

## Notre Dame Law School

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### ■ Introduction

With a rich history that dates to its founding in 1869, Notre Dame Law School today enjoys a national and international reputation for preparing consummate professionals—men and women who are extraordinarily competent in their professional endeavors and who commit themselves to serve their clients and the profession effectively and honorably. Distinctive among nationally regarded law schools as a result of the school's and the university's Catholic heritage and tradition, faith and values, and community spirit, the Law School inspires students to examine their practice of law within the context of their responsibilities as members of the bar, as leaders within their respective fields, and as citizens of the world community.

### ■ Enrollment/Student Body

The student body represents the national stature and international nature of the programs of the Law School and the university. Our student body of approximately 575 students represents all states and a number of foreign countries. The small size of the student body fosters a sense of community and allows significant interaction between faculty and students.

### ■ Faculty

Faculty members come to the Notre Dame Law School with extensive experience in private practice and government service, and represent a wide range of undergraduate institutions, law schools, and state bars. Members of the faculty are well regarded for their commitment to teaching and their accessibility to students outside of the classroom. Notre Dame law faculty support students' professional development through active counseling, mentoring, and advising.

### ■ Library and Physical Facilities

The Kresge Law Library is among the top tier of American law school research libraries. The library is considered a national leader in legal research techniques using automated technology. The Law School provides significant computing support for students and other members of the law school community. A staff of five full-time professionals offer assistance with both hardware and software, in addition to other computing and technology needs.

### ■ Curriculum

The JD curriculum provides a strong foundation in those areas that have proven to be fundamental to the actual practice of law in every American jurisdiction, while giving students the opportunity to tailor coursework to particular career aspirations. Required courses, those that are critical to a mastery of specialized areas of the law, total 42 of the 90 credit hours needed for graduation. In addition to the JD degree, the Law School confers three graduate law degrees: an LLM in International and Comparative Law, an LLM in International Human Rights, and a JSD (also in International Human Rights). The LLM in International and Comparative Law is offered exclusively at the Law School's London Law Centre.

### ■ London Programs

Notre Dame Law School recognizes that today's legal practice increasingly involves matters of international law. JD candidates may augment their legal education by participating in one of two programs offered by the Law School through its London Law Centre. Second-year students who wish to immerse themselves in comparative and international law, as well as in the traditions of the American and British common-law systems, can study in the only year-long overseas program offered by an American law school. Students who desire a shorter international-study experience and who have completed their first year of law school can spend six weeks in London during Notre Dame's summer program.

### ■ Admission

Notre Dame offers both an Early Decision and a Regular Decision Program. The Early Decision Program is designed for those candidates who have researched other law schools and who are committed to enrolling at Notre Dame if admitted. The application deadline for applying via Early Decision is November 1, and all supporting admission material must be on file in the Law School Admissions Office no later than November 10. Early decision applicants will be notified of an admission decision by December 15 and, if admitted, have until January 5 to accept or decline the offer of admission.

The Regular Decision Program follows a rolling admission process, with the first round of acceptances typically mailed on or about December 20. Regular decision applicants are encouraged to apply at the earliest possible date. Candidates who apply January 15 or earlier are charged a reduced application fee of \$55. Candidates whose applications are postmarked January 16 or later must pay a \$70 application fee. March 1 is the deadline for submitting an application.

### ■ Student Life

The sense of community and the quality of student life at Notre Dame have developed out of long-standing traditions that make the Notre Dame Law School experience different: admission policies that emphasize the importance of qualitative factors such as service to others; a mission that focuses on teaching, scholarship, and service in the legal and Judeo-Christian traditions; and an emphasis on forming and nurturing collegial relationships among and between students and faculty. The Law School is centrally located on the Notre Dame campus, and law students fully participate in athletic, cultural, religious, and social events on the campus. Law students also manage to find a comfortable balance between their studies and involvement in the Law School's four law journals and any of 25 organizations that reflect and respond to the professional and personal interests of the student body.

### ■ Expenses and Financial Aid

Notre Dame is committed to providing a legal education of the highest quality at a tuition structure that compares favorably to other nationally regarded private law schools. Additionally, law students benefit from the low cost of living in northern Indiana.

Fellowship assistance is provided annually to 90–95 entering students on the basis of merit, commitment to the Law School's mission, and financial need. Fellowships range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and are renewable for all three years of legal study.

## ■ Housing

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Many single law students choose to live on campus in graduate-student housing. Married students with children can live in the unfurnished University Village apartments. Students who wish to live off-campus can find reasonably priced accommodations near the campus and can secure on-campus parking for a nominal additional charge.

## ■ Career Services

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Graduates of Notre Dame Law School find success in identifying and obtaining a spectrum of rewarding and satisfying careers in all areas of the nation and abroad. For recent graduating classes, the employment rate has ranged between 96 and 100 percent within six months of graduation. Each year, approximately 250 employers visit campus to interview Notre Dame law students. These employers, and others, are interested in interviewing Notre Dame law students because of the law school's reputation for preparing extraordinarily competent lawyers. A national network of over 7,900 law school alumni and friends assist students and graduates in finding employment opportunities across the country.

Graduates of Notre Dame Law School have been especially successful in terms of obtaining judicial clerkships, with 15 to 18 percent of recent graduating classes choosing this career option. These highly sought-after positions provide graduates with a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about the inner

workings of the judicial system, while at the same time honing important legal skills and problem-solving abilities.

The Career Services Office (CSO) also coordinates a variety of initiatives to encourage students who wish to be employed in public-interest work following graduation. These include a variety of informational programs and services, including a public-interest reception that brings to campus public-interest attorneys from across the country. The CSO also coordinates participation in public-interest career fairs held in Washington, DC and Chicago, as well as a campus-wide, not-for-profit career fair. Additionally, in 2001, the Law School established an expanded Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) to assist eligible law school graduates who choose to work in public interest, public service, or other similar positions after graduation. By expanding LRAP, the Law School seeks to help alleviate an obstacle that prevents graduates from pursuing positions in public-interest and public-service employment.

## ■ Applicant Profile

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The Law School Admissions Committee employs a whole-person review philosophy. Academic ability, as reflected in the LSAT score and academic performance in college, are important. However, the committee considers a broad array of elements in addition to the essential factors of LSAT score and GPA with a view toward assembling a diverse class while at the same time arriving at a fair appraisal of the individual applicant. Notre Dame Law School officials involved in the admission process are mindful of the school's objective to produce lawyers who are competent, compassionate, and committed to serving their clients with integrity. Admission decisions are inevitably the result of selecting a relatively small class from a large number of highly qualified applicants.

## Applicant Profile

The Notre Dame Law School Admissions Committee has chosen not to publish a data grid, as every effort is made to

consider a wide variety of factors as each application for admission is reviewed.