



Application Instructions

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY - PENN STATE LAW (UNIVERSITY PARK, PA) ABOUT PENN STATE LAW – LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAMS

Penn State Law is located on Penn State University's largest campus, University Park, and offers students a world-class legal education bolstered by the resources of a Research 1 institution. The Penn State Law Legal Studies program offers a Master of Legal Studies (MLS) and Certificate in Legal Studies (CLS) programs. Both programs are available on a full-time or part-time basis and are offered through a hybrid option, allowing students to choose both residential and online educational experiences.

Students can choose to focus on established areas of concentration that include Energy Law and Regulation, or Information Security and Privacy Law. They can also customize their own specialization or choose a general Legal Studies option.

Legal Studies Programs are not equivalent to a Juris Doctor program and do not make graduates eligible for bar admission.

PENN STATE LAW LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAMS ADMISSION POLICIES

Penn State Law conducts a holistic review of applications for its Legal Studies Programs. We consider the rigor, depth, and breadth of an academic program; grade trends; advanced coursework; and evidence of aptitude for reading, writing, and analysis. Applicants must have earned, or will earn by the time of enrollment, an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university. The quality of the materials submitted in and with the application is also significantly considered.

The Admissions Committee also considers work history, leadership, and service of the applicant. Applicants who have overcome hardships or obstacles to education or who have had unique experiences are invited to share their stories. We seek applicants who will positively contribute to the law school and legal communities and support our mission of diversity, intellectual engagement, and service. Penn State Law also places significant emphasis on letters of recommendation from faculty instructors, employers, and internship supervisors.

Applicants admitted to Penn State Law's Legal Studies Programs are required to disclose any information that would change their responses to any questions on the application, including and especially disclosure questions. This obligation to disclose continues through matriculation to graduation.

Penn State Law's Legal Studies Programs place high importance on the integrity, maturity, and candor of applicants. Penn State Law reserves the right to revoke an offer of admission if the Admissions Committee determines that an applicant has engaged in behavior that brings into question their honesty, maturity, moral character, or fitness to practice law. Penn State Law may revoke an offer of admission if the Admissions Committee determines that the applicant has provided false, incomplete, incorrect, or misleading information during the admissions process, or if new information is not provided in a timely manner.

LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

If you have any questions regarding admissions and/or financial aid, please contact us at LegalStudies@pennstatelaw.psu.edu.

Please provide all information requested. In responses to disclosure questions, please provide as much detail as possible. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. While the admissions office attempts to notify candidates whose files are incomplete, it is ultimately the candidate's responsibility to assure timely completion of their application.

Any changes to your application or additional documents that you would like to include after submission of your application must be forwarded as email attachments to LegalStudies@pennstatelaw.psu.edu

APPLICATION FEE

All application fees for Fall 2021 admission have been waived.

RESUME

A current resume detailing your employment history, professional experiences, and extracurricular activities is required.

PERSONAL STATEMENT(S)

A personal statement is required to complete your application. The statement should address factors that influenced your decision to attend the Legal Studies Program; factors that have been significant in your development and identity; experiences or circumstances that distinguish you from other candidates; skills or experiences that you think make you well-



qualified for law school, or any special achievements or accomplishments. Submissions are limited to two pages of double-spaced type.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Penn State Law requires applicants to its Master of Legal Studies or Certificate in Legal Studies programs provide two academic or professional letters of recommendation. We encourage applicants to solicit recommendations from individuals with whom they have worked in a professional or academic capacity. Letters of recommendation from family members or friends will not be accepted.

Letters of Recommendation must be sent directly from recommenders to Penn State Law. Letters of Recommendation sent from the applicant will not be accepted.

Recommenders may send letters via email to LegalStudies@pennstatelaw.psu.edu or via mail to the address below. Mailed letters should be in an envelope signed over the sealed flap by the recommender.

The Pennsylvania State University
Penn State Law
Legal Studies Programs
Lewis Katz Building
University Park, PA 16802

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

If you are applying for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, you must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid Form) available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Penn State's school code is 003329.

If you are applying for institutional grant aid, you must also complete the Penn State Law Financial Aid application, available after January 1 on our website, www.pennstatelaw.psu.edu.

For those applicants who will use private loans, information regarding those lenders will be forwarded to admitted students during the mid- to late-spring.

The priority deadline for submitting the FAFSA form and the Penn State Law Financial Aid Application is March 1.

CITIZENSHIP (Choose one)

U.S. Citizen (either by birth in the U.S. or through naturalization)

U.S. Permanent Resident (a.k.a. immigrant, resident alien, or green card holder), Asylee, or Refugee

Neither U.S. Citizen nor U.S. Permanent Resident

ETHNICITY (to be completed by U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents)

Federal law requires that institutions of higher education gather the following information regarding the ethnicity and race of their students. Your individual information will be kept strictly confidential. The law only requires institutions to report aggregate totals for each category. The standard U.S. federal government ethnicity and racial definitions are described below:

Hispanic/Latino (Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin)

White (an individual having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa)

Black or African American (an individual having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa)

Asian (an individual having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam)

American Indian or Alaska Native (an individual having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America, including Central America, and who maintains a tribal affiliation or community attachment)

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (an individual having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands)

TRANSCRIPT REQUIREMENTS



Applicants must provide final, official transcripts from any and all post-secondary institutions attended for academic credit. Transcripts must be sent directly from the providing institution to Penn State Law's Legal Studies Programs. Transcripts can be sent electronically to LegalStudies@pennstatelaw.psu.edu or hard copies may be sent to the address below:

The Pennsylvania State University
Penn State Law – Legal Studies Programs
Lewis Katz Building
University Park, PA 16802

INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN-EDUCATED APPLICANTS

If your transcript is in a language other than English, you are asked to provide an official translation of the entire transcript and an explanation of the grading system of the university. You are strongly encouraged to use a credential evaluation service, particularly if you are not sure of how to obtain original transcripts or face difficulties obtaining them. See the [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services](#) for a list of providers. Transcripts and translations must be received by the Legal Studies Program before the relevant deadline, so please make any requests well in advance.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED APPLICANTS

Applicants whose native language is not English and who earned their undergraduate degree in a country where the official language is not English and instruction was delivered in a language other than English are required to demonstrate language proficiency through one of the three options:

1. Test of English as a Foreign Language ([TOEFL](#)) Score: Minimum 100
2. International English Language Testing System ([IELTS](#)) Score: Minimum 6.5 overall band score
3. Degree from certain English-speaking countries: Baccalaureate or master's degree from a college/university/institution in any of the following: Australia, Belize, British Caribbean and British West Indies, Canada (except Quebec), England, Guyana, Republic of Ireland, Liberia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the United States, and Wales.

Please arrange for all standardized test scores to be sent in advance of the application deadline. If your score is no longer valid, a copy of a score report will be accepted.

Penn State's Law's TOEFL Code is 2660.

Special note: Online institutions and some satellite campuses may not qualify for a TOEFL or IELTS waiver.

Please remember to:

- Complete and transmit your application by the application deadline;
 Submit your personal statement;
 Submit your résumé;
 Pay \$60 application fee by credit card (**only if applying to start in any semester other than Fall 2021.**

Please confirm that you have:

- Requested letters of recommendation to be sent directly to Penn State Law's Legal Studies Program;
 Ordered final, official transcript(s) from all undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools you attended;
 Completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available at www.fafsa.ed.gov (if required).



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Penn State Law

Legal Studies Programs

Lewis Katz Building

University Park, PA 16802

Email: LegalStudies@pennstatelaw.psu.edu

Website: www.pennstatelaw.psu.edu

Penn State Law is located on Penn State's University Park campus in State College, PA, and is one of two fully accredited law schools of The Pennsylvania State University.



Biographical

Prefix

- Mr.
 Ms.
 Mrs.
 Mx.
 Dr.
 Other

First (given) name

Middle name/initial

Last (family) name

Suffix

Previous (other) name

Preferred first name

Date of birth

City of birth

Place of birth

Gender assigned at birth (optional)

- Prefer not to answer
 Male
 Female



LSAC Account Number (if available)

Demographics

Citizenship

Citizenship

- Non-Resident Alien
 U.S. Permanent Resident
 US Citizen

Country of citizenship _____

Visa/SEVIS number _____

Permanent resident number _____

Permanent city _____

Permanent state/province _____

Permanent country _____

Ethnicity

Are you Hispanic or Latino?

Yes

No

If you selected "Yes" to the above question, select an ethnicity.

Hispanic/Latin



Demographics continued

What is your race? Select one or more races to indicate what you consider yourself to be.

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian

Aboriginal/Torres Strait Isl. Australian

American Indian or Alaska Native

American Indian/Alaskan Native

Asian

Asian

Black or African American

Black/African American

Canadian Aboriginal/Indigenous

Canadian Aboriginal/Indigenous

Caucasian/White

Caucasian/White

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

Puerto Rican

Puerto Rican

Consent

Decline to respond

Tribal Affiliation

Tribal affiliation or village name _____

Enrollment number (enrolled members only) _____



Education

List ALL educational institutions attended.

Institution type _____ High School _____ Undergraduate _____ Graduate _____ Law _____ Other Post Graduate

Institution name _____

Major _____

Country _____ Start date _____

State/Province _____ End date _____

City _____ Degree _____

GPA _____ Date degree granted _____

Rank _____

Institution type _____ High School _____ Undergraduate _____ Graduate _____ Law _____ Other Post Graduate

Institution name _____

Major _____

Country _____ Start date _____

State/Province _____ End date _____

City _____ Degree _____

GPA _____ Date degree granted _____

Rank _____

Institution type _____ High School _____ Undergraduate _____ Graduate _____ Law _____ Other Post Graduate

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Education continued

Institution type _____ High School _____ Undergraduate _____ Graduate _____ Law _____ Other Post Graduate

Institution name _____

Major _____

Country _____ Start date _____

State/Province _____ End date _____

City _____ Degree _____

GPA _____ Date degree granted _____

Rank _____

Military

Have you served or are you now serving on full-time, active U.S. military duty?

Yes

No

Date of entrance (month/year) _____

Date of discharge (month/year) _____

Rank _____

Expected military reserve or National Guard status during law school

Branch _____

Discharge type _____

Have you ever been separated from any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces under less than honorable conditions?

Yes

No

If you have been separated from any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces under less than honorable conditions, explain the circumstances.



Family

Next of Kin/Emergency Contact

Salutation _____

Country _____

First (given) name _____

Street address--line 1 _____

Middle name/initial _____

Street address--line 2 _____

Last (family) name _____

Street address--line 3 _____

Relationship to applicant _____

City _____

Telephone (include area code) _____

State/province _____

Zip/postal code _____

If you have any close relatives who have been students at this university, please provide the following information.

Relative 1

Relative 2

Law school University

Law school University

First (given) name _____

First (given) name _____

Middle name/initial _____

Middle name/initial _____

Last (family) name _____

Last (family) name _____

Relationship to applicant _____

Relationship to applicant _____

School attended _____

School attended _____

Start date (month/year) _____

Start date (month/year) _____

End date (month/year) _____

End date (month/year) _____

Degree awarded _____

Degree awarded _____

Parent/Guardian - 1

Choose not to answer

Country _____

Deceased

Street address--line 1 _____

First (given) name _____

Street address--line 2 _____

Middle name/initial _____

Street address--line 3 _____

Last (family) name _____

City _____

Occupation _____

State/province _____

Highest level of education _____

Zip/postal code _____

E-mail address _____



Family continued

Parent/Guardian - 2

Choose not to answer

Deceased

First (given) name _____

Middle name/initial _____

Last (family) name _____

Occupation_____

Highest level of education _____

E-mail address _____

Country_____

Street address--line 1 _____

Street address--line 2 _____

Street address--line 3 _____

City_____

State/province_____

Zip/postal code _____

Financial Aid

Are you applying for financial aid?

Yes

No

Are you applying for an academic scholarship?

Yes

No

Are you applying for a need-based scholarship?

Yes

No

Standardized Testing

TOEFL

Test Date _____

Test Score _____



Standardized Testing continued

IELTS

Test Date

Test Score



Contact Information

Current Address

Street address - Line 1

Street address - Line 2

Street address - Line 3

City

Country

Zip/postal code

Current mailing address good until

Permanent Address

Street address - Line 1

Street address - Line 2

Street address - Line 3

City



Contact Information continued

Country

Permanent mailing address good until

Evening phone number

Other Contact Information

Primary e-mail address

Secondary e-mail address

Mobile phone number

Secondary phone number

Can the school send text messages to your mobile phone?

Yes

No



Additional Demographics

Do you consider yourself to be a member of the LGBTQA+ community? This question is optional and will be used by the admissions committee to gain a better understanding of the whole person whose application is being reviewed.

Yes

No

Please feel free to share any additional information about your response to the above question and/or a brief description of your gender identity. This question is optional and will be used by the admissions committee to gain a better understanding of the whole person whose application is being reviewed. (300-character limit)

Penn State Programs

Have you ever applied to any Penn State University program? (This includes undergraduate, graduate, professional, non-credit, online, or other Penn State educational programs at any Penn State campus or World Campus).

Yes

No

Have you participated in Penn State Law's Explore Law Program?

Yes

No

MLS Program Interest

Please indicate whether you are applying for the Master of Legal Studies or the Certificate in Legal Studies.

Certificate in Legal Studies

Master of Legal Studies

Please indicate the MLS concentrations that are of interest to you.

General MLS

Customizable MLS

Energy Law and Regulation

Information Security and Privacy Law

Please choose how you plan to attend the program.

In-person only

Hybrid (in-person and online)



MLS Program Interest continued

Briefly tell us why you have decided to pursue Legal Studies.



Letters of Recommendation

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Recommenders may send letters via email to LegalStudiesAdmissions@pennstatelaw.psu.edu or via mail to the address below. Mailed letters should be in an envelope signed over the sealed flap by the recommender.

Penn State Law
Legal Studies Programs
Lewis Katz Building
University Park, PA 16802

Please provide recommender's name, title, organizational/institutional affiliation, and email address.

Please provide recommender's name, title, organizational/institutional affiliation, and email address.

Disclosure

Have you ever been subject to any sanctions for or findings of an honor code violation or professional misconduct by any agency, professional organization, corporation, board, or academic institution (including but not limited to disbarment by a state, federal, or other agency; any form of professional discipline or license restriction or surrender; or an admission or determination that you have committed research or professional misconduct)?

If you answered "Yes" to this question, any and all details surrounding these circumstances must be disclosed in an "Attachments" section of this application.

Yes
 No



Certification

By checking the box below, I certify that this application is complete and accurate upon submission.

I affirm and agree

I will inform Penn State Law of any occurrences subsequent to the submission of this application that would change the answers to any of the questions asked on this application.

I affirm and agree

I understand that any omission, misstatement, or inaccuracy in this application or any supporting materials submitted by me, whenever discovered, may result in the withdrawal of an admissions decision and/or the voiding of my registration, in which case I will receive no credit for any attendance in the Legal Studies program.

I affirm and agree