

Ave Maria School of Law

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■ Introduction

Ave Maria School of Law is a national Catholic law school committed to preparing lawyers to practice with the highest degree of integrity and professional skill. Ave Maria students have enrolled from 46 states and over 300 colleges and universities. Having the benefit of a student-faculty ratio of approximately 14 to 1, Ave Maria students are consistently challenged to reflect critically on the law, the principles that undergird it, and their role within the legal system.

To provide this distinctive legal education, Ave Maria has recruited some of the finest faculty members in the country. The faculty includes nationally recognized scholars and talented up-and-coming scholars. The faculty prepares students to practice at the highest level and to succeed on bar exams throughout the country. For two consecutive years, Ave Maria's bar passage rate for the July bar exam has been the highest among all Michigan law schools.

Ave Maria encourages applications from students of all faiths who seek a distinctive legal education enriched by the Catholic faith and the Catholic intellectual tradition, a tradition that contains a rich heritage of legal thought.

■ Enrollment/Student Body

While many students come to Ave Maria directly from their undergraduate institutions, others have earned postgraduate degrees and have work experience in fields including business, medicine, engineering, military service, and education. Undergraduate schools represented in Ave Maria's student body include Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, Cornell, University of Pennsylvania, University of Chicago, Boston College, Duke, Notre Dame, UCLA, and many other fine schools.

■ Faculty

The Ave Maria School of Law faculty includes nationally recognized scholars and accomplished teachers. Their legal scholarship contributes to the development of the law and serves as a fundamental means to enhance their teaching. Indeed, the faculty sees teaching as its primary vocation. Ave Maria provides a quality legal education by challenging students to consider law, what underlies it, and whether the law should be as it is. Ave Maria continuously adds renowned scholars and legal professionals to its faculty.

■ Library/Physical Facilities

The Ave Maria library provides excellent print and online resources as well as a plethora of electronic databases. The library houses more than 458,000 volumes and volume equivalents.

Ave Maria School of Law is housed in a beautifully appointed 84,500-square-foot building designed by renowned architect Alden B. Dow. The building contains classrooms with cutting edge technology, a moot courtroom, student offices, and indoor and outdoor community space for student gatherings. All classrooms, student carrels, and group study rooms are connected to the Internet.

■ Curriculum

Ave Maria School of Law awards the Juris Doctor degree after three years of full-time residential day study. The law school requires 90 credit hours for graduation, including a core curriculum of 60 credit hours. Ave Maria ensures that students gain a clear, practical, and comprehensive understanding of the law. Ave Maria professors use a variety of teaching methods, including the Socratic method, lectures, group discussions, and writing assignments. The favorable student-faculty ratio optimizes the benefits associated with these teaching methods.

■ Admission

Ave Maria enrolls talented individuals from diverse backgrounds who seek a rigorous and distinctive legal education. To this end, Ave Maria evaluates applicants from a whole-person perspective and considers many factors, including work experience, activities, background, obstacles overcome, accomplishments, undergraduate and graduate school records, Law School Admission Test (LSAT) scores, letters of reference, and the applicant's personal statement. Ave Maria recognizes that a diverse student body, drawn from throughout the United States and internationally, enriches the educational atmosphere.

■ Student Activities

By providing opportunities for interaction among students, faculty, and the legal community, Ave Maria ensures a vibrant, professional atmosphere and a constructive law school experience. A five-day Orientation Program, a Distinguished Lecture Series, conferences, and the Ave Maria Mentor Program, together with a challenging and comprehensive curriculum, provide Ave Maria students with an exceptional law school experience. A multitude of student organizations offer students the opportunity to pursue their specific areas of interest and augment their law school education.

■ Career Services/Placement

In addition to meeting with students individually, Ave Maria's Career Services Office presents informational sessions, workshops, speakers, and panel discussions to assist students with career planning. Ave Maria's first four classes have received a total of 29 judicial clerkships to date—11 federal appellate, 14 federal district, 3 state supreme court, and 1 state appellate court. Graduates have also secured positions with national law firms; government agencies, including the military; corporations; and nonprofit organizations.

■ Learning Beyond the Classroom

Ave Maria students gain hands-on experience through the law school's Clinical and Externship Programs. The Asylum and Immigrant Rights Law Clinic enables students to assist in the representation of persons seeking asylum through affirmative procedures or in removal proceedings. Ave Maria's Externship Program offers students first-hand experience in a variety of practice settings while earning academic credit.

■ Expenses/Financial Aid

Ave Maria strives to ensure that cost will not prevent any worthy student from attending. Accordingly, Ave Maria offers a generous scholarship program, including full-tuition scholarships. These scholarships are automatically renewed each year if the student maintains a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0. A full-time Financial Aid Director is available to students as they assess their financial needs and apply for student loans.

■ Housing

Ave Maria's 11-acre campus does not include housing, but is within walking distance of neighborhoods with apartments, condominiums, and homes. Two apartment complexes and a condominium complex, located within a mile of the law school, house most of the students. Additionally, students have access to parking spaces at the law school and convenient curbside parking.

Applicant Profile

Ave Maria has chosen not to provide an admission profile grid. This reflects our commitment to consider every applicant from a whole-person perspective. Every component of the application is carefully reviewed, and, while qualifications as

measured by LSAT and GPA are important, equal consideration is also given to the applicant background, letters of recommendation, and personal statement.