

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Public/private	Public
Student/faculty ratio	13:1
% faculty female	43
% faculty minority	17
Total faculty	34

SURVEY SAYS...

Diverse opinions accepted in classrooms, Great research resources, Great library staff, Abundant externship/internship/ clerkship opportunities

STUDENTS

Enrollment of law school	457
% male/female	60/40
% from out-of-state	38
% full-time	100
% minority	16
% international	1
# of countries represented	5
Average age of entering class	26

ACADEMICS

Academic Experience Rating	83
Profs interesting rating	82
Profs accessible rating	89
Hours of study per day	4.55

Academic Specialties

Advocacy, Business and Transactional Law, Estate Planning, Family Law, Government Services, International and Comparative Law, Law and Government, Natural Resources Law, Taxation

Advanced Degrees Offered

JD, 90 credit hours, 3 years

Combined Degrees Offered

Recognizing that many problems faced by people in today's complex society require solutions that cross traditional boundaries of professional expertise, we developed the dual-degree program in law and social work to encourage students to obtain MSWs and JDs. Students enrolled in the dual degree program may transfer 6 law credits to the MSW and 6 MSW credits to the law degree. Washburn Law offers a JD/

Academics

As a law school, Washburn University is "committed to all three stages of a law student's experience: getting you to go to their school, getting you through school, [and] getting you a job during and after school." It is the "quality of the professors and their commitment to students' educations" that "without a doubt" makes Washburn an "excellent choice for law school." "The school focuses on developing individual legal skills for the 'real-life' practice of law," says a 2L. "Washburn is outstanding for economic reasons as well. The tuition is very reasonable compared to [tuition at] other law schools, the scholarship program is very generous, and the cost of living in Topeka is low." The "outstanding" professors "want their students to succeed," as evidenced by the "personal attention that each professor gives each student." Similarly, the administration "strives to create a positive learning environment" for students by making "the transition into law school as simple as [possible]." "[The administration] called me when I was accepted, and when my wife and I visited they made us feel at home," says a 1L. A 2L adds, "I am satisfied with the administration. The career services, professors, and library staff are all great-[they're] very available and always willing and happy to assist you."

Washburn Law's curriculum places a "strong emphasis on legal research and writing," with its "required year-long course" that is "extremely beneficial" for those looking for "creating writing samples and real world experience." Students also appreciate the "natural resources certification program" and the "fantastic two-semester course in oil and gas law." However, some would like to see "more writing and bar prep opportunities in the classroom." "I've had too many classes that teach some law, but don't help the student much for passing the bar and providing practical writing experience," says a 2L. Others wouldn't mind more "opportunities for externships and internships outside of Topeka," as well as "improvement" in course offerings, such as "environmental law."

"Being located" in Topeka, the "state capital," goes a long way in offering "many opportunities for those seeking" both traditional and "nontraditional legal careers." Despite this, many students feel uncertain about their career prospects in the current economic climate. "It's most unfortunate to spend all this money on a legal education, have stellar grades, great references, and still face unemployment due to terrible job markets," says a 3L. However, the Professional Development Office "makes every opportunity available to [students]" and takes "extra efforts to ensure career success."

From a research standpoint, Washburn Law's library is "outstanding" and has "an impressive number of legal resources available to its students." However, on an aesthetic level, the building is "not impressive." "The library has almost no windows," says a 1L. "It is like living in a basement. Humans need vitamin D! Vitamin D deficiencies make a hard year even more depressing." Indeed, despite "great" and "spacious" classrooms that feature "plenty of electrical outlets for laptops," students agree that "the school needs a cosmetic makeover." "The facilities are outdated and the law library needs more room to expand," says a 1L. "We simply cannot achieve our greatness with such a small footprint on this campus."

Life

Washburn Law has a “diverse student body” thanks to a “larger population of non-traditional students than [at] most [other] schools.” And though students are a “competitive” and “driven” group, the school lacks a “cutthroat attitude.” “My classmates are the best,” says a 2L. “Someone is always willing to pass along notes when I miss class [and] I’ve never even heard of someone hiding a book.” A 1L agrees, “People are here to help you succeed. Competition exists, but it is more a desire to do well than hold your peers back.” Because of this environment, there is “a significant amount of collaboration” between students on projects and “work opportunities.” Interestingly, this collaboration “is not required,” but rather, according to students, an “indication of personal values and the student body’s overall support for one another.”

Students are nearly unanimous in their praise of Washburn Law, but the good vibes don’t extend to the school’s location in Topeka, Kansas. As a 2L quips, “The law school is great; Topeka is really terrible.” “Topeka is not a nice place to live, but deal with it, you should be studying anyway,” says a 1L. Others have a more rose-tinted view. “Topeka is an ideal place for a law school,” says a 1L. “There are plenty of outdoor activities available and plenty of places to hang out. Where else can you go to law school and not have to pay for parking and not have rush hour to worry about?!” Some even find that Topeka is “going through a renaissance in many respects,” particularly in the “arts,” since “young people” are “staying around” and “investing in their community.”

Getting In

Washburn does not base its decisions solely on numerical scores but considers a variety of factors. Recently admitted students at Washburn Law at the 25th percentile have LSAT scores of 153 and GPAs in the 3.0 range. Admitted students at the 75th percentile have LSAT scores of 158 and GPAs of roughly 3.71.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Career Rating	76	Grads Employed by Field (%)
Rate of placement (nine months out)	88	Academic (2)
Average starting salary	\$54,680	Business/industry (10)
State for bar exam	KS, MO	Government (19)
Pass rate for first-time bar	87	Judicial clerkship (6)
Prominent Alumni		Military (3)
Lillian A. Apodaca, Past President Hispanic Bar Association; Robert J. Dole, Former U.S. Senator; Bill Kurtis, Journalist/American Justice; Delano E. Lewis, Former Ambassador to South Africa; Ron Richey, Chair of Exec. Comm. of Torchmark Corp.		Private practice (47)
		Public interest (11)

MBA that unites business and legal perspectives. Students in this dual degree program may transfer 6 law credits to the MBA and 6 business credits to the JD.

Clinical program required	No
Legal writing course requirement	Yes
Legal methods course requirement	Yes
Legal research course requirement	Yes
Moot court requirement	No
Public interest law requirement	No

ADMISSIONS

Selectivity Rating	82
# applications received	1,102
% applicants accepted	39
% acceptees attending	39
Average LSAT	155
LSAT Range	153–158
Average undergrad GPA	3.22
Application fee	\$40
Regular application	Rolling
Regular notification	6/1
Early application program	No
Transfer students accepted	Yes
Evening division offered	No
Part-time accepted	No
CAS accepted	Yes

International Students

TOEFL recommended of international students

FINANCIAL FACTS

Annual tuition (in-state/out-of-state)	\$16,560/ \$25,830
Books and supplies	\$2,500
Fees	\$70
Room and board	\$9,074
Financial aid application deadline	7/1
% first-year students receiving some sort of aid	94
% receiving some sort of aid	91
% of aid that is merit based	18
% receiving scholarships	46
Average grant	\$10,753
Average loan	\$26,626
Average total aid package	\$29,674
Average debt	\$80,488