

Duquesne University School of Law

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■ Introduction

The Duquesne University School of Law is a Catholic law school that has been in existence since 1911 and is the only multiple-division law school in western Pennsylvania. Admission requirements, instruction, and the nature and scope of the work required of students are identical for both the full-time day division and the part-time evening and part-time day divisions. The School of Law is approved by the ABA and is a member of the AALS.

Situated on the attractive 43-acre Duquesne University campus, the law school is within walking distance to the vibrant Pittsburgh downtown legal, corporate, and government communities.

Recognized as one of the best cities in which to practice law and a center for corporate and legal headquarters, Pittsburgh is a leading metropolis for high technology ventures and a thriving arts and cultural community, with major-league sports entertainment.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

Duquesne's proximity to the Pittsburgh region's legal center makes the law school library a major source for legal research and information services. The Duquesne law library has assumed management responsibility of the Allegheny County Law Library, resulting in one of the largest collections of legal materials in Pennsylvania.

The law school recently completed a \$12 million renovation and expansion, adding 33,000 square feet to Hanley Hall. The four new floors of space include a state-of-the-art moot courtroom (giving us three); three new technology-aided classrooms with ports and power sources at every seat; an upgraded lounge area with a cafeteria; new faculty and administrative offices; student locker areas; a conference room; and a wireless computer lab.

■ Curriculum

The course of study offered at the School of Law is sufficiently broad to prepare students for practice in all states. Three years are required for completion of the course of study in the day division, four years in the evening division as well as the part-time day division. Eighty-six credits are required for graduation.

While emphasis is placed upon skills such as legal research and writing and trial advocacy, the required courses are sufficiently broad to provide all students with the requisite skills to become competent lawyers in any field of practice. A wide selection of elective courses, seminars, and student in-house and internal clinics allows students to focus on specialized legal fields and explore the contemporary problems of law and society.

■ Admission

Bachelor's degree required; Application deadlines: day, April 1; evening, May 1; part-time day, June 1; rolling admission; LSAT, LSDAS required.

All candidates for admission must take the LSAT, register for the LSDAS, and be graduates of an accredited college or university before enrolling in the law school. Personal interviews are not granted, but applicants are encouraged to schedule an appointment to visit the school for an information session or a tour of the facilities.

The admission process is selective. Most applicants apply well in advance of the deadlines. Students are admitted only for the fall semester.

In evaluating applications, the complete academic record is reviewed with consideration given to the competitiveness of the undergraduate institution, the college major, rank in class, and the overall academic performance. The LSAT is considered an important factor. Graduate study, extracurricular activities, and recommendations also contribute to the committee's assessment. Work experience is considered when an applicant has been employed full time for a significant length of time.

■ Joint-degree Programs

The School of Law offers the following joint-degree programs: JD/MBA, JD/MS Environmental Science and Management, JD/MS Taxation, and JD/MDiv.

■ Clinical Opportunities

The School of Law operates five in-house live client clinics.

The **Economic and Community Development Law Clinic** is a unique, nationally recognized clinic. Students represent nonprofit organizations that provide a vast array of greatly needed services to the community. Through the **Civil and Family Justice Law Clinic**, students represent indigent individuals who would not otherwise find assistance through the civil justice system. The **Criminal Advocacy Clinic** is operated in cooperation with the Allegheny County District Attorney's and Public Defender's offices. Through the **Federal Low-Income Tax Practicum**, students learn litigation skills as they represent clients in appeals conferences, settlement negotiations, and before the US Tax Court. The **Securities Arbitration Practicum**, created with the support of the Securities and Exchange Commission, is designed to enable law students to represent small investors through the NASD Dispute Resolution process.

■ International Programs

The law school has established a summer program and faculty exchange with the Chinese University of Political Science and Law (CUPL). Located in Beijing, CUPL, with official ties to China's Ministry of Justice, is the most prestigious center for legal study in all of China. Duquesne has an outstanding ABA-approved summer program of study on Comparative Law and the European Union at the American College, Dublin. The Duquesne law school has recently established an ABA-approved program for law students in Vatican City, focusing on subjects relating to Canon Law and Roman Law. Duquesne is the only law school offering a program for law students within Vatican City.

■ Student Activities

The Student Bar Association maintains a liaison between students and faculty and sponsors social and professional activities for the student body.

Membership in the *Duquesne Law Review* is based on the demonstrated academic ability of the student as well as his or her interest in becoming active in this publication. *Juris*, the law school news magazine, is an ABA award winning publication containing articles of current interest to the entire legal community. Students also publish the *Duquesne Business Law Journal*.

■ Financial Aid

Duquesne consistently strives to ensure that the outstanding private legal education provided by the law school is within the reach of all qualified students. Merit scholarships are awarded to outstanding day-division applicants; grants-in-aid are awarded primarily on the basis of need; and state and federal government-sponsored loans are available.

■ Housing

Law students have access to an array of housing options throughout the neighborhoods of Pittsburgh and the

surrounding communities. The Office of Commuter Affairs will assist law students in their search for housing by providing a list of available locations. For further information, please write to the Office of Commuter Affairs, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA 15282 or call 412.396.6660.

■ Career Services

The Career Services Office staff offers assistance to students and alumni who are interested in obtaining full-time, part-time, and summer employment. The office offers a fall and spring on-campus interview program in which law firms, government agencies, corporations, and accounting firms conduct individual interviews.

The School of Law is a member of the National Association for Law Placement, the National Association for Public Interest Law Publication Network, and the Allegheny County Bar Association Minority Job Fair.

Graduates have consistently been placed at a rate at or above 90 percent within six months of graduation. The law school has nearly 5,000 alumni throughout the United States and in several foreign countries.

Applicant Profile

The law school recognizes the different strengths presented by our day division, evening division, and part-time day students and acknowledges that the diversity in the groups cannot be accurately or completely represented in a single grid of average undergraduate GPA and LSAT scores. Graduate degrees, personal and professional accomplishments, and extensive employment experience predominate in the evening, part-time, and day divisions.

These factors are considered crucial to an individual assessment of admissibility. Applications are reviewed individually, and factors such as leadership experience, community service, and other nonacademic experiences are considered. Applicants should contact the Admissions Office for specific information on the current year's class; phone: 412.396.6296. Applicants are encouraged to visit the law school.