

Willamette University College of Law

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■ Introduction

From the time the first student entered the classroom in 1883, Willamette University College of Law has been a pioneer of legal education in the western United States. Located across the street from the state capitol complex, the College of Law is situated in the epicenter of Oregon law, government, and business.

Willamette University is one of the nation's oldest academic institutions. It is situated in the historic riverfront capital city of Salem, Oregon. The university is an independent institution historically related to The United Methodist Church. College of Law students are members of a distinguished university community of 2,500 students enrolled in the undergraduate College of Liberal Arts and in graduate programs offered by the School of Education and the Atkinson Graduate School of Management.

The College of Law is an intimate, highly selective and intellectually challenging school and a widely recognized leader in legal education. The college is committed to the pursuit of academic and professional excellence in a supportive environment that maximizes each student's unique potential. Our small enrollment of approximately 450 full-time students creates an intellectual intimacy unmatched by most law schools in the United States.

For the past 122 years, Willamette has trained talented, skilled lawyers who stand on equal footing with the very best legal practitioners in the country. Among the College of Law's distinguished alumni are numerous heads of Fortune 500 companies and more than a dozen Supreme Court justices and members of the US Senate and House of Representatives.

■ Faculty

A law school faculty serves as both the brain and heart of the institution. Willamette's law faculty includes some of the most respected legal minds in the country. Together, they have more than 250 years of legal practice experience and more than 500 years of legal education experience. Yet it is their authentic, deep dedication—both as educators and as mentors—that distinguishes them from others.

These scholars and master teachers are nationally recognized for their research, publications, and contributions to the law, particularly in the areas of constitutional law, commercial and business law, international and comparative law, environmental law, and dispute resolution.

■ Academic Programs

The Doctor of Jurisprudence program (JD) requires three years of full-time study. After successfully completing the first year, in which all courses are prescribed, students may choose to create an individual program, electing courses from Willamette's broad-based curriculum.

The College of Law also offers a four-year joint-degree program that leads to the JD and MBA for Business, Government, and Not-for-Profit Management. Managed in concert with Willamette's Atkinson Graduate School of Management, the joint-degree program saves students one additional year of study. Students must apply separately for

admission to each degree program and may begin the program either in the College of Law or in the Atkinson School. Students may apply prior to matriculating to Willamette or while in their first year of either the JD or MBA program.

Willamette's nationally recognized certificate programs further solidify the strong educational foundation provided at the College of Law. These specialized programs prepare students for an exceptional legal career and further distinguish them from other law school graduates. The four certificate programs include International and Comparative Law, Business Law, Law and Government, and Dispute Resolution. Note that a separate application is required after the first year of law school to gain admission to the certificate programs.

Willamette's College of Law also offers the LLM in Transnational Law, an advanced degree available to those who have completed the JD at an ABA-accredited American law school or its equivalent from a foreign law school. For more information, visit www.willamette.edu/wucl/llm.

■ Facility

The College of Law is housed on the beautiful and lush 65-acre campus of Willamette University in the award winning Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center. The school offers all the cutting-edge amenities you would expect from a top law school. Bright, modern classrooms provide comfortable environments for learning and boast a state-of-the-art wireless network. Law students have full access to the college and the law library—24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The J.W. Long Law Library anchors the north wing of the Collins Legal Center. Through a library consortium, an online shared catalog gives Willamette students access to a remarkably vast array of resources. The Long Law Library houses special collections in public international law, tax law, and labor law. It is a Selective Federal Government Repository.

■ International Study Programs

Willamette's College of Law students also have the opportunity to deepen their international experience by participating in study-abroad programs in Germany, Ecuador, and China. The summer China Program acquaints students with Chinese law and Pacific Rim legal issues. It is based in Shanghai at the East China University of Politics and Law. The Ecuador Program provides students with an intensive semester immersion in the fundamentals of a civil law system and Latin American legal institutions. Students take courses at the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador in Quito. Proficiency in Spanish is required. The semester-long Germany Program is at the Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, the first private institution for legal study in Germany.

■ Academic Centers and Other Resources

The Clinical Law Program at Willamette University provides opportunities for students to participate in the Civil Practice Clinic, where students represent clients in actual cases and transactions under the close supervision of faculty, and the Externship Program, which immerses students in the fast-paced work of the practicing lawyer.

The nationally recognized Center for Dispute Resolution produces research on conflict theory and problem solving, serving various constituencies ranging from the federal government to the local school district. The center teaches the theory and practice of negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and other methods of resolving disputes. It also administers the Dispute Resolution Certificate Program.

The Willamette Center for Law and Government provides an impartial forum for the study, discussion, and improvement of government and public policy. It also administers the Law and Government Certificate Program.

The Oregon Law Commission, which is housed at Willamette's College of Law, was established by legislative statute to provide academic and practical support for ongoing law revision, reform, and improvement. The commission is led by an executive director who is also an associate dean of the College of Law.

■ Admission

Applicants are urged to apply in the fall prior to the year they intend to enter the law school. Willamette enrolls a first-year law class with a wide range of goals and backgrounds distinguished by academic achievements. Applications are reviewed closely and in their entirety to ensure an informed and fair decision. Although April 1 is the deadline for applications, students begin receiving admission decisions from Willamette in January.

■ Scholarships

Generous merit-based scholarships reward applicants whose accomplishments suggest continuing success in law school. Scholarships are renewable with a 2.90 cumulative law GPA. Every student is automatically considered for a scholarship when the application for admission is initially reviewed. All applicants to the College of Law should also complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to March 1. Federal and private loan monies also may be available.

■ Employment and Career Services

The College of Law maintains an active Office of Career Services, which provides comprehensive career counseling services to current Willamette law students and law alumni. Career Services oversees a busy on-campus interview program, bringing legal employers directly to the College of Law. A wide range of workshops, panels, and speakers also are made available to students throughout the academic year. In addition, the Career Services library contains numerous resources to assist with career planning and job searches.

Historically, most Willamette graduates choose careers in private practice. Graduates in government-related practice, including judicial clerkships, compose the next largest group. Business and industry attract the third-largest group. Most graduates remain in the Pacific Northwest because of the region's unique lifestyle and natural environment. While the Willamette alumni network is strongest in Oregon and Washington, Career Services provides a comprehensive national job-search service. Thus, Willamette graduates practice nationwide, from Hawaii to Washington, DC, from Alaska to Florida, and internationally.

■ Location

The city of Salem is home to a large, active legal community that readily employs and actively mentors Willamette law students. With 150,000 residents, Salem is neither a small college town nor a big city. This historic riverfront city boasts world-class vineyards, a vibrant downtown, beautiful parks, an innovative children's museum, a world-class art museum, numerous coffeehouses and microbreweries, and a minor league baseball team. Salem serves as the gateway to the urban getaway of metropolitan Portland and the natural distractions of Oregon's breathtaking mountains, state parks, forests, rivers, lakes, and Pacific Coast beaches.

Applicant Profile Not Available