

Baylor University School of Law

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■ Introduction

Baylor University School of Law is a private, ABA-approved law school and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools. Formally organized in 1857, Baylor law school is the oldest law school in Texas and is located on the campus of Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Waco is located in central Texas, has a population of over 220,000, and offers a diverse and rich array of cultural and recreational opportunities, as well as very moderate living costs.

Baylor law school stands at the forefront of practice-oriented law schools nationally. Baylor is singularly clear about its mission—to equip students upon graduation to practice law effectively and ethically. That is the key difference. Students are trained and mentored in all facets of law, including theoretical analysis, practical application, legal writing, advocacy, professional responsibility, and negotiation and counseling skills.

■ Enrollment/Student Body

Baylor law school is small by choice, with entering classes of approximately 70 students in the spring, 30 in the summer, and 70 in the fall. Baylor law school has a target student population of 400. We keep our program small because, at Baylor, we are interested in producing quality, not quantity.

Baylor is committed to enrolling a diverse student body. In 2005, the entering classes included 14 percent minority students. Baylor law students come from 30 states and hold degrees from more than 130 colleges and universities. Also, a small enrollment fosters productive relationships.

■ Faculty

Baylor law school is first a teaching school and one of the few law schools in the nation in which the granting of tenure is primarily based upon a professor's teaching effectiveness. Faculty members hold degrees from law schools and universities throughout the nation and include former law clerks for various appellate courts throughout the nation.

Faculty members are experts in their areas and have substantial practical experience. They produce a significant amount of legal scholarship, which results in their demand as speakers at legal institutes and civic functions. One of the distinctive features of the faculty is that professors maintain unrestricted hours for student consultation. Every professor is available for lending advice and guidance in all academic, professional, and other matters of concern to students.

■ Facilities and Technology

The home of Baylor law school, the award-winning Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center, was dedicated in 2002. At every stage of the design of the Law Center, the most important goal was to put teaching first. The building houses every facility a modern law school requires: classrooms that are unsurpassed as teaching facilities; an advocacy suite, including state-of-the-art courtrooms that provide the optimum environment for advocacy training—Baylor's centerpiece of excellence; a large, two-story appellate advocacy courtroom/classroom; a library with comfortable study and

seating space in several impressive reading rooms overlooking the Brazos River; and faculty offices that support the faculty mentoring, which is the hallmark of our program.

Technology permeates the Law Center, including data and electric ports at virtually every seat in the building, along with a concurrent wireless network. Classrooms are equipped with cutting-edge technology, including audio, video, and Internet access. The automatic cameras in the courtrooms can be aimed at a desired location in the room through use of joystick controllers mounted in the console tabletops. The law school uses a sophisticated course-management system that allows the faculty to post assignments, syllabi, and course announcements, and provides discussion boards.

■ Trial Advocacy Program

Procedure is the tool of the trial lawyer, and the bedrock of Baylor's nationally ranked advocacy program is Practice Court—an ultraintensive study of civil procedure. In addition to the science of procedure, students will learn the art of trial advocacy in a rigorous and tough six-month program of skills training during the third year of law school. Students try lawsuits from beginning to end. This course prepares students to be competent, responsible, and ethical lawyers.

Baylor has a long record of successfully competing at the national and regional levels in both moot court and mock trial interscholastic competitions. In 2005, Baylor's mock trial team became the mock trial national champions by winning the prestigious annual mock trial advocacy competition sponsored by the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

■ Curriculum and Special Programs

The required curriculum is structured to provide a logical progression for legal study from fundamental legal doctrine in first-year courses to increasingly more sophisticated and complex second- and third-year courses. The challenging curriculum, along with the opportunity to perform specialized lawyering tasks under the direct supervision of accomplished lawyers, prepares students for the rigors of any type of modern legal practice. Additionally, students have the opportunity to complete a more concentrated course of study and training in six areas of interest: general civil litigation, business litigation, business transactions, criminal practice, estate planning, and administrative practice.

There are three joint degrees: JD/MBA, JD/MTax, and JD/MPPA.

■ Admission

The law school has three entering classes—spring (February), summer (May), and fall (August) with completely separate application processes. Each class has far more applications than seats available; however, admission to the spring or summer classes is slightly less competitive than admission to the fall class.

The Admission Committee considers each application in its entirety and considers many factors beyond test scores and undergraduate GPA. Such factors include employment experience, demonstrated leadership potential, cocurricular and extracurricular activities, ethnicity, academic performance

trends, undergraduate major, caliber of undergraduate school, life experience, circumstances of particular disadvantage, and any other relevant information submitted by the applicant. Any factors the applicant would like for the Admission Committee to take into consideration should be addressed in a personal statement.

■ Scholarships and Financial Aid

Numerous academic-merit scholarships are awarded to entering students based upon their UGPA and LSAT score. Additionally, special scholarships are awarded to persons with evidence of academic achievement despite significant disadvantage. The law school also participates in nationally recognized financial aid programs. Texas residents are eligible for the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant.

■ Student Life

Students will find a stimulating variety of enjoyable student activities and organizations that will enhance their legal education. Students can compete interscholastically with Baylor’s nationally recognized mock trial and moot court teams. Students can hone their writing and legal scholarship abilities by being a member of the *Baylor Law Review*, which is a legal periodical published quarterly by the students under the supervision of faculty. Baylor law school also offers a wide

array of “special interest” student organizations focused on particular areas of law.

■ Career Services and Bar Passage

The Career Services Office is committed year-round to providing students with the support and resources they need in pursuing their chosen career paths. Shortly after graduation, 97 percent of our 2005 graduates were employed or enrolled in graduate degree programs. Baylor graduates are placed throughout the nation in private practice in large and small firms, government agencies, judicial clerkships, public interest organizations, and public and private corporations.

The director of the Career Services Office is a lawyer and a graduate of Baylor law school. The director provides extensive one-on-one training on job-search techniques, interview skills, job strategies, and résumé and cover letter writing techniques. The office also coordinates an extensive on-campus interview program, and posts over 1,200 job listings from law firms, government agencies, corporations, and public interest groups.

Our record of success on the Texas bar exam is unsurpassed by any other Texas law school. In July 2006, 97.87 percent of Baylor graduates passed the Texas bar exam the first time. The average bar passage rate for the July bar exam in Texas was 86 percent. Graduates taking other state bar exams have been exceptionally successful as well.

Applicant Profile

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This grid includes only the fall 2006 entering class and includes 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	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	
170–174	21	21	11	11	16	16	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	52	51	
165–169	71	70	58	57	50	48	10	10	4	3	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	198	190	
160–164	182	176	190	133	137	90	44	28	17	2	4	2	5	0	0	0	1	0	4	2	584	433		
155–159	269	64	223	14	170	10	61	0	28	0	13	0	6	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	774	88		
150–154	51	2	78	1	104	0	60	1	31	0	22	0	11	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	363	4		
145–149	22	0	38	0	38	0	53	0	20	0	21	0	12	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	211	0		
140–144	14	0	20	0	32	0	34	0	24	0	16	0	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	150	0		
135–139	0	0	4	0	12	0	19	0	10	0	8	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	61	0		
130–134	2	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	6	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	21	0		
125–129	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	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	633	334	624	217	559	164	287	39	139	6	97	3	51	2	18	1	2	0	13	2	2423	768		

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total fall applicant pool.