2014 Law School Application Pamphlet

University of Michigan Law School

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2014 INCOMING CLASS (estimate as of July 1)

APPLIED 4,748 | ENROLLED 315

- Women: 47%
- Men: 53%

MEDIAN GPA
3.74
25% 3.53 | 75% 3.83

MEDIAN LSAT
168
25% 165 | 75% 170

MEAN AGE
24

STATES REPRESENTED
37

FOREIGN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED
14

MINORITY
29%

1 OR MORE YEARS OFF AFTER UNDERGRAD
70%

MICHIGAN RESIDENTS
21%

SCHOOLS REPRESENTED
145
Geographic portability is a key advantage of a Michigan JD. To fully assess the portability of a degree, you need to know the full range of placement activity: both where employers come from to perform on-campus interviews, because that reflects the most readily accessible opportunities you will have, as well as where students and graduates choose to go. The map to the right reflects placement activity in 2012, adding together, for each state, the number of employers recruiting on campus; the number of 1Ls and 2Ls with summer jobs; and the first permanent position for graduates. For Michigan Law, employers come from around the nation and around the world to recruit our students, with the result that our graduates have a strong network in every corner of the globe.
1L COURSES

**REQURED**

- Property
- Contracts
- Torts
- Criminal Law
- Civil Procedure
- Legislation and Regulation
- Legal Practice

**Other required courses:**

- Constitutional Law
- Transnational Law

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**Legal Practice**

With only 20 to 25 students in a class, Michigan’s exemplary Legal Practice Program provides each 1L student with individualized instruction in legal research, analysis, writing, oral advocacy, negotiation, and other key skills necessary for the practice of law at the highest levels. Students receive intensive interactive training from one of 11 full-time professors, each with substantial practice experience and expertise in the craft of legal writing. Legal Practice professors critique and grade students’ assignments and hold individual conferences to discuss a student’s work and progress. For those with specialized writing interests, we offer many upper-level drafting and practicum courses, including Transactional Drafting, Strategic Drafting, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Elements of Advocacy, Securities Regulation, Criminal Appellate Practice, and Transactional Lab.

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**Outside of class,** students have ample opportunities for engaging in hands-on learning, as well as co-curricular academic endeavors—not to mention the occasional just-plain-social activity of one of our more than 60 student organizations.
HANDS-ON LEARNING

Pro Bono Program
Part of Michigan Law's heritage as one of the nation’s great public institutions is a long tradition of serving the public in a variety of ways. To celebrate 150 years of producing lawyers committed to public service, we launched a voluntary 50-hour Pro Bono Pledge in 2009. Since then, our students have completed almost 45,000 hours of pro bono work; in the last academic year alone, 189 students participated, and 80 students completed their pledge.

Co-Curricular Academic Opportunities
Eight student-run journals:
- Michigan Law Review
- University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform
- Michigan Journal of International Law
- Michigan Journal of Gender & Law
- Michigan Journal of Race & Law
- Michigan Telecommunications and Technology Law Review
- Michigan Journal of Environmental and Administrative Law
- Michigan Business & Entrepreneurial Law Review

Symposia and Conferences (last two academic years)
- International Transactions Clinic 5th Anniversary Symposium
- Environmental Law and Public Health
- Civil Rights Act at 50
- Brazil: History, Human Rights, and Contemporary Slavery
- American Society of International Law-European Society of International Law Conference
- The Evolving Legal Classroom
- Corporate Law in Asia: The Frontier of Entrepreneurship
- Affirmative Action and School Diversity after Fisher v. Texas
- Race, Law, & the State
- The Future of Class Action Litigation
- Inhumane and Ineffective: Solitary Confinement in Michigan and Beyond
In addition to dedicated externship opportunities in South Africa, Cambodia, Geneva, India, and London, about 50 Michigan Law students have pursued individually arranged externships in the last three semesters, at the following organizations:

**BALTIMORE**
- Maryland Attorney General’s Office
- U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Maryland
- Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago

**CHICAGO**
- Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- ACLU of Michigan

**DETROIT**
- Office of the Federal Defender for the Eastern District of Michigan
- Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office
- Securities & Exchange Commission (two placements)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Office of the Public Defender for the District of Minnesota
- Community Development Venture Capital Alliance
- The Door

**LOS ANGELES**
- Securities & Exchange Commission (two placements)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (two placements)
- Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office
- Center for WorkLife Law
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center
- Office of the San Francisco Attorney
- Senior Citizens Legal Services

**MINNEAPOLIS**
- Office of the Federal Defender for the Northern District of Ohio
- Lucas County Prosecutor’s Office
- National Music Publishers Association
- Office of U.S. Senator Carl Levin
- Overseas Private Investment Corporation
- Securities & Exchange Commission (six placements)
- Senate Judiciary Committee
- Tahirih Justice Center
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
- New Mexico Environment Department
- University of Michigan Health System Legal Office
- New Hampshire Legal Assistance
- Office of the City Attorney (Coral Gables, FL)
- Mosaic Family Services (Dallas, TX)
- Louisiana Capital Assistance Center
- Multnomah County (OR) District Attorney’s Office
- Legal Aid of North Carolina, Farmworkers Unit
- California Department of Justice, Consumer Law Section
- Legal Voice (Seattle, WA)
- Pima County (AZ) Public Defender's Office

**NEW YORK**
- Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland
- Office of the Public Defender for the District of Minnesota
- Community Development Venture Capital Alliance
- The Door
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (two placements)
- Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office
- Center for WorkLife Law
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center
- Office of the San Francisco Attorney
- Senior Citizens Legal Services

**PHILADELPHIA**
- Securities & Exchange Commission (two placements)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (two placements)
- Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office
- Center for WorkLife Law
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center
- Office of the San Francisco Attorney
- Senior Citizens Legal Services

**SAN FRANCISCO**
- Securities & Exchange Commission (six placements)
- Senate Judiciary Committee
- Tahirih Justice Center
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
- New Mexico Environment Department
- University of Michigan Health System Legal Office
- New Hampshire Legal Assistance
- Office of the City Attorney (Coral Gables, FL)
- Mosaic Family Services (Dallas, TX)
- Louisiana Capital Assistance Center
- Multnomah County (OR) District Attorney’s Office
- Legal Aid of North Carolina, Farmworkers Unit
- California Department of Justice, Consumer Law Section
- Legal Voice (Seattle, WA)
- Pima County (AZ) Public Defender's Office

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**
- Securities & Exchange Commission (six placements)
- Senate Judiciary Committee
- Tahirih Justice Center
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
- New Mexico Environment Department
- University of Michigan Health System Legal Office
- New Hampshire Legal Assistance
- Office of the City Attorney (Coral Gables, FL)
- Mosaic Family Services (Dallas, TX)
- Louisiana Capital Assistance Center
- Multnomah County (OR) District Attorney’s Office
- Legal Aid of North Carolina, Farmworkers Unit
- California Department of Justice, Consumer Law Section
- Legal Voice (Seattle, WA)
- Pima County (AZ) Public Defender's Office

**OTHER CITIES**
- Multnomah County (OR) District Attorney’s Office
- Legal Aid of North Carolina, Farmworkers Unit
- California Department of Justice, Consumer Law Section
- Legal Voice (Seattle, WA)
- Pima County (AZ) Public Defender’s Office
Interdisciplinary work

One notable example of a different curricular emphasis at Michigan is our interdisciplinary legal scholarship, grounded in the conviction that the capacity to connect the work of one intellectual field to another has both academic merit and pragmatic value. A corporate lawyer who is wholly unfamiliar with business principles, or an environmental lawyer with no experience with natural resources, are lawyers who are not able to navigate as effectively as those who have received the training available at Michigan. Whether pursuing a formal dual-degree program or applying up to 12 credits in non-law graduate coursework toward their JD, or simply pursuing coursework from a law professor with an appointment in another department, our students benefit from a wealth of resources in fields including life sciences, natural resources, philosophy, political theory, public policy, economics, feminist theory, history, and classics.

Dual degrees offered (does not include ad hoc arrangements with individual departments)

- Law and Business Administration (JD/MBA)
- Law and Chinese Studies (JD/MA)
- Law and Economics (JD/PhD)
- Law and Information (JD/MSI)
- Law and Japanese Studies (JD/MA)
- Law and Modern Middle Eastern & North African Studies (JD/AM)
- Law and Natural Resources (JD/MS)
- Law and Public Health (JD/MHSA or MPH)
- Law and Public Policy (JD/MPP)
- Law and Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies (JD/MA)
- Law and Social Work (JD/MSW)
- Law and Urban & Regional Planning (JD/MUP)
- Law and World Politics (JD/MA)

International

As the first top law school to require Transnational Law, for more than a decade Michigan has ensured that its students explore the foundations of public and private international law and the fluidity of the traditional boundaries between these areas. Beyond this basic course introduction, our students benefit from the curriculum’s dazzling breadth of international subjects, covering trade, tax, intellectual property, environmental, human rights law, and more, taught by faculty with expertise that covers all the major economies outside the United States: China, India, Japan, the European Union, and Brazil. We also offer two clinics involving cross-border issues—Human Trafficking and International Transactions—for hands-on experience at the earliest possible stage of your career. We offer a considerable range of study-abroad opportunities as well as externships and internships with law-reform agencies in South Africa; leading UN agencies and international NGOs in Geneva; NGOs in Cambodia; the AIRE Centre in London; a pilot partnership in India; and six partner institutions around the globe through the Program in Refugee and Asylum Law. Finally, our Bates Overseas Fellowships have supported 18 students in the last two years alone in their pursuit of international careers in cities ranging from São Paulo to Istanbul, from Quito to Phnom Penh.

Opportunities Abroad

- Amsterdam Law School
- Bucerius Law School (Hamburg)
- European University Institute (Florence)
- Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva)
- Katholieke University (Leuven)
- University of Hong Kong
- Waseda University Law School (Tokyo)

International Externships/Internships

- AIRE Centre Internship
- Geneva Externship Program (20 partner institutions)
- Program for Cambodian Law and Development
- Program in Refugee and Asylum Law (seven partner institutions)
- South Africa Externship Program
How to Apply

APPLICATION FEE $75

REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE February 15

EARLY DECISION (BINDING) DEADLINE November 15

REQUIRED MATERIALS
- Completed application form
- Letter(s) of recommendation (one required, three recommended)
- Resume or list of activities and work experience
- Personal statement

OPTIONAL MATERIALS
- Up to two additional essays (from among seven topics)

FOR TIPS, GUIDANCE, AND QUESTIONS
- www.law.umich.edu/jdapp.pdf
- law.jd.admissions@umich.edu
- 734.764.0537

www.law.umich.edu/admissions for complete details.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION
Michigan Law provides considerable financial support to our students and graduates, with more than $3.5 million in grants going to each incoming class. Entering LLJD candidates may qualify for merit scholarships (whether outright, or made in competition with awards from other schools) and need-based grants. (About 75 to 80 percent of our students take out Stafford and Grad PLUS loans.) We also provide guaranteed summer funding to all 2Ls working in government and public interest, along with a variety of post-graduate fellowships for those entering these fields. And our Debt Management (LRAP) program is second to none, providing generous support for graduates pursuing modest-paying law-related positions. To help visualize the impact of debt on your future career, go to our website and search for “Debt Wizard,” a planning tool unique to Michigan Law.

SUMMER START

While 3/4 of every entering class begins in the typical fall time frame, for more than 100 years, 1/4 of Michigan's entering class has begun in the summer. The summer start offers lots of advantages: the late May start results in a more-flexible schedule, allowing graduation after the sixth semester in December, or taking a semester off or doing a dual degree and graduating with the rest of the cohort in May; a lighter first semester course load, with two doctrinal five-credit classes rather than three four-credit classes (the two credits get made up easily in subsequent semesters), along with Legal Practice; and an even tighter-than-typical community, thanks to the sense of ease that pervades the summer months and the small number of classmates occupying buildings intended for 10 times the population.
The University of Michigan Law School, one of the oldest and best-regarded law schools in the nation, was founded in 1859. But unlike other highly selective law schools of that era, admission was never restricted to the privileged. When Gabriel Hargo graduated in 1870, Michigan became the second American university to confer a law degree on an African American. That same year, Michigan was the first major law school to admit a woman, and in 1871, graduate Sarah Kilgore became the first woman with a law degree to be admitted to the bar; by 1890, 30 years prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment, Michigan had graduated more women than any other law school. That commitment to access and diversity joins an equally powerful commitment to excellence.

As part of the larger University, Michigan Law School is part of one of higher education’s most dynamic intellectual, cultural, and social environments. One of only four universities in the country to have almost 100 top 10-ranked graduate programs, Michigan has extraordinary resources in every academic field imaginable. As a result, law students at the University of Michigan become part of a rich community of scholars and colleagues and a milieu that encourages looking at law in its very broadest social context.

447

Full semester, live-client clinic experiences that 2L and 3L students had in the 2013-14 academic year

1871

The year Sarah Kilgore—the first woman with a law degree to be admitted to the bar—earned her degree from Michigan Law

Mini seminars held in professors’ houses each year

15
112 HOURS per week the library is open

542 U-M law students participating on at least one of our eight student-run journals

6459 Number of clients served by our clinics in the last academic year
Stained glass college and university seals in the Reading Room

Students who can live in the Lawyers Club, a mere 20 yards from 1L classes

227

9,000+ HOURS logged annually by students in our Pro Bono Program
The year the oldest volume in the library's rare book collection was published

1486

14

Skadden Fellows in last decade

"BEST OF"
lists featuring Ann Arbor in the last five years

75+