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Arizona State University — Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law



MAILING ADDRESS¹⁻³

1100 S. McAllister Ave.,
PO Box 877906,
Tempe, AZ 85287

MAIN PHONE

480-965-6181

WEBSITE

www.law.asu.edu

REGISTRAR'S PHONE

480-965-3124

ADMISSIONS PHONE

480-965-1474

CAREER SERVICES PHONE

480-965-5808

Overview⁴

The faculty at Arizona State University - the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law are among the leading scholars in their fields, as well as being excellent teachers. The school has more than 180 course offerings, yet maintains one of the best and smallest student-faculty ratios. The school also offers vibrant clinical programs, externships, and pro bono projects. The College of Law is the leading law school in the Phoenix metropolitan area, enabling students to have close and productive relationships with leaders in the state's legal and political communities.

The College of Law is part of Arizona State University, one of the premier public research universities in the nation. Being part of ASU allows law students to pursue interdisciplinary subjects across the campus. Finally, the Phoenix metropolitan area offers sun and warm weather throughout the year and is a haven for outdoor lovers.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁵

9.7:1

Admission Criteria⁶

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	158-164	3.33-3.71
Median*	162	3.54

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	1595
Number accepted	624
Percentage accepted	39.1%

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades^{8, 9}

A student whose grades are in the top one-third of the class will be ranked at the end of each semester. The school does not rank below the upper 1/3 of each class. Class rank information shall be released only upon authorization of the student concerned.

Effective for classes entering in Fall 2009 and after:

A+	Excellent
A	
A-	
B+	Good
B	
B-	
C+	Average
C	
D	Deficient
E	Failure
P	Pass
X	Audit
W	Withdraw
I	Incomplete
XE	Academic Dishonesty

The breakdowns for the first year class are as follows (class size of 144 students):

Upper 10%	3.78
Upper 15%	3.64
Upper 20%	3.56
Upper 25%	3.51
Upper 30%	3.42

Upper 1/3	3.38
Upper 40%	3.33
Upper 50%	3.24

The breakdowns for the second year class are as follows (class size of 132 students):

Upper 10%	3.71
Upper 15%	3.66
Upper 20%	3.6
Upper 25%	3.48
Upper 30%	3.45
Upper 1/3	3.43
Upper 40%	3.36
Upper 50%	3.25

The breakdowns for the third year class are as follows (class size of 152 students):

Upper 10%	3.76
Upper 15%	3.69
Upper 20%	3.65
Upper 25%	3.56
Upper 30%	3.48
Upper 1/3	3.45
Upper 40%	3.39
Upper 50%	3.34

Grade Normalization (Curve)¹⁰

In all 1L courses and upper level courses with enrollment of 20 or more the following distribution requirements must be followed:

Grade	Subgroup % Distribution	Group % Distribution
A+(*)	0 - 4%	Combined A's must constitute 25% of the grades awarded (plus or minus 2%)
A	10 - 15%	
A-	10 - 15%	
B+	25 - 35%	Combined B's must constitute 60% of the grades awarded (plus or minus 2%)
B	20 - 30%	
B-	5 - 15%	

C+ and Below	15% (plus or minus 4%)	
D and E(**)	0 - 4%	

A+ should be awarded only when exceptional work is clearly demonstrated.

D and E should be given only when deficient performance is clearly demonstrated.

In any 1L class of fewer than 20 students, faculty must use the following grading system: (1) no more than 25% A's (+/-2%) and no more than 1 A+; (2) no more than 60% B's (+/-2%); (3) no more than 15% C+'s (+/- 4%) and below.(Effective March 2010)

In upper-level classes of fewer than 20 students, faculty are to use the grade distribution system for upper level courses with 20 or more students as a guide, but are not held to that distribution. In these classes, however, faculty are to award no more than 50% A's and no more than 1 A+.

The lowest grade in any course is E, which constitutes a failing grade.

Honors¹¹

Honor	Criteria
Order of the Coif	top 10% of graduating class
<i>summa cum laude</i>	top 5 students in graduating class
<i>magna cum laude</i>	top 10% of graduating class
<i>cum laude</i>	next 15% of graduating class
Pedrick Scholar Honors	GPA of 3.5 or higher in any single semester

Awards¹²

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
Hon. William Canby Jr. Scholarship	Third-year law student with demonstrated interest in Indian law.
John S. Armstrong Award	Graduating student based on academic performance and contribution to law school.
Mary Schroeder Prize Endowment	Graduating student committed to practice in public interest law upon bar admission.
Daniel Strouse Prize	Graduating student associated with Center for Law, Science & Innovation.
W. P. Carey/Armstrong Prize for Achievement in Public Service	Graduating student demonstrating dedication to public service while in law school.
Dan Strouse Scholars	Awarded to students associated with Center for Law, Science & Innovation.

Order of Barristers	For legal advocacy & advancing ethical standards.
Pro Bono Distinction	Students who contribute 50+ hours of pro bono service while pursuing JD.
Janet Mueller Oral Advocacy Award	Graduating student who excels in oral advocacy and moot court competition.
Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Award	Graduating student with demonstrated excellence in Constitutional Law studies.
Alan Matheson Service Award	Graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding service to the law school.

Journals

The **Arizona State Law Journal** is a nationally recognized legal periodical that serves as the primary scholarly publication of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. The Journal is routinely cited in major textbooks, treatises, and opinions at all levels of the state and federal judiciary, including the United States Supreme Court.¹³

Jurimetrics - Journal of Law, Science, and Technology is the journal of the American Bar Association Section of Science & Technology Law and the Center for Law, Science & Innovation. Jurimetrics is a forum for the publication and exchange of ideas and information about the relationships between law, science and technology. Jurimetrics is the oldest journal of law and science in the United States, and it enjoys a circulation of more than 8,000, which includes all members of the ABA Section of Science & Technology Law.¹⁴

The **Law Journal for Social Justice** is the first student-run and student-created online journal at Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. LJSJ aims to edit, publish, and produce notable works through its online website from legal scholars, practitioners and law students. LJSJ publishes twice a year, featuring articles that focus on important, novel and controversial areas of law.¹⁵

The **Sports and Entertainment Law Journal** is a student-edited interdisciplinary journal that seeks to promote debate and dialogue on issues concerning the developing fields of Sports and Entertainment Law. SELJ provides research and analysis on such diverse areas of law as agency law, antitrust law, constitutional law, contract law, copyright law, labor law and trademark law.¹⁶

Moot Court^{17, 18}

The College of Law encourages students to get their feet wet in the world of oral argument and advocacy through the moot court program. ASU College of Law offers students the opportunity to participate in both internal and external moot court competitions. Third-year students can apply to be in the Order of Barristers, a national advocacy honor society.

Internal Competitions

Four internal competitions are held each year: Client Counseling, Jenckes, Oral Argument, and Oplinger. These are open to all law students (1L, 2L, 3L). Some competitions have cash prizes and all are a great way to develop advocacy skills in a friendly environment while meeting local attorneys and fellow students.

External Competitions

ASU law students are encouraged to participate in the many interschool competitions that are held regionally, nationally, and globally. In the past, ASU has funded and sent teams to the National Environmental Law Competition, the Jessup International Law Competition, the National Moot Court Competition, and many others. For students with an interest in a particular area of law, external competitions exist for every specialty and are a fantastic opportunity to gain experience and exposure in a field.

Clinical Programs¹⁹

Clinical education has been an integral part of the ASU curriculum since 1969. Over the years, the program has expanded and now includes full-time clinical faculty members to direct clinics and work with students. At ASU College of Law, clinical offerings allow students to help meet the legal needs of people in the local community who would not otherwise be able to retain legal representation. Student attorneys represent entrepreneurs and small business start-ups seeking economic viability, children seeking assistance in obtaining immigration services, juveniles in need of advocates, and inmates with compelling claims of innocence. They work to effectuate needed policy changes for families striving to balance work and other critical demands and for Arizona's Native American tribes on issues critical to their autonomy and sovereignty. Current clinical offerings include:

- Criminal Practice Clinic
- Healthcare Entrepreneurship Program
- Immigration Law & Policy Clinic
- Indian Legal Clinic
- Innovation Advancement Program
- Juvenile Advocacy Clinic
- Lisa Foundation Patent Law Clinic
- Lodestar Mediation Clinic
- Post Conviction Clinic
- Public Defender Clinic

Placement Facts²⁰

Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$75,000 - \$115,000
Private sector - Median	\$100,000
Public service - Median	\$55,000

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	59%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	72.6%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	45.8%
Business and Industry	18.2%

Government	10.8%
Public Interest Organizations	9.9%
Judicial Clerkships	7.9%
Academia	7.4%
Unknown	0%

Externships/Internships^{21, 22}

Externships

The Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law Externship Program is a valuable way to network with prominent judges and lawyers and obtain practical legal experience in a real-world setting. Students may engage in substantial legal work with Judges from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. District Court of Arizona, Arizona Court of Appeals, and Maricopa County Superior Court; agencies such as the Office of the Attorney General; Maricopa County Attorney's Office; Maricopa County Office of the Public Defender; Cities, including Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa, Scottsdale and Peoria; or work side-by-side with lawyers in non-profit settings, such as Community Legal Services, The Florence Immigrant & Refugee Children's Project, and Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Policies Governing D.C., and other Out-of-State Externships

The Washington D.C. Legal Externship Program provides students with valuable legal experience at government, agency, or nonprofit placements.

Internships

ASU students may receive credit for a law-related internship. All students are graded on a pass/fail basis and receive three hours internship credit. Although legal internships are not required for law school, internships can help students gain insight into the field of law.

Student Organizations²³

- American Constitution Society (ACS)
- American Bar Association Law Student Division
- Amicus Society (AS)
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)
- ASU Graduate and Professional Student Association
- John P. Morris Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- Chicano/Latino Law Student Association (CLLSA)
- Christian Legal Society
- Corporate and Business Law Society (CABLS)
- Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity
- Environmental Law Society
- Executive Moot Court Board
- Federalist Society
- Health Law Society
- Intellectual Property Student Association (IPSA)
- International Law Students Association (ILSA)

- Jewish Law Student Association (JLSA)
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- Jurimetrics Journal
- Law & Science Student Association (LASSA)
- Law Journal
- Law Journal for Social Justice
- Law Society for Human Rights
- Law Students for Veterans Legal Issues
- Master of Legal Studies (MLS)
- Muslim Law Students' Association (MLSA)
- National Lawyers Guild
- Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)
- OUTLaw
- Phi Alpha Delta (PAD)
- Phi Delta Phi
- Space Law & Policy Society
- Spouses and Parents in Law School (SPILS)
- Sports & Entertainment Law Students Association (SELSA)
- Sports and Entertainment Law Journal
- St. Thomas More Law Student Society
- Student Bar Association (SBA)
- Tax and Estate Planning Law Association (TEPLA)
- Women Law Students' Association (WLSA)

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