

Syracuse University College of Law

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■ Introduction

Syracuse University College of Law was established in 1895. The college is a charter member of the AALS and is fully approved by the ABA. It is one of the oldest of the 12 schools and colleges comprising Syracuse University, a major teaching and research institution. The College of Law complex is located on the 200-acre Syracuse University campus overlooking scenic Central New York and the city of Syracuse.

■ Curriculum

Syracuse University College of Law's mission is guided by the philosophy that the best way to educate lawyers to practice in today's world is to engage them in a process of interdisciplinary learning while teaching them to apply what they learn in the classroom to real legal issues, problems, and clients. Beginning in the first year and continuing throughout the curriculum, students are exposed to educational settings that integrate opportunities to acquire a better understanding of legal theory and doctrine, develop professional skills, and gain exposure to the values and ethics of the legal profession. As a result, Syracuse students are better prepared for the practice of law.

■ Interdisciplinary Learning Opportunities

- **Center on Property, Citizenship, and Social Entrepreneurism**—Students explore issues related to modern real estate transactions and finance, community development and housing, global property law systems, and access to ownership for inclusion of the elderly, the poor, and persons with disabilities. The curriculum prepares students for a variety of opportunities in law firms, government agencies, financial institutions, development organizations, and business. The center engages students in coursework, team projects, and research opportunities in all areas of property law and theory, including real, personal, intangible, intellectual, and cultural property.
- **Family Law and Social Policy Center**—The center prepares students for a career in family law by engaging them in interdisciplinary research, providing them with applied learning experiences, and connecting them with the community to provide services that benefit families and children. The curriculum includes a variety of courses including bioethics, children and the law, estate planning, mediation, and domestic violence.
- **Center for Global Law and Practice**—The center provides a broad variety of opportunities, both in and out of the classroom, for students interested in global law. Course offerings are broad, and cocurricular activities include moot court competitions, the International Law Society, and the *Syracuse Journal of International Law and Commerce*. A summer abroad program is offered in London.
- **Technology Commercialization Law Program**—The program emphasizes interdisciplinary and applied learning approaches to commercial development of new technology. Students are immersed in a business curriculum that includes business planning, finance, intellectual property licensing, venture capital, and tax issues. Students

work in cross-disciplinary teams on real-world developments arranged through SU's Technology Commercialization Research Center with companies and research organizations.

- **Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism**—The institute, a joint enterprise of the College of Law and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, is dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of important questions of law and policy related to national and international security and counterterrorism. Responding to the growing interest in terrorism and other security threats, the institute and its sponsoring schools have developed an extensive security studies curriculum and offer students two certificates in security and counterterrorism studies. The institute also sponsors conferences and lectures that are designed to further a research agenda in security or terrorism and bring together scholars, current and former government officials, and media representatives.
- **Center for Indigenous Law, Governance, and Citizenship**—The center focuses on programmatic activities that include conducting research relating to the citizenship, rights, and responsibilities of indigenous peoples and the governance of indigenous nations in the United States and Canada; providing technical assistance to indigenous nations seeking to reform their governing institutions and administrative laws, and to federal, state, local, and provincial governments seeking to reform their Indian affairs laws; and promoting a greater understanding of the law, governance, and history of the Haudenosaunee ("People of the Longhouse").
- **Disability Law and Policy Center**—The first such certificate program of its kind in the United States, it offers law students the opportunity to gain legal research and practice experience in disability law and advocacy. Students may earn a joint degree in law and disability studies, as well as a joint degree in law and social work.

■ Other Opportunities for Specialization

- **Clinical Programs**—Legal concepts learned in the classroom come to life for students who participate in the in-house clinics and externship program. Students work with lawyers in law offices, becoming immersed in the actual practice of law through their work on real cases affecting real clients. Students provide much-needed legal services to our community, as many of our clients are unable to afford private counsel. Diverse clinical opportunities at the College of Law include the Criminal Defense Law Clinic, the Community Development Law Clinic, the Children's Rights and Family Law Clinic, the Disability Rights Clinic, the Low Income Taxpayer Law Clinic, and the Securities Arbitration Clinic/Consumer Law Clinic. The college also offers several externship courses.
- **Joint-degree Programs**—Interdisciplinary study is an integral part of academic life in the college. Students who desire a greater degree of specialization may select from a number of joint-degree opportunities. Formal joint-degree programs exist in public administration, international relations, business administration or accounting, communications, environmental law, education (disability

studies), and engineering. Joint degrees may also be designed to fit special career objectives.

- **Advocacy Skills**—Syracuse Law is recognized for its exceptional advocacy programs. Students are actively involved and have been highly successful in national and regional moot court competitions. Syracuse students participate in intraschool programs throughout the year in trial and appellate competitions covering a wide variety of areas.

■ Library

The library spans four spacious levels within the College of Law complex. On the main floor, the circulation and reference desks offer conveniently located services and research support in close proximity to the Electronic Research Center. The library adds approximately 2,500 new titles to its catalog each year, including a growing number of licensed electronic databases. All holdings—print, microform, audio, video, and CD-ROM—are accessible through the university-wide online public catalog.

■ Admission

History reveals that undergraduate grades and LSAT scores are reliable measures, in most cases, for predicting probable success in law study. Thus, an index combining grades and test scores becomes a factor in most admission decisions. However, recognizing that numerical indicators are not always the best predictors of success in law school—even when considered in combination with other factors—the college admits a limited number of students each year through its Legal Education

Opportunity (LEO) Program. The program’s dual objectives are to recruit and admit persons who may have been deprived of equal education opportunities for reasons of race, gender, poverty, or other factors beyond their control and persons with unusual accomplishments, backgrounds, and experiences that suggest traditional admissions criteria may be inadequate predictors of likely success in law study.

■ Financial Aid

The college makes available awards from a variety of sources, including merit-based scholarships, need-based tuition grants, university fellowships, and federal sources, such as the work-study program and the Perkins and Stafford Loan Programs and the Graduate PLUS Loan Program. Private loan programs are available to assist law students with supplemental financing for legal education expenses.

■ Career Services

Syracuse graduates are employed throughout the United States and around the world. The Office of Career Services is dedicated to assisting current students and alumni with their individual job searches. Career Services staff administer a comprehensive program that utilizes the most current resources available to assist students in developing a career plan and employment search strategy. The office provides a full range of services to students, including a broad mix of innovative and traditional support, empowering students with the confidence and skills necessary to conduct an effective job search.

Applicant Profile

Syracuse University College 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		
170–180	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
165–169	6	6	8	8	1	1	8	8	2	2	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	28
160–164	11	11	30	27	39	38	24	20	17	16	14	9	3	2	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	144	123
155–159	53	52	121	114	151	140	120	113	58	32	36	12	16	4	4	0	0	0	2	2	561	469		
150–154	97	57	238	103	250	93	218	52	127	20	51	2	20	1	6	0	2	0	6	1	1015	329		
145–149	59	10	121	21	165	18	136	12	79	6	49	0	19	0	5	0	1	0	13	0	647	67		
120–144	21	0	44	2	66	1	91	2	62	0	44	0	26	0	16	0	5	0	16	0	391	5		
Total	248	137	563	276	672	291	597	207	345	76	197	25	86	8	35	0	9	0	38	3	2790	1023		

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.

This chart is provided as a general guide in assessing an applicant’s possibility of admission based solely on quantitative factors. It should be noted that nonquantitative factors are also considered in all admission decisions.