

## University of Wyoming College of Law

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### ■ Introduction

The University of Wyoming College of Law, founded in 1920, is a member of the AALS and is accredited by the ABA. An excellent faculty of 26 full-time professors and several highly qualified lecturers instructs a student body of approximately 225. The limited size of the student body and the favorable student-to-faculty ratio create an atmosphere of friendliness and informality, and students enjoy a degree of access to faculty that students would rarely find at a larger institution.

The College of Law is located on the campus of the University of Wyoming in Laramie. The university, the only four-year institution of higher learning in Wyoming, comprises seven colleges, a graduate school, and several organized research units. The university has a student body of 13,000 and boasts of being one of the best-valued schools in the nation.

Laramie is a town of 30,000 located in the southeastern part of Wyoming at an altitude of 7,200 feet on the high plains between two mountain ranges. Often referenced as "Law at its Highest Point," the College of Law's proximity to the mountains provides a variety of recreational activities, including skiing, backpacking, rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, camping, fishing, and hunting. Laramie is situated in the wide open spaces of the West, just two hours north of Denver, Colorado.

### ■ Faculty

The faculty has a proven record of excellence in teaching and research. Particular areas of strength include environmental and natural resource law, water law, constitutional law, international, business, and transactional law. Faculty members are actively engaged in public service and university functions. Because of our small student body, the University of Wyoming College of Law faculty has instructional and research opportunities that are often not available in larger institutions. Students regularly converse with their professors both inside and outside the classroom.

### ■ Curriculum

The first year consists entirely of required courses. During the second year, students take two additional required courses: Evidence and Professional Responsibility. Students must also complete an advanced writing requirement and one skills course prior to graduation. In both the second and third years, practical legal training is available through courses in alternative dispute resolution, advanced legal research, legal skills and problems, trial practice, externships, and clinical work. Numerous externship opportunities are available in state and federal courts, the US Attorney's Office, various governmental agencies, and other nonprofit entities. The College has only limited nonclassroom offerings in its summer session; however, graduation may be accelerated one semester by attending study-abroad summer sessions at other ABA-accredited law schools.

### ■ Special Programs

The College of Law has a strong program of elective courses in natural resources law. Courses are regularly offered in environmental law, oil and gas, mining law, public lands, water rights, and energy law. The college offers a joint JD/MA in Environment and Natural Resources and joint degrees in JD/MPA and JD/MBA. Other electives include coverage of trial and appellate practice, business planning, estate planning, corporate and commercial law, administrative law, consumer law, international law, Indian law, health law, and education law.

Students may obtain practical experience and receive academic credit for work in four clinical programs: (1) a defender aid program in which students brief and argue criminal appeals on behalf of indigent persons, and assist penitentiary inmates in post-conviction cases; (2) a prosecution assistance program in which students work directly with prosecuting attorneys in criminal cases; (3) a legal services program in which students provide legal assistance to economically disadvantaged persons; and (4) a clinic dealing with victims of domestic violence. All clinical programs operate under faculty supervision. Under a special state rule, students working in the clinics frequently brief and argue cases before the Wyoming Supreme Court, an opportunity that is rare—if not unique—among law schools.

### ■ Admission Standards

The College of Law generally restricts the entering class to 75–80 students. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, or political belief in making admission decisions.

Students are admitted only for the fall semester. The college begins to accept applications on October 1 for the class entering the following August. An early admission program is available for those who apply before December 1. The entering class is selected from applications completed and on file by March 1. To meet the March 1 deadline, applicants should take the LSAT no later than February and should register with LSAC's Credential Assembly Service and arrange for forwarding of official transcripts no later than mid-January.

As a general rule, applicants must have received an undergraduate degree from an accredited undergraduate institution prior to registration. Applicants may submit up to three letters of recommendation. Selection of the entering class is based on consideration of applicants' undergraduate records, LSAT scores, a personal statement, and other criteria relevant to success in the study and practice of law including leadership and community service.

### ■ Student Activities

The College of Law publishes the *Wyoming Law Review*, a student-edited journal. Other student organizations include Potter Law Club, which provides student government and social activities with the Law Student Division of the ABA; three law fraternities; Students for Equal Justice; Intellectual

Property Club; International Law Students Association; Natural Resources Law Forum; Women’s Law Forum; J. Reuben Clark Society; and the Wyoming Student Trial Lawyers Association. Students represent the college each year in the National Moot Court Competition, National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, National Client Counseling Competition, and the ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition. The college also participates in two law school honorary societies, the Order of the Coif and Excellence in Advocacy.

## ■ Career Services

About 75 percent of graduates remain in the Rocky Mountain region, but the College of Law has alumni around the globe. The curriculum is broad in scope, providing a core foundation of legal knowledge to prepare graduates to practice in a wide range of legal and geographic areas.

Graduates of the UW College of Law practice primarily in small private firms or are employed by state, local, tribal, and the federal government. Students also find work in public service, public interest organizations, and many alternative careers related to law. A high percentage of graduates consistently work in state and federal judicial clerkships following law school.

As with other aspects of the college’s operation, the small size of the student body permits the Career Services Office to provide students with a level of personal attention that may not be feasible at larger institutions. Students receive one-on-one career counseling and job-search assistance for permanent or summer employment. Career Services also works with students and alumni to develop insightful career panels and résumé/cover letter workshops. A network of loyal alumni hires, often exclusively, at the University of Wyoming College of Law. Fall and spring on-campus interviews also provide many firms and students with a chance to interview one another. An online posting system allows national and local organizations to post legal positions for UW students across the country.

## ■ Financial Aid

State and privately funded scholarships are available. Scholarship awards are based upon merit, need, and diversity. Students should file the FAFSA prior to March 1. Scholarship applications are submitted directly to the College of Law but student loans and other financial resources are administered through the University of Wyoming Office of Student Financial Aid.

## Applicant Profile

### University of Wyoming College of Law

This grid includes only applicants who earned 120–180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

| LSAT Score | GPA    |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |   |           |   |           |   |            |   |        |   | Total |     |    |
|------------|--------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|------------|---|--------|---|-------|-----|----|
|            | 3.75 + |    | 3.50–3.74 |    | 3.25–3.49 |    | 3.00–3.24 |    | 2.75–2.99 |    | 2.50–2.74 |   | 2.25–2.49 |   | 2.00–2.24 |   | Below 2.00 |   | No GPA |   | Apps  | Adm |    |
| 175–180    | 0      | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0 | 0         | 0 | 0         | 0 | 0          | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0     | 0   | 0  |
| 170–174    | 0      | 0  | 1         | 1  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0 | 0         | 0 | 0         | 0 | 0          | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0     | 0   | 1  |
| 165–169    | 2      | 2  | 1         | 1  | 1         | 1  | 1         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 1         | 1 | 0         | 0 | 0         | 0 | 0          | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0     | 6   | 5  |
| 160–164    | 8      | 6  | 4         | 4  | 6         | 5  | 7         | 7  | 4         | 3  | 4         | 1 | 2         | 1 | 1         | 0 | 0          | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0     | 36  | 27 |
| 155–159    | 12     | 11 | 27        | 25 | 24        | 19 | 18        | 9  | 13        | 6  | 8         | 2 | 3         | 0 | 1         | 0 | 2          | 0 | 1      | 0 | 109   | 72  |    |
| 150–154    | 16     | 12 | 31        | 21 | 52        | 27 | 35        | 10 | 25        | 3  | 11        | 2 | 5         | 0 | 2         | 0 | 2          | 0 | 0      | 0 | 179   | 75  |    |
| 145–149    | 15     | 10 | 32        | 5  | 39        | 7  | 36        | 5  | 27        | 3  | 17        | 0 | 5         | 0 | 2         | 0 | 0          | 0 | 4      | 0 | 177   | 30  |    |
| 140–144    | 5      | 0  | 9         | 3  | 15        | 4  | 15        | 1  | 11        | 0  | 12        | 0 | 2         | 0 | 3         | 0 | 0          | 0 | 3      | 1 | 75    | 9   |    |
| 135–139    | 1      | 0  | 2         | 0  | 6         | 0  | 5         | 0  | 4         | 0  | 1         | 0 | 6         | 0 | 3         | 0 | 0          | 0 | 1      | 0 | 29    | 0   |    |
| 130–134    | 0      | 0  | 3         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 1         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 2         | 0 | 2         | 0 | 0         | 0 | 1          | 0 | 1      | 0 | 10    | 0   |    |
| 125–129    | 0      | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0 | 0         | 0 | 0         | 0 | 0          | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0     | 0   | 0  |
| 120–124    | 0      | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0         | 0  | 1         | 0 | 0         | 0 | 0         | 0 | 0          | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0     | 1   | 0  |
| Total      | 59     | 41 | 110       | 60 | 143       | 63 | 118       | 32 | 84        | 15 | 57        | 6 | 25        | 1 | 12        | 0 | 5          | 0 | 10     | 1 | 623   | 219 |    |

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool; average LSAT data reported.