

## Penn State University, The Dickinson School of Law

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### ■ Introduction

Founded in 1834, Penn State's Dickinson School of Law is the oldest law school in Pennsylvania and the fifth oldest in the nation. The law school embraces the university's mission to improve the lives of the people of Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world through legal teaching, scholarship, and service.

Our law school is an engaged, diverse, and multidisciplinary intellectual community that challenges students to research, think, and act like lawyers—and to ascend to new heights of academic excellence. Through an intensive and comprehensive program of study that includes both classroom-based and experiential learning, our students are prepared to practice law at the highest level in an increasingly global world. As part of a world-class research university, Penn State law students have access to extensive academic and programmatic resources to enhance their learning experience. Courses are offered at Penn State's University Park campus in State College, Pennsylvania, and at the law school's traditional home in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

### ■ Faculty

Penn State's faculty includes one of the nation's leading scholars of corporate mergers and acquisitions, the world's preeminent expert on Russian law, leading scholars of commercial arbitration, renowned scholars of antitrust and law and economics, former law clerks to United States Supreme Court Justices, a leading scholar of international banking and finance, the first legal counsel to the African Union, the legal counsel to the Greek Presidency of the European Union, and other active and influential teachers and scholars in a wide range of substantive areas.

Our faculty scholars value academic rigor and are committed to sharing their knowledge, engaging students, and sustaining an intense and comprehensive legal program. They encourage students to participate in vigorous in-class discussion and provide abundant opportunities for thoughtful discourse and research outside of the classroom.

### ■ Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to produce leaders and lawyers with high professional and ethical standards and the ability to navigate legal, policy, and social developments in all areas of human endeavor. After completing required first-year coursework, students can explore professional and intellectual interests by choosing elective courses in a variety of areas, including criminal law, trial advocacy, government and politics, and science and intellectual property. Experiential learning programs, moot court teams, concentrated research opportunities, and law journals enhance the curriculum by providing opportunities for students to distinguish themselves and explore their strengths.

### ■ Academic Programs and Activities

**Experiential Learning:** The law school's curriculum includes a wide range of experiential learning opportunities, including semester-long government agency externships in Washington,

DC, and clinics that focus on child advocacy, immigrants' rights, appellate civil rights litigation, disability law, elder and consumer protection law, and family law. Clinical professors include the former deputy director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the former deputy director of the National Immigration Forum.

**Centers:** Students can pursue focused scholarship through academic centers that include the Center for the Study of Mergers and Acquisitions; Institute for Sports Law, Policy, and Research; Institute of Arbitration Law and Practice; and the Agricultural Law Resource and Reference Center.

**Joint Degrees:** Students can pursue joint-degree programs and other forms of multidisciplinary study with other graduate departments within the university, including the School of International Affairs, Smeal College of Business, College of Education, and College of Agricultural Sciences.

**Public Interest:** In addition to our clinics, students can explore service-oriented careers through field placements with legal services, public defenders, and nonprofit public interest offices. Our Miller Center for Public Interest Advocacy works with a network of attorneys to enable students to participate in pro bono cases.

### ■ International Programs

As citizens of a global society, we provide a rich and evocative international curriculum—complete with significant opportunities for immersion in international cultures and legal systems. Our relationship with Penn State's School of International Affairs has enriched the intellectual life of our law school and particularly our curriculum, which offers ever-expanding opportunities for international interactions and cross-border, interdisciplinary studies. Penn State law students may take electives from the School of International Affairs and learn from a faculty of former diplomats, national leaders, and government analysts, as well as scholars of international economics, agricultural development, and business.

Many of our law faculty have exceptional depth in international issues, enabling the law school to offer advanced coursework in comparative and international commercial law, constitutional law, corporate law, and humanitarian law, among other areas. Additionally, we have established student exchange programs with the University of Cape Town in South Africa, the University of Maastricht Faculty of Law in the Netherlands, and Yeditepe University in Turkey.

The law school also offers one of the oldest and most prestigious master of laws programs for foreign-trained lawyers, whose presence at the law school enriches the diversity of our educational experience.

### ■ Physical Facilities, Technology, and Library

The university has invested more than \$120 million in new and renovated facilities for the law school in Carlisle and University Park. Our buildings reflect the serious academic nature of the study of law, with state-of-the-art libraries, classrooms, and gathering spaces that enhance opportunities for learning, spontaneous discussion, and passionate debate.

Our facilities are reciprocally designed and equipped with sophisticated and pervasive audiovisual technologies that

provide our students with appropriate exposure to technology, allow for the real-time delivery of classes and programs between Carlisle and University Park, and enable us to conduct courses and other collaborative projects with schools and institutions worldwide. In addition to modern electronic courtrooms, our facilities feature class and seminar rooms equipped with integrated high-definition video, personal video systems to complement the teaching experience, and advanced recording technologies. Consistent with Penn State's commitment to sustainability and "green" design, the law school buildings are also designed to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification requirements and to encourage efficient energy use.

With holdings of more than a half million volumes and access to a wealth of electronic resources, the Penn State Law library fully supports the research and study activities of students, faculty, and members of the bar. Additionally, legal and interdisciplinary research is greatly enhanced through access to the vast print and electronic collections held by other university libraries.

Our building initiatives, combined with an additional several million dollars annually for faculty and program development, represent one of the largest investments ever made in an American law school.

## ■ Student Activities

Law students may pursue activities in legal scholarship, trial advocacy, and public service to refine their legal skills and develop their leadership styles. Law students edit and publish four journals: the *Penn State Law Review*, the *Penn State Environmental Law Review*, the *Penn State International Law Review*, and the *Yearbook on Arbitration and Mediation*. Second-

and third-year students can also pursue valuable trial experience by engaging in moot court team competitions at both the regional and national levels. Our vibrant student body supports more than 40 active student groups that organize social events, serve the underrepresented, host speakers, and establish professional networks. Law students are also welcome to participate in the hundreds of organizations, events, and activities available at Penn State's flagship University Park campus.

## ■ Career Services

Dedicated to keeping in touch with a profession that is both fast-paced and nuanced, our Career Services Office offers a dynamic menu of programs and high-quality individual counseling sessions and programming to assist students in identifying and achieving their career goals. Our career services professionals maintain contact with employers across the country, resulting in two formal, on-campus interview programs and the posting of more than 1,500 positions annually. Students can participate in more than 20 job fairs, including one in the District of Columbia, two exclusively devoted to public interest, several minority job fairs, and one exclusively devoted to patent law.

## ■ Admission and Financial Aid

You can apply online at [www.law.psu.edu](http://www.law.psu.edu). Admitted students may choose to attend first-year classes in University Park or Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

The Financial Aid Office works with accepted students to obtain the funding necessary to finance their education. All admitted students are considered for scholarship opportunities.

## Applicant Profile

### Penn State University, The Dickinson School of Law

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

LSAT Score	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	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5
165–169	7	6	8	8	9	9	12	10	2	1	3	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	46	36	
160–164	42	41	75	70	64	61	31	27	27	17	13	2	8	1	2	0	0	0	3	3	265	222	
155–159	117	90	172	130	196	129	148	72	80	12	43	7	16	0	10	2	1	0	17	6	800	448	
150–154	87	27	148	39	200	42	148	22	75	4	39	1	20	0	9	0	2	0	22	7	750	142	
145–149	45	5	84	12	88	9	97	4	72	4	46	1	13	0	5	0	0	0	6	0	456	35	
140–144	16	1	25	0	43	1	52	1	49	0	27	0	13	0	7	0	0	0	12	0	244	3	
135–139	1	0	10	0	19	0	16	1	12	0	7	0	8	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	80	1	
130–134	0	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	19	0	
125–129	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	9	0	
120–124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Total	317	172	524	259	624	252	509	139	323	38	180	12	91	1	37	2	6	0	66	17	2677	892	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.