

Albany Law School of Union University

80 New Scotland Avenue

Albany, NY 12208

Phone: 518.445.2326; Fax: 518.445.2369

E-mail: admissions@albanylaw.edu; Website: www.albanylaw.edu

■ Introduction

The only law school in the capital of New York State, Albany Law School is the oldest private, independent law school in North America. Our location, in the center of state government, provides unprecedented opportunities for internships, field placements, clinical experience, and career opportunities upon graduation. Our world-class faculty is dedicated and accessible. Students have access to New York's highest court, federal courts, and the state legislature, as well as to a thriving tech-based economy. The employment rate for our graduates is well above the national average for law schools for the past 25 years.

■ The Academic Experience

From your first day at Albany Law School you will be challenged by a rigorous academic curriculum. You will get a firm foundation in fundamental areas of law plus opportunities to shape your learning to fit your professional interests.

As a first-year student, you begin to acquire the skills that will become the foundation of your legal career. As part of our innovative Introduction to Lawyering course, you will represent a plaintiff or defendant in a simulated case where you conduct legal research, draft motions and memoranda, and participate in client interviews and negotiations. The class culminates with each student presenting an oral argument before some of the state's most notable attorneys.

As a second- and third-year student, you can focus your studies in one of 15 concentrations to complement coursework. Opportunities include six clinical projects and more than 140 field placement internships in the Albany region, many of them in state and federal government positions as well as in law firms and high-tech companies. Students also participate in real-world work through the Government Law Center, the Science and Technology Law Center, and study-abroad programs. Some students choose to pursue a joint-degree program with an area graduate school, earning a JD while working toward a four-year master's degree.

■ Real-life Experience

Our groundbreaking legal centers and award-winning clinical programs provide the valuable hands-on experience that employers find highly desirable. You work alongside committed clinical faculty and practicing attorneys to assist low-income clients with real legal issues relating to health law, HIV/AIDS, disabilities, domestic violence, disputes with the Internal Revenue Service, and financial investments. You will also work with prosecutors, judges, and experienced attorneys through our field placement program.

Because of our unique location, you interact with the leaders in New York state government—countless Albany Law alumni—and visionaries building New York's high-technology base through the programs at the Government Law Center and the Science and Technology Law Center.

In the Government Law Center you conduct research, contribute to publications, and participate in conferences and special projects that promote the study of the issues facing government, public policy, and public service.

You can provide legal services to start-up ventures and early-stage technology companies in the Tech Valley, New York City, and throughout New York by working and studying with attorneys at the Science and Technology Law Center.

■ Your Career

From your first week at school, our Career Center helps you develop a career plan and supports you throughout your job search. Professional career counselors help you define career goals, craft resumes and cover letters, prepare you for interviews, and compare employment offers.

The Career Center is a state-of-the-art facility with multiple interview rooms set aside for professionals to conduct on-campus interviews. These rooms are equipped with all the amenities of a law office and are extremely popular with employers. Our job search software, which works like a private *Monster.com*, is exclusive to Albany Law students and alumni. Some 4,000 employers currently post jobs on the private system.

Job fairs, information sessions, workshops, and panel discussions on a variety of employment related topics occur almost daily. The Career Center hosts more than 1,200 interviews each year and conducts off-campus interview programs in metropolitan areas, including New York City and Boston, specifically for Albany Law School students. Our alumni are avid supporters of these efforts and participate enthusiastically in center activities.

Our graduates find jobs in law firms, government agencies, public interest organizations, and business and industry throughout the country. Nearly 30 percent of Albany Law School graduates work in the New York City metropolitan area, with large groups of alumni in Boston, Washington, DC, and business centers along the eastern seaboard as far as Florida.

The employment rate for the Class of 2004 was nearly 95 percent—above the national average of 88 percent, and consistently above national rates for over 20 years.

■ Our Community

The Albany Law School community of approximately 650 students, 55 full-time faculty, and 54 part-time faculty is intimate, respectful, and supportive. We welcome students and faculty with diverse backgrounds and talents, and provide an outstanding environment for the pursuit of scholarship, teaching and public service.

The small size of our student body fosters an environment that encourages camaraderie and frequent contacts between students and faculty.

Nearly 12 percent of our students graduated five or more years before entering law school and had careers in other professions prior to beginning their legal studies. Fifty percent of our students are women, 48 percent are from outside New York state, and 20 percent are members of a minority group.

■ Student Life

You have dozens of opportunities to participate in student organizations and activities around specific academic, professional, social, cultural, or athletic interests.

Three student-edited journals, the *Albany Law Review*, the *Albany Law Journal of Science and Technology*, and the *Albany Law Environmental Outlook* offer cocurricular research and writing opportunities.

Our nationally recognized Moot Court Program enables you to develop skills in trial advocacy, appellate advocacy, client counseling, and negotiating while competing in both intramural and interscholastic competitions.

The Capital Region is home to 16 colleges and universities and boasts museums, galleries, restaurants, shops, theaters, nightclubs for every taste, venues that host professional sporting events, and performing arts centers that attract national acts. The Adirondack, Berkshire, and Catskill mountains offer skiing, camping, hiking, and water sports, as well as the Saratoga Race Course for thoroughbred and harness racing. Metropolitan centers in New York City, Boston, and Montreal are all within an easy drive, and major carriers operate out of the Albany International Airport.

■ Our Campus

Albany Law School's facilities embrace our 154-year history, while supporting a twenty-first century legal education. The open design of the 53,000-square-foot Schaffer Law Library—a federal depository library—provides an inviting environment with seating for hundreds of students. Book and microfilm collections number more than half a million volumes, and the library supplements its collection with online databases and legal research systems, including LexisNexis and Westlaw. The library also houses technological devices for the hearing and visually impaired.

The main building of Albany Law School is known as the 1928 Building, acknowledging its year of construction.

Applicant Profile

Albany Law School attracts talented, diverse students from a spectrum of backgrounds. Life experience, professional and volunteer engagements, as well as cultural and political richness enhance our learning community. Applicants come from the highest ranks of their prior graduate and undergraduate institutions. LSAT scores and prior academic

The building has been recently renovated and houses contemporary lecture halls, seminar-style classrooms, a modern, paperless moot courtroom, and “smart” classrooms with wireless Internet access and advanced audio, video, computing, and conferencing systems.

A 45,000-square-foot building built in 2000 houses the Albany Law School clinic, law centers, and administrative offices, as well as several classrooms, including a high-tech distance learning classroom.

■ Admission and Financial Aid

Albany Law School has committed nearly \$4 million in scholarship assistance. Approximately 35 percent of first-year students receive awards that average \$20,000 for each year of study.

When evaluating each individual application, the Admissions Committee takes a holistic approach, reviewing LSAT score, undergraduate grade-point average, strength of the undergraduate program, rigor of the undergraduate curriculum, and life experience. The committee seeks to enroll a student body that enriches the educational experience of all of its members. Albany Law School also seeks to provide future members of the bar who reflect the diversity and sensibilities of our society.

Approximately 90 percent of our students qualify for financial aid, via federal, state, and private loans, or for part-time employment to assist in meeting educational expenses.

We encourage you to visit Albany Law School—meet our faculty, speak with our students, and tour our beautiful facilities. We look forward to meeting you.

performance are important in assisting our faculty admissions committee in offering seats to applicants. Those indicators are, however, not the sole factors weighed when admissions decisions are made. Interested applicants are encouraged to explore how their individual characteristics might be enhanced by an Albany Law School education.