

University of Wyoming College of Law

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■ Introduction

The University of Wyoming College of Law is located on the campus of the University of Wyoming in Laramie. The university, the only four-year institution of higher learning in Wyoming, comprises seven colleges, a graduate school, and several organized research units. The university has a student body of 13,000.

The College of Law, founded in 1920, is a member of the AALS and is accredited by the ABA. An excellent faculty of 20 full-time professors and several lecturers instructs a student body of about 225. The limited size of the student body and the favorable student-to-faculty ratio create an atmosphere of friendliness and informality, and students enjoy a degree of access to faculty that students would rarely find at a larger institution.

Laramie is a town of 30,000 located in the southeastern part of Wyoming at an altitude of 7,200 feet on the high plains between two mountain ranges. Laramie's proximity to the mountains provides a variety of recreational activities, including skiing, backpacking, rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, camping, fishing, and hunting. Denver is two hours to the south.

■ Faculty

The faculty has a proven record of excellence in teaching and research. Particular areas of strength include environmental and natural resource law, water law, constitutional law, and transactional law. Faculty members are actively engaged in public service and university functions. Because of our small student body, the University of Wyoming College of Law faculty has instructional and research opportunities that are often not available in larger institutions. Students regularly converse with their professors both inside and outside of the classroom.

■ Curriculum

The first year consists entirely of required courses. During the second year, students must take additional required courses, including Evidence, Professional Responsibility, and a second semester of Constitutional Law and Civil Procedure. Students must also complete an advanced writing requirement and one skills course prior to graduation. As a condition of graduation from the College of Law, all students must successfully complete at least two of the following three courses—Administrative Law, Business Organizations, and Trusts and Estates. In addition, all students must successfully complete at least one of the following three courses—Bankruptcy Law, Income Taxation, or Secured Transactions.

In both the second and third years, practical legal training is available through courses in legal research, legal skills and problems, trial practice, and clinical work. The college has only limited non-classroom offerings in its summer session; however, graduation may be accelerated one semester by attending summer sessions at other accredited law schools.

■ Special Programs

The College of Law has a strong program of elective courses in natural resources law. Courses are regularly offered in environmental law, oil and gas, mining law, public land resources, and water rights. The College offers a joint JD/MA in Environment and Natural Resources. Other electives include coverage of trial and appellate practice, business planning, estate planning, corporate and commercial law, administrative law, consumer law, and Indian law.

Students may obtain practical experience and receive academic credit for work in five clinical programs: (1) a defender aid program in which students brief and argue criminal appeals on behalf of indigent persons and assist penitentiary inmates in post-conviction cases; (2) a prosecution assistance program in which students work directly with prosecuting attorneys in criminal cases; (3) a legal services program in which students provide legal assistance to economically disadvantaged persons; (4) a clinic dealing with victims of domestic violence; and (5) a clinic providing legal services in civil matters to University of Wyoming students. All clinical programs operate under faculty supervision. Under a special state rule, students working in the clinics frequently brief and argue cases before the Wyoming Supreme Court, an opportunity that is rare—if not unique—among law schools.

■ Admission Standards

The College of Law generally restricts the entering class to 75–80 students. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, or political belief in making admission decisions.

Students are admitted only for the fall semester. The college begins to accept applications in October for the class entering the following August. The entering class is selected from applications completed and on file by March 1. To meet the March 1 deadline, applicants should take the LSAT no later than February and should register for the LSDAS and arrange for forwarding of official transcripts no later than mid-January.

As a general rule, applicants must have received an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution prior to registration. Applicants may submit up to three letters of recommendation. Selection of the entering class is based on consideration of applicants' undergraduate records, LSAT scores, and other criteria relevant to success in the study and practice of law.

■ Student Activities

The College of Law publishes the *Wyoming Law Review*, a student-edited journal. Other student organizations include Potter Law Club, which provides student government and social activities with the Law Student Division of the ABA; three law fraternities; Students for Equal Justice; Intellectual Property Club; International Law Students Association; Minority Law Student Association; Natural Resources Law Forum; Women's Law Forum; J. Ruben Clark Society; and the Wyoming Student Trial Lawyers Association. Students represent the college each year in the National Moot Court

Competition, National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, National Client Counseling Competition, and the ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition. The college also participates in the law school honorary society, the Order of the Coif.

■ Career Services

About 75 percent of graduates remain in the Rocky Mountain region, but the College of Law has alumni around the globe. The curriculum is broad in scope, providing a core foundation of legal knowledge to prepare graduates to practice in a wide range of legal and geographic areas.

Graduates of the UW College of Law practice primarily in small private firms or are employed by state, local, tribal, and national governments. They also find work in public service, public interest organizations, and many alternative careers related to law. Twenty-five percent of graduates consistently work in state and federal judicial clerkships following law school. This is an extraordinary achievement, since national placement statistics in judicial clerkships are around 11 percent

according to the National Association of Law Placement.

As with other aspects of the college's operation, the small size of the student body permits the Career Services Office to provide students with a level of personal attention that may not be feasible at larger institutions. Students receive one-on-one career counseling and job-search assistance for permanent or summer employment. Career Services also works with students and alumni to develop insightful career panels and résumé/cover letter workshops. A network of loyal alumni hires often exclusively at the University of Wyoming College of Law. Fall and spring on-campus interviews also provide many firms and students with a chance to interview one another. An online posting system allows national and local organizations to post legal positions for UW students across the country.

■ Financial Aid

State and privately funded scholarships are available. Scholarship awards are based upon merit, need, and diversity. Students should file the FAFSA prior to March 1. Scholarship applications are submitted directly to the College of Law.

Applicant Profile

University of Wyoming College 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	1	1	1	1	5	5	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9
160–164	3	3	7	7	6	6	9	4	3	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	32	23	
155–159	18	16	31	26	23	14	24	15	18	8	10	1	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	130	81	
150–154	25	17	45	15	55	14	40	13	21	5	22	5	12	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	226	69	
145–149	21	1	34	7	57	11	48	5	23	3	16	1	10	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	212	29	
140–144	5	0	15	3	25	2	23	1	22	0	13	0	9	0	5	0	0	0	4	1	121	7	
135–139	1	0	7	0	4	0	9	1	5	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	36	1	
130–134	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	
125–129	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	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	74	38	140	59	171	48	160	44	95	17	72	8	40	3	14	1	1	0	10	1	777	219	

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