

Penn State University, The Dickinson School of Law

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■ Introduction

The merger of Penn State University and the Dickinson School of Law has been transformative for the law school. Since the merger, applications for admission have increased by more than 60 percent, student body diversity has tripled, and student body academic credentials have improved significantly and steadily. Currently, the university is investing \$100 million in new facilities for the law school in Carlisle and University Park, PA (occupancy 2008) that will be reciprocally designed and equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual and telecommunications capacity to enable the real-time delivery to each facility the classes and programs of the other. The university is also allocating an additional several million dollars to the law school on a recurring annual basis to support new faculty and programs. This is the largest investment in an academic unit in the history of Penn State University.

■ Faculty

We have enjoyed remarkable success recruiting diverse faculty of unquestionably high scholarly standing, many of whom are commonly regarded as leaders in their respective areas of interest. You will have the opportunity to take courses with faculty such as the preeminent authority on Russian law, a senior official of the United Nations and African Union, a Rhodes Scholar whose name is synonymous with the scholarship of international and domestic arbitration, a former senior legal advisor to the 2003 European Union presidency who holds a joint appointment at the University of London's Queen Mary College, the former legal director of Amnesty International, one of the nation's most important emerging scholars of gay rights, and the chair of an EPA advisory committee, to name just a few. All of our faculty encourage open communication with students and are dedicated to fostering a challenging and productive learning environment.

■ Curriculum

Our program is designed to produce leaders and lawyers with high professional and ethical standards and the ability to contend with legal, policy, and social developments in all areas of human endeavor. Through our increasing integration with Penn State's University Park campus, we are able to incorporate the intellectual and programmatic resources of Penn State and its top graduate departments into the curriculum and educational programs of the law school.

The first-year curriculum and certain second-year courses are required. Students may then choose from nearly 100 elective courses available to both Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Laws (LLM) candidates. We offer an inclusive academic program to help you achieve excellence in a variety of legal specialties, and, by choosing complementary elective courses and pursuing related practical experiences, you can follow a concentrated course of study tailored to the areas of legal practice that most interest you.

■ Academic Programs and Activities

The varied professional interests and activities of our faculty enable us to prepare students in the new frontiers of the law, such as intellectual property and international law, as well as in areas such as trial advocacy and government relations.

- Our status as a unit of a world-class research university enables us to offer a variety of joint-degree programs with Penn State, including but not limited to a JD/MBA, JD/MPA, JD/MSIS, JD/MEPC, JD/MEng, and JD/MSEPC. If you have an interest in pursuing a joint degree in a particular field, we can work with you to create a program that meets your aspirations.
- The law school's alternative dispute resolution program is recognized as one of the top ten offered by American law schools. Students can explore this specialized field of law through Penn State's Institute of Arbitration Law and Practice, which publishes the *World Arbitration and Mediation Report*, the *Journal of American Arbitration*, and the *Smit-Carbonneau Guides to International Commercial Arbitration*. The institute also sponsors student participation in the annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, Austria.
- Our award winning trial advocacy program is one of the most accomplished and thorough programs of its kind nationwide. Students who complete our program have the skills they need to walk into any courtroom upon graduation and responsibly represent clients involved in civil and criminal litigation.
- Public interest activities at the law school are facilitated by a full-time coordinator dedicated to discovering opportunities for students interested in public interest law. Students can also provide service through our Miller Center for Public Interest Advocacy.
- Students can represent actual clients through clinical programs that include our newly established Asylum Clinic and Child Advocacy Clinic as well as our Disability Law Clinic, Elder Law Clinic, and Family Law Clinic.
- Third-year students accepted for our Washington, DC Semester Program enjoy full semester externships with legislative committees and executive and independent agencies in Washington, DC.
- Students edit and publish four journals: the *Penn State Law Review*, the *Penn State Environmental Law Review*, the *Penn State International Law Review*, and the *Journal of American Arbitration*. Students can also conduct research and publish articles through the Agricultural Law Resource and Reference Center and participate in our award winning moot court teams.

■ International Programs

The professional interests of our faculty mean that Penn State Dickinson students have the opportunity to move well beyond the introductory level in international legal topics. Advanced coursework with an international perspective is offered in comparative, commercial, constitutional, corporate, environmental, and humanitarian law.

We encourage students to supplement their academic experience with study abroad opportunities. In addition to our

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two European summer abroad programs and our summer program at the McGill University Faculty of Law in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, we are able to accommodate students' desires to pursue semester- or year-long programs virtually anywhere in the world.

Penn State Dickinson also offers one of the oldest and most prestigious master of laws programs for foreign lawyers, whose presence at the law school enriches the diversity of our educational experience. LLM candidates can enroll in every course offered in our curriculum, alongside JD candidates.

■ Library

The library's collection of more than 440,000 volumes supports the research and study activities of students, faculty, and members of the bar. The library is accessible to students at all times.

■ Student Body

Our students are vibrant, motivated, and intelligent individuals who actively engage in the Penn State Dickinson academic experience. Their diversity, varying perspectives, and enthusiasm for the law create a stimulating environment in which to learn and discuss the dynamics of the law.

An extensive assortment of approximately 40 student groups, along with student-sponsored activities and events, give students the opportunities to not only enhance their overall learning experience but also to participate in the life of

the law school. Many individuals and groups are also active outside the law school and provide valuable services to the local community.

■ Career Services

The Career Services Office (CSO) provides high quality counseling, resources, and programming to assist students in identifying and achieving their career goals. The CSO maintains contact with employers across the country, resulting in two formal, on-campus interview programs and the posting of approximately 1,100 positions annually. Students have the opportunity to participate in seventeen job fairs, including one in the District of Columbia, one exclusively devoted to public interest, several minority job fairs, and one exclusively devoted to patent law. Each year, more than 90 percent of Penn State Dickinson graduates secure employment nationwide within nine months of graduation.

■ Admission and Financial Aid

You can apply online at www.dsl.psu.edu/apply/. Applicants can indicate a preference to attend first-year classes in University Park or Carlisle, PA, and the law school will do its best to honor those preferences.

The Financial Aid Office works with accepted students to obtain the funding necessary to finance their education. All admitted students are considered for scholarship opportunities.

Applicant Profile

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

LSAT Score	GPA																						
	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
170-174	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
165-169	7	6	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	25	17
160-164	31	27	28	19	32	27	15	13	14	10	14	8	3	2	0	0	1	0	4	1	142	107	
155-159	60	50	92	83	137	117	111	80	74	37	45	23	17	7	6	2	0	0	3	1	545	400	
150-154	81	27	150	28	224	19	196	15	121	6	75	4	33	2	7	0	1	0	11	0	899	101	
145-149	46	6	99	11	97	12	118	10	89	6	37	0	20	1	8	0	3	0	3	1	520	47	
140-144	15	2	34	2	39	1	56	3	40	0	23	0	8	0	7	0	3	0	5	0	230	8	
135-139	2	0	6	0	13	0	17	0	16	0	8	0	7	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	77	0	
130-134	0	0	1	0	5	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	21	0	
125-129	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	0	
120-124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Total	242	118	414	145	550	178	520	123	362	62	211	37	93	13	33	2	12	0	32	3	2469	681	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.