

University at Buffalo Law School, The State University of New York (SUNY)

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■ Introduction

Long recognized as one of the leading public law schools in the Northeast, the University at Buffalo Law School, New York State's only public law school, continues to provide students with cutting-edge legal tools to formulate their legal education. This education allows students to gain the practical skills necessary in today's ever-changing legal community.

Located in Amherst, New York—a suburb of Buffalo—the Law School has a small-school feel with all the advantages of a large university, including access to other professional and graduate departments, Division I sports, a fine arts center, Slee Concert Hall, and numerous other academic, social, and cultural opportunities. The city of Buffalo offers great skiing, great sailing, major-league sports, a first-rate orchestra, many professional theaters, a lively club scene, and access to Canada, all within minutes of the Law School. You can live comfortably, not to mention affordably, in Buffalo, the second largest city in New York.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The Law School is housed in John Lord O'Brian Hall, a seven-story building recently renovated to include a state-of-the-art courtroom that provides students with an opportunity to watch judges and lawyers in action. Other new facilities include classrooms, apartments, and an elegant student lounge. The library is the core of the Law School, occupying six of the seven floors.

The law library follows the Law School's commitment to providing students with exceptional research and writing skills by assigning librarians to each research and writing instructor. This enables first-year law students to gain one-on-one instruction in various research methods.

■ Curriculum

The Law School provides a comprehensive curriculum while affording students a broad range of curricular options, practical coursework, and special programs. The Buffalo curriculum emphasizes the study of law in its social context, and a large number of interdisciplinary courses and programs support this emphasis. A strong clinical education program is closely tied to the core curriculum and enhances the optional concentrations. Current concentration subjects include Family Law, Finance Transactions, Affordable Housing and Community Development Law, Environmental Law, Civil Litigation, Criminal Law, Health Law, International Law, Labor and Employment Law, and Technology and Intellectual Property.

Instruction is offered in two semesters from early September to May, including a January bridge term, and a summer session from mid-May to mid-July. Six full-time semesters or five full-time semesters plus two summer sessions are required for graduation.

In addition to standard first-year subjects, the first year includes a course in legal profession and ethics. These courses afford an introduction to the social and economic context of the legal system and to legal institutions and processes.

Beyond the first year, students are required to complete 60 semester credit hours of work, including at least one seminar. The upper-division program is wholly elective. Second- and

third-year students may choose from a full spectrum of survey and advanced courses covering the main fields of public and private law; a very rich selection of seminars and small group courses in special or emerging areas of law study and research; and clinics and simulations devoted to professional skills training.

The Law School also offers an LLM degree in Criminal Law and a General LLM for international and domestic students. For international students, there are special courses designed to introduce them to American law and to prepare them for the New York State Bar Exam. All students benefit from our small group personalized approach and flexible curriculum that allows students to design their own concentration.

■ Special Programs

Clinical Program—The Law School is committed to programs that emphasize interdisciplinary study and applications of law. The clinical program is distinguished in that the skills training is coordinated with substantive law courses to give students theoretical understanding of practical issues. Students serve clients and conduct research and fieldwork in areas such as economic development, affordable housing, family violence, criminal law, elder law, environmental and development law, and securities law.

Centers and Program—The Law School's centers and program provide multiple perspectives on the law. The Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy serves as a focal point for interdisciplinary research and teaching. The Buffalo Human Rights Center maintains cooperative links worldwide with human rights organizations, think tanks, and governmental agencies. The Edwin F. Jaekle Center for State and Local Government supports a balanced academic program of theoretical study of democratic processes and the education of lawyers for public service. The Center for the Study of Business Transactions, a joint venture of the Law School and UB School of Management, sponsors a variety of courses, research opportunities, and distinguished speakers. Because of the Buffalo Criminal Law Center, UB Law is a national leader in criminal law scholarship. Finally, the UB Law Program for Excellence in Family Law integrates teaching, research, policy, and practice to provide students with the skills and experience needed to practice family law.

Dual-degree Programs—The school also has an extensive dual-degree program, which permits students to earn credit toward a master's or PhD degree and the JD. In recent years, the most active dual-degree programs have been with political science, management, philosophy, public health, legal information and management, and analysis, social work, sociology, and economics. Two additional dual-degree programs were added recently, allowing students to pursue pharmacy and urban planning degree programs. Special programs can also be arranged with other departments.

Bridge Term—Second- and third-year students can enroll in up to three one-credit bridge courses taught by experienced lawyers and judges, giving students a window into current issues in practice.

University at Buffalo/Levin Institute—A unique educational collaboration provides University at Buffalo law, management, and JD/MBA students with an introduction to

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New York City's international financial markets and a gateway to its highly competitive financial-sector job market. Each year, approximately 20 students are selected to participate in the program.

■ Admission

The Law School admits first-year students only in the fall semester; transfer and visiting students in both fall and spring. Application priority deadline: March 15. LSAT and LSDAS are required.

Because quantitative factors—GPA and LSAT—may not accurately reflect a student's potential for law school success, the Admissions Committee pays close attention to the qualitative factors presented in an application. These factors include, but are not limited to, academic achievement, personal statements, character traits, writing ability, recommendations, and work experience. If an application reveals that the applicant has been educationally, socially, economically, or otherwise disadvantaged, the Admissions Committee will review the application for signs of achievement that should lead to success in law school.

■ Student Activities

There are ample extracurricular activities for students to get involved in. The Student Bar Association, an elected representative body, oversees all law school student organizations. The Moot Court Board sponsors mock appellate practice competitions, *The Opinion* is the student newspaper, the *Buffalo Law Review* is a professional journal edited by students, and there are specialty journals in environmental law, affordable housing and community development law, intellectual property, criminal law, human rights law, and social policy concerning women.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

UB is able to offer a state-subsidized tuition to New York residents and a reasonable out-of-state tuition charge. In-state tuition—\$12,170; out-of-state—\$18,270. Estimated additional expenses—\$12,000–\$13,000.

This results in overall educational expenses that are less than half the cost of many law schools. Dean's tuition waivers are available to students demonstrating high academic achievement, and state aid is offered on a need basis to qualified students. Additional alumni-sponsored scholarships are offered to second- and third-year students.

■ Career Services

The Law School's Career Services Office (CSO) should become every law student's first point of reference as he or she begins a job search. In addition to providing job search and résumé services for third-year and LLM students, the CSO also aids first- and second-year students in conducting their summer job searches.

Over the last several years, the placement rate of eligible graduates who have been employed in legal work or enrolled in an advanced-degree program within nine months of graduation has been 98 percent. While Buffalo and New York City continue to employ the greatest number of our graduates, several northeastern states, including Washington, DC; southern states (Florida, Georgia, North Carolina); western states (California, Arizona); and midwestern states are presenting an increase in opportunities for our graduates. For more information about career services, contact the office: telephone 716.645.2056; fax 716.645.7336; e-mail law-careers@buffalo.edu.

Applicant Profile

University at Buffalo Law School, The State University of New York (SUNY)

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		
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	
170–174	2	1	0	0	2	2	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6
165–169	7	7	11	10	10	9	5	3	3	3	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	33
160–164	34	32	30	28	33	32	20	13	17	5	11	3	4	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	152	113		
155–159	52	48	86	80	103	80	69	38	27	11	27	6	7	0	5	0	2	0	4	4	382	267		
150–154	51	22	124	47	109	28	99	22	46	4	32	2	13	2	8	1	2	0	3	2	487	130		
145–149	18	2	50	7	68	7	42	4	32	0	27	3	12	1	4	1	0	0	5	0	258	25		
140–144	6	0	8	1	25	0	17	0	14	0	14	0	9	0	5	0	1	0	4	0	103	1		
135–139	3	0	4	0	7	0	8	0	7	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	37	0		
130–134	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	16	0		
125–129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0		
120–124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0		
Total	173	112	314	173	357	158	266	82	149	24	122	15	52	3	27	2	5	0	22	6	1487	575		

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.