Overview

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Tulane Law School is the nation’s 12th oldest law school. From its founding in 1847, Tulane has always prided itself as a place of intense creativity and innovation in the study of law.

Its location in Louisiana, the country’s sole civil-law jurisdiction, gives Tulane a distinctive understanding of the interaction of different legal systems and is the foundation for Tulane’s world-renowned strength in international and comparative law. The unique exposure our students gain to both the common law of the Anglo-American tradition and the civil-law systems that dominate the rest of the globe is an increasingly powerful advantage in a world in which business, governance, and law practice are increasingly transnational.

The distinctively global perspective of Tulane Law is enlivened by a student body drawn from approximately 25 countries, by Tulane-led academic programs in a half-dozen countries abroad, and by an international faculty whose scholarly distinction ranges from advising on constitutional design in Iraq, Egypt, and Tunisia, and legal barriers to Russian gas pipelines to Europe, to intercultural negotiation of legal and political conflicts.

Yet, Tulane Law pairs that global perspective with a deep commitment to its own community and to equipping students with the practical skills and judgment they need to make a difference in their careers. The first law school in the nation to require pro bono service of all students, Tulane is a leader in preparing students for practice through service to others.

An early leader in clinical legal education, Tulane Law continues to offer five live-client clinics and now offers students a growing array of creative experiential-learning opportunities – including an intensive, one-week simulation of law practice through a Lawyering Skills Boot Camp, a Business Literacy Boot Camp for 1L students, and externships across the globe.

This distinctive approach to legal education, both global in outlook and grounded through professional skills training in service to our own community, prepares Tulane Law alumni for leadership in their careers wherever their passions take them.

Academic Policies

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A full description of academic policies for all students in the School of Law can be found in the Law Student Handbook located at https://law.tulane.edu/policies. Students should review these policies thoroughly.

Degree Requirements

Juris Doctor
Candidates for the Juris Doctor degree must spend six full-time semesters in academic residence and complete 88 semester hours at the Law School with at least a 2.0 or C average. All candidates must successfully complete (i) the first-year curriculum, (ii) the Legal Profession course, (iii) the upper-class writing requirement, (iv) six credits of experiential learning, and (v) the 50-hour pro bono requirement.

Master of Laws
Candidates for the Master of Laws degree must complete 24 semester hours of coursework. Full-time students are expected to complete the LLM in two semesters (one academic year). LLM students must also write at least one paper in connection with a seminar in their field of interest or in connection with a directed research project.

LLM Students who received a JD or LLB (or equivalent) from a school located outside of the United States must enroll in a three-week summer orientation course, Introduction to US Law. International students must also complete and pass a legal research and writing course.
Doctor of Juridical Science

Each SJD student is assigned a faculty advisor upon admission. During the first semester of enrollment, SJD students take between 10 and 12 credits of coursework. Thereafter, most SJD students work full-time on the dissertation until it is completed. Tulane’s expectation is that the final SJD dissertation will be submitted within four years following initial enrollment in the program. The dissertation is to make an original and significant contribution to legal scholarship. Each candidate defends his or her dissertation in an oral examination before a committee of the Tulane Law School faculty, supplemented with other University faculty where appropriate.

Master of Jurisprudence

The Master of Jurisprudence program requires the completion of 30 credit hours, and typically takes two years to complete. This online, non-residential program was designed for human resource professionals and those seeking to transition into HR. Students will obtain additional expertise and familiarity with the extensive and complex body of federal and state regulations that govern most aspects of recruitment, hiring and retention of employees. The MJ-LEL program includes a one-time on-campus Education Immersion Weekend, in addition to its online course curriculum.