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## University of Notre Dame Law School



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### Overview<sup>3-4</sup>

In the practice of law, the same ethical standards must be met whether you are a graduate of Notre Dame or any other university. So what is it that makes Notre Dame's graduates unique? Beyond striving for professional achievement, a Notre Dame lawyer fundamentally acts in service to others. The school's approach seeks to do more than train students in a profession; it seeks to help them discover their lives as a vocation.

A different kind of lawyer – a Notre Dame lawyer – is one who realizes the practice of law is not an end in itself. It's the beginning of a new, highly-specialized way of giving back. Notre Dame's application process reflects this guiding principle, going well beyond scores and extracurricular accomplishments, to ascertain whether a given applicant is up for the challenge of serving the greater good.

### Student-Faculty Ratio<sup>5</sup>

9.3:1

### Admission Criteria<sup>6</sup>

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	160-165	3.39-3.75
Median*	163	3.60

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<sup>7</sup>

Approximate number of applications	2614
Number accepted	734
Acceptance rate	28.1%

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

## Class Ranking and Grades<sup>8, 9</sup>

Grades are not calculated on a numerical basis, but are assigned values for calculating GPA, according to the following grading system:

Letter Grade	Value
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

Within the grading system, "A" is superior, "B" is good, "C" is satisfactory, "D" is unsatisfactory with credit, and "F" is failure.

Other marks that may apply are Incomplete; Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory; and Pass/Fail, which is limited to two elective courses with the permission of the professor teaching the particular course.

	Average GPA (Spring 2014 semester)	Average Cumulative GPA (through Spring 2014 semester)
Class of 2014	3.476	3.359
Class of 2015	3.384	3.334
Class of 2016	3.291	3.296

## Grade Normalization (Curve)<sup>10</sup>

Effective academic year 2011-2012, the law school implemented a grade normalization policy, with mandatory mean ranges (for any course with 10 or more students) and mandatory distribution ranges

(for any course with 25 or more students). The mean ranges are as follows:

#### 1L Required Courses

Mean: 3.25 to 3.30

Distribution:

A	8-14%
A-	15-25%
B+,B	25-35%
B-	7-13%
≤C+	0-10%

Large Upper-Level Courses (> 25 students) Mean: 3.25 to 3.35

Distribution:

A	8-18%
A-	15-25%
B+,B	20-35%
B-	5-15%
≤C+	0-10%

Small Upper-Level Courses (10 to 24 students)

Mean: 3.15 to 3.45

Distribution: none

Prior to the introduction of the 2011 grading normalization policy, the median grade point average for first-year classes was approximately 3.1 each year. There was no grading curve.

#### Honors<sup>11</sup>

Honor	Criteria
Dean's Honor Roll	Based on semester GPA
<i>summa cum laude</i>	cumulative GPA of at least 3.800
<i>magna cum laude</i>	cumulative GPA of at least 3.600
<i>cum laude</i>	cumulative GPA of at least 3.400

## Awards<sup>12</sup>

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
A. Harold Weber Award	For excellence in legal writing
The A. Harold Weber Moot Court Competition Award	For outstanding achievement in oral advocacy
Alvin McKenna Alumnus of the Year Award	For a graduate who distinguishes him/herself with the African American legal community and through support of BLSA programs & activities
The Arthur May Award	For trial advocacy skills
The Barrett Award for Trial Advocacy	For trial advocacy skills
Captain William O. McLean Award	Community Citizenship Award
The Charles Crutchfield Professional Excellence Award	Presented by Notre Dame Black Law Students Association
Clinical Legal Education Association Outstanding Student Award	Outstanding in clinics
Conrad Kellenberg Award	For a graduating student who has dedicated a substantial amount of time to the betterment of the community through service
David T. Link Award	For outstanding service in the field of social justice
Dean's Award	Winner of the Annual Moot Court Competition
Dean Joseph O'Meara Award	For outstanding academic achievement
Dean Konop legal Aid Award	For outstanding participation as a member of the Notre Dame Law School Legal Aid and Defender Association
The Dwight King Service Award	Presented by Notre Dame Black Law Students Association
The Farabaugh Prize	For high scholarship in law
The Graciela Olivarez Award	For principles and ideals of the pioneer for whom this award is named, including commitment to community service, demonstration of the highest ethical and moral standards, and dedication to justice
The Hoynes Prize	For the member of the graduating law class who has the best record in scholarship, application, deportment, and achievement
The International Academy of Trial Lawyers	For distinguished achievement in the art and science of advocacy
Jessup International Moot Court Award	For excellence in advocacy

John Bruce Dodd Memorial Scholarship	For excellence in advocacy
Jon Krupnick Award	For excellence in advocacy
Joseph Ciraolo Memorial Award	For excellence in advocacy
The Judge Joseph E. Mahoney Award	For excellence in advocacy
Kresge Library Student Service Award	For a graduating student worker whose efforts on behalf of the library exemplify the highest standards of dedication, loyalty and service
Notre Dame Law School Client Competition	For a member of the Law School faculty exhibiting excellence in leadership, friendship, legal knowledge, legal teaching and professional ability
Peter A.R. Lardy Scholarship Award	For those who exemplify courage, love and understanding toward his fellow man
Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Award	For student scholarship in the field of legal ethics
The William T. Kirby Award	For excellence in legal writing

## Journals<sup>13</sup>

The **Notre Dame Law Review** was founded in 1925 and was known as the Notre Dame Lawyer until the name was changed in 1982. Published five times a year by students, the Law Review contains articles and lectures by eminent members of the legal profession and comments and notes by members of the staff. The Law Review has maintained a tradition of excellence, and its membership has included some of the most able judges, professors and practitioners in the country.

The **American Journal of Jurisprudence (Natural Law Institute)**, a function of the Notre Dame Law School, was established in 1947. In 1956, the Institute founded the Natural Law Forum, the only journal of its kind in the English language. The name of the journal was changed in 1970 to the American Journal of Jurisprudence.

The **Journal of College and University Law**, published by the Notre Dame Law School and the National Association of College and University Attorneys, is the only law review in the United States dedicated exclusively to the law of higher education. Since post-secondary education represents a microcosm of the greater community and world, virtually all issues of significant interest—race, gender, freedom of speech, religion and bioethics—arise on campuses and are covered by the Journal. The Journal has a national circulation of 3,800.

The **Journal of Legislation** contains articles by both public policy figures and distinguished members of the legal community. It also publishes notes written by members of the staff. All material contained in the Journal concern either existing and proposed legislation or public policy matters. Some articles and notes make specific suggestions regarding legislative change. The Journal is presently one of the country's leading legislative law reviews and is a member of the National Conference of Law Reviews.

The **Notre Dame Journal of International and Comparative Law** provides a forum for discussion of international, comparative, and human rights law. The Journal hopes to inspire its readers to

appreciate international and human rights issues and to help solve global problems.

The **Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics and Public Policy** analyzes law and public policy from an ethical perspective. The Journal strengthens the Law School's moral and religious commitment by translating traditional Judeo-Christian principles into imaginative, yet workable, proposals for legislative and judicial reform. Directed at both scholarly and public audiences, the Journal publishes in a symposium format and solicits contributions from distinguished scholars and prominent members of the public community. Recent issues have addressed the problems posed by serious juvenile crime, homelessness, AIDS, civil disobedience, drugs, the feminist challenge to traditional legal doctrine, and the law governing the news media.

### Moot Court<sup>14</sup>

Established in 1950, Notre Dame's Moot Court program provides an opportunity for students to develop their appellate advocacy skills. The program is administered by the Moot Court Board (a group of students selected to represent Notre Dame Law School in competitions) and guided by a faculty advisor. Students are selected to the Moot Court Board after competing in the optional 1L Moot Court Competition and receiving an invitation to join the Board based on their 1L briefs and their performance in the competition. In the fall of their 2L year, Board members compete intramurally to determine placement on the Board's various teams. In years past, Notre Dame's teams have competed in the National Moot Court competition, the ABA competition, the National Religious Freedom Competition, and the Jessup International Law Moot Court competition. The National team also performs a showcase argument in front of a panel of sitting judges, watched by the 1L class. Additionally, members of the Board have the opportunity to argue actual prisoner cases in front of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals under the guidance of a local attorney.

### Clinical Programs<sup>15</sup>

Clinics are the law school's teaching law offices. They are free, community legal services programs that allow students to engage in law practice under close supervision of full-time, seasoned expert faculty members. Whether involving litigation, transactional work, or mediation, the clinics place students in a "first chair" position as lead attorneys, with full responsibility to carry out all lawyering duties. The clinics provide the most intensive training and supervision among Notre Dame experiential programs, combining classroom sessions with frequent one-on-one supervision. Clinics include:

- Community Development Clinic
- Economic Justice Clinic
- Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic
- Mediation Clinic

### Placement Facts<sup>25</sup>

#### Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$83,500 - \$147,500
Private sector - Median	\$105,000
Public service - Median	\$57,000

## Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	60.7%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	77.6%

## Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	51.8%
Business and Industry	12.2%
Government	13.4%
Judicial Clerkships	13.4%
Public Interest Organizations	3%
Academia	3%
Unknown	0.6%

## Externships/Internships

### Externships<sup>17</sup>

Notre Dame students can pursue externships in law offices or judicial chambers in South Bend or other regional cities, including Chicago and Indianapolis. Externship students also participate in faculty-led seminars and other activities to help them reflect on their field experiences. Externships include:

- Appalachia Externship
- Felony Criminal Defense Externship
- Intercollegiate Athletics Externship
- Lawyering Practice Externship
- National Immigrant Justice Center Externship
- Notre Dame Law in Chicago
- Public Defender Externship
- Seventh Circuit Practice Externship
- Summer Externship

### Summer Research Internships<sup>18</sup>

The Law School offers international immersion opportunities that allow students to participate in summer research internships on global justice issues around the world.

## Student Organizations<sup>19</sup>

- American Civil Liberties Union
- American Constitution Society
- Asian Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Business Law Forum
- Christian Legal Society
- Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

- Education Law Forum
- The Environmental Law Society
- The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies
- Future Prosecuting Attorney's Council
- Health Law Society
- Hispanic Law Students Association
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- International Human Rights Society
- International Law Society
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Jus Vitae of Notre Dame
- Legal Voices for Children & Youth
- Married Law Students Organization
- Military Law Students Association
- Native American Law Students Association
- Phi Alpha Delta
- The Public Interest Law Forum
- Social Justice Forum
- Sports, Communications and Entertainment Law Forum
- St. Thomas More Society
- Student Bar Association
- Women's Legal Forum

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