

## Duke University School of Law

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### ■ Introduction

Duke Law School is one of the nation's leading law schools, known for its emphasis on leadership, ethics, and scholarly research and programs that serve the profession and the community. Students come to Duke Law from every state and, as alumni, work in top law firms and companies around the country and world.

One of the reasons students choose Duke Law is its collaborative environment, where growth is encouraged not only through rigorous scholarship, but also through cooperation and support. Because the school is small, students enjoy uniquely close interactions with faculty and fellow students. Duke Law's faculty members are among the nation's most respected experts in fields ranging from constitutional law and national security to intellectual property and international business; in addition, professors are deeply dedicated to teaching and are accessible and responsive to students. Their open-door policy encourages students to ask questions, continue discussions, and seek advice on specialized interests. Faculty-student interaction extends beyond the classroom to committee work, research, pro bono opportunities, career counseling, and mentoring. Ultimately, students experience a supportive environment where the focus is on training and developing the whole person in an atmosphere that values different perspectives, backgrounds, and orientations.

### ■ Enrollment/Student Body

Duke Law admits a select group of students with diverse backgrounds who have in common a record of academic excellence. In 2007, JD students came to Duke from 39 states and 4 foreign countries. These students represented 98 different undergraduate institutions and had a wealth of different experiences. Approximately 40 percent of the students entering Duke Law in 2007 came directly from college, while the other 60 percent entered law school after gaining experience for a year or more in another profession or graduate school.

### ■ Faculty

Central to Duke Law's success is its faculty. Well respected in the legal field, Duke Law professors are known for groundbreaking legal scholarship that impacts public policy and the legal profession. A large number of faculty are also practitioners in both the public and private sectors in the United States and abroad. Their backgrounds are as varied as they are distinguished; they are former Fulbright Scholars, Rhodes Scholars, and Marshall Scholars. A number of faculty members have served as Supreme Court clerks, and one was the chief judge for the US Court of Military Appeals. Faculty members hold joint appointments in departments throughout the university and have obtained PhDs in a wide variety of disciplines. Several visiting professors from abroad teach at Duke Law each year, and many full-time faculty members have extensive international connections.

### ■ Joint Degrees

Duke Law faculty believe that society is best served by lawyers with diverse education and training. The law school jointly

sponsors numerous academic and professional programs in conjunction with other schools or departments at Duke University. In addition, students may pursue a three-year JD/DESS (Diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées) in global business law in partnership with University of Paris I and Sciences Po in Paris.

The law school and the graduate school jointly sponsor programs of study in law and several other disciplines, including (at the master's level) Biomedical Engineering, Classical Studies, Cultural Anthropology, East Asian Studies, Economics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, English, Environmental Management, Environmental Science and Policy, History, Humanities, Literature, Mechanical Engineering, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Public Policy Studies, Religion, Romance Studies, and Sociology. The only additional time necessary to obtain both degrees is the summer prior to the first year of school. At the doctoral level, joint programs in Philosophy and Political Science are available.

The law school offers joint professional degrees with the Fuqua School of Business, the Divinity School, the Nicholas School of the Environment, the Medical School, and the Sanford Institute of Public Policy. A special option is available to complete the JD/MBA in seven semesters rather than the usual eight. Specific information about applying to the joint professional degree programs and time requirements for these programs is available on the Duke Law website.

Duke Law students may also earn graduate certificates in Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Legal Studies; Health Care Policy; Health System Management; or Women's Studies.

### ■ Special Programs

- **JD/LLM in International and Comparative Law**—Duke Law has pioneered a unique joint-degree program that makes it possible for students to earn a JD and a Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law concurrently in three years. The only additional time needed to complete both degrees is the summer prior to the first year of law school and the first half of the following summer, during which students attend one of Duke's Institutes in Transnational Law, either in Switzerland or Hong Kong.
- **International Study Abroad and Externships**—Duke law school has arrangements with 20 top foreign universities, which give all interested Duke students an opportunity to study abroad. Programs are arranged on an individual basis and are supervised by Duke and the host institution. Duke Law also offers international externship opportunities in legal internships for one semester's credit at public sector institutions that engage in international work. Duke has preapproved externships with certain agencies, but students are also encouraged to submit their own proposals if they are interested in working with other groups.
- **Legal Clinics**—Duke Law School's clinical program has grown exponentially and houses a variety of clinics that offer a wide range of hands-on opportunities. A newly constructed clinical office suite brings a number of the programs together, allowing them to function as a public interest law firm. Clinical opportunities include: AIDS Legal Project, Animal Law Clinic, Children's Law Clinic, Community Enterprise

Clinic, Wrongful Convictions Clinic, Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, Guantanamo Defense Clinic, and Low-income Taxpayer Clinic.

- Centers**—Interdisciplinary collaboration at Duke is fostered by a number of centers and programs, including the Arts Project; Center for Genome Ethics, Law, and Policy; Center for the Study of the Public Domain; Center on Law, Ethics, and National Security; Global Capital Markets Center; Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions; and Program in Public Law. The school also is establishing a new Center for Criminal Justice and Professional Responsibility.

## Admission and Financial Aid

Admission to Duke law school is highly competitive. In addition to the academic criteria, other factors may help to distinguish some applicants. These include capacity for leadership, dedication to community service, excellence in a particular field, motivation, graduate study, work experience, extracurricular activities, and character.

Duke Law tries to achieve broad diversity in terms of general background, geography, and undergraduate institutions represented. Students are chosen not only for their potential for academic success but also because of qualities that will enhance the overall character of the class.

Admitted applicants are eligible for consideration for merit- and need-based scholarship awards. A select group of outstanding entering students are chosen each year as Mordecai Scholars and receive a full-tuition scholarship. Mordecai Scholars possess a record of extraordinary leadership and scholarly achievement prior to law school, and the personal qualities that are likely to result in community involvement and leadership.

## Cocurricular Activities

Scholarship in the classroom is reinforced through a variety of opportunities for hands-on leadership training and

professional experience. These begin soon after students arrive and continue throughout their tenure at Duke Law. Through pro bono work, legal clinics, public interest projects, moot court, and opportunities for scholarly writing and editing on eight different legal journals, Duke prepares students for the real-world practice of law.

## Professional Development

The award-winning Duke Blueprint provides structure to students' legal education and professional development by challenging them to engage intellectually, embody integrity, build relationships, serve the community, and become effective leaders. Integrated into every aspect of the community, the Blueprint emphasizes the development of the whole person and underscores the expectation that students will become leaders within the legal profession, the community, and the nation.

Duke Law graduates find employment in all sectors of the legal profession and in all parts of the United States and the world. Many begin their careers in law firms. Top law firms from across the country interview on campus each year, and the number of interviews available and offers made far exceeds the number of students interviewing. Others pursue judicial clerkships—14 percent of the graduating class of 2007—or work for government agencies or business enterprises. Historically, 100 percent of each class finds employment and average salaries are among the highest in the country. Top markets typically include New York; Washington, DC; California; North Carolina; and Texas.

Duke places special emphasis on support for students interested in a career in public service. Staff from both the Career Center and the Office of Pro Bono and Public Interest help students find opportunities both during and after law school. The law school provides financial support for these goals with grants to subsidize summer employment and a Loan Repayment Assistance Program for graduates who enter a life of public service.

## Applicant Profile

### Duke University 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		Below 2.50		No GPA		Total	
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm
170–180	539	494	439	366	144	59	44	3	14	0	6	1	4	0	7	1	1197	924
165–169	888	348	563	138	266	23	105	0	24	0	11	0	4	0	27	1	1888	510
160–164	413	30	407	20	270	11	115	2	32	2	14	0	10	0	38	0	1299	65
155–159	166	17	225	20	141	4	86	3	28	0	5	0	8	0	25	0	684	44
150–154	58	1	92	5	79	1	57	0	26	0	13	0	7	0	12	0	344	7
145–149	30	0	46	0	43	0	22	0	19	0	15	0	6	0	10	0	191	0
140–144	5	0	17	0	27	0	16	0	11	0	12	0	7	0	5	0	100	0
Below 140	3	0	6	0	6	0	9	0	10	0	12	0	13	0	3	0	62	0
Total	2102	890	1795	549	976	98	454	8	164	2	88	1	59	0	127	2	5765	1550

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.