

University of Illinois College of Law

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■ Introduction

Established over a century ago, the University of Illinois College of Law fosters excellence in legal education through a close community of faculty members and students, where teaching goes hand in hand with scholarship. The resources—intellectual, cultural, and recreational—of one of the world's largest and best universities are readily available to our law students, as is the appealing ambience of a university community. The college's comparatively low tuition makes the program an outstanding value.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

A hallmark of a great university and a great law school is its library. The University Library in Urbana-Champaign is the largest public university library in the country. The Jenner Law Library holds 750,000 volumes and provides access to an equally wide array of electronic resources. In addition to US legal materials, the Jenner Law Library has extensive holdings in foreign and international law and houses a world-class collection of rare legal materials. Equally significant is Jenner's professional staff. Ten of its eleven law librarians have JDs in addition to master's degrees in library science. Law librarians teach legal research and work closely with students to support research and learning.

Directly across the street from the law school is one of the country's largest physical education buildings, with indoor and outdoor swimming pools, tennis courts, four gyms, weight and exercise equipment, archery, and ball courts of all kinds. The facility is free for students.

■ Joint-degree Programs

The College of Law administers 11 formal joint JD and master's or doctoral degree programs. The combined degrees available are JD/MBA, JD/DVM, JD/MHRIR in Human Resources and Industrial Relations, JD/MA in Urban Planning, JD/Master of Education, JD/Doctor of Education, JD/MA in Journalism, JD/MS in Chemistry, MD/MS in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, and JD/MCS in Computer Science.

■ Special Programs

Environmental Law—The college has an active program of environmental and planning studies. Beyond the first-year course in property, the college offers courses in environmental law, natural resources, and land-use planning.

Intellectual Property (IP)—The College of Law boasts a strong intellectual property curriculum and offers a rich array of courses taught by nationally known faculty and experienced practitioners. Students choose from a variety of offerings ranging from core patent, copyright, and trademark courses to cutting edge classes like Law and Regulation of Cyberspace, Internet and Web Law, International Copyright Principles, and International IP Transfers. Beyond its own curriculum, the College of Law's intellectual property faculty capitalizes upon the university's highly regarded academic programs in science and engineering, as well as its National Center for Supercomputing Applications, recognized as the world's

leader in computer design applications. The College of Law is currently collaborating with these premier university departments to develop joint-degree programs in the rapidly changing intellectual property arena.

Interdisciplinary Study—While the College of Law course offerings are so varied that it would take a student 12 years to sample all of them, students interested in related subjects outside the law school may receive up to 12 hours of credit for study in another discipline. This flexibility allows students to complement their legal education with advanced coursework in a highly regarded university.

International Legal Studies—Students pursuing international legal studies can choose from 15 international and comparative law courses. Faculty members have long-standing international connections, and some collaborate with international scholars and legal experts to teach these courses.

Public Interest Law and Public Policy—As one of the premier public law schools, the College of Law plays a special role in educating students to serve both the public interest and formulate public policy. The college's commitment to public interest law is demonstrated by the pro bono notation placed on diplomas of graduates who have performed at least 60 hours of unpaid legal work. In addition, students may choose from a variety of timely courses addressing public interest and policy issues.

Skills Training—The college offers four live-client clinics: Civil Litigation Clinic, International Human Rights Clinic, Transactional and Community Economic Development Clinic, and Employees Justice Clinic, as well as classes in legal drafting, business planning, advanced bankruptcy, environmental management, estate planning, and tax practice; all challenge students to solve concrete problems and draft legal documents in a variety of fields. Courses on computer applications in the law and quantitative methods in legal decision-making familiarize students with sophisticated techniques necessary in today's law practice; these include computerized methods of document preparation and information retrieval, statistical analysis, the use of computer simulations in litigation, and the calculation of damage awards.

Taxation—Illinois offers one of the strongest tax curricula in the country, with core courses that address all aspects of tax practice and advanced offerings that integrate tax problems with other fields of law.

Trial Advocacy Program—The college's Trial Advocacy Program is especially popular, enrolling about three-quarters of the third-year class. The year-long program teaches the art of courtroom litigation and concludes with students conducting a day-long mock trial.

■ Housing

College of Law students live both off campus and in graduate- or married-student campus housing. For information concerning campus housing, contact the Graduate and Family Housing Department at 217.333.5656.

In addition, the Urbana-Champaign area has ample private rental opportunities available at relatively low costs. Most current College of Law students choose to live in private, off-campus housing due to its low cost and easy access to the

award-winning Urbana-Champaign mass transit system, which is free for all University of Illinois students.

■ Student Activities

The small size and tight-knit community of the College of Law allows students to directly participate in an extensive variety of activities. Students run and write for the *University of Illinois Law Review*, the *Elder Law Journal*, the *University of Illinois Journal of Law, Technology and Policy*, and the *Illinois Law Update* during their second and third years. In addition, second- and third-year students may participate in seven different moot court competitions that feature internal, external, and national contests, and several live-client legal clinics. First-year students also have many opportunities to get involved at the College of

Law through the negotiation and client counseling competitions and several faculty-student committees. Finally, most students participate in at least one of the almost 35 student organizations. These organizations plan countless lectures, debates, charitable activities, sporting events, law firm visits, and social receptions, including the always anticipated annual formal ball.

■ Scholarships

The College of Law offers a number of scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to full tuition, awarded to students who show the greatest promise in the study of law. Previous academic success is a primary consideration; the committee also considers other relevant factors.

Applicant Profile

Our admission process takes into consideration many factors beyond the undergraduate GPA and the LSAT score. A statistical grid, as is typically provided here, only takes into consideration these two factors. Admission decisions at the University of Illinois College of Law are based on the

Admission Committee's experienced judgment applied to individual cases. Consequently, we have chosen not to provide applicants with a grid that does not accurately portray our admission process.