

# The University of Texas School of Law

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## THE BASICS

The **University of Texas School of Law** (known as UT Law) was founded in 1883, at the same time that the university itself was started. It was accredited by the ABA in 1923.

The school is located in Austin, the state capital of Texas. There is a cap on the number of out-of-state students it can matriculate in each class: By law, no more than 35% of each incoming class can be from out-of-state. The school has considerably lower tuition for in-state students. Combined with cost of attendance, Texas residents can expect to pay around \$45,200 a year; non-residents pay about \$62,300.

UT Law is a large school by any standards, and certainly one of the largest on this list. It has a total student enrollment between 1300 and 1400 students, and each JD incoming class is typically between 375 and 400 students. Its alumni base is also large, and particularly well-connected within Texas and the Southwest.

The school is the best school in the region, and certainly the most respected and well-known in Texas. It has great brand-name recognition nationwide, as well.

As would be expected at a school this size, UT Law has a large number of academic and extracurricular offerings: 17 clinics, 7 practical internships, study abroad programs in 12 countries, 6 joint-degree options (with multiple concentrations), 13 scholarly journals, and 35 student organizations.

**Application deadline:** 11/1 (Early); 2/1 (Regular)

**Application fee:** \$70

**Financial aid deadline:** 3/31 (Priority deadline)

**Type of school:** Public

**Tuition and fees:** \$29,640 (R); \$45,720 (NR) (2010 - 2011)

**Admissions:** Rolling (decisions by the end of April)

**Acceptance percentage:** 23% (2009)

**Incoming class size:** 379 (2009)

**Early Action/Early Decision available:** Yes, non-binding

**Part-time program available:** No

## GPA AND STANDARDIZED TESTS

**LSAT 25th - 75th percentile range:** 164 - 168

**GPA 25th - 75th percentile range:** 3.54 - 3.87

TOEFL not required for international applicants.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

**Letters of recommendation:** Up to 3 (optional)

**Required essays:** Personal statement (2-page limit)

**Optional essays:** None listed

**Dean's Certification:** None required

**Additional documentation:** Résumé (3-page limit, required)

# UT Law: The PowerScore Perspective

## Best in the Southwest

UT Law is not only the most well-known school in the state, it is also head and shoulders above all other Texas law schools in terms of reputation and reach. The school has a fantastic faculty and array of offerings, and provides its students with an exceptional education at a fraction of the cost of other Texas law schools. It is also arguably the best school in the Southwest. If your aim is to live and work in Texas, then UT Law should be at the top of your list.

## Mandatory in-state quotas

Getting in if you're an out-of-stater might be hard, though. The school cannot have more than 35% of each class be from out of state. Because of this, in-state students enjoy a substantial edge during the admissions process, and out-of-state students may have to stand out more during the application process to get noticed.

## Don't get lost in the crowd

The total combined student body—JD and LLM—hovers between 1300 and 1400 students. That's quite large, and places UT among the biggest of the schools on this list. Although a student body of this size also allows for plenty of variety in personalities, class offerings, extracurricular opportunities, and employment options, it can also make it very easy to fly under the radar, get lost in the crowd, or feel like a number. As with all the other large law schools on this list, you need to ensure you can make your voice heard and your presence known; otherwise, you run the risk of being overlooked not only during the school year, but also once on-campus interviews roll around.

## Something new? Try for an interview

If you have new or additional information that goes beyond what is in your application, you can seek an interview. But, the UT limited interview program is tough: Not only is actually getting an interview a difficult proposition, you'll also be expected to give a 15-minute presentation detailing why you would be an excellent candidate for admission, and complete a 15-minute writing sample. So, it's not so much an interview as a speech followed by a test. But, if you can shine, this could be your opportunity to get an edge.

## Innovative clerkship program

Judicial clerkships are highly sought-after, and in 2010 about 15% of UT law grads secured a clerkship (64 total). This is a very solid number, and one that is likely to grow in years to come as a result of an initiative by the school that focuses on helping grads obtain clerkships and streamlines the process for obtaining positions. Workshops, speakers, special courses, and a designated clerkship administrator in the dean's office are all part of the program, and attest to the emphasis UT is putting on getting their students clerkships.

## Law school renovation

A common student complaint used to be the relatively drab law school buildings. Happily, this is no longer the case. The library, in particular, has undergone a substantial face-lift, with the addition of a new Academic Center on the fifth and sixth floors. The Joseph D. Jamail Pavilion and

Eidman Courtroom are also shiny and new, as are the classrooms in Townes Hall (the main law school building), and George's Cafe, the school cafeteria.

## Strong specialty programs

It should come as no surprise that the Oil and Gas, and Energy Law programs at UT Law are very strong and well respected both in the state, and out of it. Texas is a huge market for this kind of practice, and graduating from UT with a knowledge of these specializations puts you at a significant advantage for these jobs.

## Awesome Austin

Austin is definitely one of the major perks of attending UT Law. The Austin live music scene is unparalleled (with

live music events taking place every night at one of the city's hundreds of bars and music venues, and music festivals like South by Southwest and Austin City Limits happening every year), and is a never-ending source of entertainment for UT Law students. The food is great ("if you like Tex-Mex, come to UT," says one student), outdoorsy activities abound (the city has its own marathon, and hiking, biking, kayaking, and running are a huge part of Austin culture), and the arts scene is huge. Austin has a college town feel with big city amenities, great weather, and a welcoming vibe and, although some students complain that it is more expensive than other Texas cities, it is still cheaper than many Eastern schools, and has plentiful housing and entertainment options available. It's no wonder that people love coming to Austin for law school, and hate leaving after graduation.

UT Law is not only the most well-known school in the state, it is also head and shoulders above all other Texas law schools in terms of reputation and reach. The school has a fantastic faculty and array of offerings, and provides its students with an exceptional education at a fraction of the cost of other Texas law schools.

## ACCEPTANCE RATES

**Full-time:** 23% (1,224 of 5,275 admitted)

**Part-time:** N/A

## GPA AND LSAT SCORES

**GPA - 75th percentile:** 3.87

**GPA - Median:** 3.71

**GPA - 25th percentile:** 3.54

**LSAT - 75th percentile:** 168

**LSAT - Median:** 167

**LSAT - 25th percentile:** 164

## ENROLLMENT AND ETHNICITY

**African-American:** 29 (M); 42 (F); 6.0% of student body

**American Indian:** 4 (M); 3 (F); 0.6% of student body

**Asian-American:** 39 (M); 41 (F); 6.8% of student body

**Caucasian:** 383 (M); 296 (F); 57.4% of student body

**Hispanic:** 9 (M); 8 (F); 1.4% of student body

**Mexican-American:** 91 (M); 77 (F); 14.2% of student body

**Puerto Rican:** None reported

**International:** 4 (M); 3 (F); 0.6% of student body

**Non-Reported:** 96 (M); 57 (F); 12.9% of student body

## TRANSFERS (FIRST-YEAR) AND ATTRITION

**Transfers in:** 13

**Transfers out:** 9

**1L attrition:** 4 (0 Academic, 4 Other)

**2L attrition:** 14 (0 Academic, 14 Other)

**3L attrition:** 1 (0 Academic, 1 Other)

## FINANCIAL AID

**Merit aid available?** Yes

**Grants and scholarships available?** Yes

**Students receiving grants:** 951, 77.1% of student body

**Median grant amount:** \$8,320

**LRAP program available?** Yes

The school has merit-only, need-only, and combined merit/need scholarships. First-year students are automatically considered for scholarships (which range from \$1,000 to full tuition), and do not need to apply separately for them.

## LIBRARY RESOURCES

**Wireless network availability?** Yes

**Number of wired connections available:** 310

**Hours per week the library is open:** 99

**Study seating capacity inside the library:** 1,039

**Number of full-time professional librarians:** 14

## CAREER SERVICES

**On-campus Career Services Office?** Yes

**Number of full-time career services staffers?** 7

**Career services specializations:** Private firms (large, mid-size, and small), corporate, alternative, government, judicial clerkships, public interest, international.

**On-Campus Interview (OCI) program?** Yes, in the fall and spring.

## EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS\*

*\*All statistics are 9 months after graduation*

**Employment status known:** 441, 100.0% of class

**Employment status unknown:** 0, 0.0% of class

**Employed:** 417, 94.6% of class

**Pursuing graduate degrees:** 2, 0.5% of class

**Unemployed:** 8, 1.8% of class

## TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

**Academia:** 3, 0.7% of class

**Business and Industry:** 40, 9.6% of class

**Government:** 43, 10.3% of class

**Judicial Clerkship:** 54, 12.9% of class

**Law Firms:** 262, 62.8% of class

**Public Interest:** 13, 3.1% of class

## GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Not surprisingly, the biggest market for UT Law grads is Texas. However, as per the school's Career Services Office, since 2007, "30 percent or more of students have secured postgraduate employment outside [the state]." Most students that work outside of Texas work in California, Illinois, New York, and Washington, D.C., in addition to 32 other states.

**Students employed in-state:** 66.7%

**Students employed in foreign countries:** 1.2%

**Number of states where students are employed:** 24

## ALUMNI NETWORK

The school has over 23,000 living alumni; the vast majority of them live and work within the state of Texas. The alumni network for the school is incredibly strong, and grads often benefit from their UT Law connection when applying for employment.

## BAR PASSAGE RATES

**First-time takers:** 416 (75.96% reporting)

**Average school pass rate:** 88.92%

**Average state pass rate:** 84.54%

**Average pass rate difference:** 4.38%



# UT Law: The School

UT Law prides itself on the teaching excellence of its instructors, its relaxed atmosphere, and the variety (in practical experience, classes, and extracurriculars) a school its size can offer its student body. Students, for the most part, agree: “[UT Law] was exactly what you would expect of a top school with a large student body. There were great professors, bright students, and a wide array of classes to choose from.”

**Incoming class size:** 379 (2009)

**Typical first-year section size:** 99

## CURRICULUM

First-year students are required to take **Civil Procedure, Property, Contracts, Torts, Constitutional Law I, Legal Research & Writing, Criminal Law, Writing Component, and one elective course**. Most classes are taught in sections of 80-90 students. However, one of the first-year required core courses is taught in a “small group” setting with a member of the regular faculty, with the goal of increasing student-teacher interaction and the level of discussion during class.

The school’s first-year legal-writing program spans two semesters; students take **Legal Research & Writing** both during the fall and during the spring.

After 1L year, all courses are elective, save for **Professional Responsibility, Constitutional Law II, a writing seminar, and one professional skills course**.

## FACULTY

**Student-to-faculty ratio:** 11.3 : 1

UT Law’s prominent faculty includes:

**John S. Dzienkowski**, expert in professional responsibility. **Stanley M. Johanson**, wills, trusts, and estates scholar, and author of one of the most widely-used casebooks in that field.

**Thomas O. McGarity**, authority on administrative and environmental law.

**Linda S. Mullenix**, class action expert.

**Olin G. Wellborn**, expert in evidence law, and one of the drafters of the Texas Rules of Evidence.

## ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

**CLINICS:** UT Law has a large clinical education program comprising of seventeen clinics. They include the Actual Innocence Clinic, Capital Punishment Clinic, Children’s Rights Clinic, Community Development Clinic, Criminal Defense Clinic, Domestic Violence Clinic, Environmental Clinic, Housing Clinic, Human Rights Clinic, Immigration Clinic, Juvenile Justice Clinic, Legislative Lawyering Clinic, Mediation Clinic, Mental Health Clinic, National Security Clinic, Supreme Court Clinic, and Transnational Worker Rights Clinic.

**INTERNSHIPS:** In addition to clinical education, UT Law students can also obtain practical experience through one of the school’s seven internship programs (Access to Justice Internship, International Internship, Judicial Internship, Legislative Internship, Non-Profit/Government Internship, Prosecution Internship, and U.S. Attorney Internship).

**STUDY ABROAD:** UT Law offers study abroad and exchange programs in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, England, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Scotland, and Switzerland. In addition, students can also undertake their own study abroad program with UT Law administrative approval.

**JOINT DEGREE:** The school offers a JD/MA (in Latin American Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, or Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies), JD/MBA, JD/MGPS, JD/MPAff, JD/MS (in Community and Regional Planning, Information Studies, or Social Work), and JD/PhD (in Philosophy or Government).

## JOURNALS AND PUBLICATIONS

The school currently has thirteen student-edited publications: *American Journal of Criminal Law*; *Texas Environmental Law Journal*; *Texas Journal of Oil, Gas & Energy Law*; *Texas Journal on Civil Liberties & Civil Rights*; *Texas Hispanic Journal of Law & Policy*; *Texas Intellectual Property Law Journal*; *Texas International Law Journal*; *Texas Journal of Women and the Law*; *Texas Law Review*; *Texas Review of Entertainment & Sports Law*; *Texas Review of Law & Politics*; *The Review of Litigation*; and *Blackacre*.

## MOCK TRIAL AND MOOT COURT

UT Law has an **Advocacy Program** which encompasses both mock trial and moot court teams as well as *voir dire*, mediation, negotiation, and client counseling efforts. The Program has advocacy classes and full-time faculty that prepare students for intramural, national, and international competitions. Competition teams are organized by a student-run **Board of Advocates**.

## • NOTABLE ALUMNI •

UT Law’s alums are prominent in politics, law, and industry. They include **James A. Baker, III** ‘57, White House Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Treasury during the Reagan administration, and Secretary of State during the presidency of George H.W. Bush; **Paul Begala** ‘90, CNN political analyst and former advisor to President Bill Clinton; **Thomas Campbell Clark** ‘22, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1949 to 1967; **Kathryn S. Fuller** ‘76, current chair of the Ford Foundation, and former president of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF); **Sarah Weddington** ‘68, attorney who represented Jane Roe in *Roe v. Wade*; and **Federico Peña** ‘72, U.S. Secretary of Transportation from 1993 to 1997, and U.S. Secretary of Energy from 1997 to 1998.

By and large, one of the aspects students love the most about UT Law is the low cost of attendance: “For a top 20 law school, even the out-of-state tuition was reasonable by comparison,” says an alum. “For the quality of instruction, the cost is unbeatable,” agrees another. “I got an affordable first-class legal education,” says a third.

The school’s reputation and regional reach are key elements, too: “I knew I wanted to practice in Texas and UT is unquestionably the best law school in [the state],” says a grad. And, even though law school can be grueling, students enjoy their time there. “Law school’s reputation is pretty well earned. It just isn’t that fun. But I think UT Law is about as fun as law school can be.”

In addition, students say the quality of instruction and offerings are also excellent. “The faculty was world class. There were a few classes that I truly appreciated the opportunity to take. The extracurricular opportunities were very diverse and very well done.” However, although “most teachers are great instructors and the school really has an emphasis on good teaching,” there are some complaints: “A number of the professors were, at best, uninterested in helping students outside of class and, at worst, actively avoided it.”

The size of the school is both a positive and a negative. For some students, “the school was too big. I felt like I had to really fight to get noticed.” However, others says that they “liked that UT Law is a big law school. Lots of people to meet and you don’t feel like you’ve seen the same faces in all your classes by the end of your second year.”

The atmosphere of the school can be intense: “This is a highly competitive student body; there are some unpleasant aspects to student interaction, especially around exam time,” says a grad. Other alums agree, and say that, during exams, “[the] ambient stress level was incredible. You could literally feel how stressed people were during exams. The first time I walked into the library during the exam-prep period, the hair stood up on the back of my neck.” However, outside of finals time, most students say that the students are “definitely congenial.” Overall, “it’s a great place to go to school,” says a grad. “I have no regrets.”

## ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The student government at UT Law is the Student Bar Association (SBA). The SBA acts as a liaison between the students, administration, and faculty. It is also responsible for providing funding to other student organizations, and planning law school functions.

Among the events organized by the SBA are the Halloween Party (known as *Ex Parte*, this popular law school event takes place in the fall), Casino Night (which takes place in the spring), and weekly “bar reviews” at different Austin watering holes. Another popular event is the Texas Law Fellowships Auction, which happens in the fall and raises funds for those students working public interest jobs during the summer.

- Aggie Law Students Association
- American Constitution Society
- Asian Law Students Association
- Assault & Flattery
- Board of Advocates
- Chicano/Hispanic Law Students Association
- Christian Legal Society
- Criminal Law Association
- Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity International
- Domestic Violence Survivor Support Network
- Environmental Law Society
- Graduate Student Assembly
- Human Rights Law Society
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- International Law Society of Texas
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- Law Students for the Arts
- Legal Research Board
- OUTLaw (LBGTS Alliance)
- Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity
- Pro Bono in January
- Public Interest Law Association
- South Asian Law Students Association
- Street Law
- Student Bar Association
- Student Government - SBA
- Texas Federalist Society
- Texas Law Democrats
- Texas Law Fellowships
- Texas Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Texas Law Veterans Association
- Texas Oil and Gas Law Society
- Thurgood Marshall Legal Society
- Women’s Law Caucus
- Youth Court

## • CLASS PROFILE •

The University of Texas School of Law received 5,815 applications requesting admission to the Class of 2013.

Of those accepted, 389 eventually matriculated.

The 25th and 75th LSAT percentiles for this incoming class were 164 and 169. The median LSAT was a 167.

The 25th and 75th percentiles were 3.57 and 3.84. The median GPA was a 3.71.

The class was 46% female, and 54% male. 29% of this class were minorities or students of color.

The average age for an incoming student for the Class of 2012 was 24.

The class hailed from 32 states.

133 different undergraduate institutions were represented.

22 members of the Class of 2013 had advanced degrees.

Each UT Law incoming class, including JD and LLM students, is between 400 and 425 students.

The total student body enrollment of the school is between 1300 and 1400 students.

The school has a non-resident maximum of 35%, meaning that each incoming class can be composed of no more than 35% out-of-state residents; the remaining 65% must have Texas residency at the time of matriculation.

# UT Law: The City

## Setting: Urban

Students love their town. “Austin would be a small, sleepy city without UT, and Austin knows it. Town-gown relations are very good and the line between students and non-students is very permeable (after all, a good number of non-students are UT grads),” says an alum. Other students put it very simply: “Austin is the coolest city this side of Barcelona!”

### LIVING EXPENSES

Although some students say that, compared to other Texas cities and towns, Austin can be expensive, the cost of living estimated by the school is still extremely reasonable, and certainly on the lower end for schools on this list. Housing, in particular, is affordable, and students say it is easy to find nice, cheap places to live while in school.

#### Estimated academic year living expenses\*

Room and board	\$10,250.00
Books and supplies	\$1,130.00
Travel	\$1,200.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,950.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,530.00</b>

*\*Values provided by UT Law*

### HOUSING

While the university does have some on-campus housing available for graduate students, the law school states that “approximately 95 percents of UT law students live off-campus.” Students recommend looking for apartments in the Hyde Park, Rosedale, and Crestview neighborhoods of Austin, among others.

**On-campus housing available?** Y  
**Average apartment rental cost (1 BR/1 BA)** \$800/mo

### DEMOGRAPHICS

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the 2006 population of Austin, TX to be 709,893 people, with 70.8% of the population between 18 and 65 years of age. 40.4% of the population has a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Population density in the Austin area (as per the 2000 census) is 2,610 persons per square mile.

The 2000 census puts the ethnic makeup of the city as 65.4% white, 30.5% of Hispanic or Latino origin, 10.0% African American, 0.6% American Indian or Alaskan native, 4.7% Asian, 0.1% native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 3.0% from two or more races.

### PARKING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Though many students own cars, most recommend using public transportation or biking to the law school. “Parking can be a real pain near the school,” warns one student. “It can take longer to commute in via bike or bus, but it’s worth it in the time you’ll save by not looking forever for a parking spot, and not having to pay outrageous amounts in parking fees,” says a grad. The school has a great shuttle system that law students can use, and UT students can also ride for free on the city bus system, Capital Metro. “Definitely try to get an apartment that is close to a shuttle or bus stop,” says one grad. “It makes life easier.” Capital Metro is also in the process of adding a commuter rail line, known as Capital MetroRail.

Getting to and from the city via air is easy; the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is located about 10 miles from the school.

### AREA ATTRACTIONS & ENTERTAINMENT

Austin calls itself the “Live Musical Capital of the World,” with good reason. There are live music events going on every night of the week in one of the city’s hundreds of bars and theaters, and two of the South’s biggest music festivals—South By Southwest (more commonly known as SXSW), and Austin City Limits—take place in Austin every year. Austin has, according to the city’s official website, “more live music venues per capita than anywhere else in the nation.”

But Austin is not just about the music. It’s about the outdoors, too. The city hosts the Austin Marathon and Half Marathon every year, has hundreds of parks, miles of bike trails, and plenty of watersports at the city’s Lady Bird Lake. The arts scene is big in Austin as well, and the city is home to a wide array of museums, performances, artists, the Ballet Austin, and the Long Center for the Performing Arts, which has plays, musicals, and operas year-round.

### CITY MUST-DOs

Students recommend attending one of the city’s major music festivals (“they are great fun, even if you aren’t a huge music junkie—the people watching is worth the price of admission alone”). For the outdoor enthusiasts, visiting “Lake Travis, Zilker Park, and Town Lake” are some definite must-dos. “And finally, act like an undergrad and attend a football game at Texas Memorial Stadium—it’s an experience like nothing else you’ve ever seen.”

Seeing “the bats fly out from under the Congress Street bridge” is a unique Austin experience. Students also recommend grabbing a bite at Kerbey Lane Café, Trudy’s, Chuy’s, and Shady Grove, “having a beer at the Bitter End Brewery,” and “taking in the craziness of 6th Street.”