

University of Nebraska College of Law

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■ Introduction

Founded in 1888, the University of Nebraska College of Law offers an excellent legal education at a reasonable cost. It is large enough to provide students with a diverse curriculum, yet small enough to ensure that students are not lost in a faceless crowd. The College of Law is a charter member of the AALS and is accredited by the ABA. The University of Nebraska College of Law is located on the East Campus of the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, a city of approximately 235,000 and the state capital.

■ Curriculum

The College of Law's academic year runs from late August to early May. A two-day orientation before the beginning of the fall semester introduces first-year students to the law school. Each incoming student is assigned a faculty advisor who can answer questions about law school, course selections, and career goals. The first-year curriculum is 15 hours the first semester and 18 hours the second semester and includes civil procedure, contracts, criminal law, legal writing, property, and torts. Courses in the second and third years are elective, with the exception of required courses in constitutional law, professional responsibility, a research seminar, and a professional skills course. The curriculum encompasses a broad range of areas. The curriculum offers particular depth in the areas of litigation, alternative dispute resolution, taxation, environmental, employment, international, and corporate and commercial law. Students who wish to focus on a particular area of the law may pursue the Litigation Skills or Business Transaction Concentration or develop an individualized program of concentrated study.

The College of Law provides an Academic Resource Program for first-year students to assist them in developing and improving fundamental skills such as note-taking, briefing cases, legal analysis, outlining, and writing examinations. The program provides weekly skills classes as well as a series of lectures and individual academic counseling.

Although completing the requirements for a JD degree normally takes three years, it is possible to graduate in two and one-half years by attending summer school. The college offers no night classes and rarely accepts part-time students. Students receiving the JD degree are qualified to practice in any state upon passage of that state's bar examination.

■ Skills and Clinical Education

The College of Law recognizes that becoming a lawyer involves more than learning legal theory. Students need to be able to develop practical skills to effectively represent clients and function as lawyers. The College of Law has offered courses that emphasize "learning by doing" since the early 1970s. The college offers professional skills courses in pretrial litigation, trial advocacy, appellate advocacy, mediation, negotiations, alternative dispute resolution, client interviewing and counseling, construction law, business planning, civil clinic, and criminal clinic. These classes allow second- and third-year students to develop lawyering skills in simulated settings or in the handling of real cases for actual clients. In

civil clinic, third-year students represent clients in and out of court in matters such as bankruptcy, domestic relations, immigration, and landlord-tenant disputes. Students in criminal clinic prosecute misdemeanor cases in Lancaster County.

■ Joint-degree Programs

The college's interdisciplinary program in Law and Psychology is recognized as one of the finest in the nation. The college also participates in seven other joint-degree programs and will work with students to individually design programs in disciplines not covered by a formal program. In each program, students will earn two degrees with fewer credit hours and in less time than if the degrees were pursued separately. The formal joint-degree programs include JD/MBA (Business), JD/MPA (Accounting), JD/PhD (Psychology), JD/MA (Political Science), JD/MA or MS (Economics), JD/MCRP (Community and Regional Planning), JD/PhD (Educational Administration), and JD/MA (International Affairs, in cooperation with the University of Denver).

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The Schmid Law Library has a collection of about 395,000 volumes and a full complement of the latest developments in information technology. The library provides seating for 335 students and has 14 group study rooms, each with full access to power and fast data connections, both wired and wireless, for the best access to the Internet from any place in the library. The five professional librarians and their staff strive to create a service-oriented environment for legal research and scholarship. All these attributes combine to make the Schmid Law Library not only the largest, but the most effective, efficient, and friendliest law library in the region.

The College of Law's classrooms and Welpton Courtroom include attractive decor, adjustable chairs, laptop compatibility, and state-of-the-art technology.

■ Student Activities

The *Nebraska Law Review*, published by a student editorial board, publishes leading articles from well-known authorities in their fields, as well as student notes and comments. Other extracurricular academic programs include the National Moot Court Competition, Client Counseling Competition, and National Trial Competition.

Students can become involved in over 25 activities and organizations, including the Student Bar Association, Women's Law Caucus, Black Law Students Association, Entertainment and Sports Law Association, Equal Justice Society, Federalist Society, Multicultural Legal Society, and two national legal fraternities.

■ Career Services

The College of Law operates its own career services office for students seeking full-time employment or summer clerkships. The office provides students with a variety of placement-related services and also organizes on-campus interviews by private

law firms, governmental agencies, corporations, and other potential employers. As of December 2005, approximately 96 percent of the members of the class of 2005 were employed or were enrolled in advanced-degree programs.

■ Admission

The College of Law starts reviewing applications in early January, and the application deadline is March 1. Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis. Students are required to have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, take the LSAT, and register for the LSDAS. In making its decisions, the Admissions Committee seeks to identify those individuals who have the ability to compete successfully in a rigorous academic environment. The major factors that the committee considers are the applicant's LSAT score and the applicant's undergraduate grade-point average. However, admission

decisions are not simply a function of the numbers. The committee also takes into account any upward (or downward) trend in the applicant's academic performance over time, quality of the applicant's undergraduate institution, course of study, personal statement, work experience, graduate study, extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, and other information supplied by the applicant.

The college takes special care in evaluating applications from members of minority groups that have been underrepresented in the legal profession.

The College of Law will waive the application fee upon demonstration of financial need. To visit a law class, meet with admission personnel, or tour the law college, contact the admission office.

Applicant Profile

University of Nebraska College 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	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	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4
165–169	9	8	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	18	16	
160–164	23	23	17	17	13	12	5	4	2	2	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	60	
155–159	63	62	56	50	50	33	23	16	18	5	7	3	3	1	4	1	0	0	2	0	226	171	
150–154	60	38	67	23	68	6	59	8	23	3	16	3	5	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	301	84	
145–149	29	4	35	3	34	1	24	3	20	1	9	1	5	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	158	15	
140–144	10	3	13	3	17	2	19	3	12	0	7	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	88	13	
135–139	3	0	2	0	6	0	5	1	5	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	27	1	
130–134	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	8	0	
125–129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	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	
Total	200	141	194	98	191	56	137	37	82	12	49	11	26	7	6	1	1	0	13	1	899	364	

Apps = Number of Applicants
 Adm = Number Admitted
 Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.