

University of Puerto Rico School of Law

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■ Introduction

The University of Puerto Rico School of Law was founded in 1913 at its present site on the University Campus at Río Piedras, within the metropolitan area of San Juan in the heart of the Caribbean. The University of Puerto Rico is accredited by the Middle States Colleges Association. The School of Law has been accredited by the American Bar Association since 1945 and by the Association of American Law Schools since 1948. It is also accredited by the Council on Higher Education and the Puerto Rico Supreme Court.

■ Academic and Special Programs

The Academic Program: The guiding principle behind our academic program is to increase and diversify the learning and development experiences of our students. That is the reason why half of our study program is elective. Our students can take courses ranging from theoretical to practical, to issues pertaining to civil rights, technology, feminism, business, international relations, and comparative law. In addition, our students, as part of their program, have to participate in a clinical program. The study program consists of 92 credit hours. The majority of the courses are taught in Spanish. **Degree Offered:** Juris Doctor

Joint Degree Programs:

- Dual Juris Doctor and Law Degree Program (Licenciatura en Derecho) with the University of Barcelona, Spain
- Juris Doctor and Master in Business Administration with the University of Puerto Rico Graduate School of Business Administration
- Juris Doctor and Doctor in Medicine with the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine
- Juris Doctor and Master in Public Policy with the Hubert Humphrey Institute of the University of Minnesota

Graduate: LLM for Latin American and Caribbean lawyers.

Special Programs: The School of Law has student exchange programs with the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, the University of Connecticut School of Law, the University of Palermo in Argentina, the University of Chile Law School, the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law in Canada, and the University of Amberes in Belgium. Under these programs, students register at their home institution but will take a full course load at the host institution. The credits and grades earned during a single semester will be awarded by the home institution according to the standard procedure of the home law school. Students also have a chance to participate in a summer law program at the University of Barcelona, Spain. Also, the school has a winter exchange program with the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law in Canada, through which students can earn four credits studying Law and Technology or Law, Technology, and Feminism for one week in Canada and two weeks in Puerto Rico.

■ Clinical Program

In March 1974, the Puerto Rico Supreme Court approved rules for the local courts to allow students to practice law and participate in judicial proceedings. The US District Court followed suit in 1991. Our curriculum requires that students in

their last year of study complete a two-semester clinical program. The clinical program stands as a clear testimony of our school's commitment to community service. The Legal Aid Clinic handles over 1,300 cases per year, offering assistance to those in need of legal aid. Our clinic offers our students the opportunity to practice law in a wide range of areas in an environment resembling the facilities of a modern, medium-sized law firm.

- Cyber Law
- Community Economic Development
- Criminal Law (Federal and State)
- Family Law
- Mediation
- Gay and Lesbian Rights
- Civil Rights
- Environmental Law
- Employment Law
- Civil Cases (in general)
- Juvenile Law
- Health Rights for Women Inmates

■ Admission

In order to be admitted to the University of Puerto Rico School of Law, applicants must take two aptitude tests: the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and the Examen de Admisión a Estudios de Posgrado (EXADEP). The tests must be taken no later than February of the year of application. Applicants must also have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution before enrolling.

The entering class is selected by converting the LSAT, the EXADEP, and the GPA into the student's admission index and making offers of admission to those with the 200 highest admission indexes. However, 7 percent of the new class is chosen from those with 201–260 indexes based on a complete profile of the applicant, taking into consideration his or her ability to study law, his or her past accomplishments, and his or her disadvantages in receiving a postsecondary education.

Applicants who cannot take the required aptitude tests because of disability are considered individually by the admission committee. The University of Puerto Rico does not discriminate against students on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, marital status, national origin, or disability.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

Resident law students pay tuition and fees amounting to \$113 per credit each semester. Nonresident students who are US citizens pay the same amount that would be required from Puerto Rican students if they were to study in the state from which the nonresidents come, thus establishing a reciprocity principle. Nonresident students who are not US citizens pay additional tuition and fees amounting to \$2,327.50 for eight or more credits for each semester.

All financial aid for the University of Puerto Rico School of Law is administered by the school's Office of Financial Aid. Each student is considered on his or her own merit and need. Awards are made only after an applicant has been admitted.

■ Alumni

Our student body is made up of graduates from public and private universities of Puerto Rico and the states, as well as foreign institutions. They come from a wide range of academic backgrounds and social experiences, providing a unique atmosphere in the classroom and outside. Our alumni are leaders in the legal field and in the public arena serving as governors, US ambassadors, partners in major law firms, Puerto Rico Supreme Court Justices, Attorneys General, presidents of the University of Puerto Rico, and chief executive officers in the banking industry.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The School of Law's library is the largest law library in the Caribbean. Its collection encompasses both the Romano-Germanic civil law and Anglo-American common law traditions. Also, our library has been designated as a European Documentation Center by the European Union and a selective depository for US government documents. Our school is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, smart classrooms, courtroom-classrooms, and wireless connections for the students.

Applicant Profile

University of Puerto Rico School 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	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
170–174	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
165–169	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
160–164	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
155–159	3	3	6	5	5	4	4	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	20	17
150–154	10	8	13	11	3	2	11	10	2	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	44	34
145–149	13	11	18	16	21	18	19	12	7	2	6	3	5	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	94	64
140–144	30	29	26	20	24	11	24	3	14	1	12	0	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	136	64	
135–139	25	16	37	9	26	2	19	0	24	0	8	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	150	27	
130–134	21	2	34	0	31	0	21	0	23	0	10	0	5	0	6	0	1	0	16	1	168	3		
125–129	7	0	13	0	5	0	6	0	6	0	5	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	0	55	0	
120–124	2	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	20	0	
Total	112	70	150	61	117	37	106	29	79	4	48	7	20	2	16	0	3	0	39	1	690	211		

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.