

Cleveland State University—Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

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■ Introduction

Founded in 1897, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law was the first law school in Ohio to admit women and one of the first to admit minorities. Becoming part of Cleveland State University in 1969, the law school has maintained its long-standing reputation for educating some of the region's outstanding leaders of the bench and bar, heads of law firms and corporations, and distinguished public servants. The College of Law continues to enhance its national reputation and influence with its law lecture series and visiting scholars program, through outreach efforts with its National Advisory Council, and through the law school's recruiting activities. The college receives applications from prospective students from over 450 different colleges and universities. Tuition for Ohio residents is among the lowest in the state and tuition for non-Ohio residents is the lowest in the state.

The college offers full-time and part-time (day and evening) programs. After completing the program selected for the first year of law school, a student may switch programs according to his or her scheduling needs. The student body is diverse in many ways. Approximately half of the students are female, roughly 15–20 percent of each entering class is likely to be over the age of 30, and many students have had careers in other fields or earned advanced degrees before beginning the study of law. The college's pro bono, extracurricular, and cocurricular activities help to round out the richness of experience gained by studying law at Cleveland-Marshall.

■ Location

The College of Law is located on the university's urban campus in downtown Cleveland. In early 2008, the law school was newly renovated with an updated Moot Court Room, a new three-tiered glass entrance, and new spaces for our clinics, student organizations, and faculty conferences. Students at Cleveland-Marshall enjoy all that the city has to offer, including the Cleveland Museums of Art and Contemporary Art, the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra, the Botanical Garden, Playhouse Square, the House of Blues, and professional sports teams. On the North Coast Harbor sit the Great Lakes Science Center, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. The law school is in close proximity to the federal, state, and county courthouses. Cleveland is also the headquarters for many large corporations and law firms.

■ The Curriculum

The urban setting of the college brings challenging legal experiences to students. Clinical programs and externships include (1) the employment law, urban development law, fair housing, and environmental law clinics that offer students academic credit for serving clients in a variety of areas; (2) the Judicial Externship Program in which students work with state appellate and federal court judges; (3) the Public Interest Externship Program designed to offer experiences in office settings such as the county prosecutor and public defender, the bankruptcy trustee, the Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the US Attorney (civil and criminal); and (4) the Independent Externship Program where students may

propose a placement in a public service office. By completing core and elective courses in their chosen areas, students may undertake a concentration in four areas: business law, civil litigation and dispute resolution, criminal law, and employment and labor law.

■ Joint-degree Programs and Graduate Program

Five joint-degree programs are offered: the *JD/MPA* (Master of Public Administration); the *JD/MUPDD* (Master of Urban Planning, Design, and Development); the *JD/MBA* (Master of Business Administration); the *JD/MAES* (Master of Arts in Environmental Studies); and the *JD/MSES* (Master of Science in Environmental Science). The law school also offers a graduate *LLM* degree.

■ Pro Bono Program

The Pro Bono Program at Cleveland-Marshall offers a variety of community service opportunities. Popular placements include teaching practical law in public high schools, assisting with the legal needs of women recently released from incarceration, or addressing the concerns of the poor by delivering legal assistance in cooperation with local attorneys and community agencies.

■ Admission

While admission to Cleveland-Marshall is competitive, it need not be intimidating. The admissions committee reviews all applications with care and sensitivity, taking into consideration academic performance, LSAT scores, work and life experience, and readiness for the rigors of legal education. We are committed to enrolling academically talented and diverse students. In doing so, we recognize and embrace that academic talent and diversity can be identified in many interesting and exciting ways. Undergraduate grades and LSAT results are the most significant factors in our admission decision; however, an applicant's personal statement, letters of recommendation, and overall strength of the file are factors also strongly considered in the admission process. Criteria for admission are identical for full- and part-time applicants.

■ The Legal Career Opportunities Program

The Legal Career Opportunities Program (LCOP) invites applications from individuals who demonstrate the ability to succeed in law school but have encountered life circumstances or other adversities that have affected their traditional academic indicators, such as LSAT scores and/or undergraduate grades. In most cases, applicants to the LCOP program have academic indicators that are a bit lower than those of regularly admitted applicants; however, LCOP applicants demonstrate through their career and professional accomplishments, personal statements, letters of recommendation, graduate work, and/or significantly improved academic performance over a period of time, their likelihood for success in law school. LCOP is not a provisional program. Being admitted through the program is acceptance to law school. Students admitted through LCOP

are required to enroll in a course during the summer prior to the beginning of their first year.

■ Scholarships, Financial Aid, and Loan Repayment Assistance

Applicants are considered for scholarships when their files are reviewed. There is no separate application process. Scholarships range from \$2,000 a year to full in-state tuition. Our financial aid program utilizes combinations of scholarships, fellowships, work-study employment, and loans. The College of Law has a loan repayment assistance program (LRAP) to help support students choosing to work in public service jobs upon graduation.

■ Library and Technology

The College of Law library is one of the 15 largest academic law libraries in the country, with 85,000 net square feet, housing more than 500,000 volumes. At Cleveland-Marshall, students have access to online research services, a computer lab, group study rooms, a bibliographic instruction room, and a media center. Students study in the four-story, light-filled atrium where there are over 200 student carrels with built-in power and network ports for portable computers. Cutting-edge technology is used in classrooms and our moot courtroom, and a state-of-the-art wireless network allows use of personal computers throughout the campus. Cleveland-Marshall has been recognized for its use and support of technology by the *National Jurist* magazine and the American Association of Law Libraries.

■ Career Services

Cleveland, the largest legal market between New York City and Chicago, is home to more than 300 law firms. The location of the college enables students to access these firms for law

clerk positions easily. Likewise, the federal and state courts nearby provide an external classroom for judicial externships.

The Office of Career Planning (OCP) invites many practicing attorneys to participate in programs and presentations. Many times, these attorneys are alumni in the area, but often they are from firms desiring to help students professionally. The OCP staff offers over 20 programs per year providing a base of knowledge about legal and professional careers. The programs range from interview techniques and judicial clerkship seminars to practice-specific areas such as intellectual property, employment law, and health care law. The OCP posts over 1,500 permanent and law clerk jobs per year. Counseling and career guidance is provided by experienced staff members with JDs and counseling experience.

Programs and materials are easily accessible for both full- and part-time students. Handbooks and pamphlets are available to students in hard copy and many are also on the Web.

■ Housing and Student Life

Cleveland-Marshall students live in convenient and affordable housing throughout the city and surrounding suburbs. In addition, the University offers on-campus housing and meal plans. On-campus housing information is available from the Cleveland State University Department of Residence Life at 216.687.5196 or online at www.csuohio.edu/reslife/. The law school's Office of Admissions maintains a roommate referral list and is available to assist students in locating off-campus housing.

The university's brand-new \$29 million recreation center connects to the Physical Education Building, which houses Woodling Gym and Busbey Natatorium—providing direct access to the university's Olympic-size swimming pool. The state-of-the-art facility has basketball, racquetball, and squash courts; weight training and fitness areas; an indoor jogging track; locker rooms; multipurpose rooms; and a parking facility.

Applicant Profile

Cleveland State University—Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

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
175–180										
170–174										
165–169										
160–164										
155–159										
150–154										
145–149										
140–144										
135–139										
130–134										
125–129										
120–124										



Very Likely



Likely



Possible



Unlikely