1. Our law-in-action approach
2. An extensive curriculum, small classes, and a wealth of opportunities to work closely with faculty
3. One of the largest clinical programs in the country
4. Faculty members who are leading scholars, nationally and globally
5. A dynamic student community that is diverse, supportive, and friendly
6. A supportive network of alumni employed coast to coast and in more than forty countries around the world
7. Diploma Privilege, which gives graduates from Wisconsin law schools the ability to practice in Wisconsin without sitting for a bar exam
8. A world-class legal education at a Midwestern price
9. A vibrant, internationally renowned Big Ten university with diverse academic and cultural offerings
10. Madison, the capital of Wisconsin—a stunningly beautiful city with opportunities to work in government or the judiciary
Welcome to the University of Wisconsin Law School! In these pages, you’ll discover what makes the University of Wisconsin a special place to study law. Of course, this book is just the beginning. I invite you to visit our website at law.wisc.edu and to tour the Law School to learn more about the experience of being a UW Law student. As you start exploring, let me encourage you to take a close look at several features that make our law school unique:

- **Our focus on law-in-action**
  The University of Wisconsin Law School has a distinctive law-in-action teaching approach that will equip you to analyze sophisticated legal problems and craft creative solutions. Your courses will focus not only on learning legal rules, but on understanding how those rules operate in the real world and what that means for the kind of advice, counseling, and advocacy you will provide for your clients.

- **A supportive and collaborative educational environment**
  We structure your first semester so that you study in small sections with the same group of students. You’ll also be grouped with those students in your larger classes. The small group size and the intensity of the experiences that you share will help you build close and supportive relationships with your peers. You may have heard that law school is a competitive place in which individuals are all out for themselves, but the small section program encourages a very different feel, one that will make your experience here collaborative and positive. You’ll work hard, and you’ll be challenged, but you’ll be among friends.

- **Broad and varied opportunities for clinical and experiential learning**
  Our extraordinary experiential learning programs equip you to hit the ground running as a new lawyer. Wisconsin’s curriculum provides an extraordinary range of opportunities for clinical and experiential learning. We offer clinics—hands-on work with live clients—in areas as varied as criminal law, health-care advocacy, and business law and entrepreneurship. You can also pursue a wide range of externship and internship placements with judges, state agencies, and public interest organizations. And we provide sophisticated simulation courses that will prepare you for the real-life challenges of law practice. Given the breadth of what we offer, you will find an experiential learning opportunity at Wisconsin to suit your interests and develop your talents.

- **Our extraordinary faculty**
  Our faculty members are gifted lawyers, scholars, and teachers. Many have advanced degrees in areas other than law, which enables them to bring unique and sophisticated perspectives to their teaching and research. They are committed to your success and to working with you.

- **Our commitment to diversity in all its forms**
  Learning happens best in an environment where individuals with differing experiences, viewpoints, and perspectives interact. UW Law recognizes the value of bringing together a wide range of diverse individuals with varying backgrounds, interests, skills, and talents in its admissions and hiring. Accordingly, you will experience a broad and inclusive community at UW Law, one in which everyone finds a place.

*Bucky Badger welcomes new law students at orientation.*
Being part of a great university

UW Law is an extraordinary law school, and it’s also part of an extraordinary university. Here you can take advantage of a vast range of opportunities for interdisciplinary study, dual degrees, and certificate programs. You can enjoy the expansive array of speakers, conferences, and arts, cultural, and political events that are a daily feature of life on our campus. And if you like intercollegiate sports, get ready: there’s nothing like a Big Ten campus on a football Saturday.

A beautiful and affordable community in the state’s capital

Madison is a beautiful college town. It provides amazing access to outdoor recreation, the arts, sports, and a thriving intellectual community. A mile from the Law School, the state capital provides unparalleled opportunities to intern in state government, to work with judges, state agencies, or advocacy groups, or to be involved in politics. Just down the hill, the waterfront terrace at the Wisconsin Union offers a relaxing spot to connect with colleagues. Madison provides the best of both worlds to law students looking to engage with the real world while living in a comfortable, inclusive, and affordable community.

I could go on. Instead, let me invite you to explore the Law School for yourself. The decision to go to law school is a very significant one, and your decision about where to study is equally important. We believe our graduates, armed with the tools they develop here, help make a more just world. Legal education at UW Law will excite you, engage you, and transform you. We invite you to join us.

Dean Margaret Raymond

Who could visit Madison and not come here? The school is small enough that you get to know your teachers, but big enough that you can still land jobs all over the country. Student Paul Borovay
The University of Wisconsin Law School is located on historic Bascom Hill in the heart of the beautiful University of Wisconsin–Madison campus. It boasts a renowned faculty, an extensive curriculum, and a dynamic student body. As part of a world-class university located in the state’s capital, the Law School also offers a wealth of experiences beyond its walls.

**Rise to an intellectual challenge**

Established in 1868, UW Law School builds on a tradition of excellence and a national reputation. The combination of interdisciplinary research, innovative teaching and the law-in-action approach makes this one of the most intellectually exciting law schools in the country. UW Law is accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS).

**Join a supportive community of students**

UW Law students are a diverse and accomplished group. Out of a student body of nearly 700 students, more than forty percent come from outside Wisconsin. Forty-four percent are women; more than twenty percent are students of color. There is a special feeling of community in the school and an informal, supportive atmosphere, reflecting a commitment by faculty and administrators to student learning, morale, and well-being.

**Thrive in a Big Ten university environment**

As a UW Law School student, you have access to the resources of a world-class research university. UW–Madison is a public land-grant institution, founded in 1848. It combines nine schools and three colleges on a single campus, and enrolls over 40,000 students from more than 115 countries and every state in the Union. Boasting national and international reputations for excellence shared by few other universities, the university also offers extensive social, cultural, and recreational opportunities. The 900-acre campus on the shores of Lake Mendota is considered one of the most beautiful in the country.

**Live in Madison, Wisconsin**

Madison, with a population of more than 200,000, is a beautiful and affordable city that regularly makes the national “Best Of” lists. As the state capital, Madison is home to the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, the Dane County Circuit Court, the Western District of Wisconsin Federal District Court, and various state and federal government agencies. All of these institutions are within walking distance of the Law School, giving our students vast opportunities to work directly with judges and justices, observe influential court and governmental proceedings, and experience multiple areas of law.

▲ A law student runs the football during the Dean’s Cup, an annual series of friendly competitions between law and medical students.
I chose Wisconsin because of the environment. The city, campus, and larger law school community are very supportive and welcoming.

Student Sean McNulty

In addition, the Wisconsin Union Theater, the Overture Center for the Arts, the Kohl Center, and other facilities provide many opportunities to enjoy cultural events. The four lakes in Madison are an ideal backdrop for the city, which is augmented by a 1,200-acre arboretum, a free zoo, more than 200 city parks, 11 beaches, and scenic countryside accessible by car, boat, bicycle, and foot.

Local gems such as the Dane County Farmers’ Market, the largest producer-only farmers’ market in the country, and the annual Wisconsin Film Festival, which brings over 150 independent films to screens across the city, also make the city of Madison an incredible place to live.
The first-year program at Wisconsin is designed to teach the fundamentals of legal analysis and reasoning in a supportive setting. Our small-group program is the cornerstone of the first-year curriculum. In the first year, one of your classes will be a small section of 20 to 30 students where you’ll receive one-on-one feedback on your analysis and writing. Students from your small section will also be in some of your other first-year classes, making it easy to form study groups and, perhaps more importantly, friendships.

Second- and third-year programs
In your second and third years of law school, you will have time both to explore the curriculum to determine where your interests lie and to continue developing the lawyering skills you will need when you graduate. You will choose your courses from an extraordinary breadth of offerings that will afford you the opportunity to explore cutting-edge legal issues in the classroom and to apply your knowledge in one of our many clinical programs. UW Law School is a national law school that prepares students to practice wherever they choose, and our graduates have an excellent record for passing state bar exams across the country.

The Diploma Privilege
Graduates who complete specific course and grade requirements and meet character and fitness standards are admitted to practice in Wisconsin without taking a bar examination. The Diploma Privilege also qualifies students to practice before the federal courts.

Part-time program
If you are offered admission to the Law School, you may choose to attend on a part-time basis. There is no separate application procedure. Upon acceptance you will be asked to choose full-time or part-time enrollment, though you may subsequently change your enrollment status. Part-time students must
I'm amazed at how quickly my mind works since starting law school. I feel sharp. I can analyze a situation, formulate a strategy, and act with more efficiency and purpose than before. Student Mary Bryn Concannon
complete the first-year curriculum within two years of entering and must complete the coursework required for the JD degree within six years. Learn more at law.wisc.edu/prospective.

Dual and Joint Degree Programs
The University of Wisconsin Law School offers many opportunities for you to combine the study of law with a graduate degree in another subject. If you choose to pursue a dual degree, in most instances you will save approximately one year of study compared to completing two programs separately.

The Law School offers dual and joint degrees with the following departments and programs:
- La Follette School of Public Affairs
- Wisconsin School of Business
- Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program
- Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
- Department of Philosophy
- Department of Political Science
- Department of Sociology and Rural Sociology
- School of Library and Information Studies
- Master of Public Health Program
- Neuroscience and Public Policy Program

Experiential Learning

Hands-on lawyering experiences
The Law School is committed to practical experience as a part of legal education. UW Law School was one of the first law schools to initiate a clinical program, and since then, it has strengthened and increased the number of clinical opportunities it provides. Clinics, internships, and externships provide hands-on lawyering experiences with real people—clients, victims, witnesses, family members, lawyers, and judges—and give you a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a lawyer. Under the direct supervision of clinical professors or supervising attorneys, students meet with clients, perform factual investigations, research legal issues, prepare client letters, draft legal documents, write briefs, and try cases, just as a lawyer would.

Clinics

Center for Patient Partnerships
The Center for Patient Partnerships is a national resource for strengthening the consumer perspective in health care and building more effective partnerships among patients, providers, and other stakeholders. The center teaches future doctors, lawyers, nurses, social workers, and pharmacists to work together to become better advocates for patients. Students work in multidisciplinary teams with individual patients recently diagnosed with cancer or other serious illnesses. The center focuses on the principles and practices of patient-centered care and patient advocacy, and emphasizes caring for the whole patient, including issues related to insurance law, HMO coverage policies, and medical ethics.

Economic Justice Institute
The Economic Justice Institute (EJI) handles various aspects of civil law that relate to economic inequality and poverty, including housing, employment, family, and consumer law. EJI students have extensive client contact and gain experience in interviewing, negotiation, client counseling, factual investigation, legal research and writing, and litigation. EJI students also work on community
impact projects such as legislation, community legal education, immigration information and petitions, or work with local anti-poverty groups. EJI houses a number of projects:

**Consumer Law Clinic**
The Consumer Law Clinic litigates on behalf of lower-income consumers statewide on issues such as fraud, credit and debt, health insurance denials, and violations of the Wisconsin Consumer Act.

**Family Court Clinic**
The Family Court Clinic assists self-represented litigants by providing information, forms, and education on a variety of family law issues.

**Immigrant Justice Clinic**
The Immigrant Justice Clinic works with community partners to provide direct legal representation to low-income immigrants in removal proceedings.

**Mediation Clinic**
Mediation Clinic students mediate a variety of cases in the Dane County Small Claims Court including landlord-tenant, contract, employment, auto-accident and property damage cases. The clinic also accepts cases from the Student Tenant Education and Mediation Program, UW Division of Housing, Division of Student Life, and other UW campus organizations.

**Neighborhood Law Clinic**
The Neighborhood Law Clinic provides general counseling and representation in lower-income Madison neighborhoods.

**The Frank J. Remington Center**
The Frank J. Remington Center is the Law School’s oldest and largest clinical program and includes a variety of projects focusing on different aspects of the criminal justice system. Students who participate in these projects have primary control over the management of cases, which gives them a chance to develop lawyering skills. The Remington Center houses the following projects:

**Criminal Appeals Project**
The Criminal Appeals Project combines class work on appellate procedure, client-centered representation on appeal, issue spotting, and persuasive writing, with work on an actual criminal appeal assigned by the Wisconsin State Public Defender’s Office. The appeals are timed to allow students to participate in the full range of work, from the initial interview with the client through the briefing in the Court of Appeals.

**Family Law Project**
The Family Law Project allows students the opportunity to represent prison inmates in family law cases involving divorce, paternity, custody, visitation, and child support issues. In addition to their clinical work, students enroll in a family law seminar, which covers substantive legal issues and such lawyering skills as interviewing, counseling, and negotiation.

▼ **Students in the Family Law Project represent their clients in circuit courts across the state.**
**Federal Appeals Project**
Federal Appeals Project students litigate direct criminal appeals in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Working under attorney supervision, students conduct all aspects of appellate litigation, from investigating the record and meeting and communicating with the client to briefing the client’s arguments and arguing the case in front of the Seventh Circuit.

**Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Project (LAIP)**
LAIP provides assistance to inmates in state and federal prisons throughout Wisconsin. Under the direct supervision of clinical faculty, students visit the prisons, interview clients and develop a varied caseload. Students receive valuable training in factual investigation, case strategy, legal research, writing, and negotiation, as well as the lawyer’s professional responsibilities to the client and to the justice system.

**Oxford Federal Project**
The Oxford Federal Project assists inmates of the Federal Correctional Institution in Oxford, Wisconsin, with a wide variety of concerns, including assessing the validity of federal convictions and sentences under federal sentencing guidelines; resolving outstanding criminal matters from other jurisdictions; and providing legal services in family law matters, return of property, release hearings before the immigration service, and US Parole Commission hearings.

**Restorative Justice Project**
The Restorative Justice Project attempts to involve crime victims more fully in the criminal justice system by providing mediation between victims and criminal offenders. Students work with victims and offenders to facilitate in-person meetings, practice mediation skills, and assess the effectiveness of an alternative dispute resolution process in the criminal justice field.

**Wisconsin Innocence Project**
The Wisconsin Innocence Project investigates and litigates claims-of-innocence cases involving inmates in state and federal prisons. The project focuses on the discovery and analysis of new evidence, particularly DNA evidence, that can prove a defendant’s innocence. In addition to conducting clinical work, students enroll in an advanced criminal justice administration class, which focuses on substantive legal issues and scientific evidence.

**Government and Legislative Clinic**
In this clinic, students participate in the many facets of governmental law, policy creation and implementation, and the legislative and regulatory process. Under the direct supervision of clinical faculty and on-site agency staff, students gain rare, firsthand experience working with law and policy where the “client” is a legislative body or administrative agency. Throughout the semester, students scrutinize the legislative lawmaking processes, the implementation of statutes by administrative agencies through rulemaking and other procedures, and the role of courts in interpreting statutes and reviewing administrative action at the behest of affected private parties.

**Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic**
The Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic provides essential legal services to start-up entrepreneurs. Students, trained in the legal challenges of creating a new business, counsel their clients in diverse matters including corporate structure, finance, intellectual property, tax, insurance, and other legal issues confronting new businesses.

Learn more: law.wisc.edu/clinics

**Externships and Internships**
Our experiential learning and skills training programs include a large number of externship opportunities: field placements outside the Law School, where students receive academic credit, but not compensation, for their work. Many of these externships are clinical course offerings, supervised by clinical or adjunct faculty members. Others are student-initiated externships in the legal departments of government or nonprofit agencies. To participate, students must have completed their first year of law school.

Our most popular programs include:
- **The Judicial Intern Program** places students at the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, the Dane County Circuit Court, the US District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, and other state and federal courts around Wisconsin. Placements generally involve research and writing obligations and, in trial court placements, opportunities to observe court proceedings.
- **The Prosecution Project** and the **Public Defender Project** place students in a Wisconsin public defender’s office or district attorney’s office during the summer after their second year of law school. Students appear at arraignments, bail hearings, preliminary hearings, and trials; research and prepare trial briefs; and negotiate plea agreements. Two courses supplement the hands-on work of these clinical programs.
- **The Law Externship Program** initiative allows students to apply for a range of externships at government agencies and nonprofits around the country, and with prior approval, to receive credit for participation.

Opportunities in labor law are also available, as well as in the following agencies:

- Disability Rights Wisconsin
- Midwest Environmental Advocates
- Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Wisconsin Department of Justice

Learn more: law.wisc.edu/academics/externships
Going Global: International Law and Study Abroad

We live in a global society in which new economic, political, and legal issues transcend traditional boundaries and challenge people to solve problems in new ways. The Law School is no stranger to the challenges of globalization.

Sixteen professors devote their scholarship and teaching primarily to international or comparative law, and several other faculty members integrate analysis of foreign legal developments into their domestic law courses. The Law School hosts international students and professors, bringing diverse international perspectives to the classroom, and the university has one of the largest groups of international students in the country. You can also study at one of the many foreign law schools with which the Law School has exchange agreements, create your own foreign study program, or participate in the foreign study programs of other US law schools.

East Asian Legal Studies Center
The East Asian Legal Studies Center focuses on the study of law and engagement with legal institutions in East and Southeast Asia. The center provides opportunities for faculty and students, including student exchanges and internships, scholarly exchanges, professional programs, and outreach.

Global Legal Studies Center
The Global Legal Studies Center is a joint program of the Law School and the Division of International Studies. The center promotes the understanding of international, transnational, and comparative legal systems, processes, and regimes; and it educates students and constituencies on and off campus through research, workshops, and conferences. It is the institutional home for the Human Rights Program on campus.

Study Abroad Opportunities
- Diego Portales University, Santiago, Chile
- European University Institute, Florence, Italy
- Justus Liebig University Giessen, Giessen, Germany
- National Law School of India University, Bangalore, India
- Pontifical Catholic University, Lima, Peru
- Pontifical Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Sao Paulo Law School of Fundacao Getulio Vargas, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands
- University of Paris X, Nanterre, Paris, France
- University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom
- University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Learn more: law.wisc.edu/academics/international

▲ Student Michelle Zamora spent a semester at the National Law School of India University where she studied topics in international law. The experience led her to pursue a career as a foreign service officer in the State Department.
An important indication of the breadth of interests within the student body is the breadth of activities and organizations in which students participate. UW Law students have a wide variety of choices and are active participants in many organizations, ranging from professional groups to intramural sports. And if no organization exists to suit your particular needs and interests, we encourage you to start one.

**Student journals**

Three student journals provide invaluable training in legal research and writing. Founded in 1920, the *Wisconsin Law Review* is a student-run journal of legal analysis and commentary used by professors, judges, and practitioners for research and discussion of current legal issues. Today, the *Wisconsin Law Review* is one of the most respected legal journals in the country. Distributed six times each year, this journal publishes professional and student articles, with content spanning local, state, national, and international topics. Students earn membership on the *Wisconsin Law Review* editorial board through a writing competition at the end of their first year.

The *Wisconsin International Law Journal*, established in 1982, is a student-run publication that publishes articles on international and comparative legal topics. The journal publishes four times a year; each issue includes student scholarship as well as articles written by professionals. The journal also hosts an annual symposium on a recent topic of interest in international law, which results in a special issue. Students...
UW Law School has an extremely supportive learning environment. The curriculum is very challenging; however, the support that students receive from administrators, faculty, and even fellow students is unparalleled. People here genuinely care about one another. Student Lola Bovell

are selected for participation through a write-on process in the spring.

The Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender & Society, open to all students, is a student-edited journal, national in scope, that publishes contributions from students, teachers, and practitioners. Established in 1985, the journal combines our law-in-action tradition with the interdisciplinary nature of gender studies. Articles on all legal topics are considered, including corporate, environmental, and criminal law issues. Students are selected for participation through a write-on process in the spring.

Moot Court

Moot Court competition at UW Law provides an outstanding opportunity for students to gain experience with brief writing and oral advocacy. Students learn practical skills and work as a team to present their cases. The University of Wisconsin Moot Court Board organizes, promotes, and supports intramural and intercollegiate moot court competitions, and it annually sends dozens of UW Law students to competitions at law schools across the country and in Europe. Each spring, the Law School also hosts the Evan A. Evans Competition, a moot court event in which students from around the country argue a constitutional law case.

Mock Trial

Mock Trial is a student-run organization that teaches members how to litigate. Under the guidance of Madison-area trial lawyers and judges, members learn to give opening and closing statements, and to conduct direct and cross-examination of witnesses. Members refine these skills by competing in a number of regional and national competitions each year. For students interested in litigation, Mock Trial represents an invaluable opportunity to learn trial advocacy skills that are not part of the first-year curriculum. Tryouts for interested students take place in the spring.

Pro Bono Program

The Pro Bono Program provides students with opportunities to deliver legal services to underrepresented community members. Students are assisted and supported by Pro Bono Program staff with placements in private and nonprofit law firms, legal aid groups, in-house programs, and other organizations, where their pro bono work will be performed under direct attorney supervision. Students completing a minimum number of hours of pro bono service are recognized with a certificate at graduation.

The Student Bar Association

SBA is a self-governing organization with a council composed of seven representatives from each of the three classes, two graduate school representatives, and one transfer student representative, plus a president, three vice-presidents, a treasurer, and a secretary elected by the student body at large. The association acts generally for the student body in Law School matters. The officers and council of the association appoint the student members of various Law School committees. These committees play an important role in the governance of the Law School, and the student committee members work to ensure representation of student views in this process.

Specialized Student Interest Organizations

- American Constitution Society
- Student Division of the American Bar Association
- Asian Pacific-American Law Students Association/South Asian Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Business & Tax Law Association
- Children’s Justice Project
- Christian Legal Society
- Elder Law and Estate Planning Society
- Environmental Law Society
- Federalist Society
- Health Law Student Association
- Indigenous Law Students Association
- Intellectual Property Students’ Organization
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Latino/a Law Student Association
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Middle Eastern Law Students Association
- National Lawyers Guild
- Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity
- Public Interest Law Foundation
- Secular Law Students Society
- Sports and Entertainment Law Society
- QLaw (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender law students)
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Unemployment Compensation Appeals Clinic
- Veterans Legal Society
- Wisconsin Agricultural & Food Law Society
- Student Chapter of the Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Wisconsin International Law Society
- Women’s Law Student Association
A major determinant of the strength and quality of any law school is the makeup of its student body. The admissions policies of the University of Wisconsin Law School are designed to enhance the diversity, vigor, social concern, and academic ability of the student community. We are looking for students who have the intellectual ability to meet the challenges of law school and who bring something special to our Law School community.

Preparation for law study
There is no particular course of study that is a prerequisite for admission to law school. Current law students have undergraduate degrees in engineering, business, science, history, music, linguistics, English, and a host of other disciplines. The main guide to undergraduate study should be your interests and talent; however, because law is a “profession of words,” you should include courses that develop communication skills, both oral and written, as part of your undergraduate education. In addition, courses that develop analytical reasoning are helpful.

Application procedures for first-year students
First-year students are admitted for enrollment in the fall semester. Applications must be submitted by April 1 preceding the fall semester in which applicants wish to enroll, but applicants are strongly encouraged to file by the preceding November or December. Students who elect to apply through our binding Early Decision option must submit all application materials by November 15, and will receive a decision by December 15. Although students must graduate from an approved undergraduate institution before they enroll as a first-year law student, graduation is not a prerequisite for applying.

Application form and fee
Our application is available online at law.wisc.edu/prospective/admissions/reqform.html.

Law School Admission Test
All applicants must submit scores from a recently taken Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and must subscribe to the Credential Assembly Service (CAS), administered by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). Applicants should take the LSAT no later than the February prior to the fall in which they seek to begin law school. Applicants should have LSAC send an official score report directly to the Law School as part of the CAS report. Contact LSAC directly at 215-968-1001 or go to lsac.org to register online for the LSAT and subscribe to the CAS.

The applicant file
In deciding to accept an applicant for admission to law school, the Admissions Committee reviews the written materials in the applicant’s file. Interviews are not part of the admissions process, although we are happy to answer your questions, and we invite you to visit the Law School. Your file will contain your application form, the registrar’s record of residence form, copies of your college transcripts (as reproduced by CAS), the CAS summary of college grades, the report of LSAT scores, your personal statement and your resume. Two letters of recommendation are also required. They should speak to your ability, intelligence, diligence, imagination, and similar qualities. The Admissions Committee carefully considers whatever information we receive in your personal statement, application form, and letters of recommendation. If there is something you want to elaborate on, feel free to include a short addendum to the application.

Admissions criteria
The University of Wisconsin Law School is committed to an admissions program that provides an academically qualified student body that is as diverse as
possible. Having students with different interests, goals, life experiences, backgrounds, and attitudes is critical to ensuring the robust exchange of ideas that is needed in training lawyers and potential political leaders. No factor, however, will outweigh a judgment that a particular applicant’s credentials, taken as a whole, represent unacceptably high academic risk. We accept only those we judge to be fully qualified academically and will not accept any applicant with a predicted first-year score of less than the equivalent to our Law School grade of “C” (2.0).

Admission to UW Law is very competitive, and we understand that you, as a prospective applicant, are interested in knowing how best to present your application, and whether you have a reasonable possibility of acceptance.

The following information is designed to help you answer these questions.

First-Year Students
When we receive your application, we take several things into consideration, such as: (1) strong academic credentials, including cumulative undergraduate grade point and LSAT score; (2) a broad range of experiences and backgrounds; (3) members of groups historically underrepresented in the legal profession, including racial and ethnic minorities; and (4) Wisconsin residency. We also consider the factors listed below.

Trend of college grades
An applicant who started poorly in college but performed strongly in later college years may be judged more favorably than another with the same GPA but a level or declining record.
Letters of recommendation
Careful, thoughtful letters from teachers or employers may tell us more about the applicant’s prospects for academic success than numerical factors.

Graduate study
Although graduate study alone does not, in our judgment, significantly increase the quality of law school performance, strong recent graduate work plus a strong LSAT may overcome weaker college grades. Also, an interesting background of graduate study may be a favorable factor in itself.

Time interval between college graduation and application to law school
We have some evidence that applicants at least a year out of college, especially those with strong recent LSAT scores, will achieve a better academic record in law school than their numerical credentials suggest. An applicant’s post-college experience, whether in work or volunteer activity, may be a favorable factor as well.

Quality of applicant’s undergraduate institution
Though it can be difficult to measure, the quality of the institution where the applicant earned an undergraduate degree is a relevant factor.

College grading and course selection patterns
We examine transcripts individually. If an applicant has followed an unusually easy or difficult pattern of coursework, we try to take that into account. An occasional college pass-fail grade does not affect our evaluation of the GPA; however, a heavy load of ungraded, pass-fail work undermines whatever GPA remains and creates a need for candid letters of evaluation from the applicant’s college teachers.

Outside work while in college
A full-time or extra-heavy part-time workload (or, rarely, an extraordinarily heavy load of extracurricular activity) may suggest that the applicant would have had a better GPA with a lesser load. We consider this factor in close cases.

Writing sample
The LSAT includes a short, spontaneous essay that is sent to law schools. Writing is so important to law study that we may give weight to this sample if it shows either exceptional or weak writing skill.

Unusual cultural background
Our quest for diversity gives some advantage to fully qualified applicants from unusual or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Geographical diversity
Other factors being equal, a fully qualified applicant from an area of the country, or an area of Wisconsin, relatively unrepresented in our student body will receive slight preference in selection.

Diversity of experience, background, or stated professional goals
A background of work experience, life experience, college activity, political activity, or other experience that adds an additional or unusual perspective to the Law School student body may work in the applicant’s favor. Additionally, we prefer an entering class made up of individuals with many different reasons for being here. For example, if most of our applicants say they want to use their legal training to be social reformers, a plus may go to the applicant who wants to be a small-city practitioner.

Transferring, Visiting, Part-Time, and Graduate Studies

Transfer students
Students may apply to transfer to UW Law after the first year of law school. To apply as a transfer student, you must have attended an ABA-approved school and must be academically eligible to continue as a regular full-time student in the school you last attended. In addition, you must have completed the equivalent of the first-year curriculum, but no more than forty-five credits.

The Law School Admissions Committee takes a holistic approach to the review of transfer applications. Applicants are generally accepted when they are able to demonstrate strong academic performance in their first-year curriculum, depending on the quality of the law school from which they are applying. The Law School matriculates a small number of transfer applicants each fall.

The competitiveness in any given year depends on the overall quality of the applicant pool, as well as the relative size of the class they will be joining. Preference is given to Wisconsin residents who apply for transfer on the basis of a strong academic showing at another law school. The Law School matriculates a small number of transfer applicants each fall.

The competitiveness in any given year depends on the overall quality of the applicant pool, as well as the relative size of the class they will be joining. Preference is given to Wisconsin residents who apply for transfer on the basis of a strong academic showing at another law school. The Law School matriculates a small number of transfer applicants each fall.
Visiting students
If you are in your final year or final semester of law study, you may apply to attend UW Law as a visiting student. To apply as a visiting student, you must be enrolled in an ABA-approved law school, be in good standing, and be eligible to continue at that law school. In addition, you must have permission to attend another law school, and you must notify your home law school of the timeline for receiving final grades from the UW Law School before beginning your coursework.

As a visiting student, it is your responsibility to make certain that credits will transfer back to your home institution, ensure that our academic calendar will work with your law school’s calendar with regard to the start and end dates for academic terms, and make financial aid arrangements with your home law school. Visiting students are accepted as space permits. The deadline for visiting student applications is July 1.

Part-time students
There is no separate application procedure for part-time students. Students who are accepted to UW Law may choose to attend on a full- or part-time basis prior to matriculating. Part-time students follow a required sequence of first-year courses, taking a minimum of two or three courses per semester. The first-year courses generally require a student to be on campus four evenings or days per week. As a part-time student, you will need to complete the first-year curriculum within two years after entering and all coursework required for the JD degree within six years. Part-time student status is entirely the choice of the individual student, and students may change from part-time to full-time status or vice versa when they choose, subject to the usual rules about dropping and adding classes.

Graduate Studies Programs
The Law School offers two master’s and one doctoral program in its post-JD Graduate Studies Program. The Master of Laws–Legal Institutions (LLM-LI) is a course-based 24-credit program designed specifically for individuals who have received their legal education (LLB) from universities outside the United States. The Master of Laws (LLM) and the Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) are both research programs that require a thesis or dissertation. These programs are open to JD holders and to individuals who have their basic law degree from a non-US law school. Learn more at law.wisc.edu/grad, or by contacting the Graduate Programs Office at 608-262-9120 or gradprog@law.wisc.edu.

The University of Wisconsin Law School Admissions Committee takes a holistic approach to the application process. An applicant’s competitiveness relies on a number of factors, not the least of which is the applicant’s experience and background.
The Office of Career and Professional Development at the University of Wisconsin Law School provides a wealth of resources to assist you in finding employment. From your first semester of law school, up to graduation and beyond, you will receive information and advice on a broad range of legal career opportunities.

Leading law firms, government agencies, businesses, and public interest organizations hire our graduates. A broad range of legal employers from major cities participate in the Law School’s on-campus interview program. We also help organize and take part in off-campus job fairs each year in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, DC. Many employers use our password-protected job database to post open positions for our students and alumni. In addition, we encourage students to take an active role in their job searches. We facilitate that by offering assistance with networking, professional search techniques, and programs that provide students with access to attorneys from all walks of life.

Because of our long-standing reputation as a top national law school, employers from coast to coast — and around the globe — seek to hire our graduates. This past year, our graduates and current students could be found working in major cities, such as Atlanta, Baltimore, Boulder, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, and Washington, DC. They thrive in a range of settings, including clerking for federal and state judges. Our alumni practice all over the world, and are a testament to the international reputation of the Law School and its graduates.

University of Wisconsin Alumni of Note

With over 14,000 UW Law alumni in our network, it’s hard to highlight just a few. The UW Law graduates listed below illustrate the breadth of experience and accomplishments of our alumni, many of whom are willing to advise students and connect them to resources.

Tammy Baldwin ’89
US Senator

Patricia Bloodgood ’84
Partner at Zimmerman Reed

Michael Boykins ’90
Partner at McDermott Will & Emery

Bridget Brennan ’83
New York City’s Special Narcotics Prosecutor

Michael Doodan ’77
Assistant General Counsel and VP of Legal Affairs for Twentieth Century Fox

Full-Service Career Guidance

- Receive expert individual career counseling, from self-assessment to salary negotiations.
- Learn effective resume and cover letter writing, interviewing techniques, and social media etiquette.
- Learn from practicing attorneys about their practice areas and work settings.
- Participate in on-campus and remote interview programs.
- Network with potential employers where they work.
The Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Project gave me insight not only into the criminal justice system, but also into the reasons people commit crimes. Interviewing inmates and visiting them in prison provided not just practical experience, but an understanding of the far-reaching consequences of incarceration. Bridget Brennan ’83

The Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Project gave me insight not only into the criminal justice system, but also into the reasons people commit crimes. Interviewing inmates and visiting them in prison provided not just practical experience, but an understanding of the far-reaching consequences of incarceration. Bridget Brennan ’83

As vice president and general counsel of the Milwaukee Brewers, Law School alumna Marti Wronski oversees all the team’s legal and contract work.

Timothy Hatch ’80
Partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

Stephen Jarchow ’76
Chairman/CEO of Regent Entertainment Group

Jeremy Jewett ’09
Cultural Affairs Officer, US Embassy in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Sheldon Lubar ’53
Founder and Chairman of Lubar & Co.

Michelle Nettles ’97
Senior Director of Diversity at MillerCoors

The Honorable Amanda Rockman ’05
Associate Judge, Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court

James Sensenbrenner ’68
US Congressman

Leticia Smith-Evans ’03
Senior Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund

Marti Wronski ’97
Vice President and General Counsel for the Milwaukee Brewers
The University of Wisconsin Law School faculty is recognized nationally for its preeminence and represents diverse interests and expertise. Our faculty members are leading scholars who are actively involved in the law. They represent clients, prove the innocence of convicted prisoners, advocate for patients in the health-care system, advise the federal government on biotech issues, draft legislation, work with philanthropic organizations in China and Vietnam, and do research on law in developing and transitional countries from Chile to Russia. They are interesting people doing interesting things. First and foremost, they are excellent teachers.

**LISA ALEXANDER.** Associate Professor of Law; JD, Columbia University. Business Organizations/Corporations, Contracts, Community Development Law, Community Lawyering.

**ANN ALTHOUSE.** Robert W. & Irma M. Arthur–Bascom Professor of Law; JD, New York University. Federal Jurisdiction, Constitutional Law.

**STEVEN M. BARKAN.** Director of Law Library and Voss–Bascom Professor of Law; JD, Cleveland State University; AMLS, University of Michigan. Torts.

**TONYA L. BRITO.** Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, Burrus-Bascom Professor of Law; JD, Harvard University. Family Law, Civil Procedure.

**PETER C. CARSTENSEN.** Professor of Law Emeritus; MA, LLB, Yale University. Antitrust and Economics, Antitrust, Energy Law; Insurance Law, Torts.

**R. ALTA CHARO.** Warren P. Knowles Professor of Law and Bioethics; JD, Columbia University. Bioethics, Food and Drug Law, Legislative Drafting, Torts, Health Law, Law and Medicine, Law and Science, Reproductive Rights Law.

**W. LAWRENCE CHURCH.** Sherwood R. Volkman–Bascom Distinguished Teaching Professor of Law; LLB, University of Wisconsin. Constitutional Law, Property Law, Comparative Law, Legal Processes.

**ANDREW B. COAN.** Associate Professor of Law; JD, Stanford Law School. Federal Jurisdiction, Constitutional Law.

**KENNETH B. DAVIS, JR.** Dean Emeritus and George H. Young Chair in Law; JD, Case Western Reserve University. Business Organizations/Corporations, Securities Regulation.

**TONYA L. BRITO.** Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, Burrus-Bascom Professor of Law; JD, Harvard University. Family Law, Civil Procedure.

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**ANDREW B. COAN.** Associate Professor of Law; JD, Stanford Law School. Federal Jurisdiction, Constitutional Law.

**KENNETH B. DAVIS, JR.** Dean Emeritus and George H. Young Chair in Law; JD, Case Western Reserve University. Business Organizations/Corporations, Securities Regulation.

**ANUJ C. DESAI.** Professor of Law; JD, University of California, Berkeley; Master’s in International Affairs, Columbia University. Copyright, Cyberlaw, Constitutional Law: First Amendment, Legislation.

**WALTER J. DICKEY.** Professor of Law Emeritus and Faculty Director, Frank J. Remington Center; JD, University of Wisconsin. Criminal Law, Legal Profession.

**HOWARD S. ERLANGER.** Professor of Law and Sociology Emeritus; PhD, University of California, Berkeley; JD, University of Wisconsin. Marital Property, Law and Society, Trusts and Estates.

**KEITH FINDLEY.** Assistant Professor of Law; JD, Yale University. Evidence, Criminal Law, Appellate Advocacy, Law and Science.


**LINDA S. GREENE.** Evjue-Bascom Professor of Law; JD, University of California, Berkeley. Civil Procedure, Civil Rights, Constitutional Law.

**KATHRYN HENDLEY.** William Voss–Bascom Professor of Law and Political Science; PhD, University of California, Berkeley; MA, Georgetown University; JD, University of California, Los Angeles. Comparative Law, Contracts.

**ALEXANDRA HUNEEUS.** Associate Professor of Law and Political Science; PhD, JD, University of California, Berkeley. Comparative Law, Human Rights Law, International Law, Latin American Law, Law and Society.

**CECELIA KLINGELE.** Assistant Professor of Law; JD, University of Wisconsin. Criminal Law, Law and Society.

**HEINZ J. KLUG.** Evjue–Bascom Professor of Law; SJD, University of Wisconsin; JD, University of California, Hastings. Comparative Law, Constitutional Law, Human Rights Law, International Law, Property Law.
GWENDOLYN LEACHMAN. Assistant Professor of Law; JD, PhD, University of California, Berkeley. Employment Law, Labor Law, Torts, Gender, Sexuality and the Law, Critical Race Theory.

ELIZABETH MERTZ. John and Rylla Bosshard Professor of Law; PhD, Duke University; JD, Northwestern University. Family Law, Law and Society, Legal Education, Legal Processes.

THOMAS W. MITCHELL. Professor of Law; LLM, University of Wisconsin; JD, Howard University. Land Use, Property Law, Remedies, Rural Community Development.

RICHARD A. MONETTE. Professor of Law; LLM, University of Wisconsin; JD, University of Oregon. Indian Law, Torts.

JOHN K.M. OHNESORGE. Professor of Law; SJD, Harvard University; JD, University of Minnesota. Administrative Law, Business Organizations/Corporations, Comparative Law, Law and Development.

PILAR N. OSSORIO. Professor of Law and Bioethics; PhD, Stanford University; JD, University of California, Berkeley. Intellectual Property, Law and Medicine, Patent Law, Torts.

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DAVID E. SCHULTZ. Professor of Law Emeritus; JD, University of Wisconsin. Criminal Law.

DAVID S. SCHWARTZ. Professor of Law; JD, MA, Yale University. Civil Procedure, Civil Rights, Constitutional Law, Evidence, Trial Advocacy.

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URSULA WEIGOLD. Director, Legal Research and Writing; Clinical Associate Professor; JD, University of Texas.

GREG WIERCIOCH. Clinical Assistant Professor, Frank J. Remington Center; JD, Washington and Lee University.

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CHERYL ROSEN WESTON. Senior Lecturer, Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Election Law, Torts; JD, University of Wisconsin.
The University of Wisconsin Law School provides students with the tools to build their best possible learning environment. Our services are designed to address students’ whole law school experience—from classroom to research to professional development and beyond. We take pride in our first-rate staff, who are always available to listen to students’ needs and concerns and connect them with the resources to achieve their educational and professional goals.

**The Law Library**

The Law School Library is one of the major resource libraries on the UW–Madison campus. Its collections, hours, and services are geared to the unique needs of the Law School community. The library has a permanent staff of twelve professional librarians and ten support staff and is open for more than 100 hours each week.

The library possesses almost 650,000 volume equivalents and hundreds of databases. It provides print and electronic access to a full range of state and federal laws, international laws, and the laws of certain foreign jurisdictions. Through our strong collaborative networks, law students may also draw upon the millions of resources of the UW–Madison and UW–System libraries, as well as those of libraries across the country and around the world.

The Law Library offers a full range of services to support student research. Reference librarians are available in person, or by phone, email, or online chat to advise students about resources best suited to their research needs. Library staff also offer instruction on the use of legal databases and applications, as well as on the Bluebook legal citation system.

**Academic Enhancement Program**

The Academic Enhancement Program provides opportunities to all students to enhance their academic experiences by offering skills-building lectures, workshops, and activities. The program equips students with foundational academic, learning, and study skills essential to a successful law school experience. Programs and workshops cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Learning and study skills assessment
- Studying and preparing for law exams
- Law journal write-on preparation
- Legal analysis for essay writing
- Communicating effectively with clients

**Student services & accommodations**

UW Law School provides students and student organizations with personal, social, professional, and cultural support. Services include:

- Curriculum and academic counseling
- Exam accommodations
- Disability services
- Referrals to campus and community services
Our doors at UW Law are open, and we hope you’ll visit us. We believe that once you explore the beautiful city of Madison, visit the Law School, sit in on a class, and meet some of our students, you’ll understand why the value of a UW Law School education cannot be conveyed solely with words and pictures.

Whether you choose to visit during a public event, such as our Fall Open House, or to schedule an individual visit, we would be delighted to welcome you to the Law School campus. Information about our public events is posted online at law.wisc.edu. If you would prefer to schedule an individual visit, contact the Admissions Office by emailing admissions@law.wisc.edu or calling 608-262-5914. If possible, give us at least two weeks notice so that we can arrange class visits, a building tour, and time to speak with current students. The university also offers campus tours, and we would be happy to give you information about those as well.

If you would like more information about where to stay and what to see during your visit to Madison, please visit UW’s Campus and Visitor Relations’ website at info.wisc.edu.