

University of North Dakota School of Law

Office of the Dean, PO Box 9003

Grand Forks, ND 58202

Phone: 701.777.2104; Fax: 701.777.6447

E-mail: hoffman@law.und.edu; Website: www.law.und.edu

■ Introduction

Founded in 1899, the UND School of Law blends quality, opportunity, and a sense of community in its education of approximately 230 students. The school is a fully accredited graduate professional school awarding the JD degree. It has been a member of the AALS since 1910 and was approved by the ABA in 1923. UND law is part of a highly respected, nationally recognized university, located in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Grand Forks, a community of nearly 60,000, is in the heart of the Red River Valley on the North Dakota/Minnesota border. It offers a small-town feel with all the opportunities of an urban area and has a large legal community including county, state, and federal trial courts.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The Thormodsgard Law Library manages a growing collection of comprehensive resources necessary for the study of law and provides a home for students. The school and library are linked everywhere with high-speed Ethernet and wireless access points. The Computer Services office supports Web, e-mail, file sharing, database, group scheduling, servers, and the in-house video system as well as providing support for student laptops. The elegant, traditionally appointed Baker courtroom provides facilities for trial and appellate arguments and is used by the North Dakota Supreme Court and occasionally by other federal and district courts.

■ Curriculum

The curriculum of the School of Law covers a period of three full academic years. All the work of the first year is prescribed. Courses in the second and third years are elective, except for the course in Professional Responsibility.

■ Special Programs

The size of the student body is ideally suited for close professional contact with faculty, the visiting courts, legal professionals, and alumni. Students are given ample opportunity to participate in the governance of the school. Elected members of the Student Bar Association attend regularly scheduled faculty meetings and are active voting participants in most law school committees.

In consultation with area tribes and Indian leaders, the UND School of Law has established the region's first Northern Plains Indian Law Center. The center is a clearinghouse for American Indian legal materials and provides a forum for discussing and resolving legal issues confronting Indian tribes, the states, and the federal government. It also supports tribal advocacy training programs. Among the center's programs are the Tribal Judicial Institute, the Institute for the Study of Tribal Gaming Law and Policy, the Native American Law Project, and the Tribal Environmental Law Project.

The Clinical Education Program of the UND School of Law provides students with the opportunity to integrate the theory and practice of law in a real law office setting. In the clinic, students assume the role of lawyers and, in doing so, move beyond the classroom into the world of law practice. In the

course of representing their clients, students gain first-hand experience with substantive law, the many skills of lawyering, and the rules of professional ethics. Students reflect on their experiences during clinic class discussions, "case-rounds" sessions, one-on-one faculty supervision, and legal research and writing assignments.

A comprehensive Externship Program allows students an opportunity to earn academic credit while gaining practical experience in a variety of placements. Externship students receive local and state field placements throughout the academic year, as well as during the summer in the Federal Externship Program.

The school has an extensive Trial Advocacy Program in which students learn trial skills in a simulated advocacy setting under the close supervision of experienced trial lawyers. Each student in this course is responsible, with one student advocate cocounsel, for the trial of at least one full civil or criminal case during the semester.

During sessions of the state legislature, selected students serve as legislative interns at the North Dakota state capital in Bismarck.

Central Legal Research provides select students with opportunities to work with attorneys and judges across North Dakota on the issues and problems faced in practice. Focusing primarily on criminal law and procedure issues, CLR students work closely with an experienced lawyer and with each other, honing their skills by writing, researching, analyzing, and discussing their individual projects. CLR students receive a full in-state tuition waiver and develop a broad writing portfolio.

UND offers a joint Juris Doctor/Master of Public Administration (JD/MPA) degree. Utilizing free summer time, the joint-degree program could be completed in four years or less.

The UND School of Law is one of approximately 80 law schools throughout the United States that have a chapter of the national legal honorary society, Order of the Coif. The Order of the Coif was founded to encourage legal scholarship and advance the ethical standards of the legal profession.

UND law students may receive credit for summer law study at the University of Oslo Faculty of Law, Oslo, Norway. The program provides six weeks of instruction and offers students specialized instruction in such areas as the Norwegian legal system, comparative criminal justice, and European law. As part of this exchange program, up to 15 Norwegian law students also attend the UND School of Law during the spring semester.

■ Admission

The School of Law has no specific undergraduate course prerequisites and agrees with the observations in the introduction to this guide. The school admits students only in August and only for full-time study. Applications are available upon request. The policy of the faculty of the School of Law is to admit those applicants who, in the determination of the faculty, will be able to satisfactorily complete the law school program. The admission committee utilizes the following criteria to achieve this goal: (1) LSAT score; (2) undergraduate GPA; (3) past performance in an academic environment; (4) past performance in activities that would tend to predict the

applicant's ability to complete successfully the law school program; and (5) other evidence relevant to predicted success and prospective professional responsibility. The total number of students admitted is, of course, limited by considerations involving space and faculty courseload.

The law school does not have a nonresident quota; however, preference is given to residents.

Students who have begun the study of law in other accredited law schools may be admitted in exceptional circumstances to advanced standing, provided they have fulfilled the requirements for admission to the University of North Dakota School of Law. Ordinarily, no transfer credit will be allowed for more than two semesters of work completed elsewhere, nor will transfer credit be given for any courses in which an unsatisfactory or failing grade has been received. Moreover, admission may be conditioned upon meeting such additional requirements as the faculty may prescribe. No student will be admitted as a transfer student with advanced standing who is not eligible to continue as a student at his or her present law school.

■ Student Activities

The *North Dakota Law Review* provides research and writing opportunities. Students participate in various moot court activities, with the North Dakota Supreme Court judging the moot court finals. Student organizations include the Environmental Law Society, Law Women's Caucus, Native American Law Students Association, Public Interest Law Students Association, Student Trial Lawyers Association, and an active Student Bar Association. One of the more popular activities during the year is the Malpractice Bowl, pitting law students against medical school students in an annual football game. The School of Law also has chapters of the Order of the Coif and legal fraternities.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

Tuition and fees per semester for academic year 2005–2006 were \$3,801/resident, \$5,091/contiguous states, and \$8,110/nonresident. The semester fees include student activity and university fees totaling \$446 per semester and a \$775 per semester professional fee. The student activity and university fees cover payment for health services, the university center, campus publications, and drama and athletic events. The professional fee is assessed by the School of Law and is used to support and improve the law school program. Fees are subject to change without notice. Loan funds for all qualified students are available through the university Student Financial Aid Office, PO Box 8371, Grand Forks, ND 58202.

■ Housing

The university has a comprehensive housing system with options including family housing facilities, student apartment housing, and traditional residence halls for single students. For more detailed information visit their website at www.housing.und.edu.

■ Career Services

The Career Services Office serves students and alumni by assisting with the job-search process and employment information, and provides job seekers with information about types of employment, specific employers, positions available, and wage and salary information. The office also assists in job-search strategies and skills such as résumé writing, interviewing techniques, and electronic job-search strategies. Over 90 percent of graduates find employment within six months of graduation. While a majority choose employment in North Dakota and Minnesota, graduates are employed nationally and internationally.

Applicant Profile

University of North Dakota 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		
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	0
170-174	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
165-169	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
160-164	6	6	5	4	1	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	17	
155-159	12	12	4	4	10	8	6	5	5	2	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	43	33	
150-154	15	15	16	14	20	18	17	10	19	4	1	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	62	
145-149	9	8	29	19	31	16	26	5	20	1	9	1	14	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	141	52		
140-144	9	7	11	2	9	4	17	1	12	3	8	0	8	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	78	19		
135-139	1	0	3	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	6	1	4	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	29	2		
130-134	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	1		
125-129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	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	0	
Total	55	51	69	43	75	47	74	25	64	12	30	4	32	4	7	1	5	0	6	2	417	189		

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.