

The University of New Mexico School of Law

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■ Introduction

Located in Albuquerque, the School of Law is known for its small classes, easy student-faculty interaction, and special programs in clinical law, natural resources law, and Indian law. The 11:1 student-faculty ratio, one of the best in the country, facilitates a sense of community in the educational experience. It also allows the school to offer more courses with smaller enrollments. The school is a member of the AALS and is approved by the ABA. The University of New Mexico is the state's flagship institution with nearly 31,000 students on its main and branch campuses.

■ Curriculum

The Juris Doctor program is a full-time day curriculum. Students normally complete the required 86 hours of law credit for the JD degree in three academic years (six semesters). First-year students must take a full first-year curriculum, including basic courses in torts, contracts, civil procedure, property, criminal law, and constitutional law. Emphasis is also placed on the skills of advocacy: legal writing, oral argument, litigation, counseling, and negotiation. First-year classes range in size from approximately 13 to 60 students. Second- and third-year courses are elective except for Ethics and a clinical program. Typically, one-half of the electives have fewer than 15 students. Every student must complete the advanced writing requirement.

■ Special Programs

Clinical Law. UNM's program in Clinical Law is regarded as one of the finest practical-lawyering programs in the country and includes the Law Practice Clinic, the Child Advocacy Clinic, the Economic Development and Tax Clinic, the Community Lawyering Clinic, and the Southwest Indian Law Clinic. Students may also participate in the extern placement program and elect assignment to a judge's office, the Public Defender's Office, federal and state administrative offices, and private practitioners. Unlike most other law schools, UNM requires six credit hours of clinical work for graduation. In 1970, the New Mexico Supreme Court adopted a rule permitting students to practice before state courts.

Indian Law. UNM has long been a leader in Indian Law and has developed one of the most comprehensive programs in the country. The school offers students the Southwest Indian Law Clinic, the *Tribal Law Journal*, the Certificate in Indian Law (ILC), scholarly research, guest lectures, seminars, and social activities. An ILC student completes the JD while enrolling in 21 hours of required and elective Indian law courses.

Natural Resources Law. The UNM School of Law is widely known for its strength in the areas of natural resources and environmental law and offers a number of electives in these subjects. Students who want to gain a more comprehensive understanding of resource problems may participate in the Natural Resources Law Certificate Program, which includes work on the *Natural Resources Journal*, an internationally recognized quarterly.

Business Law. UNM's Economic Development Program gives students the training they need to become well prepared

business lawyers. An enhanced curriculum includes the Economic Development and Tax Clinic, which offers services to small businesses, start-ups, nonprofit organizations, and economic development programs. Students learn how to advise entrepreneurs on a wide range of business issues.

International Law. The school has developed a variety of programs and courses that provide opportunities for students interested in international law. Students may expand their experience through coursework at the law school and through the study-abroad and exchange programs.

- **Guanajuato Summer Law Institute.** The School of Law, in conjunction with the Universidad de Guanajuato, Southwestern University, and Texas Tech University, offers six weeks of summer law study in Guanajuato, Mexico. The institute features an introduction to Mexican Law and international law subjects related to Latin America. The institute is ABA approved.
- **North American Exchange Program.** Students can participate in a semester exchange with a Canadian or Mexican law school. Students may visit for a semester in the second or third years and receive up to 12 credits.
- **Tasmania.** Students have the opportunity to study for one semester at the University of Tasmania School of Law and receive up to 12 credits.

■ Dual-degree Program

Four formal dual JD and master's degree programs are offered: the JD and MA in Public Administration, the JD and MBA, the JD and MA in Water Resources, and the JD and MA in Latin American Studies. Students can also earn the JD degree and an MA, MS, or PhD in other academic fields. Students must satisfy the admission and academic requirements of both the School of Law and the Graduate School.

■ Facilities

The School of Law, a state-of-the-art facility, is located on the northern edge of the UNM campus. The building is wireless and laptop friendly. The law school includes classroom and seminar rooms, all faculty offices, student organization and publication offices, two computer labs, the Clinical Program, and the law library. The law school is also home to the American Indian Law Center, Inc. and the Utton Transboundary Resources Center. The Utton Center uses multidisciplinary scholarship to address complex resource issues, focusing primarily on the Rio Bravo/Rio Grande and the Mexican-US border. Adjacent to the law school is the New Mexico Law Center in which the Institute of Public Law and the Albuquerque branch of the New Mexico Court of Appeals are located.

Law Library. The UNM Law Library is the largest legal research facility in New Mexico. The library offers a wide variety of electronic products, and its book and microform collection of 425,093 includes special collections in American Indian law, Mexican and Latin American law, land grant law, and natural resources law. The library's 32,443 square feet of space provides 356 seats, pocket lounges and browsing areas, audiovisual carrels, group study rooms, photocopy facilities, and the school's second computer lab for student use.

Career and Student Services. The school's smaller size allows for individualized attention in all aspects of career development and job search methodology. Regular workshops are provided on résumé and cover letter writing, interviewing, and job search strategies. In addition, the law school sponsors on-campus interviews, a career fair, a mock interview program, and presentations on various practice opportunities. Career counseling for students and graduates is provided by two full-time attorney counselors.

■ Student Activities

Extracurricular activities include the *Natural Resources Journal*, the *New Mexico Law Review*, the *Tribal Law Journal*, and several moot court and mock trial competitions. All law students are members of the university's Graduate/Professional Student Association and the Student Bar Association. Students may participate in 30 law-student organizations.

■ Admission and Financial Aid

Applicants must take the LSAT, register for the LSDAS, and have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or

college before registration in the fall. A five-member committee reviews applications. Substantial weight is given to the applicant's personal statement, prior work experience, extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, and other information supplied by the applicant. Applications from New Mexico residents are given a preference. Students apply for financial aid by filing the FAFSA; no additional loan application is necessary. Types of financial aid include loans, grants, and work-study. The school awards grants to students based on the Access Group's Need Access application.

■ Albuquerque

The Albuquerque metropolitan area has a population of approximately 750,000. Located along the Rio Grande, the city is located at a high desert elevation of 5,000–7,000 feet and is surrounded by the Sandia Mountains.

From golf to skiing to hiking to flyfishing, students have access to outdoor New Mexico. In addition, students have the opportunity to visit museums and art galleries and take in concerts and theater. The combination of multiple cultures reflected in food, music, art, architecture, and local customs heightens Albuquerque's appeal.

Applicant Profile

The University of New Mexico School of Law

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

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	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	
170-174	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	4
165-169	9	9	4	3	3	3	3	2	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	27	20	
160-164	8	6	32	19	24	11	17	5	13	6	9	3	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	110	50	
155-159	28	12	56	21	63	20	48	10	36	9	17	6	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	255	79	
150-154	31	8	42	10	84	12	82	7	43	4	24	1	13	1	4	0	1	0	4	0	328	43		
145-149	17	8	39	3	50	7	69	12	26	1	20	1	12	0	4	0	1	0	3	0	241	32		
140-144	3	0	9	2	22	2	38	1	20	1	13	1	11	1	7	0	0	0	1	0	124	8		
135-139	1	0	3	0	5	0	11	0	8	0	10	1	6	0	5	0	3	0	3	0	55	1		
130-134	1	0	1	0	2	0	6	0	3	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	22	0		
125-129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		
120-124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Total	102	47	188	60	253	55	274	37	155	23	99	14	57	3	24	0	6	0	15	1	1173	240		

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.