

## Stanford University Law School

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### ■ Introduction

Stanford Law School is part of one of the world's leading research institutions, providing plentiful opportunities for interdisciplinary cooperation. Stanford University is a private university located in the heart of Silicon Valley, just 35 miles south of San Francisco. The university's 8,180 acres stretch between the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains and the cities of Palo Alto and Menlo Park, in a part of the country that offers an ideal, Mediterranean climate of dry, warm summers and wet but temperate winters.

Current enrollment at the university is approximately 14,000 students, of whom about 7,500 are graduate students. The Law School is small, with about 520 JD students, 30 LLM and JSM students, and a faculty of 40-plus permanent members. The school has teaching and research ties with schools and departments across campus. Law School courses are taught in 16 beautiful recently renovated multimedia classrooms with full wireless Internet connectivity.

Stanford Law School offers a unique combination of the classic and cutting edge in legal education. The school is preparing its students for a rich and varied professional life in an era of great excitement and rapid change—much of it generated by the remarkable innovations in information technology pioneered in Silicon Valley—and for careers in an increasingly global community.

### ■ Faculty

Stanford Law School has an exceptional faculty, distinguished not only for its scholarship, but also for its commitment to teaching and curricular innovation. The school's unusually low student/faculty ratio creates an intimate, collegial environment that fosters students' intellectual and professional development both in and out of the classroom. Students have many opportunities to work closely with faculty members as research assistants on scholarly projects; indeed, the faculty actively encourage interested students to develop their own scholarship for future academic careers. The relationships formed between Stanford faculty and students often last a lifetime.

Instruction at Stanford takes place primarily in small classes and seminars and through individually directed research. It also takes innovative forms: Stanford is a leader in the development of clinical teaching through simulation and individualized feedback. Today a diverse range of legal clinics offer students the opportunity to work with actual clients under the close supervision of faculty and practitioners. Through clinics, students can learn important legal skills while serving disadvantaged people, community groups, public interest organizations, and the public at large.

The faculty is continually engaged in developing new teaching methods to complement curricular innovations. Case studies, similar to those of business schools, challenge students to consider the interaction of legal and nonlegal factors involved in a given situation. Interdisciplinary research projects allow faculty and students from the law school and other parts of the university, joined by practitioners and policymakers, to engage in applied research in fields such as technology policy and international law.

### ■ Library and Physical Facilities

Stanford Law School is housed at the center of the university campus in Crown Quadrangle, a four-building complex. Housed within Crown Quad is the Robert Crown Law Library, which holds more than 500,000 books and more than 8,000 current serial subscriptions. The Crown Library has recently undergone a renovation to create a spacious modern reading room. Features such as computer-based legal information systems, facilities for online data retrieval, and wireless Internet access make this library one of the nation's most complete and efficient legal research centers. As a member of the Research Libraries Group, Crown Library provides access to the holdings of other leading universities as well.

### ■ Special Programs

Stanford Law School has established joint study programs with several other Stanford departments, including a JD/MBA with the Graduate School of Business, a JD/PhD program with the Department of Economics, a JD/MS program with the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Environment and Resources, and a JD/PhD program with the Department of Sociology. Joint-degree programs are also offered with the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. In addition, the school will consider requests for joint programs on an individually designed basis. Students may engage in graduate-level research and policy-oriented study through the Stanford Center on Conflict and Negotiation, and the Programs in Law, Economics, and Business; Law, Science, and Technology; and International Law, Business, and Policy.

Stanford's clinical courses offer students the opportunity to undertake, under the close supervision of experienced practitioners, the roles and responsibilities of practicing lawyers. Students engage in witness examination, depositions, discovery, negotiations, drafting pleadings and memos, oral arguments, and analysis of tactical and ethical problems. Supervised work with clients may take place in any of Stanford's eight clinics, including our Community Law Clinic, Criminal Prosecution Clinic, Immigrants' Rights Clinic, or Supreme Court Litigation Clinic.

Through the school's externship program, students spend 16 to 40 hours per week in criminal law, environmental law, direct legal services, and civil rights and public policy practices, with supervision from a member of our faculty. Past externship placements have included the ACLU, Natural Resources Defense Council, MALDEF, district attorney and public defender offices, and the Department of Justice.

### ■ Housing

Stanford provides a variety of subsidized on-campus housing options. Housing is guaranteed to all new, matriculated students who apply for housing by the early-May deadline and are willing to live in any graduate residence. The university maintains listings of off-campus housing opportunities. More information about housing is available at the Housing Assignment Services website [www.stanford.edu/dept/hds/has/](http://www.stanford.edu/dept/hds/has/).

## ■ Student Activities

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Forty-five student organizations enrich the law school experience. Opportunities for scholarly work are provided through the *Stanford Law Review*; *Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties*; *Stanford Journal of International Law*; *Stanford Journal of Law, Business and Finance*; *Stanford Law and Policy Review*; *Stanford Technology Law Review*; and *Stanford Environmental Law Journal*. Advocacy skills are developed in moot court.

Students who are female, Asian, African American, Latino, Native American, Christian, Jewish, bisexual, gay, or lesbian will all find groups with their particular concerns. Other organizations focus on environmental law, international law, law and technology, and public interest law. Local affiliates of the Federalist Society, the American Constitution Society, and the National Lawyers Guild are present.

## ■ Expenses and Financial Aid

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Estimated expenses are as follows: For 2005–2006, full-time tuition was \$35,400, with additional expenses including housing estimated at \$19,434 for single students living on campus and \$23,088 for single students living off campus. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need. The purpose of financial aid is to assist students who would

otherwise be unable to pursue a legal education at Stanford. Approximately 80 percent of the student body receives tuition fellowship or loan assistance.

Stanford law students planning public service careers may apply for Public Service Fellowships for their second and third years of school. The school also offers funding to students who dedicate a law school summer to qualified public service work. And for graduates who take low-paying public interest jobs and have substantial educational debt, the school has an excellent Loan Repayment Assistance Program.

## ■ Career Services

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The Office of Career Services helps students find employment. More than 300 employers representing 600 offices worldwide participate in the spring and fall on-campus interview programs. The office also offers counseling and information on traditional and nontraditional careers and employers. The school encourages students to consider public interest and public-sector employment and assists students to secure such positions.

A survey of students graduating in the class of 2004 shows the following employment patterns: law firm associates, 58 percent; judicial clerks, 30 percent; and business (legal and nonlegal), public interest, government, or law teaching, 12 percent.

## Applicant Profile

Our admission process takes into consideration many factors besides the undergraduate GPA and LSAT score. A statistical grid as is typically provided here, only takes into consideration

these two factors. We have chosen not to provide applicants with such a grid because our admission process would not be accurately portrayed.