

## Tulane University Law School

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### ■ Introduction

Tulane Law School, established in 1847, is the 12th oldest law school in the United States. The Law School is centrally located on the main university campus in uptown New Orleans, in a picturesque neighborhood of residences, both large and small, as well as restaurants, bookstores, and other commercial establishments. The campus itself and most surrounding neighborhoods have recovered from Hurricane Katrina. Not surprisingly, however, unparalleled opportunities abound to become involved in the rebuilding and renewal of virtually all aspects of the city.

New Orleans itself offers a surprising number of legal resources, including the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Federal District Court, the Louisiana Supreme Court, and lower state civil, criminal, and specialized courts. In addition to numerous events at Tulane University, students enjoy the advantages of city life and the richness of New Orleans culture. Most students live in a variety of off-campus neighborhoods throughout the New Orleans metropolitan area, although some on-campus housing is available for law students.

The Law School curriculum offers a complete selection of common law and federal subjects. In addition, Tulane offers electives in the civil law, with the result that students have the opportunity to pursue comparative education in the world's two major legal systems. The breadth and depth of the curriculum permit students to survey a broad range of subject areas or to concentrate in one or more. In addition, our students participate in the rebuilding of post-Katrina New Orleans through our mandatory community service program or in numerous other ways.

### ■ Facilities

The Law School's 160,000-square-foot building, John Giffen Weinmann Hall, was completed in 1995. Designed to integrate classrooms, other student spaces, excellent computer facilities, faculty offices, and a state-of-the-art library that contains both national and international collections, the building is centrally located on Tulane University's campus.

Immediately adjacent to Weinmann Hall is the Law School's Career Development Office. Within minutes of the Law School building are the university's Howard-Tilton Library, housing over one million volumes; the brand-new Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life; various university dining facilities; the university bookstore; the Reily Student Recreation Center; the Freeman School of Business; the Newcomb Art Gallery; and various auditoriums and performance venues.

### ■ The Academic Program

Six semesters in residence, completion of 88 credits with at least a C average, and fulfillment of an upper-level writing requirement and a 30-hour community service obligation are required for graduation from the JD degree program. The first-year curriculum comprises eight required courses and one elective. The first-year Legal Research and Writing Program is taught by instructors with significant experience as lawyers and writers, each assisted by senior fellows.

After the first year, all courses are elective, except for a required Legal Profession course. All first-year and many upper-class courses are taught in multiple sections to allow for smaller classes. The upper-class curriculum includes introductory as well as advanced courses in a broad range of subject areas, including international and comparative law, business and corporate law, environmental law, maritime law, criminal law, intellectual property, taxation, and litigation and procedure, among others.

At the graduate level, the Law School offers a general LLM program and an SJD program, as well as specialized LLM programs in Admiralty, Energy and Environmental Law, American Business Law, and International and Comparative Law.

### ■ Special Programs

The school offers five optional concentration programs that allow JD students to receive one certificate of completion of successful studies in (a) European Legal Studies, (b) Environmental Law, (c) Maritime Law, (d) Sports Law, or (e) Civil Law. Tulane's Eason-Weinmann Center for Comparative Law, its Maritime Law Center, and its Institute for Water Policy & Law add depth to the curriculum. Tulane also offers strong curricula in intellectual property law, constitutional law, and business, corporate, and commercial law.

Tulane conducts an annual summer school in New Orleans and offers summer-study programs abroad in England, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Germany, and Greece. It offers semester-long exchange programs with select law schools in a number of countries throughout the world.

### ■ Clinical Programs

The school offers six live-client clinical programs: civil litigation, criminal defense, juvenile litigation, domestic violence, environmental law, and legislative and administrative advocacy. In addition, there is a Trial Advocacy program, and third-year students may engage in externships with federal and state judges, with a local death penalty project, or with certain administrative agencies. The school was the first in the country to institute a pro bono program requiring that each student complete community service work prior to graduation. We anticipate that for the next few years, students will engage in community service work related to the rebuilding of New Orleans subsequent to Hurricane Katrina.

### ■ Joint-degree Programs

Joint-degree programs are offered in conjunction with Tulane's Freeman School of Business (JD/MBA and JD/MACCT), School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (JD/MHA and JD/MPH), School of Social Work (JD/MSW), and several of the academic departments of the university. The JD/MS in International Development is offered in cooperation with Tulane's Payson Center for International Development and Technology Transfer, and the JD/MA in Latin American Studies is offered in cooperation with the Stone Center for Latin American Studies. Proposals for additional programs are considered on an ad hoc basis.

## ■ Admission

Our admission process is based on a complete review of all of the information in each candidate's file. This naturally includes the LSAT score and the undergraduate academic record. In the case of multiple LSAT scores, the school sees all scores but will give more weight to the higher score based on the candidate's explanation. Tulane looks closely at subjective factors such as grade trends, courseload, undergraduate school, nonacademic activities, the student's background and experience, barriers overcome, and the personal statement. The Law School processes applications for admission beginning October 1 and starts to announce decisions after December 1.

## ■ Student Activities

Journals published or edited at Tulane Law School include the *Tulane Law Review*, *Tulane Maritime Law Journal*, *Tulane Environmental Law Journal*, *Journal of Law and Sexuality*, *Tulane European and Civil Law Forum*, *Tulane Journal of International and Comparative Law*, *Journal of Technology and Intellectual Property*, and *Sports Lawyers Journal*, published by the national Sports Lawyers Association. An active moot court program holds trial and appellate competitions within the school and fields teams for a variety of interschool competitions. The Law School has a chapter of the Order of the Coif.

The Student Bar Association functions as the student government and recommends students for appointment to faculty committees. Over 40 student organizations are active at Tulane, including Tulane Law Women, Black Law Students Association, La Alianza, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Environmental Law Society, and several legal fraternities. The Tulane Public Interest Law Foundation raises funds, matched by the Law School, to support as many as 30 students each summer in public interest fellowships with a variety of organizations.

## ■ Career Services

The Law School Career Development Office assists both students and alumni in their job searches. Each student is assigned a career counselor as a first-year student and thereafter has access to a full range of career counseling services from the entire staff as well as to programs on job-search skills and practice areas. A large career-services library is available, including extensive online resources. Tulane organizes both on- and off-campus interview programs for its students. Career Development staff members also engage in employer development activities on a national basis. The office takes a proactive stance in assisting students with their job searches, with the result that Tulane graduates find law-related employment throughout the United States.

## Applicant Profile

Tulane University Law School

LSAT Score	GPA									
	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
175-180	Excellent	Good	Possible	Unlikely						
170-174	Excellent	Good	Possible	Unlikely						
165-169	Excellent	Good	Possible	Unlikely						
160-164	Excellent	Good	Possible	Unlikely						
155-159	Good	Possible	Unlikely							
150-154	Good	Possible	Unlikely							
145-149	Good	Possible	Unlikely							
140-144	Good	Possible	Unlikely							
135-139	Good	Possible	Unlikely							
130-134	Good	Possible	Unlikely							
125-129	Good	Possible	Unlikely							
120-124	Good	Possible	Unlikely							

Excellent
  Good
  Possible
  Unlikely