

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Admissions Office, 651 East Jefferson Avenue

Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: 313.596.0264

E-mail: udmlawao@udmercy.edu; Website: www.law.udmercy.edu

■ Introduction

Founded in 1912, the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) School of Law is a well-established Catholic law school in downtown Detroit sponsored by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Located opposite the General Motors headquarters in the Renaissance Center, the School of Law is within walking distance of federal and state courts, downtown law firms, and Detroit's municipal centers. Windsor, Ontario, Canada, is a five-minute drive by tunnel or bridge across the Detroit River. Metropolitan Detroit not only offers renowned cultural institutions like the Detroit Institute of Art, the Detroit Symphony, and the Detroit Opera House, but also provides a distinctive setting for the study of contemporary legal issues, including urban redevelopment, corporate entity formation, immigration, international trade, and many more.

The School of Law offers a comprehensive legal education through day and evening programs that incorporate a broad array of required and elective courses. The school is approved by the ABA and is a member of the AALS.

■ Law School Campus

The School of Law campus includes faculty offices, classrooms, and common areas with wireless access, administrative and student services offices, a bookstore, a cafeteria, and student organization offices, all located within the law school complex. The school's Kresge Law Library contains comfortable individual and group study, reading, and computer areas. The library houses more than 340,000 volumes and serves as a federal depository.

■ Curriculum

The School of Law offers a three-year full-time program, four-year part-time day and evening programs, and a five-year part-time evening program, all leading to the JD degree. Required courses include Core Concepts, Contracts, Property, Torts, Civil Procedure, Applied Legal Theory and Analysis, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Evidence, Professional Responsibility, Taxation, the Law Firm Program (two courses), an international or comparative law elective, a clinic or externship, and a senior seminar.

The school's first-year Core Concepts course not only introduces students to statutory analysis and interpretation, but requires them to solve legal problems that cut across torts, contracts, property, and civil procedure. In UDM's Law Firm Program, students in their last year of law school work on complex transactions. As in a law firm, they work with their fellow students in different capacities to resolve the various issues that make up the core transaction. Throughout the required Law Firm Program courses, students draft documents, complete due diligence, counsel clients and receive instruction, litigate, and more.

The School of Law's legal education program offers numerous clinical opportunities: the Urban Law Clinic, the Immigration Law Clinic, mediation training and the Mediation Clinic, the Veterans' Clinic, an Environmental Law Clinic, an Appellate Advocacy Clinic through the State Appellate Defender Office, and a wide array of externships. With faculty supervision, students in these externships and clinical programs

represent clients with a variety of legal problems, including landlord-tenant conflicts, immigration issues, elder law cases, and others. The UDM Mobile Law Office has taken many of the clinics' legal services into the community since 2003.

Required courses after the first year integrate legal writing and document drafting. Faculty explore ethical and professional responsibility issues in all upper-class courses. Students complete the 90 credits required with elective courses. The school's full-time director of academic support provides individual and group counseling specific to the study of law.

■ Special Programs

- **JD/LED**—The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law (UDM) and the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), Mexico's leading private law school, have partnered to offer the NAFTA Lawyer Program, a multiple degree program that allows students bilingual in Spanish and English to earn law degrees in three countries: the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Students enrolled in this program can earn two (JD/LED) or three (JD/LLB/LED) degrees in significantly less time than would be required for each degree pursued independently. UDM School of Law is the only US ABA-approved law school to provide students bilingual in Spanish and English an opportunity to take so many courses in Mexican law. As part of this program, UDM offers 14 courses in Mexican law taught in Spanish by professors from ITESM. All UDM students may take these courses as electives and have them count toward their degree.
- **Joint JD/MBA**—The School of Law and the College of Business Administration collaborate to offer an integrated degree program leading to the JD and MBA degrees. Students enrolled in the joint-degree program can earn both degrees in significantly less time than would be required for degrees pursued independently. Students are first admitted to and attend law school. At the end of the first year of law school, students apply to the joint-degree program.
- **JD/LLB**—The School of Law and the University of Windsor Faculty of Law offer a unique JD/LLB program designed to educate students to understand the legal doctrines and cultures of the United States and Canada. A student completes 60 credit hours of coursework at UDM and 44 credit hours of coursework at the University of Windsor. Most required courses taken at both law schools cover US and Canadian law relevant to the subject areas. The program enables the successful student to obtain an American Bar Association-approved Juris Doctor (JD) from the University of Detroit Mercy and the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the University of Windsor.
- **Intellectual Property Law Institute**—Through a consortium with other law schools, the School of Law offers a wide variety of courses in intellectual property such as Copyright Law, Patent Law, Computer Law, Entertainment Law, and others.
- **French Scholar Program**—The School of Law participates in a professional exchange program with the University of Clermont-Ferrand. French scholars visiting the law school each spring teach a comparative law course in English while UDM scholars teach at Clermont-Ferrand.
- **Special Summer Program (SSP)**—The School of Law offers this program for applicants who do not meet the minimum

standards for admission, but who show potential for the study of law. This seven-week program, beginning in late May, requires students to demonstrate ability in the study of substantive law and in legal writing and research in order to gain admission as a regular student in the fall semester.

■ Student Organizations and Activities

The School of Law's students edit and publish the *Law Review*, a quarterly publication of scholarly articles.

A student **Moot Court Board of Advocacy** administers the School of Law's Gallagher and Professional Responsibility competitions; participates in state, regional, and national competitions in first amendment law, ethics, and other areas; and helps to administer the G. Mennen Williams mandatory moot court competition for first-year students. Last year, Moot Court members at UDM participated in several distinctive national competitions including the Niagra Cup (national championship), the McGee National Civil Rights competition (best oralist), and Immigration Law (best brief). This year, members will argue in 13 national competitions.

The **Student Bar Association (SBA)**, affiliated with the Law Student Division of the American Bar Association, plays a significant role in student affairs. As the student government of the school, the SBA authorizes other student organizations, including the Black Law Student Alliance, the Environmental Law Society, Phi Alpha Delta, St. Thomas More Society, the Women's Law Caucus, the Arab and Chaldean Law Student Society, the Sports and Entertainment Law Society, and many others. Students also regularly publish a student newsletter, *In Brief*.

In 2006, UDM School of Law received the Judy M. Weightman Memorial Public Interest Award from the American Bar Association (ABA) Student Law Division. This award recognizes

outstanding community service projects, public interest programming, and strong commitment to helping others in need. UDM's Student Bar Association nominated UDM for this award.

■ Career Services

The school's Career Services Office provides students with a wide range of opportunities through which they may explore career paths in law. The office sponsors a Preparing to Practice series for upper-class students that introduces them to a variety of practice areas and issues. The assistant dean for career services and the national employment counselor provide career counseling services, including résumé and cover letter review. The office administers the school's annual on-campus interview programs, maintains a job information hotline and newsletter, sponsors a mock interview program for first-year students, and hosts special events to acquaint students with practitioners.

■ Admission

The School of Law encourages applicants to submit an application for admission by April 15. The Admission Committee considers all elements of an application, including undergraduate grade-point average, Law School Admission Test scores, writing skills, leadership and maturity as evidenced by work and service experiences, graduate work, letters of recommendation, and the personal statement. The committee reviews applications as they become complete on a continuous basis and communicates decisions as early as possible. An applicant may accept an offer of admission by submitting the required nonrefundable deposits, which are credited toward tuition. The University of Detroit Mercy and the School of Law adhere to nondiscrimination policies.

Applicant Profile

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

This grid includes only applicants who earned 120–180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

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		Total		
	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	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	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	5
160–164	8	7	7	5	7	5	5	5	5	3	4	2	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	31
155–159	11	10	16	13	32	27	26	18	19	14	14	13	10	8	5	2	0	0	4	1	137	106	
150–154	19	15	37	31	54	43	66	47	44	30	33	26	13	6	5	1	4	0	1	1	276	200	
145–149	20	20	60	52	106	90	113	90	72	45	61	20	30	8	5	2	2	1	7	2	476	330	
140–144	11	5	36	25	56	33	81	35	37	9	45	8	16	4	9	0	7	0	12	2	310	121	
135–139	2	1	10	3	18	5	26	0	16	1	29	0	20	1	10	0	2	0	2	0	135	11	
130–134	1	0	2	0	5	0	8	0	12	0	13	0	7	0	6	0	5	0	3	0	62	0	
125–129	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	13	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	0
Total	73	59	168	129	279	203	328	197	211	104	200	69	104	31	44	5	21	1	29	6	1457	804	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 98% of the total applicant pool.