

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa—William S. Richardson School of Law

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■ Introduction

The William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i is located at the foot of beautiful Mānoa Valley; minutes from sandy beaches and lush rain forests, as well as from the economic and legal center of urban Honolulu. The School of Law offers an excellent academic program with professors committed to scholarship and research who have a national reputation for teaching excellence. The school is noted for its friendly and collegial student body, its accessible faculty, and its rich cultural and ethnic diversity.

Placement after graduation is consistently very high. The school's distinguished alumni serve as leaders in Hawai'i as well as in national and international arenas. The University of Hawai'i is recognized as a center for environmental law study and international law with an Asian and Pacific focus. The William S. Richardson School of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the American Association of Law Schools.

■ Curriculum

The JD program is a three-year program of full-time day study. Full-time registration is defined as enrollment for a minimum of 12 credits each semester. First-year students begin with a three-day orientation; the first-year curriculum is entirely prescribed. All students must complete 60 hours of pro bono law-related community service in order to graduate.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The library contains a study carrel with wired and wireless Internet access for most students and seminar/discussion rooms for study groups. The air-conditioned classroom building features a moot courtroom with video technology for support of clinical education programs. Law students have full access to all facilities of the university, including the health, counseling, and computing centers, and extensive athletic facilities. The classroom building has wireless Internet access for students, faculty, and staff.

■ Pacific-Asian Legal Studies

Enhanced by Hawai'i's location, population, culture, and economic relationships, the law school offers a program in Pacific-Asian Legal Studies (PALS). The program has the twofold purpose of conducting new research and enriching the JD curriculum. A number of faculty have expertise in Pacific/Asian research, teaching, and law reform. Recent course offerings in PALS have included Chinese Business Law, Chinese Law and Society, Pacific Island Legal Systems, Korean Law, Philippine Law, Japanese Law and Society, and US-Japan Business Transactions. The certificate in Pacific-Asian Legal Studies allows students to focus their coursework and to earn the certificate in addition to the JD.

Selected students may do a full semester externship for academic credit with the court systems in certain Pacific Island nations or, with approval, in agencies or entities in Asia. Students may also arrange a semester of study with law faculties in Asia with prior approval.

■ Environmental/Ocean Law Programs

Students may focus their elective courses in the area of environmental law and can earn a certificate in Environmental Law along with the JD degree. Emphasis is on freshwater resources, oceans, coastal waters, and land use—all areas of special interest to Hawai'i and the Pacific.

The University of Hawai'i also has extensive programs in different types of marine research, and the law faculty is particularly interested in ocean law and policy. Law students may elect to combine their JD studies with a university certificate program in Ocean Policy. The university also offers a certificate in Resource Management.

■ Admission

Admission is determined by an applicant's academic achievement, aptitude for the study of law, and professional promise. Preference is given to residents of Hawai'i and to nonresidents with strong ties to or special interest in Hawai'i, the Asia/Pacific region, or other programs in the law school. Approximately 30 percent of the student body may be nonresidents.

Besides LSAT and undergraduate GPA and major, other factors considered include academic work beyond the bachelor's degree, work experience, writing ability, community service, diversity, overcoming hardship, and unusual accomplishments.

Applications from students wishing to transfer, or from those wishing to visit for a semester or two, are considered for both August and January admission.

■ Student Activities

Student editorial boards publish the *University of Hawai'i Law Review* and the online *Asian and Pacific Law and Policy Journal*. Students also regularly organize and participate in the moot court program, including national moot court competitions in international and environmental law. Student teams have performed very well, bringing home national and international titles and awards in the Jessup International Moot Court Competition, the Environmental Moot Court Competition, the Native American Moot Court Competition, and the Client Counseling Competition.

Many students are active in a variety of organizations within the school and the Honolulu community including, for example, Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL); student divisions of the American Bar Association, National Lawyers Guild, and American Trial Lawyers Association; American Inns of Court; Student Bar Association; Phi Delta Phi and Delta Theta Phi International Legal Fraternities; the Pacific Islands and Pacific-Asian Legal Studies Organizations; Association of Women Law Students; and Environmental Law Society. Student affinity groups include the Filipino Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Hispanic Law Students Association, and the 'Ahaui 'O Hawai'i, an organization of Native Hawaiian law students.

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■ Career Services

Career counseling and services assist students and alumni in obtaining part-time, summer clerk, or associate positions in both the public and private sectors. Placement emphasis is on Hawai'i and the Asia/Pacific region, and about 85 percent of our graduates remain here immediately upon graduation.

On-campus facilities are available for interviews. All large firms in Honolulu and many medium and small firms participate in the fall on-campus interview season for second- and third-year students. Our students are highly successful in obtaining much sought after judicial clerkships upon graduation. Most recent graduating classes have had a greater than 90 percent employment rate six months after graduation.

Applicant Profile

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa—William S. Richardson School of Law

This grid includes only applicants who earned 120–180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

LSAT Score	GPA																				Totals		
	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	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	2	5	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	12	9
165–169	7	7	8	5	10	5	14	9	5	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	28
160–164	16	12	31	22	33	19	27	13	21	5	9	1	8	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	148	73
155–159	28	10	65	25	85	14	54	11	31	3	17	4	7	0	3	0	0	0	5	2	295	69	
150–154	23	6	48	8	74	7	67	2	35	2	17	2	11	1	4	0	1	0	1	0	281	28	
145–149	14	1	27	2	26	0	43	0	34	0	20	0	4	2	5	0	1	0	1	0	175	5	
140–144	9	0	7	0	16	0	22	1	14	2	16	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	95	3	
135–139	0	0	1	0	4	0	10	0	7	0	4	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	35	0	
130–134	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	18	0	
125–129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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
Total	100	38	194	66	250	46	241	36	149	13	91	9	45	3	23	1	2	0	12	3	1107	215	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.