

Pepperdine University School of Law

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■ Introduction

Pepperdine School of Law is located in Malibu, California, just 30 miles from downtown Los Angeles, making it a conducive environment for the intense study of law. Malibu offers an almost rural setting, yet it is an integral part of greater Los Angeles, providing access to one of the largest legal communities in the world. Pepperdine is a Christian university committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and Christian values, where students are strengthened for lives of purpose, service, and leadership.

■ Student Body

Pepperdine students bring a broad spectrum of backgrounds. They share a strong desire to attain high levels of achievement in academics, in their personal lives, and in their careers. Students come to Pepperdine from diverse socioeconomic, cultural, and religious backgrounds for the emphasis on integrity, service, and justice with a desire to become trusted leaders.

■ Faculty

Although the faculty have distinguished themselves through scholarly research and writing as well as leadership positions in prestigious legal organizations, the faculty's primary mission is to teach—to help students see the structure of legal thought and to be available as professional examples of a multifaceted profession. They demonstrate to their students that lawyers should be people-oriented individuals with strong moral character, capable of guiding their clients toward what is just and honorable as well as what is legally permissible.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The School of Law occupies the Odell McConnell Law Center, located on the university's 830-acre campus overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The Jerene Appleby Harnish Library is the focal point of the school, housing a collection of over 400,000 volumes and volume equivalents. Students enjoy access to a multitude of leading online legal research services. Wireless network access is available throughout the Law Center. The facility contains two high-tech courtrooms, as well as lecture halls, seminar rooms, a bookstore, student dining area, and lounges.

■ Curriculum

Pepperdine offers a three-year, full-time JD program; four-year, full-time JD/MBA and JD/MPP dual-degree programs; a five-year, full-time JD/MDiv dual-degree program; a concurrent JD/MDR-degree program; and an LLM in Dispute Resolution. A student enrolled full time in a summer session can accelerate graduation by one semester. The required core courses are complemented by an extensive selection of elective courses.

■ The Palmer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Law

Unique in the nation, the Palmer Center prepares students for the modern hybrid role of lawyer, business consultant,

financial strategist, and venture capitalist, and equips them with credentials and options in the field of entrepreneurship. Through carefully tailored coursework, the Palmer Center integrates multifaceted law and business disciplines into a distinctive and dynamic certificate program that supplements and complements the traditional JD degree.

■ Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution

The Straus Institute is the most comprehensive program of its type in the nation. The institute's faculty involvement as mediators, continuing legal education educators, and consultants enriches the practical application of course materials. Students studying in the field of dispute resolution can complete a special certificate program as part of their Juris Doctor degree program or a Master of Dispute Resolution. The LLM in Dispute Resolution began January 2003.

■ Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics

The Nootbaar Institute was created to explore the nexus between these three disciplines, with particular emphasis on religion and the practice of law. While affirming Pepperdine's Christian identity, the institute draws from the largest possible pool of religious voices, seeking dialogue and common ground with other faith traditions.

■ Clinical Education

Clinical law programs provide students with the opportunity to refine their skills under the supervision of faculty, lawyers, and judges. The majority of clinical law opportunities are with the district attorneys, public defenders, and state and federal court judges. There are a number of programs offering experience in corporate and securities law, tax law, juvenile law, family law, labor law, consumer protection, environmental law, and trade regulation. Placements are also available within the film, television, and music industries.

■ Public Interest Opportunities

Pepperdine has partnered with the Los Angeles Union Rescue Mission to develop the Pepperdine/Union Rescue Mission Legal Aid Clinic. Located in downtown Los Angeles, the mission provides emergency food and shelter, health services, recovery programs, education, job training, and counseling within a Christian context. Students volunteer at the mission, where they meet with residents regarding legal concerns. The Pepperdine/Union Rescue Mission Family Law Clinic helps clients resolve issues such as child custody and support. The Special Education Advocacy Clinic, housed at the School of Law, gives students an opportunity to gain valuable experience advocating for children with disabilities. Students work to help ensure that children with special needs receive proper accommodations in public schools.

■ Asylum Clinic

The Asylum Clinic, under the direction of retired United States Immigration Judge, and now Pepperdine Professor Bruce J.

Enhorn, provides law student representation to indigent and near-indigent foreign-born individuals who seek to legalize their status in the US based on their fear of religious and other persecution abroad. Law students in the clinic are assigned to specific clients whose asylum claims they prepare for formal presentation in either administrative proceedings before the Department of Homeland Security or judicial proceedings before the US Immigration Court. The clinic provides students real-word experience in immigration law and litigation and also provides advocacy for persons of faith as well as other vulnerable persons.

■ London Program

Students have the opportunity to study law in London at Pepperdine’s university-owned facility in the museum district of South Kensington. While in London, students may serve as externs in clinical placements.

■ Exchange Programs

Students have the opportunity to participate in exchange programs with the University of Copenhagen and the University of Augsburg. Classes are taught in English in both programs.

■ Student Activities

Pepperdine has earned a national reputation for excellence in appellate advocacy and trial advocacy competitions. Editorial and staff positions are awarded with the *Pepperdine Law Review*, *Pepperdine Dispute Resolution Law Journal*, *National Association of Administrative Law Judges Journal*, and the *Journal of Business, Entrepreneurship, and the Law*.

■ Admission

Admission is based on the applicant’s academic record, LSAT score, a written personal statement, as well as a response to the university’s mission statement, and other information that

reflects outstanding academic and professional promise. Applications are also evaluated on the basis of employment experience, extracurricular activities, community involvement, commitment to high standards of morality and ethics, maturity, initiative, and motivation. The admission process is guided by the view that a student body that reflects diversity provides a superior educational environment. Admission decisions may be based on consideration of factors that include racial and ethnic origin, unique work or service experience, a history of overcoming disadvantage, or unusual life experiences. First-year students are admitted only in the fall.

■ Housing

The George Page Residential Complex is located directly across the street from the Law Center. The 72-unit complex houses graduate students in four-bedroom apartments. The Admission Office also provides an extensive housing referral service.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

Pepperdine’s active financial aid program provides over 85 percent of the student body with some type of assistance. Scholarship and grants are available to students with outstanding academic credentials and to those with demonstrated financial need. The deadline for completed applications for financial aid is April 1 of the entering year.

■ Career Development Office

The Career Development Office is committed to helping every law student explore, define, and achieve their career goals through career-related workshops, guest speaker programs, and one-on-one counseling sessions. The office also manages on-campus fall and spring recruiting programs, and co-sponsors with the Alumni Office a robust Alumni Mentoring Program. Over 300 employers participated in Pepperdine’s most recent fall recruiting programs.

Applicant Profile

Pepperdine 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		
175–180	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
170–174	8	8	8	6	4	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	24	19
165–169	39	37	56	54	37	33	19	18	20	8	5	1	5	0	1	1	182	152		
160–164	87	83	112	102	127	112	98	58	33	8	17	0	19	1	4	4	497	368		
155–159	142	104	249	121	229	55	186	18	64	2	41	1	16	1	11	2	938	304		
150–154	71	11	137	10	166	13	135	1	74	1	42	2	19	1	13	0	657	39		
Below 150	29	0	90	1	139	1	136	2	116	0	64	0	47	0	15	0	636	4		
Total	377	244	654	296	702	218	575	97	308	20	170	4	107	3	44	7	2937	889		

Apps = Number of Applicants
Adm = Number Admitted
Reflects 98% of the total applicant pool.