

## Washburn University School of Law

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### ■ Introduction

Washburn University School of Law was founded in 1903, became a member of the AALS in 1905, and appeared on the initial list of ABA-approved schools in 1923. The essence of Washburn Law is the commitment of the law school community at every level—from the dean's office to facilities staff—to the success of our students. In addition, the law school endeavors to impart to its students the value of treating others with respect, dignity, and a sense of caring. For more than a century, the school's student-centered approach has produced well-prepared law professionals ready to engage in successful careers. Its network of more than 6,300 alumni located in all 50 states and many foreign countries includes nationally recognized lawyers, state and federal judges, politicians, journalists, and senior executives of Fortune 500 companies.

### ■ Curriculum

All entering students participate in the law school's Ex-L program, an elaborate and rigorous First-Week Program designed to teach students the learning strategies they need to succeed in law school. It includes a structured study-group program in which groups of 4–6 students meet twice per week to apply cooperative learning strategies to their law school learning under the supervision of carefully trained and supervised upper-division students. Second- and third-year students satisfy advanced writing and oral presentation requirements and take one or more classes from a group of perspectives on law courses.

### ■ Centers for Excellence

The Business and Transactional Law Center, the Center for Excellence in Advocacy, and the Children and Family Law Center complement Washburn's tradition of excellence in teaching. Students may add an element of concentration by participating in one of the school's six certificate programs, most of which are administered through the centers.

**Business and Transactional Law Center**—The center provides students with additional educational opportunities to expand their knowledge in business law while developing the essential skills of transactional lawyers. The hands-on involvement of alumni actively engaged in business and transactional law also allows the center to accomplish a major subsidiary goal: making the law school experience more realistic, and relevant, by providing additional opportunities to bridge the gap between theory and practice. The ultimate outcome from these efforts will be graduates who possess the knowledge and professional skills required to represent their clients effectively.

**Center for Excellence in Advocacy**—The center trains law students in the persuasive and skilled use of advocacy techniques. The center also supports research in trial behavior, trial process, and effective advocacy. Students hone their advocacy skills in Washburn's live-client law clinic and in a variety of advocacy skills courses. The center coordinates student participation in trial advocacy, negotiation, and client

counseling. The center also sponsors national and regional advocacy conferences and hosts a jurist in residence each year.

**Children and Family Law Center**—The center supports education, interdisciplinary research, advocacy, and training services focused on children and families involved in the legal system. Washburn houses the American Bar Association's *Family Law Quarterly*. Students working in the center have the opportunity to take a range of courses related to children and families and to participate in the Washburn Law Clinic representing clients in divorce, children in need of care, and other family law cases.

### ■ Certificate Programs

Washburn Law offers certificates of specialization in Advocacy, Business and Transactional Law, Estate Planning, Family Law, Natural Resources Law, and Tax Law. The certificate programs allow students to fully develop their legal interests in these fields. Students who earn certificates graduate with a highly developed working knowledge of the practice area.

### ■ Law Clinic

In 1970, Washburn Law Clinic was one of the nation's first in-house clinics. From its inception, faculty members teaching in the clinic have been on tenure track, placing our clinic at the forefront of legal education. Faculty-supervised students provide a full range of legal services to live clients, including programs in Native American law and transactional law.

### ■ International Programs

As early as 1968, Washburn recognized that the practice of law was becoming increasingly global and responded with a summer study-abroad program. Currently, Washburn expands students' understanding of different legal systems through its summer program at Utrecht University and its semester-long program at Maastrich University, both in the Netherlands.

### ■ Externships

Washburn's externship program allows students to earn course credit through placement in legal settings outside the law school. Students can experience the practice of law in a wide variety of settings tailored to their specific interests and needs. Students are closely supervised by an attorney and by the externship director.

### ■ Accelerated Degree Program

This program allows students to complete law school in two-and-one-half years by taking courses during both summers.

### ■ Facilities and Technology

For 20 years, the Washburn Law Library has ranked in the top quarter of all law school libraries for new titles added. It has been consistently ranked high among law school libraries because of its extensive collection and innovative use of technology. WashLaw has been a premier legal research portal

since its creation in the early 1990s, and it is nationally acclaimed as a comprehensive source for legal information on the Internet. Students have wireless access throughout the building. Classrooms include enhanced audio, video, and computer technologies. The state-of-the-art Robinson Courtroom/Bianchino Technology Center offers students the opportunity to practice their skills in a high-tech environment.

## ■ Admission

While an applicant's LSAT score and GPA are significant factors, there is no bright-line cutoff. The Admissions Committee carefully considers other factors, including a determination of whether the individual would be an asset for the class as a whole based on gender, ethnicity, geographic diversity, international experience, and undergraduate institution.

## ■ Student Activities

More than 30 active student organizations, including Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American law student associations, accommodate the wide and diverse interests students bring to the law school and add to the cultural and intellectual life of the law school community.

Students have the opportunity to participate in two journals. They may be selected to serve on the board of editors of the *Washburn Law Journal* or the student editorial board of the

ABA's peer-reviewed *Family Law Quarterly*, which has been located at Washburn since 1992, enhancing the Children and Family Law Center.

## ■ Expenses and Financial Aid

Scholarships are awarded based upon a combination of academic performance and need. Contribution to diversity is considered in making scholarship awards. Resident status for tuition purposes can be established with a primary Kansas residence after six months. The Financial Aid Office assists law students in procuring federal loans and financial aid. Housing costs are reasonable. Most students live in the residential areas surrounding the campus.

## ■ Professional Development

The Office of Professional Development offers programs that emphasize assessment of career goals, exploration of varied applications of a legal education, and support for the transition into the professional marketplace. The office makes available extensive resources regarding local, regional, national, and international legal employment in the public and private sectors, graduate and foreign study, and judicial clerkships.

Washburn graduates enjoy great success in seeking employment. Washburn law school alumni reside in every state in the nation, the District of Columbia, and many foreign countries.

## Applicant Profile

### Washburn University School of Law

This chart is to be used for general purpose information only. Nonnumerical factors are weighed heavily in all admission decisions.

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		Below 2.25		Total		
	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
170-174	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
165-169	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	10	9	
160-164	10	10	5	5	11	11	6	6	7	7	3	3	2	2	0	0	44	44	
155-159	23	22	23	23	35	35	19	19	16	15	4	4	4	4	3	1	127	123	
150-154	37	35	51	41	64	45	54	37	33	19	20	7	11	2	4	1	274	187	
145-149	26	8	41	5	55	10	49	5	44	0	16	1	13	0	4	0	248	29	
140-144	7	0	24	2	27	3	34	3	27	2	15	2	14	0	8	0	156	12	
Below 140	6	0	7	0	17	0	11	0	19	1	9	0	8	0	3	0	80	1	
Total	112	78	152	77	211	106	174	71	148	46	68	18	53	8	22	2	940	406	

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

Note: The admissions in the grid above include individuals who gained admission through the fall 2006 class, not the spring 2006 class.