Recognition	Highest grades in each course each semester

Journals¹⁵

The **Florida State University Law Review** is the flagship legal journal of the Florida State University College of Law. The members of the Law Review publish the journal four times per year from Tallahassee, Florida. Each issue contains scholarly articles authored by academics, judges, clerks, and attorneys from around the globe, as well as pieces authored by current students. The Law Review is staffed and edited by second- and third-year students.¹⁶

The **Journal of Transnational Law & Policy** is published once per year. The Journal was founded in 1991 to provide a scholarly forum for discussion of legal developments in the world community. The Journal shares the philosophy articulated by the late Philip C. Jessup, Judge of the International Court of Justice, who defined "transnational law" as "all law which regulates actions or events that transcend national frontiers." The term "transnational" is thus expansive; it includes both the international and comparative dimensions of law.¹⁷

The **Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law** is published twice a year, fall and spring, and includes articles covering a host of current environmental law topics.¹⁸

Moot Court¹⁹

Established in 1968, the Florida State College of Law Moot Court Team is one of the nation's leading university moot court teams. The Moot Court Team annually contends in regional, national and international competitions. In the first six weeks of 2010 alone, the Moot Court Team won championships at the National Security Law Moot Court Competition and the Religious Freedom Moot

Court Competition, and won the best brief award at the Charleston Constitutional Law Competition.

Team membership provides an invaluable opportunity to improve legal writing and oral advocacy in a competitive but congenial environment. Every competition gives team members the invaluable experience of writing at least one appellate brief and giving oral arguments to a distinguished panel of judges.

Coaches for the team are drawn from the Florida State Law faculty, alumni and surrounding legal community. Issues in past competitions have included the First Amendment, Criminal Law, Intellectual Property, Sports Law, International Law, Environmental Law, Evidence, Workers' Compensation, Cyber Law, Corporate Law, Securities, Labor and Employment, Entertainment and Communications Law.

Clinical Programs²⁰

Founded in 1991, the Public Interest Law Center, formerly called the Children's Advocacy Center, trains second- and third-year law students in legal advocacy with an emphasis on intensive one-on-one and small group instruction. The Center, which has approximately 110 on-going cases, is unique among law school clinical programs for providing a broad range of legal services. It consists of two clinics: the Children's Advocacy Clinic and the Family Law Clinic.

Placement Facts²¹

Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$50,000-\$80,000
Private sector - Median	\$65,000
Public service - Median	\$40,000

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	32.2%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	77.3%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	42.7%
Business and Industry	14.5%
Government	25.5%
Public Interest Organizations	10.2%
Judicial Clerkships	3.9%
Academia	3.1%
Unknown	0%

Externships/Internships^{22, 23}

Externships

Externships allow students to earn academic credit while working off campus in a law office or court.

Students learn the role of attorney or judicial clerk while representing real clients and adjudicating actual cases. Florida State College of Law offers one of the most extensive externship programs in the United States. Externships are offered year round, and are available locally, throughout Florida, and in other national and international locations. Externships include: Judicial Clerk Externships and Environmental Externships.

Student Organizations²⁴

- Advocates for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (AIRR)
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Society (ADRS)
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- American Constitution Society (ACS)
- Association for Criminal Justice
- Aviation & Space Law Society
- Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- Business Law Society (BLS)
- Business Review
- Christian Legal Society (CLS)
- College of Law Popular Music Ensemble
- Cuban American Bar Association (CABA)
- Entertainment, Art, and Sports Law Society (EASL)
- Environmental Law Society (ELS)
- Estate Planning and Elder Law Society
- Federalist Society
- FSU Law Review
- Health Law Society
- International Law Students Association (ILSA)
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law (JLUEL)
- Journal of Transnational Law & Policy (JTLP)
- Law School Council
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- LitiGators
- Mock Trial Team
- Moot Court Team
- OUTLaw
- Phi Alpha Delta (PAD)
- Phi Delta Phi (Ladd Inn)
- Public Interest Law Students Association (PILSA)
- Republican Law Students Association (RLSA)
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Student Bar Association (SBA)
- Student Federal Bar Association
- The Florida Bar YLD - Law Students Division
- Transfer Students Organization
- UKnight at FSU Law
- Wine & Spirits Society, FSU College of Law
- Women's Law Symposium (WLS)

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