

American University, Washington College of Law

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■ Introduction

American University Washington College of Law (WCL) offers opportunity for the study of law in the center of the nation's legal institutions. The law school is minutes from downtown Washington, but at the same time offers the facilities and ambiance of a campus environment in one of the city's most beautiful residential neighborhoods. Founded in 1896 by two women, the law school is national in character. WCL offers renowned programs in experiential learning (clinics and externships), international law, law and government, intellectual property, business, environmental law, health law, and gender. It is committed to the development of the intellectual abilities, professional values, and practical skills required to prepare lawyers to practice in an increasingly complex and transnational world. The school is noted for the accessibility of faculty and administration to its students.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The two-story library is the heart of the complex and seats over 600 students. The entire law school and law library facility has wireless access, and most of the law library seating has wired access as well. The library has over 550,000 volumes and access to a number of databases including LexisNexis, Westlaw, HeinOnline, Making of Modern Law, and AccessUN. There are a number of research stations, and network printing is available to the community as well. The library collection includes European Community and US Government depositories and the Baxter Collection in International Law. Students also have access to the university's library, the Library of Congress, specialized agency libraries, and other area law libraries to which the school is electronically linked.

■ Curriculum

The law school offers full- and part-time programs leading to the JD degree, which is awarded after satisfactory completion of 86 credit hours, 34 of which are prescribed. All degree candidates must also fulfill an upper-level writing requirement. While a modified version of the Socratic method is the dominant form of teaching in the first year, faculty increasingly employ such methodologies as role-playing, simulations, and small group collaborative exercises. The goal is to develop the skills of critical analysis, provide perspectives on the law and lawyering, and deepen understanding of fundamental legal principles. In the Legal Rhetoric program, basic legal research and writing skills are taught to groups of students by full-time faculty (23 students per section) and practicing attorneys (12 students per section). In the second and third years, students elect a course of study drawing from advanced courses, seminars, independent research, externships, and clinical programs. Students are exposed to a variety of teaching approaches by the law school's distinguished full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty and our many adjunct professors.

■ Special Programs

While many of the advanced courses are taught in a traditional classroom setting, a variety of other innovative teaching modes

are available to enhance research skills and provide professional training.

- **Clinical Program**—The Washington College of Law enjoys a national reputation for clinical education. Second-year and third-year students may participate in the Civil Practice Clinic for both full- and part-time students, the Community and Economic Development Law Clinic, the Disability Rights Law Clinic, the International Human Rights Law Clinic, and the Intellectual Property Law Clinic; third-year students may also develop their lawyering abilities in the Criminal Justice Clinic, the DC Law Students in Court Clinic, the Domestic Violence Clinic, and the Tax Clinic. The Women and the Law program also includes a clinical component in which students represent indigent women in family law cases in the District of Columbia courts. This program is designed to integrate women's legal studies into the overall curriculum and to heighten awareness about legal issues affecting women.
- **Dual-degree Programs**—American University offers three domestic dual-degree programs for students seeking to enhance their law degree with additional graduate coursework. Complementing the law school's nationally recognized curriculum in international law, the university offers a combined JD/MA in International Affairs with the School of International Service. The JD/MBA with the Kogod School of Business prepares students to meet the demanding aspects of business-oriented practice. The JD/MS in Justice, Law, and Society with the School of Public Affairs offers a thorough understanding of how law intersects with theories of justice and justice systems in our society. The Washington College of Law recently established three international dual-degree programs in Ottawa, Canada; Paris, France; and Madrid, Spain. Program participants complete two years in the United States and two years abroad.
- **The Externship Program**—The program places upper-level students in many governmental, nonprofit, and public interest entities throughout the DC metropolitan area. More than 300 students participate in an externship each year.
- **Graduate Study**—Graduate study is available leading to either an LLM or SJD degree in International Legal Studies or Law and Government.
- **Summer Programs**—The law school offers three intensive summer programs in the areas of international arbitration, human rights, and environmental law.
- **Study Abroad**—Students have the opportunity of studying law for a semester in more than 18 different countries or during the summer in Turkey, Chile, and Europe (London, Paris, and Geneva).

■ Admission

Applicants to the law school are admitted on the strength of their entire academic and related record. The Committee on Admissions gives primary emphasis to the undergraduate record, LSAT scores, and other major accomplishments and achievements, whether academic, work-related, or extracurricular. The benefits the school derives from racial, ethnic, cultural, and geographical diversity among its students are considered in admission decisions. Members of

disadvantaged and minority groups are encouraged to apply. Admission to the law school is highly competitive and operates on a modified rolling admission basis, so early application is strongly encouraged.

■ Student Activities

The law school has four journals and several publications edited and published by students selected on the basis of scholarship and creative research. These include the *American University Law Review*, the *International Law Review*, the *Administrative Law Review*, the *Journal of Gender, Social Policy and the Law*, the *Human Rights Brief*, the *Business Law Brief*, *Sustainable Development Law and Policy*, and the *Modern American*. The Moot Court Board sponsors intraschool competitions for first-year and upper-level students and selects representatives for a number of interschool competitions, including the National Moot Court Competition. There are more than 40 active student organizations, including Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law

Students Association, Hispanic Law Students Association, South Asian Law Students Association, Lambda Law Society, Equal Justice Foundation, Federalist Society, International Law Society, Intellectual Property Society, National Security and Law Society, Law and Government Society, and Women's Law Association.

■ Career Services

Staffed by six full-time counselors, the Office of Career Services provides individual assistance to students on career counseling and the techniques of job searching. The office arranges for both on- and off-campus recruitment for summer and permanent legal positions, and participates in a variety of hiring consortia, including the Boston Lawyers Group, the New Hampshire Job Fair, the Delaware Minority Job Fair, regional Black Law Students Association fairs, and the ABA Business Law Section Career Forum. In addition, the office has expanded its recruitment efforts to include regional programs in New York, Boston, Atlanta, and Southern California.

Applicant Profile

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This grid includes only applicants who earned 120-180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

LSAT Score	GPA																						
	3.75 +		3.50 - 3.74		3.25 - 3.49		3.00 - 3.24		2.75 - 2.99		2.50 - 2.74		2.25 - 2.49		2.00 - 2.24		Below 2.00		No GPA		Total		
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	
175-180	1	1	2	2	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	6
170-174	14	10	33	21	20	16	12	10	14	8	7	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	103	70
165-169	87	72	144	117	141	115	128	94	40	17	29	15	13	0	2	0	1	0	4	3	589	433	
160-164	348	257	581	393	569	276	343	142	168	41	81	10	26	0	8	0	0	0	18	8	2142	1127	
155-159	319	49	661	68	732	68	464	41	212	10	102	7	43	4	10	0	1	0	17	0	2561	247	
150-154	196	15	409	37	455	50	366	45	200	12	105	7	29	0	11	0	2	0	18	0	1791	166	
145-149	62	1	154	1	190	8	163	0	113	1	65	0	38	0	8	0	3	0	17	1	813	12	
140-144	17	0	43	0	70	0	78	0	58	0	48	0	29	0	7	0	1	0	8	0	359	0	
135-139	4	0	8	0	24	0	28	0	27	0	14	0	15	0	11	0	4	0	4	0	139	0	
130-134	2	0	2	0	5	0	7	0	4	0	6	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	33	0	
125-129	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	12	0	
120-124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Total	1050	405	2037	639	2212	536	1593	332	837	89	463	44	202	4	58	0	13	0	90	12	8555	2061	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.