

Washburn University School of Law

1700 SW College Avenue

Topeka, KS 66621-1140

Phone: 800.WASHLAW or 800.927.4529; Fax: 785.670.1120

E-mail: admissions@washburnlaw.edu; Website: <http://washburnlaw.edu>

■ Introduction

Washburn University School of Law was founded in 1903, became a member of the AALS in 1905, and appeared on the initial list of ABA-approved schools in 1923. The essence of Washburn Law is the commitment of the law school community at every level—from the dean's office to facilities staff—to the success of our students. In addition, the law school endeavors to impart to its students the value of treating others with respect, dignity, and a sense of caring. For more than a century, the school's student-centered approach has produced well-prepared law professionals ready to engage in successful careers. Its network of more than 6,300 alumni located in all 50 states and many foreign countries includes nationally recognized lawyers, state and federal judges, politicians, journalists, and senior executives of Fortune 500 companies.

■ Curriculum

All entering students participate in the law school's Ex-L program, which begins during an elaborate and rigorous "first week" program designed to teach students the learning strategies they need to succeed in law school. Ex-L includes a structured study-group program in which groups of 4–6 students meet twice per week to apply cooperative learning strategies to their law school learning under the supervision of carefully trained and supervised upper-division students. Second- and third-year students satisfy advanced writing and oral presentation requirements and take one or more classes from a group of Perspectives on Law courses, and one or more classes from a group of Skills courses.

■ Centers for Excellence

The Business and Transactional Law Center, the Center for Excellence in Advocacy, and the Children and Family Law Center complement Washburn's tradition of excellence in teaching. Students may add an element of concentration by participating in one of the school's seven certificate programs, most of which are administered through the centers.

Business and Transactional Law Center—The center provides students with additional educational opportunities to expand their knowledge in business law while developing the essential skills of transactional lawyers. The hands-on involvement of alumni actively engaged in business and transactional law also allows the center to accomplish a major subsidiary goal: making the law school experience more realistic, and relevant, by providing additional opportunities to bridge the gap between theory and practice. The ultimate outcome from these efforts will be graduates who possess the knowledge and professional skills required to represent their clients effectively.

Center for Excellence in Advocacy—The center trains law students in the persuasive and skilled use of advocacy techniques. The center also supports research in trial behavior, trial process, and effective advocacy. Students hone their advocacy skills in Washburn's live-client law clinic and in a variety of advocacy skills courses. The center coordinates student participation in trial advocacy, negotiation, and client

counseling. The center also sponsors national and regional advocacy conferences and hosts a jurist in residence each year.

Children and Family Law Center—The center supports education, interdisciplinary research, advocacy, and training services focused on children and families involved in the legal system. Washburn houses the American Bar Association's *Family Law Quarterly*. Students working in the center have the opportunity to take a range of courses related to children and families and to participate in the Washburn Law Clinic representing clients in divorce, children in need of care, and other family law cases.

■ Certificate Programs

Washburn Law offers certificates of specialization in Advocacy, Business and Transactional Law, Estate Planning, Family Law, International and Comparative Law, Natural Resources Law, and Tax Law. The certificate programs allow students to fully develop their legal interests in these fields. Students who earn certificates graduate with a highly developed working knowledge of the practice area.

■ Law Clinic

In 1970, Washburn Law Clinic was one of the nation's first in-house clinics. From its inception, faculty members teaching in the clinic have been on tenure track, placing our clinic at the forefront of legal education. Faculty-supervised students provide a full range of legal services to live clients, including programs in Native American law and transactional law.

■ International Programs

As early as 1968, Washburn Law recognized that the practice of law was becoming increasingly global and responded with a summer study-abroad program. Currently, Washburn expands students' understanding of different legal systems through its summer program at Utrecht University and its semester-long program at Maastricht University, both in the Netherlands.

■ Externships

Washburn Law's externship program allows students to earn course credit through placement in legal settings outside the law school. Students can experience the practice of law in a wide variety of settings tailored to their specific interests and needs. Students are closely supervised by an attorney and by the externship director.

■ Accelerated Degree Program

This program allows students to complete law school in two-and-a-half years by taking courses during both summers.

■ Facilities and Technology

For 25 years, the Washburn Law Library has ranked in the top quarter of all law school libraries for new titles added. It has been consistently ranked high among law school libraries because of its extensive collection and innovative use of

technology. WashLaw has been a premier legal research portal since its creation in the early 1990s, and it is nationally acclaimed as a comprehensive source for legal information on the Internet. Students have wireless access throughout the building. Classrooms include enhanced audio, video, and computer technologies. The state-of-the-art Robinson Courtroom/Bianchino Technology Center offers students the opportunity to practice their skills in a high-tech environment.

■ Admission

While an applicant's LSAT score and GPA are significant factors, there is no bright-line cutoff. The Admissions Committee carefully considers other factors, including a determination of whether the individual would be an asset for the class as a whole based on gender, ethnicity, geographic diversity, international experience, and undergraduate institution.

■ Student Activities

More than 30 active student organizations, including Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American law student associations, accommodate the wide and diverse interests students bring to the law school and add to the cultural and intellectual life of the law school community.

Students have the opportunity to participate in two journals. They may be selected to serve on the board of editors of the *Washburn Law Journal* or the student editorial board of the ABA's peer-reviewed *Family Law Quarterly*, which has been located at Washburn since 1992, enhancing the Children and Family Law Center.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

Scholarships are awarded based upon a combination of academic performance and need. Contribution to diversity is considered in making scholarship awards. Resident status for tuition purposes can be established with a primary Kansas residence after six months. The Financial Aid Office assists law students in procuring federal loans and financial aid. Housing costs are reasonable. Most students live in the residential areas surrounding the campus.

■ Professional Development

The Office of Professional Development offers programs that emphasize assessment of career goals, exploration of varied applications of a legal education, and support for the transition into the professional marketplace. The office makes available extensive resources regarding local, regional, national, and international legal employment in the public and private sectors, graduate and foreign study, and judicial clerkships.

Washburn Law graduates enjoy great success in seeking employment. Washburn law school alumni reside in every state in the nation, the District of Columbia, and many foreign countries.

■ Writing Program

During the past several years, Washburn Law has made a major commitment of resources to its Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing program, resulting in national recognition in 2007. All first-year students must complete six hours of graded legal analysis, research, and writing. An upper-level writing course is also required. The class sizes are small and are taught by tenure-track professors dedicated to legal writing as their chosen profession.

Applicant Profile

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This chart is to be used for general purpose information only. Nonnumerical factors are weighed heavily in all admission decisions.

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		Below 2.25		Total			
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm		
175-180	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
170-174	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
165-169	0	0	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
160-164	9	9	9	9	4	4	6	6	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	37	37
155-159	24	24	24	23	22	22	21	20	13	13	8	5	5	4	3	3	120	114		
150-154	37	35	40	36	65	55	61	46	29	12	19	11	8	5	8	5	267	205		
145-149	17	11	30	12	44	17	48	11	22	5	31	7	9	0	10	0	211	63		
140-144	9	4	16	3	24	5	44	7	21	2	23	0	10	2	2	0	149	23		
Below 140	4	1	11	2	12	0	17	2	9	0	7	0	14	0	8	0	82	5		
Total	102	86	133	88	173	105	198	93	101	39	90	25	47	12	32	9	876	457		

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