University of Notre Dame Law School

BCG Attorney Search, the standard in attorney search and placement, listed the University of Notre Dame as one of the top 50 Law Schools in the nation. The Notre Dame Law School also came in 22nd in the U.S. News rankings and listed 29th by the Association of Nepalese Lawyers & Scholars. It is a tier one school and out-of-state full-time tuition is $35,950. In 2007, the total full-time enrollment was 563 students.

Founding and Philosophy

The Notre Dame Law School, founded in 1869, is the oldest Roman Catholic Law School in America. Notre Dame Law School stands on two ancient traditions: the tradition of common law based on court decisions, customs, and common usages; and the Catholic tradition, which brings specific spiritual and moral values to bear upon daily life and legal judgments. Notre Dame aspires to be a premier law school and an integral addition to the university as a whole. Aiming to weld together the worlds of practice and theory, the Catholic tradition spans the globe and embraces all levels of economic development, deepening academic and practical understanding. Notre Dame Law School attempts to engage students' minds at the highest level, and to familiarize them with other disciplines to create a diverse pupil.

Admission

To be admitted to the Notre Dame Law School is a whole-person review policy. Proof of excellence must be illustrated in all areas of academics, service, leadership, unique qualities, and personal and professional goals. Notre Dame Law School officials involved in the admission process are mindful of the school's objective to produce lawyers who are competent, compassionate, and committed to serving their clients with integrity. To apply to the Juris Doctor program, one must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. No particular major is required; however, a proficiency in writing, critical reading and logical reasoning must be displayed in coursework. All applicants must have a LSAT score no older than five years.

Faculty

Varying in religious backgrounds, the men and women making up the faculty at the Notre Dame Law School agree that a Notre Dame legal education should not only provide a solid grounding in legal principles but should also examine the moral and religious dimensions of the law. Faculty members believe a well rounded legal education encourages students to explore the connections between their personal faith and the principles that form the core of a legal education. Through teaching, Notre Dame seeks to prepare their students to practice law with competence and compassion and to contribute, as leaders in the bar, the academy, and government, to the development and reform of an increasingly complex and internationalized legal and regulatory framework. The Law School's commitment to excellence in teaching and scholarship as well as growth and development is realized through its top-notch faculty and administration. Notre Dame touts itself on a staff that is dedicated to the highest ethical and moral standards in the pursuit of justice. A defining characteristic of a Notre Dame legal education is the collegial relationship that exists between and among faculty and students.

Curriculum

Due to its being a Catholic institution, the Notre Dame Law School challenges students with questions that will always have a central place in humanity: the relationship between law and morality, the distribution of power between state and social institutions, and the importance of identifying universal norms of justice and exploring the approaches of diverse cultures in implementing those norms. NDLS’s rigorous curriculum, taught by accomplished professors, introduces students to large spectrum of subjects, all relating a applicable to all areas of professional practice. Professors teach from experience as clerks for Supreme Court justices, prestigious law firm attorneys, and international law school teachers. The program prepares students to serve in a many different career options, such as: traditional private practice, prestigious judicial clerkships, and exciting entrepreneurial adventures. The Law School offers four degrees: the J.D., the LL.M. in International Human Rights Law and International and Comparative Law, and the J.S.D. in International Human Rights Law.
Law School Profile

Why Notre Dame?

A great way to start the process of admissions is to visit the campus. This is one of the best ways to be sure if the school is right for you. Notre Dame is located near the North border of Indiana in South Bend, merely hours away from Chicago and Indianapolis. Exciting news for prospective students — in January 2009, Notre Dame Law School faculty, students and staff will move into the Eck Hall of Law, a new building that combines the University’s storied charm and tradition with cutting-edge technology and significantly more space. After completion of this construction, the beautiful, gothic structure that has been home to the Law School since the 1930s will be renovated to house an expanded Kresge Law Library and some administrative offices. The new facility will capture the Law School’s commitment to shaping the minds, hearts, and souls of the next generation of Notre Dame lawyers. A Notre Dame law degree is recognized by employers nationwide and provides an open door into all sectors of legal employment.

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