

## The University of New Mexico School of Law

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### ■ Introduction

Located in Albuquerque, the School of Law is known for its small classes, easy student-faculty interaction, and special programs in clinical law, natural resources law, and Indian law. The 10:1 student-faculty ratio, one of the best in the country, facilitates a sense of community in the educational experience. It also allows the school to offer more courses with smaller enrollments. The school is a member of the AALS and is approved by the ABA. The University of New Mexico is the state's flagship institution with approximately 33,000 students on its main and branch campuses.

### ■ Curriculum

The Juris Doctor program is a full-time day curriculum. Students normally complete the required 86 hours of law credit for the JD degree in three academic years (six semesters). First-year students must take a full first-year curriculum, including basic courses in torts, contracts, civil procedure, property, criminal law, and constitutional law. Emphasis is also placed on the skills of advocacy: legal writing, oral argument, litigation, counseling, and negotiation. First-year classes range in size from approximately 13 to 58 students. Second- and third-year courses are elective except for Ethics and a clinical program. Typically, one-half of the electives have fewer than 15 students. Every student must complete the advanced writing requirement.

### ■ Special Programs

**Clinical Law.** UNM's program in Clinical Law is regarded as one of the finest practical-lawyering programs in the country and includes the Law Practice Clinic, the Children's Advocacy Clinic, the Economic Development and Tax Clinic, the Community Lawyering Clinic, and the Southwest Indian Law Clinic. Students may also participate in the extern placement program and elect assignment to a judge's office, the public defender's office, federal and state administrative offices, and private practitioners. The school also offers an innovative course in Criminal Law in Practice, in which students receive hands-on experience in either prosecution or defense of criminal cases at both the misdemeanor and felony levels. Unlike most other law schools, UNM requires six credit hours of clinical work for graduation. In 1970, the New Mexico Supreme Court adopted a rule permitting students to practice before state courts.

**Indian Law.** UNM has long been a leader in Indian law and has developed one of the most comprehensive programs in the country. The school offers students the Southwest Indian Law Clinic, the *Tribal Law Journal*, the Indian Law Certificate (ILC), scholarly research, guest lectures, seminars, and social activities. An ILC student completes the JD while enrolling in 21 hours of required and elective Indian law courses.

**Natural Resources Law.** The UNM School of Law is widely known for its strength in the areas of natural resources and environmental law and offers a number of electives in these subjects. Students who want to gain a more comprehensive understanding of resource problems may participate in the Natural Resources Certificate Program, which may include work on the *Natural Resources Journal*, an internationally recognized quarterly.

**Business Law.** UNM's Economic Development Program gives students the training they need to become well-prepared business lawyers. An enhanced curriculum includes the Economic Development and Tax Clinic, which offers services to small businesses, start-ups, nonprofit organizations, and economic development programs. Students learn how to advise entrepreneurs on a wide range of business issues.

**International Law.** The school has developed a variety of programs and courses that provide opportunities for students interested in international law. Students may expand their experience through coursework at the law school and through the study-abroad and exchange programs.

- **Guanajuato Summer Law Institute.** The School of Law, in conjunction with the Universidad de Guanajuato, Southwestern University, and Texas Tech University, offers six weeks of summer law study in Guanajuato, Mexico. The institute features an introduction to Mexican law and international law subjects related to Latin America. The institute is ABA approved.
- **North American Exchange Program.** Students can participate in a semester exchange with a Canadian or Mexican law school. Students may visit for a semester in the second or third years and receive up to 12 credits.
- **Tasmania.** Students have the opportunity to study for one semester at the University of Tasmania School of Law and receive up to 12 credits.
- **Visiting Programs.** Students may visit at other ABA-approved programs around the world.

### ■ Dual-degree Program

Four established dual JD and master's degree programs are offered: the JD and MA in Public Administration, the JD and MBA, the JD and MA in Water Resources, and the JD and MA in Latin American Studies. Students can also earn the JD degree and an MA, MS, or PhD in other academic fields. Students must satisfy the admission and academic requirements of both the School of Law and the graduate school.

### ■ Facilities

The School of Law, a state-of-the-art facility, is located on the northern edge of the UNM campus. The building is wireless and laptop friendly. The law school includes classroom and seminar rooms, all faculty offices, student organization and publication offices, two computer labs, the Clinical Program, and the law library. The law school is also home to the American Indian Law Center, Inc., and the Utton Transboundary Resources Center. The Utton Center uses multidisciplinary scholarship to address complex resource issues, focusing primarily on the Rio Bravo/Rio Grande and the Mexican-US border. Adjacent to the law school is the New Mexico Law Center in which the Institute of Public Law and the Albuquerque branch of the New Mexico Court of Appeals are located.

**Law Library.** The UNM Law Library is the largest legal research facility in New Mexico. The library offers a wide variety of electronic products, and its book and microform collection of 429,740 includes special collections in American Indian law, Mexican and Latin American law, land grant law, and natural resources law. The library's 32,443 square feet of

space provides 240 seats, including 111 student carrels, plus numerous areas for study, lounging, and browsing. Wireless Internet broadcasters, group study rooms equipped with audiovisual equipment, photocopy facilities, the school's second computer lab for student use, and a classroom for legal research instruction are found in the library. The library is also home to the Governor Bruce King Archives and Reading Room, which serves as meeting space for special events.

**Career and Student Services.** The school's smaller size allows for individualized attention in all aspects of career development and job search methodology. Regular workshops are provided on résumé and cover letter writing, interviewing, and job search strategies. In addition, the law school sponsors on-campus interviews, a mock interview program, and presentations on various practice opportunities. Career counseling for students and graduates is provided by two full-time attorney counselors.

## ■ Student Activities

Extracurricular activities include the *Natural Resources Journal*, the *New Mexico Law Review*, the *Tribal Law Journal*, and several moot court and mock trial competitions. All law students are members of the university's Graduate/Professional Student Association and the Student Bar Association. Students may participate in nearly 30 law student organizations.

## ■ Admission and Financial Aid

Applicants must take the LSAT, register for the LSDAS, and have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college before registration in the fall. A five-member committee reviews applications. Substantial weight is given to the applicant's personal statement, prior work experience, extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, and other information supplied by the applicant. Applications from New Mexico residents are given a preference. Students apply for financial aid by filing the FAFSA; no additional loan application is necessary. Types of financial aid include loans, grants, and work-study. The school awards grants to students based on the Access Group's Need Access application.

## ■ Albuquerque

The Albuquerque metropolitan area has a population of approximately 750,000. Located along the Rio Grande, the city is located at a high desert elevation of 5,000–7,000 feet and is surrounded by the Sandia Mountains.

From golf to skiing to hiking to fly-fishing, students have access to outdoor New Mexico. In addition, students have the opportunity to visit museums and art galleries and take in concerts and theater. The combination of multiple cultures reflected in food, music, art, architecture, and local customs heightens Albuquerque's appeal.

## Applicant Profile

### The University of New Mexico School 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	Apps	Adm		
175–180	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
170–174	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8	7
165–169	9	8	5	3	5	3	4	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	18
160–164	17	14	20	18	18	8	17	3	10	3	10	5	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	97	51
155–159	38	17	66	23	79	15	60	15	43	7	8	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	302	79
150–154	46	14	70	10	86	7	104	17	58	7	23	3	14	1	6	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	411	61
145–149	26	5	44	4	74	7	52	5	36	1	24	2	15	0	5	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	281	24
140–144	12	0	24	1	36	0	36	1	20	1	21	1	13	1	3	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	170	5
135–139	1	0	7	0	14	0	16	0	14	0	5	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	66	0
130–134	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	0	2	0	4	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	21	0
125–129	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
120–124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	152	60	237	60	318	43	297	43	186	21	98	12	61	4	19	2	3	0	17	1	0	0	1388	246

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.