

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Public/private Affiliation	Public
Student-faculty ratio	No Affiliation
% faculty part-time	10:1
% faculty female	40
% faculty underrepresented minority	36
Total faculty	8
	105

SURVEY SAYS...

Diverse opinions accepted in classrooms

STUDENTS

Enrollment of law school	557
% male/female	50/50
% from out-of-state	8
% part-time	1
% underrepresented minority	16
% international	4
# of countries represented	5
Average age of entering class	25

ACADEMICS

Academic Experience Rating	82
Profs interesting rating	77
Profs accessible rating	72
Hours of study per day	4.69

Academic Specialties

Criminal, Cross-Border, Environmental, Family, International, Intellectual Property

Advanced Degrees Offered

LLM in Criminal Law, 1 yr; LLM General 1 yr; Double LLM with the Catholic University of Lyon, 1 yr; Advanced Standing JD for Internationally-Trained Lawyers, 2 yrs

Combined Degrees Offered

JD/MSW, 4 yrs; JD/MBA, 4 yrs; JD/MS in Library Studies, 4 yrs; JD/MA Applied Economics, 3.5 yrs; JD/MUP, 4 yrs; JD/Pharm.D., 6 yrs; JD/PhD, 6+ yrs;

Academics

SUNY Buffalo Law School is a practical and affordable option for future New York State lawyers. The school's three-year JD begins with a series of required classes in contracts, torts, and other basic areas. In the next two years, law students have the "ability to create a unique curriculum" through a "nice array of courses," including "timely classes that are relevant to the world and cover cutting edge legal issues (examples: class on international piracy, class on counterterrorism law, etc.)." The school offers curricular concentrations in nine fields, including civil litigation and intellectual property, and students note the array of "great human rights and international law classes." While they like the course diversity, many Buffalo students feel the school could dig even deeper into specialty topics and "incorporate more courses which teach practical lawyering skills in specific areas of the law." Fortunately, curricular improvements are being implemented with attention and efficiency. "The current administration is making a concerted effort to improve the look of the school and the opportunities available to students." In addition, many students praise the schools' supervisors and staff and attest, "School administrators seem to genuinely care about you from the moment you step in the door all the way up to graduation and beyond."

Buffalo offers "plenty of opportunity to get hands-on experience in legal jobs during law school." Traditional academics are augmented by "diverse opportunities for experiential learning," including "non-traditional course offerings like clinics and externships." Within the law school, "there are countless opportunities for moot court, trial team, and journal work," and "the law school's clinic program is excellent." Of particular note, "the school goes out of its way to help those interested in Public Interest work," with numerous clinics devoted to affordable housing, community economic advocacy, and social justice. Over 50 percent of each graduating class works in private practice. Even so, some would also like to see the school build a "stronger presence in the greater Buffalo community," and point out the campus's isolated location in a northern suburb of the city. The events and culture generated from having over 24,000 undergraduate and graduate students on Buffalo's campus should not be discounted, though.

When it comes to the teaching staff, students praise Buffalo's "terrific adjunct professors," saying they love being taught by "faculty members who are still trying cases, rather than those who have been out of court for years." The school attracts a number of accomplished attorneys, and "some of the faculty [are] at the very pinnacle of their fields, with reputations that span the country." A current student enthuses, "On multiple occasions, my professors have actually worked on the cases we cover in class." Despite their many accolades, "faculty is hit or miss" in the classroom. Because SUNY is a "great research institution," it tends to attract "professors that are experts in their field with a significant amount of publishing in their background, but have no teaching skills and no ability to relate to the students." Outside of the classroom, teachers are diverse in the same manner. Some professors are friendly and student-oriented, while others "are not always accessible because they are busy."

Buffalo is a great choice for local lawyers, and the school maintains a great "reputation in New York, particularly in western New York." For many local students, cost was also a major factor in their decision to attend SUNY Buffalo. New York state residents not surprisingly, comprise more than 90 percent of the school's population, but the Law School offers competitive scholarships for qualified applicants whether in-state or out-of-state residents.

Life

Students seeking a "serious, but not overly competitive environment" will find a good match at SUNY Buffalo, where academic rigors are balanced by a "strong sense of community and camaraderie among the students." Most students are serious about their education and "come ready to work every day." However, that sense of purpose never overrides the generally low-key and friendly atmosphere within the law school. A current student elaborates, "While we are all competitive, there is a "no 1L left behind," feeling to all of the classes. If you are having trouble with the material there are always countless students willing to sit down and thoroughly discuss the material until you grasp it." Both socially and professionally, the collegial atmosphere pays off. Here, "networking is easy at UB because everyone is already your friend."

Within the law school, there are "myriad, valuable student organizations." Socially, one student proclaims, "There are always SO many events going on, it is literally impossible to keep up," especially since the law school is located on the University at Buffalo campus with an enrollment of over 24,000. In contrast, there isn't much happening in the surrounding area. Located in "suburban hell," campus is north of Buffalo proper with "nothing in walking distance. You have to drive everywhere to get or do anything." Not only is "there is no 'college town' feel," students remind us that "the heart of Buffalo's legal community, including the state and federal courthouses and the major law firms, remains in downtown Buffalo."

Getting In

In addition to LSAT scores and GPA, the most important components of any law school application, SUNY Buffalo Law also considers the personal statement, recommendation, and professional or volunteer experience. In the most recent incoming class, the median LSAT score was 154 and the median GPA was 3.43.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Career Rating	85	Prominent Alumni
Total 2014 JD Grads	191	Hon. Julio M. Fuentes '75, US Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit
% for whom you have useable information	98	Grads Employed by Field (%)
% grads employed ten months out	88	Academic (3)
Median starting salary	\$65,000	Business/Industry (17)
% job accepting grads providing useable salary information	60	Government (13)
# employed full-time	153	Judicial Clerkship (4)
# employed part-time	15	Federal: (2)
# employed bar required	29	State or local: (2)
# employed JD preferred	30	Private Practice (48)
# employed professional/other	7	Solo: (1)
# employed non-professional	2	2-10: (19)
# pursuing advanced degree	1	11-25: (5)
# unemployed and seeking employment	15	26-50: (7)
# not seeking employment	4	51-100: (2)
State for bar exam	NY, NJ, MA, CT, GA	101-250: (5)
Pass rate for first-time bar	78.2	251-500: (1)
		501+: (1)
		Size Unknown: (7)
		Public Interest (5)

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

ADMISSIONS

Selectivity Rating	82
# applications received	1,065
% applicants accepted	56
% acceptees attending	24
Average LSAT	154
Median LSAT	154
LSAT Range (25th to 75th percentile)	151-157
Average undergrad GPA	3.35
Median undergrad GPA	3.43
Application fee	\$85
Regular application deadline	3/1
Early application deadline	11/15
Early application notification	12/15
Transfer students accepted	Yes
Evening division offered	No
Part-time accepted	No
CAS accepted	Yes

International Students

TOEFL required of international students.	Yes
---	-----

FINANCIAL FACTS

Annual tuition (in-state/out-of-state)	\$26,111/\$43,100
Books and supplies	\$1,438
Fees	\$2,276
Room & Board (on/off campus)	\$7,680/\$10,906
Financial aid application deadline	3/1
% first-year students receiving some sort of aid	94
% all students receiving some sort of aid	86
% of aid that is merit based	12
% receiving scholarships	56
Average grant	\$6,240
Average loan	\$31,486
Average total aid package	\$31,475
Average debt	\$76,010