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## Duke University School of Law



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### Overview<sup>2</sup>

Duke Law School is an ambitious, forward-thinking, and innovative institution whose mission is to prepare students for responsible and productive lives in the legal profession. As a community of scholars, the Law School also provides leadership at the national and international levels in efforts to improve the law and legal institutions through teaching, research, and other forms of public service.

At Duke Law School, students and faculty experience academic rigor in an interdisciplinary environment where creativity and innovation rule. Bold, strategic expansions in faculty, clinics, interdisciplinary centers, law journals, public interest opportunities, and high-tech facilities ensure that the Law School stays on the cutting edge of legal scholarship. The Duke Blueprint to LEAD is a powerful set of principles for leadership growth that informs the development of committed, ethical lawyers who are well-equipped for the 21st century.

### Student-Faculty Ratio<sup>3</sup>

9.5:1

### Admission Criteria<sup>4</sup>

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	165-170	3.59-3.84
Median*	169	3.77

Law School Admissions details based on 2013 data.

\*Medians have been calculated by averaging the 25th- and 75th-percentile values released by the law schools and have been rounded up to the nearest whole number for LSAT scores and to the nearest one-hundredth for GPAs.

## Admission Statistics<sup>5</sup>

Approximate number of applications	5014
Number accepted	954
Acceptance rate	19%

## Class Ranking and Grades<sup>6</sup>

Duke Law School uses a slightly modified form of the traditional 4.0 grading scale. The modification permits faculty to recognize especially distinguished performance with grades above a 4.0.

There is an enforced maximum median grade as well as a limit on grades above 4.0 in all first-year courses and in upper-level courses with more than 10 students:

- In all first-year courses and upper-level courses with enrollments of more than 50 students, the maximum median grade is 3.3. No more than 5% of the grades in any class may be higher than a 4.0.
- In upper-level courses with enrollments of 10 to 49 students, the maximum median grade is 3.5.

There is no maximum median grade in upper-level courses with fewer than 10 students.

A grade higher than 4.0 is comparable to an "A+" under letter grading systems. A grade of 1.5 or lower is failing.

The Law School does not release class rank.

## Grade Normalization (Curve)<sup>7</sup>

For all classes:

No more than 5% of the grades, rounding excepted, may exceed 4.0.

For large classes (50 or more students) and all first-year classes, the following distribution is required:

Numerical Grade	Percentage of Class
4.1-4.3	0-5%
3.5-4.0	20-40%
3.2-3.4	30-50%
2.8-3.1	20-40%
2.0-2.7	0-5%

For smaller-sized classes (10-49 students) other than first-year classes, the median for the class shall not exceed 3.5.

A failing grade in any course shall be recorded as 1.5.

## Honors<sup>8</sup>

Honor	Criteria
Summa Cum Laude	Top 2% of graduating class
Magna Cum Laude	Top 15% of graduating class
Cum Laude	Top 35% of graduating class
Top Five Percent Honors	Top 5% of graduating class
Individual Course Honors	Student or students with highest grades in individual classes

## Awards<sup>9</sup>

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
Justin Miller Award for Leadership	For someone who has been especially active in the Law School and/or the greater Durham community, demonstrates initiative and leads by example.
Justin Miller Award for Integrity	For a courageous person with strong principles, a solid character, and a true sense of altruism.
Justin Miller Award for Citizenship	For someone who brings people together in constructive ways.
Justin Miller Award for Intellectual Curiosity	For someone with an intellectual hunger and passion for the law.
LLM Award for Leadership and Community Participation	For someone demonstrating attributes of engagement with the law school and concern for the well-being of LLM students

## Journals<sup>10-18</sup>

The **Alaska Law Review** examines legal issues affecting the state of Alaska. The student-edited journal has been published at Duke Law School under the sponsorship of the Alaska Bar Association since 1984. An annual Year in Review issue consists of short summaries of significant court decisions regarding Alaska from the federal and state courts.

The **Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum** is a student-edited publication that examines environmental issues from legal, scientific, economic, and public policy perspectives. In addition to the Law School, DELPF is affiliated with Duke's Nicholas School for the Environment and Earth Sciences, and Sanford School for Public Policy.

The **Duke Forum for Law & Social Change** is a student-edited publication featuring contributions from its annual symposium. Beyond publication, the Forum strives to provide a meaningful arena within the Duke Law community for ongoing discussion of social change and related issues.

The **Duke Journal of Comparative & International Law** is a student-edited publication that features articles from prominent international scholars and practitioners focusing on issues of comparative and international law.

The **Duke Journal of Constitutional Law & Public Policy** examines legal issues at the intersection of constitutional litigation and public policy. Published since 2006, DJCLPP is aimed at practitioners, judges, and legislators confronting new constitutional issues, and the constitutional and policy dimensions of court decisions and legislation. The journal also publishes an online edition, the Duke Journal of Constitutional Law & Public Policy Sidebar, with timely comments on topical trends and current subjects of constitutional law and public policy.

The **Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy** is a student-edited interdisciplinary publication devoted to discussions of gender, sexuality, race, and class issues in the context of law and public policy. Published since 1994, DJGLP aims to foster debate and encourage scholarship outside conventional boundaries.

The **Duke Law Journal** is a student-edited publication committed to publishing legal writing of superior quality. Started in 1951 as the Duke Bar Journal, DLJ publishes eight issues each year. Since 1969, it has published an annual Administrative Law Symposium issue. The journal also publishes an online supplement called Duke Law Journal Online that publishes short, lightly-edited responses to the Journal's published pieces as well as other timely commentary at the same high level of quality as the print edition.

The **Duke Law & Technology Review** is a student-edited online publication that has been published since 2001 and is devoted to examining the evolving intersection of law and technology. Unlike traditional legal journals, DLTR focuses on short, direct, and accessible "issue briefs" or "iBriefs," intended to provide cutting edge insight to lawyers and non-legal professionals.

The **Law and Contemporary Problems** is a quarterly, interdisciplinary publication that began publication in 1933. Using a symposium format and focusing each issue on a topic of contemporary concern, L&CP publishes articles of value from all disciplines, the study of which contributes to the development of law.

### **Moot Court**<sup>19, 20</sup>

All first-year students compete in the Hardt Moot Court competition, where they argue an appellate brief and endure rigorous questioning by the judges (second- and third-year students). Those who score highest in this competition, or in the Dean's Cup competition, are invited to join the prestigious student-run Moot Court Board. This opens the door to many opportunities: Within the law school, the Board assists the legal research and writing instructors in teaching appellate advocacy and organizes and runs the Moot Court competitions. Joining the Moot Court Board also affords students the opportunity to compete in interscholastic moot court competitions around the country, where topics include intellectual property, products liability, securities, labor, and constitutional law.

The Duke Law Moot Court Board is comprised of students who practice the highest level of oral advocacy in the school. Invitations to join the Board are extended based solely on student performance in competition for the Hardt Cup, the Dean's Cup, and the Jessup Cup. Most members earn membership for their performance in the Hardt Cup at the end of the first year of law school. Upper level students may earn membership through their performance in the Dean's Cup or the Jessup Cup.

### **Clinical Programs**<sup>21</sup>

Duke Law School has experienced an explosion of clinics, offering a variety of opportunities for

students to build an experiential bridge between law school and practice. The new clinic space occupies one floor of the Law School and is equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Working together in the clinic suite, the real-client clinical courses operate as a public interest law firm, providing students challenging opportunities to deepen their substantive legal knowledge, strengthen their lawyering skills, and build their professional identities.

The following clinical programs are offered by the law school:

- AIDS/HIV and Cancer Legal Project
- Appellate Litigation Clinic
- Children’s Law Clinic
- Civil Justice Clinic
- Community Enterprise Clinic
- Environmental Law and Policy Clinic
- Guantanamo Defense Clinic
- International Human Rights Clinic
- Start-Up Ventures Clinic
- Wrongful Convictions Clinic

### Placement Facts<sup>22</sup>

#### Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$145,000-\$160,00
Private sector - Median	\$160,000
Public service - Median	\$55,000

#### Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	77.8%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	87.1%

#### Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	58.1%
Business and Industry	5.5%
Government	6%
Judicial Clerkships	21.2%
Public Interest Organizations	8.8%
Academia	0.5%
Unknown	0%

### Externships/Internships

#### Externships<sup>23</sup>

The Externship Program is designed to allow a student to receive academic credit for gaining

legal experience beyond that available in the classroom setting by working under the supervision of a licensed attorney or judge in a governmental or non-profit entity. An Integrated Externship is a curricular offering in which multiple students participate during the same semester in similar externship placements and in a classroom component for which a Duke Law School faculty member serves as instructor. In such an externship, the placements share a theme, such as federal criminal prosecution or policy-making placements in federal entities, which allows for classroom discussions on issues common to the several placements.

### **Human Rights Externships<sup>25</sup>**

The Duke Law externship program provides an unparalleled opportunity for students to spend a semester in the United States or abroad in placements at highly competitive human rights institutions. Externships can be local (e.g., the ACLU Capital Punishment Project), through the Duke in D.C. Program (e.g., the World Bank or Department of State), or international. In recent years, students have participated in high-level human rights placements at institutions such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, and The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

### **Internships<sup>26-29</sup>**

#### **Summer Internship**

Students can earn credit for working abroad, in special circumstances, under the supervision of a practicing attorney.

#### **Judicial Internships**

Students are encouraged to participate in a judicial internship, which is the summer equivalent of a traditional post-graduate judicial clerkship.

#### **Public Interest & Government Summer Internship**

Every year, five students from each North Carolina law school are awarded funding for a public interest summer internship. The funding is drawn from the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts program (IOLTA), a non-profit organization created by the North Carolina Bar.

#### **Stanback Internship program**

The Stanback Internship program provides Duke students with significant summer work experience in advocacy, environmental policy, grassroots conservation, and applied resource management. The program is run by the Nicholas School of the Environment through the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stanback. The program is a partnership between the Nicholas School and targeted environmental organizations.

### **Student Organizations<sup>30</sup>**

- ABA Law Student Division
- American Civil Liberties Union
- American Constitution Society
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund

- Asian Law Students Association
- Association for Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Black Graduate and Professional Student Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Business Law Society
- Christian Legal Society
- Coalition Against Gendered Violence
- Court Jesters
- Duke Bar Association
- Duke Education Law and Policy Society
- Duke Environmental Law Society
- Duke JD/MBA Club
- Duke Law Democrats
- Federalist Society
- Government and Public Service Society
- Graduate and Professional Student Council
- Health Law Society
- Hispanic Law Students Association
- Human Rights Law Society
- Immigrant Education Project
- Innocence Project
- Intellectual Property and Cyberlaw Society
- International Law Society
- J. Reuben Clark Society
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Law & Economics Society
- Law & Entrepreneurship Society
- Law & History Society
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Mock Trial Board
- Moot Court Board
- National Security Law Society
- Off the Record A Capella
- OutLaw
- Public Interest Law Foundation
- Refugee Asylum Support Project
- The SJD Association
- South Asian Law Students Association
- Southern Justice Spring Break
- Sports and Entertainment Law Society
- Street Law
- Students for Sensible Drug Policy
- Student Organization for Legal Issues in the Middle East and North Africa (SOLIMENA)
- Transactional Law Competition Board
- Transfer Students Association
- Veterans Disability Assistance Project
- Video Game Law Society
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
- Women Law Students Association

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