University of California Davis School of Law

Overview

The University of California—Davis School of Law (also referred to as the University of California—Davis King Hall School of Law) was established in 1965 and is dedicated to the development of legal knowledge and to training students to achieve excellence in the field of law.

The University of California—Davis School of Law has adopted a traditional approach to teaching law. This provides a strong foundation for its students’ career moves as it equips them with the knowledge and skills they will need to advance in the legal field. The school offers a comprehensive three-year curriculum for the JD degree in all major areas of the law. The program is designed for full-time students.

The University of California—Davis School of Law curriculum also allows students to gain insight regarding some of the leading thinkers in specialized areas of practice. The school emphasizes teaching that is relevant to both existing and emerging practice areas. Students are also encouraged to voice their own ideas or even initiate new seminars or research projects on specific issues under faculty supervision. They are exposed to fundamental objects of legal analysis with the aid of faculty representing diverse fields of law.

The law school’s legal education program blends theory with practice. Elective options can therefore include real-world experiences via programs such as the moot court team, journals, or the school’s various clinics and externships. The first-year curriculum provides the quintessential structure for subsequent legal study. Second- and third-year study is elective, except for a few professionally required courses. Students receive credit for courses taken in other University of California—Davis departments and for courses satisfactorily completed at accredited law schools.

The University of California—Davis Law Library has a huge collection. Law students receive keys for 24-hour access to the library and have online access to past law school exams.

Student-Faculty Ratio

11.1:1

Admission Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LSAT</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25th-75th Percentile</td>
<td>161-165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median*</td>
<td>164</td>
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</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: 3,863
Number accepted: 983
Percentage accepted: 25.4%

The above admission details are based on fall 2011 data.

Class Ranking and Grades

The University of California—Davis School of Law has a four-point letter grading system with plus and minus grades; some courses are graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

The following grading scale is used by the law school:

A+ or A  4.0
A-  3.7  
B+  3.3  
B   3.0  
B-  2.7  
C+  2.3  
C   2.0  
C-  1.7  
D+  1.3  
D   1.0  
D-  0.7  
F   0.0

The grade of A+ may be awarded for extraordinary achievement and will be recorded on the student’s transcript, but it will be counted as an A when computing the student’s grade point average. After the end of each semester, students receive a cumulative grade point average for all of their work at the school. This average is computed by dividing the total grade points by the number of credits earned plus the number of credits assigned to any course in which an F was received. An F is a failing grade. The grade I stands for Incomplete. If the applicable coursework is not completed, an Incomplete converts to an F.

A student is in good standing if his or her cumulative grade point average at the end of the second, fourth, sixth, or final semester is 2.0 or greater.

Grade normalization (Curve)

In first-year sectioned courses, not including legal research and writing courses, faculty members distribute grades as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage of Class Receiving</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+, A, A-</td>
<td>20% (plus or minus 3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+, B, B-</td>
<td>60% (plus or minus 3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+ and below</td>
<td>20% (plus or minus 3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The mean of the grades awarded, expressed as a GPA, should be 3.0 plus or minus one-tenth of a point.

Minimum GPAs Required (Based on May 2010 graduation class)

- Minimum GPA required to fall within the top 10% of the class: 3.610
- Minimum GPA required to fall within the top 25% of the class: 3.436
- Minimum GPA required to fall within the top 33% of the class: 3.360
- Minimum GPA required to fall within the top 50% of the class: 3.228
- Minimum GPA required to fall within the top 75% of the class: 2.986
- Minimum GPA required for graduation: 2.000

Honors

To qualify for the Order of the Coif, a graduating student must be ranked in the top 10% of his or her class and have completed 75% of his or her units in graded courses. The law school does not recognize cum laude or summa cum laude.

Awards

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name of Award</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School of Law Medal</td>
<td>Awarded to the student with the highest GPA after the fifth semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Hopkins Law Prize</td>
<td>Law review writing prize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witkin Award for Academic Excellence</td>
<td>Awarded for the top grade in a qualifying course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order of Barristers</td>
<td>Membership offered to students for outstanding academic performance in appellate advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Service</td>
<td>Awarded for the services towards community</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Awards

Theodore M. Pritkin Writing Award
Awarded for the best write up in the Journal of International Law and Policy

Moot Court Outstanding Oral Advocate
Awarded to the best oral advocate

Moot Court Outstanding Advocate
Awarded to the best advocate

Moot Court Outstanding Brief
Awarded for the best brief

Prof. Frank Environment Writing Award
Awarded for the best writing on environment

Journals

The UC Davis Law Review publishes five issues annually and hosts a symposium focused on pressing legal issues. It invites scholarly articles from legal academics, practitioners, and its own student editors. The Law Review provides students the opportunity to hone their research and writing skills, while advancing the public discourse surrounding important legal topics.

The Business Law Journal is a resource from which users may obtain quality legal and business analysis that is easily accessible and, best of all, succinct. Readers may search both current and past publications and keep abreast of the daily highlights of business and legal news from around the nation and the world. The journal addresses a broad spectrum of issues that fall within the intersection of business and the law. It now publishes two print issues each year, and provides access to author abstracts and interviews online.

The environs environmental Law & Policy Journal is a semiannual journal which welcomes manuscript submissions year round from academics, students, and practitioners writing about environmental and land-use issues from a law and policy perspective. The journal publishes student papers right alongside professor and practitioner papers. It provides an open forum for the discussion of current environmental issues, particularly those pertaining to the state of California.

The UC Davis Journal of International Law & Policy is published two times per year, in January and June, by students of the University of California—Davis School of Law. It accepts for publication pieces authored by academics and professionals on timely topics relevant to international law and policy. It contributes pertinent and interesting scholarly works to the field of international law.

The Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy is published twice per year. Initially a product of the creativity and activism of a small group of University of California—Davis law students called the Advocates for the Rights of Children, the journal has evolved into a vigorous organization committed to providing practical information regarding current juvenile, family, and educational law issues. The ultimate goal of the journal is to encourage community awareness and involvement regarding these issues.

Moot Court

The University of California—Davis School of Law Moot Court Program, also known as Appellate Advocacy, is a year-long program. Second-year students participate in the program each fall semester; they attend lectures on appellate skills, participate in oral arguments, and participate in the school’s annual moot court competition. Students who participate in moot court activities during the spring focus on appellate writing. The top students participate in the annual Neumiller Competition.

Learn the 10 Factors That Matter to Big Firms More Than Where You Went to Law School

Every student is also expected to participate in one or more of the school’s trial and appellate advocacy programs, which include Appellate Advocacy, various moot court competitions, trial practice classes, and the trial practice competition. Students also participate in the National Moot Court Competition and the Roger J. Traynor California Appellate Moot Court Competition.

Clinical Programs

The four in-house clinical programs at the University of California—Davis School of Law, all of which are taught by members of the law school’s faculty, are:
The Immigration Law Clinic, in which students represent immigrants seeking asylum or cancellation of removal before the US Immigration Courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and federal courts, including the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Students interview clients and witnesses, prepare legal briefs, draft pleadings and motions, and argue complex legal issues. The Immigration Clinic is a full-year clinic.

The Civil Rights Clinic, in which students provide legal services to indigent clients who have filed civil rights actions in federal court.

The Prison Law Clinic, in which students provide legal services to clients incarcerated in state prison. Students must analyze and apply constitutional law, state statutory law, agency regulations, and the rules of professional responsibility.

Students are required to enroll for two semesters in the Family Protection and Legal Assistance Clinic. Students represent low-income clients in family law and related matters arising out of situations involving family violence. Cases handled by the students in this clinic involve restraining orders, child custody and visitation, child and spousal support, and property division.

Placement Facts

Starting Salaries (2010 Graduates employed Full-Time)

- Private sector (25th-75th percentile): $85,000-$160,000
- Median in the private sector: $145,000
- Median in public service: $55,000

Employment Details

- Graduates known to be employed at graduation: 82.5%
- Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation: 92.3%

Areas of Legal Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law Firms</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Industry</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Interest Organizations</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Clerkships</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academia</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Externships/Internships

Externships

The University of California—Davis School of Law offers following externship programs that are closely supervised by law school faculty. These are:

- Criminal Justice
- Employment Relations
- Environmental Law
- Federal Taxation
- Judicial Process
- Intellectual Property
- Legislative Process
- Public Interest

All placements must be approved by the faculty advisor for the externship and are limited to the Northern California-Nevada geographical area in order to facilitate faculty on-site visits.

UCDC – Washington, DC externship Program is a uniquely collaborative semester-long externship program.
in Washington, DC, combining a weekly seminar with a full-time field placement. It offers law students an unparalleled opportunity to learn how federal statutes, regulations, and policies are made, changed, and understood in the nation’s capital.

**Student organizations**

- ACLU at King Hall
- American Bar Association, Law Student Division
- American Constitution Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- California Republican Lawyer’s Association
- Christian Legal Society
- Coalition for Diversity
- Criminal Law Association
- Entertainment and Sports Law Society
- Environmental Law Society
- Federalist Society
- Filipino Law Students Association
- Humanitarian Aid Legal Organization
- International Law Society
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- King Hall Animal Law Forum
- King Hall Bar Review
- King Hall Book Club
- King Hall Climbing, Ski & Snowboard Club
- King Hall Families
- King Hall Futbol Club
- King Hall Golf Club
- King Hall Health Law Association
- King Hall Intellectual Property Law Association
- King Hall Korean American Law Students Association
- King Hall Legal Foundation
- King Hall Negotiations Team
- King Hall Veterans Association
- King Hall Women's Law Association
- Lambda Law Students Association
- La Raza Law Students Association
- Law Cappella
- Law School Democrats at King Hall
- Law Students For Reproductive Justice
- Law Students for Workers Rights
- Middle Eastern and South Asian Law Students Association
- Muslim Law Students Association
- National Lawyers Guild
- Native American Law Students Association
- Perfect Tender Child Care Co-op
- Phi Delta Phi
- Real Estate Law Society
- Tax Law Society
- The King Hall Mentorship Program

**References**

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