

## William Mitchell College of Law

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### ■ Introduction

William Mitchell College of Law, an independent, private law school in St. Paul, Minnesota, was founded in 1900 and named for one of the state's most respected judges. Our original purpose was to make legal education available to working people of modest means, many of them immigrants with families to support. To this day, William Mitchell is known for cultivating practical wisdom and for creating an environment that welcomes both traditional and nontraditional law students from all walks of life. The rigorous William Mitchell legal education stands apart in building both theoretical knowledge and real-life insights and skills at every step. This gives our graduates an enduring advantage as they meet the challenges of an increasingly complex world. William Mitchell College of Law's clinical, legal writing, and trial advocacy programs are nationally recognized, contributing to our reputation as "the lawyer's law school." The college has produced many distinguished leaders at the bench and bar and in the business and civic arenas, among them the 15th Chief Justice of the United States, Warren E. Burger, Class of '31, and the first woman to serve on the Minnesota Supreme Court, Rosalie E. Wahl, Class of '67. The largest law school in Minnesota, William Mitchell has just over 1,000 students, 42 full-time faculty members, and over 10,000 alumni.

The college is accredited by the ABA, is a member of the AALS, and is approved by the US Veterans Administration.

### ■ Faculty

In contrast with traditional law schools, this college was founded by practicing lawyers, who knew their professional experience would strengthen the learning process. William Mitchell continues to build on that legacy by nurturing a faculty that serves the legal community as active participants and critical observers. Our professors have a commitment to translating scholarly jurisprudence into the practice of law and using the practice of law to deepen their scholarship. They are rooted in the real world and the wide world of legal, judicial, and legislative practice. Some professors are deeply engaged in advising emerging democracies about establishing their legal systems. Others are pioneers in areas such as elder law and family law. Faculty members have led innovations in the practice of intellectual property law and are experts on how it's practiced in other nations. They've served on the bench as well as the bar, and had careers in public service, government, and corporations. They have spoken out on, published, or handled controversial legal issues or cases. We deliberately cultivate a strong adjunct faculty, in addition to our core faculty, knowing their contributions strengthen the educational process.

### ■ Academics

What distinguishes a William Mitchell education is our professors' engagement with legal practice and law reform. They are genuinely excited about serving the law, sharing their experiences, and using their knowledge to enrich the curriculum. As a result, students go through a learning process that balances scholarship and practice, emphasizes a strong connection with the profession, is intellectually rigorous, and instills an ethic of service to clients and community. On a micro level, this means

that many of our courses combine legal theory with developing legal skills. On the macro level, we train our students to understand, with breadth and depth, not just where the law is now, but where it's going. This blend of know-how, scholarly reflection, and ability to adapt over time is the essence of practical wisdom. William Mitchell graduates are prepared to put the law to work in the world.

We also strengthen our academics by deliberately cultivating a stimulating cross section of students and professors: the Mitchell Mix. Students who find themselves in a constitutional law class with a recent immigrant, a health law class with a nurse practitioner, or a family law class with someone sharing custody of a child, enter a different realm of legal education. They also learn from a professor who may have written the statute or argued the case they're studying. This sets the stage for a richer learning experience. As William Mitchell continues to pioneer a demanding, professionally engaged, legal education, we are launching new academic programs and processes. These include the Fellows Program, which pairs professors with the most exceptional students, who will assist with research and receive specialized training and opportunities. Our new pathways approach to the educational process will give students the resources and tools they need to be completely intentional about their legal education. Students nearing graduation will crystallize their cumulative learning through the Keystone Program, sparking the transition from law student into lawyer.

### ■ Flexible Scheduling

Over the past century, many William Mitchell students have enhanced their education, careers, and quality of life by taking advantage of our part-time and full-time enrollment options. Your first year, you enroll either as a part-time or full-time student. After your first year is completed, you can choose to carry either a part- or full-time course load. You can change your enrollment status as frequently as each semester. Your commitment here is not to a part-time or full-time program; it's to your chosen pathway through the curriculum and to achieving your JD. Regardless of which enrollment status you choose, you get the same high-quality education. Advanced and elective classes are typically offered in the evening, so part-time and full-time students take classes together and have equal access to full-time and adjunct faculty. Although classes meet at set times, William Mitchell offers you enough flexibility to build your law school schedule around a clerkship, continue in your current career track or day job, or take care of other responsibilities.

### ■ Library and Physical Facilities

William Mitchell's handsome, accessibly designed Warren E. Burger Library has a reputation as the "go to" law library of the Twin Cities. Ten members of the library staff have library science degrees, six have law degrees, and several have substantial law practice experience, giving them a quick, intuitive grasp of legal research problems. The reference desk is open 76 hours a week, substantially more than many law libraries. These long reference desk hours reflect our commitment to the needs of our students, faculty, and alumni. William Mitchell's librarians play an active part in your educational process and are deeply engaged in

expanding the library's electronic potential, in addition to its strong core collection.

The physical design of the campus as a whole mirrors the William Mitchell philosophy that practical skills are inseparable from legal doctrine. Our Rosalie Wahl Legal Practice Center, home to our top-rated clinical and skills programs, is located in the same building as classrooms and faculty offices. The campus is also equipped with technologically advanced moot courtrooms, computer labs, seminar rooms, a new student lounge and cafeteria, and offices for student organizations. William Mitchell's campus is located in St. Paul, the state capital, and faces elegant Summit Avenue. The campus is a short walk to the lively Grand and Selby Avenue shopping districts, and a substantial number of students find housing nearby. The Twin Cities is home to a vital law community and numerous Fortune 500 firms and is frequently cited as one of the top 10 places to live in the United States.

## ■ Public Service Opportunities

William Mitchell students provide more than 6,000 hours of supervised pro bono service each year to our partner, the Minnesota Justice Foundation. Students also perform approximately 14,000 hours of pro bono service annually through our for-credit legal clinic program.

## ■ Special Programs

William Mitchell's Law in Edinburgh and London program gives students the opportunity to study English and European Union law and practice for up to five weeks during the summer. We're also a member of the Consortium for Innovative Legal Education, providing students with the opportunity to enroll in 10 summer and semester study-abroad programs. Our Summer

Excellence Program is an intensive orientation to law school for a limited number of entering students.

## ■ Student Body

William Mitchell's student population ranges from age 20 to 59, with our recent entering class representing 30 states and 13 foreign countries. Many students come directly from undergraduate institutions, while others come from professional careers, parenting, or a combination. Our Mitchell Mix of students brings depth and breadth to the classroom that is rare in legal education. Students can participate in more than 25 on-campus student organizations, including the Student Bar Association and the *William Mitchell Law Review*.

## ■ Career Development

Because William Mitchell's curriculum emphasizes legal doctrine and skills training, students enter the marketplace knowing how to put the law to work. Employers clearly value our graduates, since 96.9 percent of the class of 2005 was employed within nine months of graduation. Career development is woven into each year of a student's legal education, and our career development office helps students polish presentation, networking, and personal marketing skills. Our powerful alumni network and well-connected faculty are also resources students can tap.

## ■ Scholarships/Financial Aid

Financial aid is available from William Mitchell in the form of both merit- and need-based scholarships, federal and alternative loans, and federal work-study. Approximately 90 percent of all William Mitchell students receive some type of financial aid.

## Applicant Profile

### William Mitchell 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	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	
170–174	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	
165–169	3	3	11	11	4	3	11	11	4	4	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	36	35		
160–164	30	29	31	30	23	22	17	15	13	12	14	13	3	3	2	1	0	0	1	1	134	126		
155–159	45	44	65	62	59	51	49	42	24	20	18	16	10	8	3	0	2	1	1	1	276	245		
150–154	39	35	90	59	93	53	71	32	53	22	21	7	14	7	10	4	1	1	7	4	399	224		
145–149	23	11	65	26	79	25	78	17	44	7	30	5	18	4	12	1	1	0	6	4	356	100		
140–144	8	4	16	4	22	5	43	14	38	5	27	5	7	0	5	0	1	0	5	1	172	38		
135–139	0	0	3	2	5	1	15	1	9	0	12	0	5	0	1	0	1	0	6	0	57	4		
130–134	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	4	0	4	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	17	1		
125–129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	8	0		
120–124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Total	148	126	285	197	288	161	287	134	190	70	130	46	61	24	35	6	8	2	30	12	1462	778		

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.