

## Drake University Law School

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### ■ Introduction

Drake University Law School can trace its history back to 1865, making it one of the nation's 25 oldest law schools. Accredited by the ABA, the Law School provides a personal education with a low student-to-faculty ratio. Our commitment to an education that balances theory and practice has earned a reputation for training proven practitioners.

Drake Law School is located in Iowa's capital, Des Moines, providing law students the opportunity to get hands-on experience with the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of state government; the federal courts; federal and state administrative agencies; and a wide array of law firms and businesses.

### ■ Legal Clinic

Drake had one of the first clinics in the country and has built on that tradition. The Neal and Bea Smith Law Center, built in 1987, houses the Drake Law School Legal Clinic. The center is a state-of-the-art law office that enables Drake students to represent real clients out of their own fully computerized offices. The center was selected as the national training and resource institute for public service attorneys. The \$1.75 million addition, built in 1994, includes a technologically enhanced courtroom and training facilities. In fall 2001, the clinic added the Joan and Lyle Middleton Center for Children's Rights to its operations.

### ■ First-year Trial Practicum

The only program of its kind in the country, the trial practicum adds an important experiential learning dimension to the first-year curriculum. During the spring semester, first-year students observe a real trial—from jury selection to verdict—in the courtroom of the Neal and Bea Smith Law Center. Break-out discussion groups and posttrial debriefings of the attorneys, judges, and jurors poignantly illustrate how law on the books becomes law in action.

### ■ Centers of Excellence and Certificate Programs

**Constitutional Law Center**—Drake is one of only four schools selected to receive a congressional endowment for the establishment of a Constitutional Law Resource Center. The center sponsors a lecture series and annual symposia featuring nationally recognized constitutional scholars. The nationally renowned Dwight D. Opperman Lecture in Constitutional Law has been delivered by nine current and former justices of the US Supreme Court; one justice has twice returned for a week-long residency to teach a course to Drake law students. Students beginning in the Summer Institute and taking additional summer courses may elect to accelerate their studies and graduate in December of their third year.

In 2005 the center began offering a **Constitutional Law and Civil Rights Certificate** program. The center also conducts the Summer Institute in Constitutional Law, a program designed for first-year students interested in getting their law school careers off to an early start. During the six-week session, students enroll in three courses that examine different aspects

of constitutional law combined with a writing component to help establish the critical thinking, research, writing, and study skills needed for law school success.

**Agricultural Law Center**—Our internationally recognized agricultural law program addresses the important issues in American and international law and policy regarding food production. Students conduct research, publish an agricultural law journal, and write articles on a wide range of topics. Lecturers from France, the United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, and China have visited the center in recent years to share their knowledge and expertise on topics such as farmland preservation, legal issues in biotechnology, and tax planning for agricultural businesses. The center also offers a series of one-week courses for students and attorneys in the Summer Agricultural Law Institute. The center offers a **Food and Agricultural Law Certificate** program, the first of its kind at an American law school.

**Center for Legislative Practice**—Drake is one of a few schools in the country that offers a **Legislative Practice Certificate**. Classroom study and a wide range of internships expose students to the underpinnings of legislative and rule-making processes. Students who complete the program are uniquely prepared to work for administrative or government agencies, to research and draft legislation, to represent businesses and organizations with government interests, or to work in a variety of other public policy-making positions. Drake's close proximity to the state capital and other state and federal offices, trade associations, union headquarters, and public interest group agencies provides students with numerous opportunities to learn firsthand how these institutions operate.

**Litigation and Dispute Resolution Certification**—Drake Law School has achieved a well-deserved reputation for its education and training of future litigators, mediators, negotiators, and judges. Our alumni are well represented among the nation's leading trial and appellate lawyers and on both the federal and state courts. The **Litigation and Dispute Resolution Certificate** program capitalizes on the school's traditional strengths in advocacy and dispute resolution.

### ■ Summer in France

You can add an international element to your legal education by participating in our summer program at the University of Nantes Law School in France. Classes in comparative and international law and on-site visits to European legal institutions allow you to absorb and experience another country's legal system and be better prepared to practice law in a global society.

### ■ Joint-degree Programs

If you are interested in combining your legal studies with other academic disciplines, you can do so in one of several joint-degree programs that will broaden your skills and increase your career options. Students may combine their Juris Doctor degrees with the following: Master of Business Administration, Master of Public Administration, Doctor of Pharmacy, Master of Arts in Political Science (in cooperation with Iowa State University), Master of Science in Agricultural

Economics (in cooperation with Iowa State University), and Master of Social Work (in cooperation with the University of Iowa).

## ■ Student Activities

Law students participate in many student organizations and cocurricular activities. The *Drake Law Review* a student-edited journal, is published quarterly. *Drake Law Review* was recently named among the nation's most-cited legal periodicals by the courts from 1997 to 2004. Drake moot court teams consistently win regional competitions and finish strongly in national competitions. Drake's National Moot Court team won the 2001 national championship. The Student Bar Association, Legal Research Service, and honorary societies provide students with leadership, public service, and learning opportunities. Drake students have also formed a variety of organizations around their special interests, including the Drake Law Women, Black Law Students Association, International Law Society, Christian Legal Society, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, National Lawyers Guild, Intellectual Property Law Society, Agricultural Law Society, Alternative Dispute Resolution Society, and an organization for students with alternative sexual orientation.

## ■ Networking

Drake Law School alumni practice in all 50 states and several foreign countries. Many law alumni participate in our Volunteers in Placement (VIP) mentoring program and are available to offer career advice or simply encouragement and support. You can request a VIP in a particular geographic location or certain area of law to find out about the employment climate and job opportunities. Through the VIP program, you can form a national networking system right from the start of your legal education.

## ■ Career Services

The Career Development Office offers career planning and counseling services, assistance with résumés and cover letter preparation, salary and geographical employment statistics, nationwide job postings, and state bar examination information. The office also arranges interviews—both on and off campus—and exchanges job listings with 90 other law schools around the country.

## Applicant Profile

### Drake University Law School

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

LSAT Score	GPA																				Total		
	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		Apps	Adm	
175-180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
170-174	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
165-169	5	5	3	3	3	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
160-164	21	21	19	19	19	19	6	6	9	9	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	82	
155-159	31	31	44	43	42	40	40	37	17	15	13	10	5	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	195	177	
150-154	58	50	82	52	82	35	69	24	57	15	25	1	19	1	3	0	1	0	4	1	400	179	
145-149	23	4	48	2	69	12	55	5	40	3	29	0	11	1	3	0	1	0	3	0	282	27	
140-144	7	1	20	2	22	2	27	0	19	1	15	1	7	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	120	7	
135-139	3	0	2	0	7	0	9	0	8	0	6	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	40	0	
130-134	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	14	0	
125-129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
120-124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	149	113	219	122	245	111	208	72	153	44	97	18	52	4	10	1	4	1	13	1	1150	487	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.