

University of Minnesota Law School

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■ Introduction

The University of Minnesota Law School, founded in 1888, is one of the country's premier law schools. The quality of Minnesota's faculty, the academic credentials of its students, and the caliber of its library and physical facilities are the strongest in the history of the school. The school's century-old tradition of excellence and innovation in legal education has made it among the best in the nation. In keeping with its midwest traditions, the Law School provides a personal, collegial environment for the study of law. At the same time, the school's location in the midst of a thriving cosmopolitan area provides a variety of academic, employment, cultural, and recreational opportunities. Students have easy access to the resources of a world-class research university and to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, one of the most progressive and livable metropolitan communities in the country.

■ Faculty

The faculty's wide-ranging expertise allows students to choose from an academically rich and innovative curriculum that integrates theory and doctrine with skills, ethics, and practice.

Faculty members are prolific and influential scholars, having published over 250 books and close to 2,500 articles.

Forty-eight percent of the tenured faculty are invited members of the prestigious American Law Institute, and 87 percent of them have been honored with chair-level appointments. Members of the faculty include a recent Chair of the United Nations SubCommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (the first US citizen to chair the commission since Eleanor Roosevelt), a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a former Counselor on International Law for the US Department of State.

But while the faculty's scholarship has earned them national acclaim, their equally energetic passion for teaching and mentoring, along with a 13:1 student-faculty ratio, have earned them the respect and appreciation of their students.

■ Student Body/Admission

With 270 students in the entering class, the student body is large enough to enjoy the benefits of diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and interests, while remaining small enough to foster the kind of collegial and supportive community that is a hallmark of Minnesota life.

Although the atmosphere and camaraderie reflect distinctly Minnesotan values, 42 states, 7 countries, and 209 undergraduate institutions are represented in the current JD student body. The admissions committee looks beyond a simple evaluation of LSAT and undergraduate GPA to compose a class that will produce leaders in the legal profession. Many students have advanced degrees and/or prior work experience.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The award winning Walter F. Mondale Hall was substantially expanded in 2001. The building houses all faculty offices, five law school research institutes, model classrooms in varying sizes, a beautiful auditorium, the law clinic, a cafeteria, the law

school bookstore, student lockers, offices for student organizations and publications, a variety of lounge areas, and a computer lab. All incoming JD students are issued laptops, and wireless access is available in all student areas of the building.

Mondale Hall also houses the law library, which is the eighth largest in the US. The library offers students 24-hour access. The professional staff takes pride in the outstanding collection of materials and in the individualized service they provide to students and faculty.

■ Curriculum

Hallmarks of the Minnesota curriculum include an unusually strong public law selection, a distinguished tradition in constitutional law and scholarship, and a program of human rights and international law that is respected around the world. Minnesota is one of only a handful of schools with three years of writing requirements and enjoys one of the smallest first-year writing section sizes, with 12–14 students per section. The upper-level curriculum includes a remarkably diverse selection of clinical and simulation courses.

Drawing on the strength of our world-class university, qualified students may pursue dual or joint degrees with a myriad of nationally ranked graduate and professional schools. Especially noteworthy is Minnesota's unique joint-degree program in law, health, and the life sciences.

■ Clinical Programs

With 16 separate clinics, Minnesota has one of the country's largest and most active clinical programs. Through the clinics, students represent real clients under the close tutelage of the clinic faculty. Over 55 percent of the student body participates in a live-client clinic prior to graduation, providing more than 18,000 hours of pro bono legal work for the Twin Cities community each year.

■ Special Programs

Minnesota hosts international exchange programs in: France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden. Starting in the summer of 2006, Minnesota will host the Summer Study Abroad Program in Beijing, China. These programs enable interested students to study abroad and allow our students to benefit from the international perspectives students from these countries bring to our classrooms.

Through the Law School Public Service Program, students are asked to perform 50 hours of pro bono legal service for low-income and disadvantaged Minnesotans. Those who complete at least 50 hours of service are recognized for their dedication with a notation on their transcript and at the graduation ceremony.

Five major research institutes are housed in the law school: Human Rights Center; Institute on Race and Poverty; Kommerstad Center for Business Law and Entrepreneurship; Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment, and the Life Sciences; and Minnesota Center for Legal Studies. These institutes enrich the school's intellectual life, contribute to policy debate and formation, and provide research and employment opportunities for selected law students.

■ Student Activities

Minnesota hosts four student-edited journals: *Minnesota Law Review*; *Law and Inequality: A Journal of Theory and Practice*; *Minnesota Journal of International Law*; and *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science, and Technology*. Students receive academic credit for their journal work.

Students also receive credit for moot court participation. The breadth of Minnesota's moot court program is unusual, with eight programs spanning a wide variety of subject areas: Civil Rights Moot Court, Intellectual Property Moot Court, Jessup International Law Moot Court, Environmental Law Moot Court, Wagner Labor Law Moot Court, National Moot Court, ABA Moot Court, and Maynard Pirsig Moot Court.

Student extracurricular activities include 37 separate student organizations, spanning the full spectrum of political view points, social interests, and intellectual and recreational activities (not to mention a full-blown musical theatre production).

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

In recent years, approximately 85 percent of the student body has received financial aid, primarily loans, but also including a substantial number of scholarships. Second- and third-year students also may apply for research assistantships.

■ Career and Professional Development

With alumni in all 50 states and over 260 federal and state court judges nationwide, our graduates are leaders in the judiciary, government, law practice, business, and academics. Employers interview on campus, at regional interview programs sponsored by the Career and Professional Development Office, and at job fairs for nearly 700 offices, including law firms, corporations, and governmental agencies from around the US. Employers nationwide regularly solicit résumés from our students for job postings. Each year, 24–27 percent of our graduates accept prestigious judicial clerkships, and 99 percent are employed within six months of graduation.

Applicant Profile

University of Minnesota Law School

LSAT Score	GPA																				Total		
	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		Apps	Adm	
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	
175-180	12	11	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	23
170-174	31	30	30	26	18	16	14	13	10	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	108	93	
165-169	114	106	126	110	89	71	73	52	16	8	11	3	1	0	4	0	0	0	6	2	440	352	
160-164	257	131	326	106	228	38	112	17	38	4	17	1	6	0	0	0	0	18	6	1002	303		
155-159	162	21	182	16	180	18	94	3	40	5	17	1	10	1	1	0	1	0	7	1	694	66	
150-154	76	0	120	2	99	2	64	1	27	0	15	0	2	0	5	0	2	0	12	0	422	5	
145-149	21	0	43	0	50	0	44	0	25	0	7	0	9	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	205	0	
140-144	10	0	13	0	19	0	27	0	16	0	7	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	99	0	
135-139	1	0	3	0	9	0	12	0	7	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	38	0	
130-134	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	13	0	
125-129	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	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	684	299	850	265	698	149	447	88	183	24	80	6	35	1	15	0	4	0	55	10	3051	842	

Apps = Number of Applicants
Adm = Number Admitted
Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.

This grid includes all applicants who earned 120-180 LSAT scores.
This chart is to be used as a general guide only. Nonnumerical factors are strongly considered for all applicants.