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University of California—Davis School of Law



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Overview^{2,3}

The UC Davis School of Law is named for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an international leader in the pursuit of civil rights, equality, and education, whose personal integrity and insistence on non-violence made his life an inspiration to all who seek to promote social justice by lawful and orderly means. Dr. King represents many of the values the Law School seeks to instill in its students, and the designation of the Law School building as King Hall serves as a tribute to his legacy.

The mission of the School of Law is to be a nationally and internationally recognized leader in the development and dissemination of legal knowledge, as well as the education of students to become socially responsible lawyers committed to professional excellence and high ethical standards, and to provide significant public service through law reform and professional activities. Through its faculty, students, and graduates, the School of Law seeks to make substantial contributions toward solving the complex legal problems confronting our society.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁴

10.1:1

Admission Criteria⁵

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	159-164	3.31-3.65
Median*	162	3.55

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 Statistics⁶

Approximate number of applications	2420
Number accepted	1267
Percentage accepted	52.4%

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades^{7,8}

Grades

With a few exceptions, all courses are graded by the following table of letter grades and numerical grade point equivalents:

A+ or 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+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

The grade of "A+" may be awarded for extraordinary achievement, and will be recorded on the student's transcript, but will be counted as an "A" when computing a student's grade point average. In most cases, students do not have an option to change the grading mode of a course from graded to non-graded (S/U). Students can choose a graded or non/graded option for Group Study, Law Independent Study, and Independent Writing Projects.

After the end of each semester students receive a cumulative grade point average. This average is computed by dividing the total grade points by the number of credits earned plus the number of credits assigned to any course in which an F was received. Work in other law schools or other parts of this university is not included in the grade point average.

F is a failing grade. Students who receive an F in a course do not earn any credits for that course.

Students who receive an F in an elective course may repeat the course with the dean's permission. Students who receive an F in a required course must repeat the course. Both the F grade and the

grade received upon repeating the course will be used to compute the cumulative grade point average under most circumstances.

An instructor may give an “Incomplete” only when a student’s work is of passing quality but is incomplete for good cause. Students who do not satisfactorily complete the course work within the time limit will receive no credit for the course, and the I will be treated as an F in computing the grade point average.

Grade Normalization (Curve)⁹

It is the sense of the faculty that inequity in grading in the first-year sectioned courses should be avoided. In first-year sectioned courses, not including legal research and writing courses, faculty members should distribute grades as follows:

Grade	Percentage of Class Receiving
A+, A, A-	20 percent (plus or minus 3 percent)
B+, B, B-	60 percent (plus or minus 3 percent)
C+ and below	20 percent (plus or minus 3 percent)

Honors¹⁰

Order of the Coif

UC Davis is a member of the Order of the Coif and in order to be elected to the Order of the Coif, students must be in the top 10% of their graduating class.

Awards¹¹

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
School of Law Medal	Highest GPA post 5th Semester
Patrick Hopkins Law Prize	Law Review Writing Prize
Witken Award	Top grade in selected courses
Academic Excellence	Top 10% of first-year class
Order of the Barristers	Based on the number of students annually
Martin Luther King Service Award	Nominated by third year law students
Theodore M. Pritkin Writing Award	Journal of Int'l Law and Policy
Moot Ct. Outstanding Oral Advocate	Competition
Moot Ct. Outstanding Advocate	Competition
Moot Court Outstanding Brief	Competition
Prof. Frank Environ. Writing Award	Judged by environmental law faculty

Journals¹²

The **UC Davis Law Review** publishes five issues annually. Four issues typically contain scholarly works by professionals and students in the traditional law review format. The fifth issue typically contains symposium pieces that deal in depth with a selected topic of interest to legal scholars and practicing lawyers. Past symposia receiving nation-wide attention explored First Amendment rights in public schools, *Katz v. United States* and its impact on constitutional criminal procedure, and intellectual property's role in promoting social justice. A student's acceptance into law review is determined by a competitive write-on competition, as opposed to grade point average or faculty appointments.

The **Business Law Journal** is run by dedicated law students who are committed to providing current and valuable legal and business analysis. BLJ was the first business law journal in the nation to electronically publish articles written by professionals, academics, and law students using a concise, journalistic style. BLJ addresses a broad spectrum of issues that fall within the intersection of business and the law, including tax matters, intellectual property concerns, bankruptcy planning, employee benefits, information on the impact of recent legal rulings, and more. BLJ also features interviews conducted by journal members with attorneys and professionals.

Environs is a biannual environmental law and policy journal that supports an open forum for the discussion of current environmental issues. Articles explore environmental issues, particularly those pertaining to the state of California.

The **Journal of International Law & Policy** is a biannual journal produced by King Hall students with an interest in international law. The journal's goal is to provide interesting and well-written articles by both students and professionals.

The **Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy** is a biannual publication of the UC Davis School of Law addressing the unique concerns of children, their advocates, and the American legal system. Initially a product of the creativity and activism of a small group of King Hall students, the Journal has evolved into a vigorous scholarly publication committed to providing practical information regarding current juvenile, family, and educational law issues. A unique publication, the Journal is bifurcated to publish both academic works as well as practitioner and juvenile submissions in each volume. The ultimate goal of the Journal is to encourage awareness and involvement by the legal community in the various issues facing juveniles today.

Moot Court¹³

UC Davis School of Law provides its students with an education that has a unique balance of theory and practice. Each fall semester, a majority of the law school's second-year students participate in Appellate Advocacy (commonly called "Moot Court") as an elective, attending lectures on appellate skills and participating in a series of practice oral arguments. The course in the fall culminates in the law school's annual Moot Court Competition, in which the students participate in appellate arguments which are judged and critiqued by dozens of local attorneys and judges who volunteer their time. Students who continue Appellate Advocacy in the spring semester focus their attention on appellate brief writing. The top students each year are selected to participate in the law school's annual Neumiller Competition, the final round of the law school's Moot Court Competition.

Top King Hall students are selected to represent the law school in the National Moot Court Competition and the Roger Traynor Moot Court Competition (the California state championship). UC Davis School of Law has been very successful in interschool moot court competitions over the

years. UC Davis School of Law is a past winner of the state moot court championship, and students on several interschool moot court teams were finalists in other national moot court competitions.

Clinical Programs¹⁴

The **California Supreme Court Clinic** is the state's only law school clinic focused on litigating cases before the California Supreme Court. Students have the invaluable opportunity to work on actual cases pending before the state's highest court. Under the guidance of a supervising attorney, students research and write draft briefs on behalf of clinic clients. Students enrolled in the clinic explore California Supreme Court practice and procedure, study principles of effective appellate advocacy, and meet with seasoned appellate practitioners from different areas of legal practice.¹⁵

The **Civil Rights Clinic** allows students to advocate for the civil rights of prisoners and other indigents. Students have addressed far-reaching constitutional issues in the Ninth Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court. Cases have included claims of denial of medical or dental care, correctional officer misconduct, denial of freedom of religion, violation of due process, excessive force, and false imprisonment. Clinic students also are encouraged to investigate matters involving gender, employment, education, housing, and police practices that may give rise to civil rights claims on behalf of indigent clients.¹⁶

The **Family Protection and Legal Assistance Clinic** provides free legal representation to victims of domestic violence in Yolo County. Every day, the Clinic changes lives by obtaining restraining orders, divorce and custody orders, and the financial support necessary to allow clients to go on with their lives. Before beginning their work in the Clinic, students attend an intensive weekend training session in domestic violence followed by weekly seminars on family law, ethics, pre-trial skills, domestic violence, and other substantive areas of the law. Students then represent clients who are mostly poor and working women in cases of child custody and visitation, child support, dissolutions, property division, and other family law matters. In recent years, students have tackled a modern-day legal problem of harassment on the internet. With cyber bullying and sexting on the rise, students are producing educational materials and delivering presentations on the cutting-edge legal issues surrounding cyber bullying, sexting, and sextortion.¹⁷

The **Immigration Law Clinic** was one of the first of its kind in the United States. Given its proximity to the Central Valley, California's agricultural center, the Clinic is in a unique position to serve the state's large community of both documented and undocumented immigrants. Over the years, the Clinic has represented people from all over the world, including Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, and Eastern Europe. Students litigate on behalf of immigrants facing removal proceedings, provide legal assistance to immigration detainees, provide counsel to public defenders in connection with the U.S. Supreme Court's *Padilla v. Kentucky* decision, provide legal support to unaccompanied immigrant minors and immigrants eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and provide education, outreach, and legal services to immigrants seeking to integrate and participate in civic and political society.^{18, 19}

The **Prison Law Clinic** allows students to use their legal skills to assist persons with problems related to incarceration in state prison. Students advocate on their clients' behalf with officials at the institution where the prisoner is housed, as well as by filing formal grievances with the California Department of Corrections. The Clinic is especially beneficial to students who wish to learn the art of negotiating and the intricacies of administrative law. Students who wish to practice criminal law, prosecution or defense, can learn about the California state prison system.²⁰

The **Social Justice Clinic** is a project of the Aoki Center for Critical Race & Nation Studies. The project seeks to foster student excellence in critical race theory with initiatives that connect learned theory to practice, improving the lives of subordinated groups. Students critically examine the racial impacts of the criminal justice system at the same time they represent clients in the system. Under the supervision of professors, students litigate cases in the areas of criminal defense, workers' rights, environmental justice, and other areas related to critical race theory. In a recent project, the Clinic collaborated with the Federal Defender office in the Eastern District of California to represent clients on appeal in several cases; the Clinic won each of the cases that students worked on during the semester.²¹

Placement Facts²²

Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$62,000 - \$145,000
Private sector - Median	\$85,000
Public service - Median	\$56,000

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	45.5%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	67.8%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	49.2%
Business and Industry	11.3%
Government	12.4%
Public Interest Organizations	7.3%
Judicial Clerkships	2.8%
Academia	16.4%
Unknown	0.6%

Externships/Internships^{22, 23}

Externships

King Hall offers eight Externship programs that are comprised of outside placements and closely supervised by King Hall faculty:

- Judicial Process
- Employment Relations
- Federal Taxation
- Public Interest
- Legislative Process
- Criminal Justice

- Intellectual Property
- Environmental Law

The **UCDC Law Program** is a uniquely collaborative semester-long externship program in Washington, D.C., combining a weekly seminar with a full-time field placement to offer law students an unparalleled opportunity to learn how federal statutes, regulations, and policies are made, changed, and understood in the nation's capital. Students are immersed in the theory and practice of Washington lawyering, and students have contact with all three branches of the federal government, independent regulatory agencies, advocacy nonprofits, and the media.

Student Organizations^{24, 25}

- ACLU at King Hall
- Agriculture Law Society
- American Bar Association, Law Student Division
- American Constitution Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Bahá'í Law Student Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Christian Legal Society
- Coalition for Diversity
- Criminal Law Association
- Entertainment and Sports Law Society
- Environmental Law Society
- Federal Bar Association - King Hall Student Division
- Federalist Society
- Filipino Law Students Association
- Humanitarian Aid Legal Organization
- Immigration Law Association
- International Law Society
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- Jewish Law Student Association
- King Hall Animal Law Forum
- King Hall Board Game Society
- King Hall Budget Policy Committee
- King Hall Cooperative Nursery
- King Hall Families
- King Hall Futbol Club
- King Hall Health Law Association
- King Hall Intellectual Property Law Association
- King Hall Korean American Law Students Association
- King Hall Labor and Employment Law Association
- King Hall Legal Foundation
- King Hall Negotiations Team
- King Hall Veterans Association
- King Hall Wine Law Society
- King Hall Women's Law Association
- Lambda Law Students Association
- La Raza Law Students Association
- Law Cappella

- Law Students For Reproductive Justice
- Middle Eastern and South Asian Law Students Association
- Muslim Law Students Association
- National Lawyers Guild
- Native American Law Students Association
- Phi Delta Phi
- Real Estate Law Society
- Students United for Reform and Justice
- Tax Law Society
- The King Hall Mentorship Program
- UC Davis Pipeline Program
- Water Association of Law and Policy

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