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University of Washington School of Law



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Overview^{2,3}

The University of Washington School of Law aspires to be the best public law school in the nation and one of the world's most respected centers for interdisciplinary legal studies. Students are asked to rethink and defend their conceptions of the law and its relation to social problems. First-year students are often surprised to learn that their principal objective is not to "learn the law" but rather to develop the intellectual tools and skills necessary to work as professionals.

UW School of Law offers courses that provide a broad view of the American legal system. Although faculty members may present the Washington view on a particular issue as an illustration for a broad-ranging discussion, graduates of the school are well prepared to practice law anywhere in the United States.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁴

8.9:1

Admission Criteria⁵

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	161-165	3.46-3.8
Median*	164	3.64

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	2624
Number accepted	686
Acceptance rate	26.1%

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades⁷

Class Rank

Class rank is computed at the end of the 1L year and at the end of each academic year thereafter for the following purposes:

- to award academic honors, including graduation awards, prizes, or membership in scholarly societies, including Order of the Coif, legal journals and reviews; or
- to define percentile bands of 5% and 10% at the conclusion of the first year; and
- to define percentile bands of 5%, 10%, 20%, and 33 1/3% at the conclusion of the second and third years.

Class rank shall not be disclosed on a student's transcript or otherwise disclosed except for the purpose of computing eligibility for academic honors.

The significance of each grade is as follows:

Grade	Numerical equivalent
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.4
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C	2.0
D	1.0
E	0.0

Grade Normalization (Curve)⁸

Grade	Percentage of Class
A	At least 5% and less than or equal to 15%.
A-	At least 20% minus (% given A) and less than or equal to 40% minus (% given A).

B+	At least 50% minus (% given A or A-) and less than or equal to 75% minus (% given A or A-).
B	% Discretionary*
B-	% Discretionary.*
C	% Discretionary.*
D	% Discretionary. C or D grades are capped at a total of 5% for first-year courses.*
E	% Discretionary. This grade indicates that the level of performance is below that which on average is required for the award of the degree. C or D grades are capped at a total of 5% for first-year courses.*

* At least 25% (but no more than 50%) B and below, combined.

The mandatory distribution is not applicable to specialized and individualized courses such as seminars, clinical, experiential, and “practice” offerings, independent study, and workshops, nor to summer quarter courses, courses heavily directed to non-law students, and courses in which most of the enrolled students are candidates for post-J.D. graduate degrees. They would also not have significance for classes of fifteen students or less. The mandatory distribution also is not applicable to designated “mastery” courses.

Honors⁹

Honor	Criteria
Order of the Coif	top 10 percent of graduating class
High Honors	top 5 percent of class
Honors	next 15 percent of class
Honor Graduate	student graduating with highest grade point average

Awards¹⁰

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
Award for Excellence in the Study of Labor and Employment Law	For the second- or third-year student with the highest GPA in a basic labor and/or employment law course or who is otherwise regarded as being an outstanding student in these fields.
The Carkeek Prize	For the best student contribution to the Washington Law Review on a point of Washington law or any point of peculiar interest to Washington attorneys.
Delta Theta Phi Founders Award	For the student with the highest combined first- and second-year grades.
Mary Ellen Krug Award	For interest and proficiency in the fields of labor and employment law and related subjects.
Judge James J. Lawless Award	For the second-year student with the highest grades during the first year.

Hugh Miracle Award	For the best opening statement in trial advocacy, trial practice or moot court.
Eugene A. Wright Scholar Award	For a second- and a third-year student who (a) has produced a paper or article of particular noteworthiness as a Law Review or Journal note or comment, or as an analytical writing project; or (b) has performed exceptionally well in trial or appellate moot court competition, either orally or in brief writing; or (c) has combined an outstanding academic record with a demonstrated and exemplary record of public service and community involvement.
CALI Awards for Excellence for the Future	For students with the highest grade in a class.

Journals¹¹

The **Washington Law Review** is a quarterly journal comprised of student-written pieces and professional articles on a wide range of legal issues. Annual events include a Spring Symposium, community service programs, and social events. Membership is competitive and based upon first year grades and writing competition scores.

The **Washington Journal of Environmental Law & Policy** publishes legal scholarship on environmental affairs important to the Pacific Northwest region and beyond. By drawing expertise from across the disciplines, the Journal promotes the investigation of current environmental law and proposed solutions for the future.

The **Washington Journal of Law, Technology & Arts** publishes concise legal analysis for practicing attorneys with a focus on emerging legal issues in business and technology. The Journal collaborates with the Law, Technology & Arts Group, a new research program at the University of Washington School of Law that takes a comprehensive approach to the legal issues involving technological and artistic innovation. The Journal, which was launched in 2003, publishes in an electronic format and addresses business law and technology issues in a global context. The Journal is a partnership between student editors and an Editorial Board comprised of faculty and attorneys who are noted experts in their respective fields. Membership is competitive and based upon first-year grades and performance in a writing competition.

The **Washington International Law Journal** was founded in 1990 as an innovative vehicle for the discussion of legal and interdisciplinary policy-oriented issues affecting Asian and trans-Pacific affairs. The Journal's function is to provide valuable writing and editing experience to law students, explore issues vital to the Pacific Rim, and enhance the school's national and international role as a center for East Asian legal studies. Membership is competitive and based upon first year grades and writing competition scores.

Moot Court¹²⁻¹⁴

The mission of the University of Washington Law School's Moot Court Honors Board is to assist law students in developing their advocacy skills through practice and competition. Students can participate in the Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson 1L Appellate Advocacy Competition, the 1L Mock Trial Competition, the Peterson Wampold Rosato Luna Knopp 2L/3L Mock Trial Competition, the Contract Negotiation Competition, and the Judson Falknor Appellate Competition. UW law students also can participate in a host of national competitions including the AAJ Mock Trial Competition, the Jessup

International Moot Court Competition, the National Moot Court Competition, the Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition, the TYLA Mock Trial Competition, and the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Team.

Clinical Programs¹⁵

The UW Clinical Law Program offers diverse practice opportunities to UW law students as they prepare to become Leaders for the Global Common Good. Students work on real cases, transactions or projects for academic credit supervised by experienced faculty members. Approximately 65% of J.D. students graduate having taken at least one clinic. The law school offers the following clinical programs:

- Children and Youth Advocacy
- Entrepreneurial Law
- Environmental Law and Policy
- Federal Tax
- Immigration Law
- Innocence Project Northwest
- International Human Rights
- Legislative Advocacy
- Mediation
- Race and Justice
- Street Law
- Technology Law and Public Policy
- Tribal Court Public Defense

Placement Facts²⁵

Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$73,900 - \$125,000
Private sector - Median	\$95,000
Public service - Median	\$55,000

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	50.8%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	79%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	41.1%
Business and Industry	13.5%
Government	17.2%
Judicial Clerkships	15.3%
Public Interest Organizations	10.4%
Academia	2.5%

Unknown	0%
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Externships/Internships¹⁷⁻¹⁹

Externships

The Law School encourages externships in judges' chambers, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. Externship Program requirements follow ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools. The UW Law Externship Program facilitates the application process for these specialized programs:

- Judicial Externships
- Laurel Rubin Externship Advocacy Program (REAP)
- Olympia Quarter Fellows Program
- U.S. Senate Externships
- Washington-in-Washington Public Service Program
- International Externships

Internships

UW law students can intern with various organizations during the second or third year or during the summers. Gates PSL Scholars complete a ten-week summer internship, supported by a stipend, which enables them to work at a government agency or public interest law organization.

Student Organizations²⁰

- Advocates for the Arts
- American Civil Liberties Union
- American Constitution Society
- Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Business Law Association
- Center for Human Rights and Justice
- Chinese American Law Students Association
- Christian Law Society
- Disability Law Alliance
- Ed Law
- Environmental Law Society
- Federalist Society
- Food Law Society
- Immigrant Families Advocacy Project
- Incarcerated Mothers Advocacy Project
- Innocence Project Northwest - Student Chapter
- International Law Society
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Korean-American Law Student Association
- Latino/Latina Law Students Association
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Law Students Starting Second Careers
- Law Women's Caucus
- Lawyers for Appropriate Dispute Resolution

- Middle Eastern Law Students Association of Washington MELSAW
- Military Law Students' Association
- Minority Law Students' Association
- Moot Court Honor Board
- National Lawyers Guild
- National Security and Law Society
- Native American Law Student Association
- Outlaws (LGBT Student Group)
- Parents Attending Law School
- Public Interest Law Association
- Sport/Entertainment Law Association
- Street Youth Legal Advocates of Washington
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Student Bar Association
- Student Health Law Organization
- Students for Labor and Employment Justice
- Technology Law Society
- The Forum for Evidence-Based Law & Policy (FELP)
- Washington International Law Journal
- Washington Journal of Environmental Law & Policy
- Washington Journal of Law, Technology & Arts
- Washington Law Review

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