

# THE SCHOOL OF LAW

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# The School of Law

**Dean: Daniel Morrissey**

Gonzaga University School of Law was established in 1912 by the trustees of Gonzaga University with the active support of many prominent members of the bench and bar in Washington State. The School of Law has produced many exceptional lawyers. It is fully accredited by the American Bar Association. This entitles School of Law graduates to take the bar exam in any state. The School of Law is also a member of the Association of American Law Schools.

## Objectives of the School of Law

Gonzaga University School of Law belongs to a long and distinguished tradition of humanistic Jesuit education. The School is committed to preserving that tradition and communicating it to the students. Accordingly, the School of Law seeks to challenge its students to incorporate the knowledge of the past with the innovations of the present in order to better serve society. The education and development of the whole person is emphasized and there is a desire to instill in the students a strong commitment to social justice and to encourage them to assume personal responsibility for and take individual initiative in the betterment of society.

It is recognized that the School has a responsibility not only to its students, but also to the public and the legal profession. As a result, the School of Law endeavors to graduate attorneys who, as capable problem-solvers, will be able to translate their thoughts into effective, productive action on behalf of their clients. Toward this end, an emphasis is placed on providing students with personal, individual attention.

One of the School's greatest strengths is the dedication and commitment of the faculty and staff to the students. Great pride is taken in providing students with a quality legal education that includes practical, hands-on experience which will ease their transition from the academic world to the world of legal practice.

## Full and Part-Time Programs

The School of Law offers a full-time, three year, 90 semester credit degree along with a part-time, four or five year, 90 semester credit degree. Flexible scheduling allows working students the ability to successfully balance their legal educations with their personal and professional lives. Of the 90 units necessary for graduation, approximately 43 are required; the remaining units may be selected from electives and seminars. All degree credits must be completed within five years of matriculation.

## Curriculum

There is a deliberate and delicate balance to legal education at Gonzaga. The rigorous, full, and rounded curriculum focuses on legal analysis, problem solving, values, and ethics. Equally as important is the emphasis on practical experience to develop real-world lawyering skills. As a capstone to this innovative approach to legal education, the School of Law offers special concentrations in public interest law, environment/natural resource law, and business law (including tax law). A few of the other elective courses include labor law, domestic law, criminal law, international law, and civil liberties.

The School of Law and the Graduate School of Business offer joint programs leading to the Juris Doctor/Master of Business Administration (JD/MBA) and the Juris Doctor/Master of Accountancy (JD/MAcc). These programs prepare attorneys with a business background to recognize and deal with the problems affecting business operations. Application must be made to the Graduate School of Business as well as to the School of Law.

## Center for Law and Justice

An added dimension to the legal education for many Gonzaga law students is the opportunity to practice law while in school. Rule 9 of the Washington State Bar Association allows students who have completed two years of course work (60 semester credits) to practice law under the supervision of a licensed attorney. Clinical experiences are available through an on-campus clinic and through externship offerings in legal settings such as criminal prosecution and defense, child dependency, juvenile court, and legal services work. On-campus clinical offerings include a general practice clinic and specific subject area clinics in family law, criminal defense, elder law, international criminal justice, and administrative law.

## Physical Facilities and Library

Rising from the banks of the beautiful Spokane River, the Gonzaga Law Center, which opened in May 2000, provides a stunning setting for research and learning. The law center offers a variety of classroom and library environments that support today's interactive teaching methods. Features throughout the building encourage students to greet each other and linger to talk and debate ideas in beautiful outdoor spaces, roof plazas and balconies, and comfortable lounges. Miles of state-of-the-art voice, data and video cable provide the "highway" for audio-visual, computer, and telecommunications technology throughout the building. The mix of classrooms, rooms for simulations of various sizes, and clinical teaching spaces provide flexibility to preserve the best of traditional law teaching while introducing new methods. The law library, designed to accommodate more than 250,000 volumes, reflects the changing patterns of legal research in a warm and inviting environment filled with natural light. Gonzaga's fine tradition of advocacy training and moot court competitions are promoted in the elegant Barbieri Courtroom.

## Co-Curricular Activities

Students find it easy to become involved in a broad range of co-curricular activities at the School of Law. Gonzaga is a major player in national moot court competitions. The student-run Gonzaga Law Review, more than 30 years in existence, is circulated throughout the country. The award-winning Student Bar Association is a strong, active organization which encourages student involvement. There is also opportunity to participate in an intra-school moot court competition, the client counseling competition, the negotiation competition, legal fraternities, the Gonzaga Public Interest Law Project, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, the Women's Law Caucus, the International Law Society, the Heidelberg Festival, the Environmental Law Caucus, the Asian Pacific Islander Law Caucus, and various other organizations and lecture committees. All law students are invited to join together in the Multi-Cultural Law Caucus to create a community that celebrates the diversity at Gonzaga and within the Spokane community.

**Admissions**

The School of Law endeavors to attract students with ambitious minds, professional motivation, and commitment to the highest ethics and values of the legal profession. The Admissions Committee, consisting of faculty and administrators, review all applications. The consideration of applicants is not restricted to impersonal statistics. The enriching qualities of applicants such as work and life experiences, personal accomplishment, and opinions of others reflected in letters of recommendation are considered.

The School of Law seeks to enroll a diverse student body to assure that the school and the legal profession are enriched through the participation of people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Those individuals who desire diversity factors to be considered in their admission decision should include information about their experiences and background.

Students seeking to transfer to the School of Law who have completed 45 semester credits or their equivalent or less and who are in good standing at another ABA law school may apply for admission.

**Summer Admission Programs**

The Summer Academic Resource Program at Gonzaga grants admission to a limited number of applicants who do not meet regular admissions requirements but whose application file suggests there may be potential for success beyond what the statistics would normally predict. Those accepted are registered for Fall classes on the condition that they attend a seven-week summer program consisting of a five-credit, graded course and a legal research and writing seminar. All applicants are considered for the program upon review of their application.

Students admitted directly to the fall program also have the opportunity to attend classes during the summer and complete a five-credit course. The Early Start Summer Program offers an excellent opportunity to transition into law school and to lessen the course load during the fall and spring semesters.

For Admission information write or call:

**Admissions Office**  
**Gonzaga University School of Law**  
**P.O. Box 3528**  
**Spokane, WA 99220-3528**  
**1-800-793-1710**  
email: [admissions@lawschool.gonzaga.edu](mailto:admissions@lawschool.gonzaga.edu)  
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