

The University of Iowa College of Law

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■ Introduction

The University of Iowa College of Law, founded in 1865, is the oldest law school in continuous operation west of the Mississippi River. Iowa enjoys a top national reputation, and its faculty is renowned for its outstanding scholarship and teaching.

The college is located in Iowa City, a cosmopolitan college town that is home to a dynamic teaching and research university and over 60,000 people. Students from all 50 states and roughly 100 countries attend the university. Iowa City offers a rich cultural life, Big Ten athletic events, and the world-famous Iowa Writers' Workshop.

The Boyd Law Building's central campus location on a bluff overlooking the Iowa River provides a professional enclave well suited to the college's intensive style of education and easy access to the academic, cultural, social, and recreational resources of a major research university.

■ Admission

Iowa strives to enroll a student body that reflects the academic quality and diversity expected of a leading national law school. The college's numbers-plus policy looks beyond numerical indicators and utilizes a full file review to evaluate an applicant's potential contribution to enhancing classroom discussion. Factors such as maturity, work experience, ability to overcome adversity, and cultural background are considered.

■ Curriculum

The students are the heart of our institution. A broad and wide-ranging curriculum, small classes, accessible professors, and caring administrators are not the only examples of Iowa's student-centered orientation.

Iowa's curriculum establishes a solid foundation for a lifetime of professional growth and personal development. Because the college encourages all students to take an active role in their professional training, we go the extra measure to ensure that our students have the proper resources and learning environment to maximize their individual development as professionals.

First-year students have at least one class in the fall semester with approximately 30 students and one class in the spring semester with approximately 20 students; courses taught in this small section format allow extensive class participation and interaction with a faculty member. After completing the set of required first-year courses exploring fundamental legal concepts, students plan their own courses of study from a rich menu of mainstream, specialized, and clinical offerings. Second- and third-year courses cover the range of specialties within the legal profession, allowing students to sample liberally and follow professional interests by focusing on a particular career specialization or obtaining the widest possible exposure to the legal landscape.

At Iowa, students benefit from the serious commitment the college places on both interdisciplinary study and the study of international and comparative law. The college recognizes that effective lawyering in the twenty-first century requires an understanding of the theories and methodologies of

law-related disciplines and an understanding of the workings of international law and foreign legal systems. Such an understanding is crucial to the formulation of public policy at all levels of our society. Interdisciplinary courses and research programs are actively encouraged; nearly one third of the college's faculty members offer courses or conduct research in the international and comparative law fields.

■ Iowa Law Library

The University of Iowa College of Law Library is consistently recognized as one of the finest and largest law libraries anywhere. The library's international holdings are impressive; it includes a complete collection of United Nations documents since the UN's founding in 1945. The 2004 American Bar Association Annual Statistics considers the University of Iowa College of Law Library to be the finest or one of the finest law libraries in the country, when measured by total volumes and volume equivalents, respectively. The Law Library also receives significant and high praise in the 2004 National Jurist Survey of Law Libraries which are located in the United States.

Additionally, wireless Internet is available throughout the library.

■ Special Programs

The first writing center in the country established specifically for a law school community, Iowa's Writing Resource Center serves as an extension of the classroom and supplements the college's small-section writing program. Members of the writing center's staff help law students with a broad range of writing, including class assignments, law journal articles, and résumés and cover letters. The center's staff teaches strategies for overcoming writer's block, adapting materials for various audiences, and generally improving the quality of students' writing.

The Academic Achievement Program (AAP) helps students achieve their full academic potential as they move from successful undergraduate careers to face the new challenges of law study. AAP presents a variety of programs, including a first-semester lecture series for new students. Individual study-skills counseling is also available for all students.

■ Legal Clinic

The Clinical Law Program gives students opportunities to gain experience in many different areas of substantive law, including assistive technology, consumer rights, criminal defense, disability rights, domestic violence, general civil, immigration, nonprofit organizations, and workers' rights. Externship opportunities are available with federal trial courts, the Iowa Attorney General, legal services offices, US Attorney offices, Federal Public Defender's offices, and the Iowa City City Attorney among others. Through the representation of real clients, students are able to develop and hone a diverse complement of lawyering skills from interviewing, counseling, and drafting court papers to trial practice, appellate advocacy, legislative lobbying, and policy development.

■ International Law

Iowa offers one of the nation's strongest programs for the study of international and comparative law. More than 40 percent of the faculty regularly teach or conduct research on international and comparative law subjects. Iowa offers three study-abroad programs. Iowa is the stateside home of the London Law Consortium through which seven US law schools conduct a study-abroad program for a spring semester in London. The Iowa/Bordeaux Summer Program offers one month of intensive coursework in Arcachon, France. Students also have the opportunity to participate in an exchange program with Bucerius Law School in Germany. In addition, students may receive credit for participating in other study-abroad programs offered by ABA-approved law schools.

■ Accelerated/Summer Program

Iowa offers two starting dates for entering students: May and August. These are not separate applicant pools, and the qualifications for admission are the same. Admission to the May entering class does not guarantee admission to the fall, or vice versa. Students who elect to enter law school in August may attend summer school at any point during their academic careers.

Students entering in May complete nearly a full semester of work in the first summer term, which consists of 2 five and a-half week sessions. All students, whether they start in May or August, may "accelerate" their course of study toward the JD degree by taking summer and intersession classes. The minimum time of study is no fewer than 27 months after the student has started law study at this law school or at a law school from which transfer credit has been accepted.

■ Student Activities

Alianza (formerly known as the Chicano Hispanic Association of Legal Education); American Constitution Society; Amnesty International; Asian American Law Students Association; Black Law Students Association; Christian Legal Society; Client Counseling; Environmental Law Society; Equal Justice Foundation; The Federalist Society; Intellectual Property Law Society; International Law Society; Iowa Campaign for Human Rights; *Iowa Law Review*; Iowa Law Student Animal Legal Defense Fund; Iowa Student Bar Association; J. Reuben Clark Law Society; *Journal of Corporation Law*; *Journal of Gender, Race and Justice*; *Journal of Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems*; Law Students for Choice; Moot Court; National

Lawyers Guild; Native American Law Students Association; Order of the Coif; Organization for Women Law Students and Staff; The Outlaws (formerly known as the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association); Parents/Partners Weekend; Phi Alpha Delta; Pro Bono Society; Stephenson Competition; Supreme Court Day; Trial Advocacy.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

All admitted students are automatically considered for merit scholarships and fellowships based on their academic achievements. A separate application is not required. The college administers its substantial financial aid program to advance the goals of its selective admission policy. More than 90 percent of our students receive some form of financial aid. Grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans are awarded on a need or merit basis for the purpose of providing access to legal education for the talented and diverse students admitted to the college. A number of part-time employment opportunities are also available to second- and third-year students; nonresident students with a quarter-time research assistant position (10 hours per week) are classified as a resident for tuition purposes. Eligibility for financial aid based on need is established by completion of the FAFSA, available at www.fafsa.ed.gov/.

■ Career Services

Each year the Career Services Office provides students with access to numerous job fairs, posts openings for over 2,500 employers interested in Iowa students, and hosts a substantial number of employers for its on-campus interview program. Over the past five years, more than 1,000 employers have visited the campus to recruit students for positions in private firms, corporations, and government as well as for judicial clerkships. Additionally, over the past five years, between 97 and 100 percent of our students have been employed within nine months of graduation. The Career Services Office strives to work with all students throughout their law school careers to help them seek and find summer employment as well as permanent employment. Be it private practice, in-house corporate, government, or academics to name a few, our alumni excel in their legal professions.

Applicant Profile Not Available