

Washburn University School of Law

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■ Introduction

The Washburn University School of Law is celebrating its second century of providing students with quality legal education. Washburn Law opened in 1903, became a member of the AALS in 1905, and, in 1923, appeared on the first list of law schools fully accredited by the ABA. Today it boasts a diverse and accessible faculty, a dynamic student community, and topflight electronic library resources. Students enjoy a comparatively low cost of living in Topeka. The city offers a wide range of opportunities for clerkships, externships, and employment.

■ Curriculum

Students may begin their study in either the fall or spring semester. The first-year curriculum is prescribed and includes an intensive course in legal analysis, research, and writing. More than 90 percent of first-year students participate in the Academic Success Program, a small-group supplemental class discussion facilitated by academically successful upper-level students. Second- and third-year students satisfy advanced writing and oral presentation requirements and take one or more classes from a group of perspectives on law courses.

■ Centers for Excellence

Washburn has a long tradition of excellence in teaching, producing some of the finest practicing attorneys in the region. Washburn's curriculum is enhanced by its three signature programs in advocacy, business and transactional law, and children and family law.

Business and Transactional Law Center—The center offers students an innovative education in all aspects of transactional law, including coursework in crucial skills. Whether a student is interested in corporate and securities law, agribusiness law, banking, financial institution regulation, entrepreneurial law, real estate development law, oil and gas law, or a general business practice, students will be able to prepare themselves for a successful career.

Center for Excellence in Advocacy—The center trains law students in the persuasive and skilled use of advocacy techniques. The center also supports research in trial behavior, trial process, and effective advocacy. Students hone their advocacy skills in Washburn's live client law clinic and in a variety of advocacy skills courses. The center coordinates student participation in trial advocacy, negotiation, and client counseling. The center also sponsors national and regional advocacy conferences and hosts a jurist in residence each year.

Children and Family Law Center—The center supports education, interdisciplinary research, advocacy, and training services focused on children and families involved in the legal system. Washburn houses the American Bar Association's *Family Law Quarterly*. Students working in the center have the opportunity to take a range of courses related to children and families and to participate in the Washburn Law Clinic representing clients in divorce, child in need of care, and other family law cases.

■ Certificate Programs

Washburn Law offers certificates of specialization in advocacy, corporate law, estate planning, family law, natural resources law, tax law, and transactional law. The certificate programs allow students to fully develop their legal interests in these fields. Students who earn certificates graduate with a highly developed working knowledge of the practice area.

■ Law Clinic

In 1970, Washburn became one of the first law schools in the nation to offer a program of clinical legal education. Clinical education is the study of law through faculty-supervised representation of real clients in the areas of family, juvenile, criminal, and civil law. Students provide a full range of legal services, including new programs in Native American law and transactional law.

■ Externships

Washburn's externship program allows students to earn course credit through placement in legal settings outside the law school. Students can experience the practice of law in a wide variety of settings tailored to their specific interests and needs. Students are closely supervised by an attorney and by the externship director.

■ International Programs

Washburn Law offers a summer study abroad program at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

■ January Start Program

Washburn's January Start Program permits students to begin law school in January. These students may either complete law school at the normal pace or they may participate in the Accelerated Degree Program.

■ Accelerated Degree Program

This program allows students to complete law school in two and a half years by taking courses during both summers.

■ Facilities and Technology

The law library, one of the best law libraries in the country according to *National Jurist* magazine, is a leader in the use of information technology. Students have wireless access throughout the building. Classrooms are equipped with audio, video, and computer technology. The renovated Robinson Courtroom/Bianchino Technology Center provides a state-of-the-art high-tech courtroom.

■ Admission

While an applicant's LSAT score and GPA are significant factors, there is no bright-line cutoff. The Admission Committee carefully considers other factors, including life and work

experience, graduate coursework, cultural background, and extracurricular activities. Washburn welcomes applications from qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or marital or parental status.

■ Student Activities

There are more than 30 active student organizations; two law fraternities; Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American Law Student Associations; the Women’s Legal Forum; the Lesbian and Gay Network; Volunteer Society; and societies for students interested in environmental, tax, international, and public interest law specialties.

Students are selected for membership on the Board of Editors of the *Washburn Law Journal*. Students also have opportunities to be student editors for the *Family Law Quarterly*, a publication of the ABA Family Law Section.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

Scholarships are awarded based upon a combination of academic performance and need. Contribution to diversity is

considered in making scholarship awards. Resident status for tuition purposes can be established with a primary Kansas residence after six months. The Financial Aid Office assists law students in procuring federal loans and financial aid. Housing costs are reasonable. Most students live in the residential areas surrounding the campus.

■ Professional Development

The Office of Professional Development offers programs that emphasize assessment of career goals, exploration of varied applications of a legal education, and support for the transition into the professional marketplace. The office makes available extensive resources regarding local, regional, national, and international legal employment in the public and private sectors, graduate and foreign study, and judicial clerkships.

Washburn graduates enjoy great success in seeking employment. Washburn law school alumni reside in every state in the nation, the District of Columbia, and several foreign countries.

Applicant Profile

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This chart is to be used for general purpose information only. Nonnumerical factors are weighed heavily in all admission decisions.

LSAT Score	GPA																		
	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		Below 2.25		Total		
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	
175-180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
170-174	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
165-169	1	1	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	13	13	13
160-164	11	10	14	13	6	6	5	5	4	3	6	6	0	0	1	0	47	43	43
155-159	14	14	21	20	19	17	23	22	14	12	11	10	10	5	3	1	115	101	101
150-154	29	28	47	38	48	40	50	30	55	18	32	11	10	1	6	2	277	168	168
145-149	23	7	48	7	53	1	49	5	52	1	24	2	18	0	11	0	278	23	23
140-144	3	0	25	1	25	0	35	3	24	1	15	0	9	0	6	0	142	5	5
Below 140	2	0	5	0	13	0	17	0	16	0	13	0	8	0	13	2	87	2	2
Total	83	60	164	83	167	67	181	67	167	37	102	30	55	6	41	6	960	356	356

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