Fordham University School of Law, New York, NY

Overview

Founded in 1905, Fordham Law School has been steadfast in its endeavors to coalesce its education system with scholastic excellence and accomplished legal skills—the predominant factors underlying legal ethics and professionalism. The school strives to enlighten students with the highest standards of the vocation and also toward the concept of public service. Fordham Law offers multiple programs addressing the practical craft of lawyering, substantive subject areas, and theory.

Fordham Law offers a wealth of international and comparative law opportunities for students, both at the school and around the world. The law school's curriculum is rich in its offerings of international, foreign, and comparative law courses.

Students gain an education that goes beyond simply understanding fundamental legal principles—through a variety of clinics, internships and externships, clerkships, summer placements, and fellowships. Students are challenged to master both the letter of the law and the law's impact on people and societies.

The law library houses an open-stack collection of nearly 700,000 volumes, comprising all essential sources of American law and public international law, many foreign legal sources and a wide range of related materials. Additionally, it also holds significant collections in European Community law and international antitrust law.

Student-Faculty Ratio

13.6:1

Admission Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LSAT</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25th-75th Percentile</td>
<td>163-167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median*</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above LSAT and GPA data pertain to the fall 2011 entering class.

*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

Approximate number of applications | 6,431
Number accepted                     | 1,833
Percentage accepted                 | 28.5%

The above admission details are based on fall 2011 data.

Class Ranking and Grades

At Fordham Law, student grades are calculated on both a letter and a 4.3 scale. There are no official class standings. At the end of the 2010-2011 academic year, a student who attained a true weighted average of 3.585 or better made the Dean’s List for that year. Students may not round up to compute eligibility for the Dean’s List or awards; they may round up to the nearest hundredth of a point when reporting GPAs on their resumes (e.g., “3.278” can be presented as “3.28”).

Grades awarded by the law school and their corresponding grade point values are:

- A+ 4.3 Extraordinary performance
- A  4.0 Excellent, outstanding
- A- 3.7
B+  3.3
B   3.0  Very good, the standard expected of the majority of students
B-  2.7
C+  2.3
C   2.0  Good
C-  1.7
D   1.0  Performance at a level that if consistently repeated would be insufficient to advance
F   0.0  Failure to satisfy the absolute minimum requirements for the course

The minimum grade that will be recorded in a course is F. The grade of D constitutes a passing mark in a subject. Some courses are graded as pass/fail.

Grade normalization (Curve)

By a resolution adopted on April 8, 2008, the faculty made the percentage distribution of grades listed below mandatory for all first year courses (with the exception of Legal Writing). The percentage distribution of grades for first year courses will be strictly enforced.

A-  10-20%
A+  40-50%
B+ to Remainder (the ratio of B- to B grades must be one-sixth to one-half of the total
B+ number of B- to B+ grades
C-  3 to 10%
C+  No Standard
D   No Standard

To remain in good scholastic standing, a student must maintain a true weighted average of at least 2.0 in every academic year.

Honors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honor</th>
<th>Percentage of Class Receiving</th>
<th>GPA Required</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Order of the Coif</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3.635</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>summa cum laude</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>3.970</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>magna cum laude</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3.635</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cum laude</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>3.490</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean’s List</td>
<td>Top 25%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Award</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Burken Memorial Prize</td>
<td>Awarded for the best papers on copyright law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapin Prize</td>
<td>Awarded for the highest weighted average throughout law school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1911 Award</td>
<td>Awarded for the best essay in legal subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David F. &amp; Mary Louise Condon Prize</td>
<td>Awarded for the highest grade in American legal history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph R. Crowley Award</td>
<td>Awarded to the student who best emulates the qualities of the late dean Crowley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean’s Special Achievement Award</td>
<td>Awarded for singular and distinctive contribution to the Fordham Law School</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Benjamin Finkel Prize  Awarded for excellence in the course in bankruptcy

Fordham Law Alumni Association Medal in Constitutional Law  Awarded to a student who excelled in Constitutional Law in his or her first year

Whitmore Gray Prize  Awarded for outstanding performance in courses or activities relating to international law practice

Hugh R. Jones Award  Awarded for the highest combined weighted average in the subjects of constitutional law, criminal justice, and professional responsibility

Walter B. Kennedy Award  Awarded to a member of the Fordham Law review in recognition of extraordinary service that exemplifies the commitment to legal excellence of professor Walter B. Kennedy

Emmet J. McCormack Award  Awarded for the highest grade in Admiralty Law

Lawrence J. McKay Prize  Awarded to students who represented the law school in the national moot Court Competition

Hon. Joseph M. McLaughlin Prize  Awarded for the highest combined weighted average during the first year

Addison M. Metcalf Labor Law Prize  Awarded for the highest grade in the basic labor law course

Henrietta Metcalf Prize  Awarded for the highest grade in Contracts

Keith C. Miller Memorial Award  Awarded for demonstrated unselfish dedication to the Fordham moot court program

Adele L. Monaco Memorial Award  Awarded to an evening student who made a positive impact on the lives of evening students

National Association of Women Lawyers Award  Awarded for the highest weighted average in evidence and New York practice

Peter J. O’Connor Prize  Awarded for the best work of scholarship published in one of Fordham Law School’s journals

Parchomovsky-Siegelman Student Graduation Prize  Awarded for the highest grades in intellectual property courses

Thomas F. Reddy Jr. Prize  Awarded for the highest grades in European union law courses

Robert Schuman Prize Senior Prize  Awarded for the highest weighted average throughout the year

Milton Young Prize  Awarded for the best work in tax course(s)

Fordham-Israel Fellowship  Awarded fellowship for teaching at School of Management

Fordham-Sorbonne Scholar  Awarded to an outstanding student for advanced degree at Sorbonne

Abraham Abramovsky Award  Awarded for outstanding public commitment and contribution beyond the law school

Ann Moynihan Award  Awarded for outstanding performance in the clinical program

Fulbright Fellowship  Awarded to student based on academic merit and leadership potential

Donald Magnetti Award  Awarded for outstanding performance in Trial Advocacy

Eugene J. Keefe Award  Awarded for contribution to those beyond the law school community

Donald J. Feerick Prize in Labor Law  Awarded for the best paper on labor law with alternative dispute resolution approaches

Robert Aram Renzulli Prize in Criminal Law  Awarded for the highest grades in criminal law

Dean’s Citation for  Awarded for distinguished contribution in the area of public
Journals

The Fordham Law Review is a scholarly journal serving the legal profession and the public by discussing current legal issues. Each volume comprises six books. The journal seeks to serve the legal profession as well as the public with enlightened scholarly discussions on present and emergent legal issues. It is not merely an honor society. The review is managed by a board of up to 18 student editors whose membership is considered to be among the highest scholarly achievements at the law school.

The Fordham Urban Law Journal, annually publishes between five and six issues which address policy matters affecting urban areas.

The Fordham International Law Journal publishes six issues annually covering various worldwide legal topics and featuring scholarly articles, essays, book reviews, and student write-ups. In association with Fordham’s Crowley Program on International Human Rights, the ILJ annually publishes the Crowley Report, a survey of the Program’s yearly international human rights mission.

The Fordham Intellectual Property, Media & entertainment Law Journal deals with intellectual property issues including patent, copyright, and trademark law; media and entertainment law; First Amendment rights; telecommunications; Internet law; and other legal topics dealing specifically with news media and the entertainment and sports industries. It publishes four times each academic year.

The Fordham environmental Law Review is published three times per year. It covers all legal topics relating to the environment, legislation, and public policy. It also sponsors a symposium each year featuring research papers and panel discussions concentrating on an environmental issue.

The Fordham Journal of Corporate & Financial Law discusses topics in business law, including financial, securities, banking, bankruptcy, and tax law. Its main goals are to publish scholarly articles relevant to the business and legal community and to provide law students and professionals with a forum to present financial law-related issues. It also endeavors to hold one symposium each year.

Moot Court

The Moot Court Board at Fordham Law School mentors students to hone their advocacy skills as writers and litigators. All first-year students are introduced to appellate briefs and arguments as part of their legal writing course. Third- and fourth-year students may serve as members of the Moot Court Editorial Board. Members of this board are chosen based on outstanding performance in previous competitions, and each member must have completed one year as a member of the Moot Court Board.

Every year, the Fordham Law School Moot Court Board conducts two intra-school competitions—the William Hughes Mulligan Moot Court Competition (held in the summer) and the Maurice Wormser Moot Court Competition (held in the fall). The board also hosts an inter-school competition—the Irving R. Kaufman Moot Court Competition—in late March centering on issues relating to federal securities law, in which more than 30 schools from across the nation participate. Fordham’s moot court teams participate in several other inter-school competitions across the nation, including the National Moot Court Competition, the Pepperdine National Entertainment Law Moot Court Competition, the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, the William B. Spong Jr. Invitational Moot Court Tournament, University of San Diego National Criminal Procedure Tournament, the Cardozo/BMI Entertainment and Communications Law Moot Court Competition, and the J. Braxton Craven Memorial Moot Court Competition.

Clinical Programs

Fordham Law’s clinical programs offer students opportunities to integrate legal analysis with lawyering theory and skills. The school offers clinics during the fall as well as the spring. With 16 practice areas to choose from, Fordham Law's Clinical program offers a wealth of options to gain essential lawyering skills. Each of the clinical offerings provides students with an opportunity to develop professional judgement and legal skills in a real practice setting. The clinics offered by the school are:

- Community Economic Development
- Criminal Defense
- Family Advocacy
Federal Litigation
Feerick Center Social Justice
Housing Rights
Immigrant Rights and Access to Justice
International Human Rights
International Law & Development in Africa
Mediation
Samuelson-Glushko Intellectual Property and Information Law
Securities Litigation & Arbitration
Tax & Consumer Litigation
The Queens DA Prosecution Clinic
Trial & Appellate Litigation (For Evening Division)
Urban Policy & Legislative Advocacy

Placement Facts

Starting Salaries (2010 Graduates employed Full-Time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Salary Range</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private sector (25th-75th percentile)</td>
<td>$110,000-$160,000</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median in the private sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>$160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median in public service</td>
<td></td>
<td>$53,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation 77.8%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation 93.7%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates employed In | Percentage
Law Firms            | 50.2%
Business and Industry | 11.3%
Government           | 10.7%
Judicial Clerkships   | 12.6%
Public Interest Organizations | 13.5%
Academia             | 1.7%
Unknown              | 0%

Externships/Internships

Externships

Every year, Fordham Law School students develop professional skills and judgment needed to become a complete lawyer through externship programs.

Under the supervision of mentor-attorneys, students can perform legal work in:

- Government agencies
- Non-profit organizations
- Local, state, and federal courts
- Legal departments focusing on IP or Media Law
- New York City Council or at Integrative Law and Social Work Placements

Internships

International internships

Fordham Law School offers JD students the opportunity to work in excellent law firms around the globe. Opportunities are available in Argentina, Brazil, India, Mexico, and Republic of Korea.

High Court Internships
Fordham Law School offers select JD students the opportunity to intern at a number of national high courts around the world. These internships take place over the summer and provide students the chance to learn first hand from distinguished judges in some of the world’s most exciting emerging economies. Opportunities are available in

- Argentina
- Colombia
- Georgia
- Ghana
- Israel
- Korea
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Peru

The Dean Acheson legal stage program

The United States Embassy in Luxembourg offers an internship program in Luxembourg at the Court of Justice of the European Communities. This course is for three months and is offered to a limited number of students or recent graduates from select US law schools.

**Student organizations**

American Constitutional Society  
Asian Pacific American Law Students Association  
Black Law Students Association  
Catholic Law Student Association  
Couture Counselor Student Fashion Law Society  
Fordham Information Law Society  
Fordham Law Democrats  
Fordham Law Follies  
Fordham Law Republicans  
Fordham Law Softball  
Fordham Law Students Supporting Science  
Fordham Law Tortfeasors  
Fordham Law Women  
Fordham OUTLaws – Fordham’s LGBT Law Student Association  
Fordham Parents Attending Law School  
Fordham Sports Law Forum  
Global Law Society  
Irish Law Students Association  
Italian American Law Students Association  
Jewish Law Students Association  
Latin American Law Students Association  
Law Students for Reproductive Justice  
Media and Entertainment Law Society  
Muslim Law Students Association  
National Lawyers Guild  
Phi Alpha Delta  
PIRC Student Groups  
South Asian Law Students Association

**References**

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- http://premium.usnews.com/
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- http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/

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