

## Northeastern University School of Law

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### ■ Introduction

Northeastern University School of Law, located in Boston, offers the nation's only Cooperative Legal Education Program. Combining classroom theory with practical work, Northeastern law students receive their JD degrees in the same three-year time period as students at other law schools, but graduate with one full year of hands-on legal employment gained in law offices around the world.

Northeastern provides a supportive, student-centered learning environment. The curriculum is rigorous, with students receiving detailed narrative evaluations of their work in each academic course in lieu of alphabetic or numeric grades. In addition, co-op employers submit written appraisals of each student's professional performance. These academic and professional evaluations comprise the student's permanent record, clearly indicating the quality of a student's performance. Without grades and class ranking, there is a culture of cooperation based on constructive relationships and mutual respect, avoiding the adversarial attitude that often characterizes legal education.

### ■ Cooperative Legal Education

Northeastern's unique Cooperative Legal Education Program alternates periods of academic study with equal periods of workplace experience during the second and third years of law school. During the first year of law school, students follow a traditional, full-time academic schedule. At the end of the first year, half of the class begins the first academic quarter of their second year during the summer, while the other half starts their first co-op. For the remaining two years, students alternate every three months between working full time as legal interns and attending classes. By participating in four, 11-week co-op placements with four different legal employers, students are provided with an extraordinary opportunity to experience the actual practice of law and to determine their career paths based on practical training.

More than 700 employers nationwide currently participate in the co-op program, representing virtually every practice area, including law firms of all sizes, trial and appellate judges in federal and state courts, public defender and legal services organizations, government agencies, corporate and union legal departments, and a variety of advocacy groups.

While many co-op placements are in the Greater Boston area, students work with employers in more than 40 states and countries in any given quarter. In recent years, students have increasingly developed their own co-ops both in the United States and abroad. All students are required to successfully complete four full-time legal internships in order to graduate.

While the co-op program is not intended as a financial aid program, earnings from co-op employment may somewhat reduce the net cost of attending law school during the second and third years. Salaries range from nominal amounts for public interest jobs to \$2,500 per week in major law firms. To assist students in low-paying co-ops in the public interest area and the judiciary, the school provides approximately \$500,000 in stipends each year.

### ■ Clinics and Institutes

Nationally recognized for its clinical education program, Northeastern offers students the opportunity to engage in advocacy on behalf of individuals and community organizations too often unacknowledged or underrepresented by the justice system. Students can participate with faculty and staff in the work of outstanding research and service centers: the Domestic Violence Institute, the Tobacco Control Resource Center, the Public Health Advocacy Institute, and the Partnering for Prevention and Community Safety Initiative. Together, the clinics and institutes reflect and fulfill a commitment to social and economic justice that distinguishes Northeastern as the nation's foremost public interest law school.

Northeastern offers five clinics: Criminal Advocacy, Domestic Violence, Poverty Law and Practice, Prisoners' Rights, and Public Health. The clinics differ from one another by substantive legal focus, advocacy experience, and the primary skills each seeks to impart. Students engage in challenging legal practice, with the support of clinical faculty who provide the requisite training, close supervision, and opportunity for reflection.

### ■ Dual-degree Programs

Four dual-degree programs are offered. In cooperation with Tufts University School of Medicine, students may pursue both the JD and the Master of Public Health degrees. With a specialized curriculum, the two institutions enhance the training of law students who seek to understand the role advocacy and public action can play in reducing risk and ameliorating conditions that threaten community health. Completion of the dual-degree program takes three and one-half years, rather than the average five years if the degrees were obtained sequentially.

Concurrent degrees are also available from other schools and colleges at Northeastern University. A four-year program coordinates the academic and cooperative features of the School of Law and the Graduate School of Business Administration at the university, enabling students to earn both the JD and the MBA degrees in 45 months rather than the 54 months required if undertaken sequentially.

Law students with nonaccounting undergraduate degrees are eligible for admission to a program leading to a concurrent JD/MS/MBA. The program enables students to earn these degrees in 45 months rather than the 48 months required if undertaken sequentially.

The Law, Policy, and Society JD/MS/PhD interdisciplinary graduate program is designed to offer students in the School of Law the opportunity to study policy, social issues, and the law in pursuit of an MS or PhD in Law, Policy, and Society. The program is based in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and is affiliated with graduate schools throughout the university.

### ■ Student Life

The student body is diverse and active. More than 60 percent of the students are women, and approximately 25 percent are

people of color. Students are active participants in the law school community, serving on all of the school's standing committees, including the Admissions Committee. Students also run a wide variety of organizations.

## ■ Career Services

The Office of Career Services actively assists students and graduates in their pursuit of professionally rewarding careers. The school's placement rate is impressive: 97 percent of the class of 2004 has obtained employment within six months of graduation. Students also generally find their postgraduate prospects substantially enhanced through the co-op program;

on average, 40 percent accept postgraduate employment with one of their former co-op employers. Northeastern graduates are employed throughout the world in every practice area. They may be found teaching at distinguished law schools, sitting on the bench at both the state and federal levels, practicing as partners in prominent law firms, and serving as directors of legal aid and public defender programs throughout the nation. The school is also well known for its emphasis on public service. Graduates of Northeastern enter public service careers at a rate that is five times the national average. In addition, graduates have been consistently awarded prestigious postgraduate fellowships, including those granted by Equal Justice Works, Echoing Green, Georgetown, and Soros.

## Applicant Profile

### Northeastern University School of Law

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

LSAT Score	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	0	0	0	0	5	5	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9
170-174	7	6	8	8	7	7	8	8	2	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	33
165-169	37	36	51	51	50	49	35	35	26	23	11	10	5	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	217	208	
160-164	89	70	176	146	196	155	136	94	74	53	37	20	9	1	4	0	0	0	8	5	729	544	
155-159	136	12	270	25	302	37	231	30	73	4	45	0	11	0	2	0	2	0	12	1	1084	109	
150-154	73	7	185	12	250	23	197	12	118	1	58	0	14	0	3	0	0	0	11	0	909	55	
145-149	21	1	74	6	95	2	84	7	65	0	29	0	13	0	5	0	2	0	4	1	392	17	
140-144	6	0	26	0	31	1	38	0	27	0	20	0	11	0	6	0	1	0	5	0	171	1	
135-139	1	0	8	0	11	0	13	0	12	0	8	0	8	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	67	0	
130-134	0	0	2	0	8	0	2	0	4	0	7	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	30	0	
125-129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	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	370	132	800	248	955	279	747	189	402	84	216	31	75	5	27	0	6	0	46	8	3644	976	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.