START HERE.
GO ANYWHERE.

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA
Congratulations on your decision to pursue legal education at Penn State University and thank you for considering Penn State Law in University Park. We are excited to share more with you about our J.D. program, which offers a rigorous, classic legal education enhanced with experiential learning opportunities both locally and away from campus to provide students with the lawyering skills needed to accomplish their professional goals.

As you may be aware, Penn State University President Neeli Bendapudi announced her decision to reunite both of Penn State University’s law schools. The single law school will be called Penn State Dickinson Law and its primary location will be in Carlisle, Pennsylvania with a substantial presence at University Park. The reuniting process is expected to take several years, and the leadership of the two law schools together with the university and the American Bar Association (ABA) are defining that process. At this time, Penn State Law in University Park and Penn State Dickinson Law remain separately accredited law schools and will be accepting applications for fall 2024 admissions.

Penn State Law is dedicated to delivering a program of legal education that meets the expectations of excellence held by our students, faculty, and staff. As a law student in University Park, you will have all the resources of a world-class public research institution with small classes taught by a faculty of prominent legal scholars and leading practitioners. You can choose to focus your studies in one of our many areas of strength, including advocacy and litigation; antitrust and competition law; arbitration, mediation, and negotiation; corporate law and practice; energy and environmental law; health law; intellectual property; international, foreign, and comparative law; law, science, and technology; national security, military, and veterans; and more.

We recognize the importance of learning by doing and treat the broader world as our classroom. Our 11 clinics and Manglona Lab for Gender and Economic Equity provide you with a wealth of opportunities to explore practice areas and help underserved communities. Our students have worked on real cases considered by the U.S. Supreme Court and have honed their advocacy skills through national and international moot court and trial competitions, including winning the 2019 world championship in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna.

Our home, the state-of-the-art Lewis Katz Building, allows you the freedom to explore the world virtually from our classrooms and interview rooms. Our innovative Externships Everywhere program lets you pursue career opportunities anywhere in the world while participating via our advanced distance-learning technology in classes in University Park.
We are committed to being a welcoming and inclusive environment for every member of our community, and to actively combat bias and inequality at the law school, Penn State, and our broader society.

With this location on Penn State’s University Park Campus in State College, Pa., you will find a place that is vibrant, safe, and diverse, with dozens of active law student organizations and hundreds of university-wide student groups and activities. You will study hard, but when you’re ready for a break, you can take advantage of NCAA Division I and intramural sports, convenient fitness facilities, outdoor activities, arts and cultural events, Penn State Berkey Creamery ice cream, and a welcoming environment of more than 46,000 enthusiastic and friendly Penn State students.

They don’t call it Happy Valley for nothing.

As a graduate, you will belong to the powerful Penn State alumni network of more than 740,000 strong all over the globe. I invite you to explore our program further here on our website (pennstatelaw.psu.edu) or in-person through a visit. We look forward to welcoming you.

Victor Romero
Interim Dean, Penn State Law and the School of International Affairs
Maureen B. Cavanaugh Distinguished Faculty Scholar, and Professor of Law
THE LEWIS KATZ BUILDING

The 114,000-square-foot Lewis Katz Building is the home of Penn State Law. Completed in 2009, the structure features a glass-walled library, a modern “smart” courtroom, a Panera Bread café, comfortable classrooms, and indoor and outdoor student and study spaces.

Penn State Law classrooms are equipped with high-definition audio-visual equipment that allows real-time audio and video connection to programs and speakers around the globe as well as lecture recording so students can review later what happened in class. The Katz Building is accessible and LEED-certified with a number of green features, including a green roof, bike racks, abundant use of natural light, and locally sourced materials.

Contact Us

Email the Penn State Law Admissions Office at admissions@pennstatelaw.psu.edu or call 800-840-1122 or 814-867-1251.
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**THE LEWIS KATZ BUILDING**

Penn State Law’s home on the University Park campus is the 114,000-square-foot, LEED-certified Lewis Katz Building.
Start Here. Go Anywhere.

With **over 20 specialized fields** of study, Penn State Law in University Park helps you **discover** your passion, while you **learn** to work with real clients, in real-world settings—taking you **beyond** the bar and launching you into a career where you **live** in the truth and uphold the law. So when you start at Penn State Law in University Park, you can get a job anywhere in the world.

**About Penn State Law**

Penn State Law, located on Penn State’s largest campus — University Park — in State College, Pennsylvania, offers the resources of a world-class, public research institution together with challenging and innovative classroom study and ample opportunities for learning by doing. A Penn State Law legal education comprises:

- Traditional doctrinal courses, plus innovative courses that reflect the evolving legal landscape;
- Eleven law clinics and a cutting-edge gender equity lab;
- Interdisciplinary courses, established joint degree programs, and individualized joint degrees;
- Comprehensive mentoring that begins at admissions;
- Curriculum based in emerging technology and analysis of the legal questions posed by new technology;
- Externships Everywhere Program that places students in legal positions all around the world;
- Professional network of Penn State Lawyers and Penn State’s more than 740,000 alumni; and
- A commitment to welcoming a diverse community from around the county and the world.
The Penn State Law J.D. Program

The J.D. program at Penn State Law is a three-year, six-semester course of study that provides a comprehensive foundation in law and reflects the broad research and practice expertise of its faculty.

First-Year Courses Include:

- Applied Legal Analysis and Writing
- Civil Procedure
- Constitutional Law
- Contracts
- Criminal Law
- Legal Research Tools and Strategies
- Criminal Procedure
- Property
- Torts

FACULTY INSIGHT

“Law school is an opportunity to unlock a treasure trove of interdisciplinary learning, while thinking deeply about our legal system’s macro and micro operations. As a Penn State graduate (BA ’90), I believe our law school offers the perfect space to engage in a uniquely loyal community with global reach. My students learn about social justice and power structures along with practical problem-solving approaches to help their clients meet their goals.”

Jill C. Engle
Professor of Clinical Law
FACULTY

Commitment to EXCELLENCE

The Penn State Law faculty is a group of diverse teachers and dedicated contributors to the legal profession and society. They are seasoned attorneys and judges, accomplished researchers, and authors—all experts in their fields, and all passionate about teaching the next generation of lawyers.

FACULTY INSIGHT

“In my classroom, students learn the immigration statute and how the immigration process works, but acquiring knowledge is not my only goal. I want students to understand the human dimension of immigration law and use the law as a tool to improve individual access to justice and for broader social change.”

Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia
Samuel Weiss Faculty Scholar, and Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security

Professor Wadhia is one of the nation’s leading scholars on the role of prosecutorial discretion in immigration law. She teaches courses in immigration and asylum and refugee law, and is the founding director of the Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic. She frequently consults with the media and policymakers regarding immigration issues.

PENN STATE LAW'S DEDICATED FACULTY INCLUDES:

- the authors of more than 12 textbooks used in law school classrooms across the country;
- a member of the American Law Institute;
- a former vice admiral and the 41st judge advocate general of the U.S. Navy;
- a former general counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives;
- one former Supreme Court clerks;
- former partners in top law firms; and
- consultants, advisers, and former attorneys for the U.S. Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Trade Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.
FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

LARA B. FOWLER
Teaching Professor of Law, Director Sustainability Institute, Chief Sustainability Officer, Penn State Affiliate Faculty, Penn State School of International Affairs

“In both my substantive classes like water law and energy law, as well as my experiential classes, like environmental mediation and negotiation/dispute resolution design, I help my students understand the real world dynamics of topics through a mix of readings, field trips, and role plays or other practical experiences. Past classes have participated in Penn State’s Sustainable Communities Collaborative, a process that matches class research with communities needing help.”

Professor Fowler is an attorney and mediator who focuses on environmental, energy, and natural resource law, with a specific focus on water related issues. She has a joint appointment between Penn State Law and the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment, and in 2019-20, she spent time at Uppsala University in Sweden as part of a U.S. Fulbright Scholar award.

SAMUEL THOMPSON JR.
Arthur Weiss Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Director, Center for the Study of Mergers and Acquisitions, Professor of Law

“Most law students are surprised to learn that the study of federal tax law is not about accounting. It requires careful analysis of tax laws, regulations, and judicial opinions, guided by an understanding and evaluation of the policies behind the laws.”

Professor Thompson is working to shape our tax laws as the author of 16 books and more than 75 articles on corporate and international tax, corporate governance, and antitrust law. His teaching interests focus on the corporate, securities, tax, and antitrust aspects of mergers and acquisitions as well as international tax, investment banking, taxation of business entities, and economic growth policy.

HANNAH WISEMAN
Professor of Law, Professor and Wilson Faculty Fellow in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, Co-funded Faculty – Institutes of Energy and the Environment, Co-Director, Penn State Center for Energy Law and Policy

“I view Penn State Law as the nation’s preeminent energy law school. The United States and the world are in the midst of a big energy transition. I’m interested in exploring how regulation and other approaches can help facilitate that transition and assist the communities being impacted by them.”

Professor Wiseman came to Penn State Law from Florida State University College of Law. She teaches and writes in the areas of Energy Law, Oil & Gas Law, Land Use Regulation, Environmental Law, and Administrative Law. Her work focuses on the mechanics and design of regulation and governance in these areas, including the challenges of determining appropriate governance levels, fostering effective experimentation, and addressing expansions in the scale of regulated activities. She received her law degree from Yale Law School.

MEGAN WRIGHT
Professor of Law, Medicine, Sociology, and Bioethics; Affiliate Faculty, Rock Ethics Institute, College of the Liberal Arts; Affiliate Faculty, Bioethics Program, College of the Liberal Arts

“There is an urgent need for skilled health lawyers and policymakers. In my student-centered health law classes, we address the legal, policy, and ethical issues in the rapidly changing field of healthcare finance and delivery.”

Professor Wright joined Penn State from Weill Cornell Medical College, where she was a postdoctoral associate of medical ethics. Concurrently, she served as a research fellow and senior adviser to the Consortium for the Advanced Study of Brain Injury Project at the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School.

Our Penn State Law Family Grew

HANNAH WISEMAN
Professor of Law, Professor and Wilson Faculty Fellow in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, Co-funded Faculty – Institutes of Energy and the Environment, Co-Director, Penn State Center for Energy Law and Policy

“Professor D’Silva joined Penn State Law with diverse and extensive experience in intellectual property law and is the founder and principal of his solo boutique intellectual property law firm located in Erie, Pennsylvania. D’Silva is global IP counsel for several multinational corporations as well as counsel for several universities, small businesses, inventors, and creatives at every stage of their development, and of all ages. He earned his J.D. from the University at Buffalo School of Law, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biological Engineering and a Master of Engineering in Biological Engineering from Cornell University.”

Jonathan D’Silva
Assistant Clinical Professor and Director, Intellectual Property Clinic
SPECIALIZED FIELDS OF STUDY

Penn State Law second and third-year students have their studies in one or more specialized fields of study, earning a concentration recognition in the specialized fields below. Courses listed are just a selection of available options.

Administrative Law and the Regulatory State
Penn State Law’s administrative law offerings allow students to explore the powers granted to regulatory agencies and put that knowledge to work in a variety of clinics and in externships, including in Washington, D.C., positioning them for jobs in government agencies and in administrative law practice.

Advocacy and Litigation
To prepare Penn State Law students to be compelling advocates and litigators, they learn basic legal communication skills in their first year then have the opportunity to continue with upper-level coursework and advocacy in law clinics.

Antitrust and Competition Law
Through Penn State Law’s antitrust curriculum, law students will explore how laws and policies in the United States and around the world set the rules for fair competition. The law school also offers research opportunities in the Center for the Study of Mergers and Acquisitions and externships through the Semester in Washington, D.C.

Arbitration, Mediation, and Negotiation
Penn State Law’s curriculum in alternative dispute resolution prepares students to represent clients in a host of non-judicial resolution proceedings, from mediation to international commercial arbitration. Supplemental experiential opportunities abound in this area of study.

Arts, Sports, and Entertainment Law
In addition to arts, sports and entertainment law coursework, Penn State Law offers an Arts, Sports, and Entertainment Law Clinic and research opportunities with the Institute for Sports Law, Policy, and Research.

Banking and Financial Regulation
Penn State Law’s banking and financial curriculum explores how laws, policies, and regulations are designed to balance healthy business growth with protecting the economy and consumers.
Penn State Law students learn about laws governing business transactions and how lawyers help their clients—whether they’re global corporations or fledgling startups—solve problems to increase the value of their businesses.

Corporate Law and Practice
Penn State Law’s corporate law curriculum explores the creation and maintenance of various business entities, from the buying and selling of corporate shares and assets to tax consequences and ethical issues.

Constitutional Law and Civil Rights
Few areas of the law are as pervasive as constitutional law, and Penn State Law students in this field of study explore some of the most important issues facing our nation today.

Criminal Law
An understanding of criminal law is crucial for any future attorney, but for aspiring prosecutors and defense attorneys, Penn State Law offers classroom and clinical work that opens doors to law firms and district attorney and public defender offices.

Energy and Environmental Law
Penn State Law’s energy and environmental law policy courses include offerings that emphasize the interdisciplinary and international nature of the field.

STUDENT INSIGHT
“I applied to Penn State Law because I wanted to be a part of a prestigious law program and well-known university close to home.”
Elian Martinez, ‘26
Families, Children, and the Law
Penn State Law provides a robust curriculum in family law, which has a strong commitment to addressing domestic violence.

Health Law
With several joint J.D./master’s degree programs, uniquely focused specialty coursework, and growing collaborations with the Penn State Colleges of Medicine and Nursing, Penn State Law is preparing students to fill the increased demand for professionals in compliance, legal, policy, and regulatory positions in the health care field.

Immigration and Migration
The demand for immigration attorneys has never been greater as courts, law enforcement, policymakers, and citizens and noncitizens grapple with changing immigration laws. Penn State Law offers relevant coursework and a clinic dedicated to immigrants’ rights.

Intellectual Property
As technology and globalization rapidly alter how we communicate, do business, and live our lives, the need to protect intellectual property grows considerably. Penn State Law’s IP curriculum and Intellectual Property Clinic prepare students in this growing field.

International, Foreign, and Comparative Law
For law students who are interested in careers in international public policy or business, Penn State Law offers a curriculum that explores how the laws of global governing bodies and sovereign states interact and differ worldwide. The law school’s close connection to the School of International Affairs (SIA) means law students can easily take SIA courses or pursue a joint J.D./Master of International Affairs.

Labor and Employment Law
Penn State Law offers a variety of coursework, programming, and experiential learning opportunities for students who want to pursue a career in labor and employment law, including a joint J.D./M.S. degree program in human resources and employment relations as well as an appellate legal clinic that deals primarily with labor issues before the federal courts.
Law, Science, and Technology
Innovation in science and technology is changing our society and changing the practice of law, and Penn State Law is on the leading edge of these advancements with a course of study that explores the interconnections of science, technology, and the law.

National Security, Military, and Veterans
Penn State is renowned for its work on behalf of the military and our veterans, and at Penn State Law that takes the form of a robust national security curriculum, deep connections to the Armed Forces JAG Corps, and a veterans law clinic that fights for the rights of those who serve our country.

Public Interest Law
Penn State Law’s public interest curriculum provides students with training in the substance and skills necessary to advocate for the civil, political, and economic rights of individuals on a local, national, and international scale.

Race, Law, and Equity
The Concentration and corresponding Specialized Field of Study in Race, Law, and Equity enables Penn State Law students to structure their academics, and market their success, in courses that support racial justice.

Taxation
Penn State Law students examine an array of transactions for which the tax consequences are significant, including mergers and acquisitions, international business contracts, and internal corporate and partnership restructuring. In the Center for the Study of Mergers and Acquisitions, students can dig deeper into how tax laws affect business transactions.

ALUMNUS INSIGHT
“Since stepping into my new role as an Assistant District Attorney at one of the largest offices in the country, things have been moving almost non-stop. Whether it’s foundational knowledge underpinning charging decisions or the nuanced details of New York State’s Discovery laws, I learn something new every day. Given that we often have very little time before needing to use this information in our practice, it’s easy for things to feel like a whirlwind. Penn State Law’s extensive criminal law curriculum left me with the foundational knowledge to quickly understand, digest, and apply new concepts of criminal law and procedure, allowing my transition into my dream job to be successful and exciting instead of just overwhelming!”

Shane Kaliszewski, ’22
Assistant District Attorney
King’s County District Attorney’s Office (Brooklyn DA)
New York City, New York
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Clinics and Lab

Penn State Law’s legal clinics allow students to work on real legal matters under the supervision of the clinics’ faculty direction. Several of the law school’s clinics leverage the interdisciplinary strengths of Penn State by partnering with other Penn State academic units to replicate the true multidisciplinary nature of legal practice.

Arts, Sports & Entertainment Law Clinic
Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic
Civil Rights Appellate Clinic
Criminal Appellate and Post-Conviction Services Clinic
Entrepreneur Assistance Clinic
Family Law Clinic

Indigent Criminal Justice Trial Clinic
Intellectual Property Clinic
Manglona Lab for Gender and Economic Equity
Rural Economic Development Clinic
Veterans and Service members Legal Clinic

Visit pennstatelaw.psu.edu/clinics for more information on the clinics and their most recent accomplishments.

ALUMNUS INSIGHT

“The most helpful aspect of PSL for me and the one that I have carried into my profession is the Entrepreneur Assistance Clinic with Professor Tom Sharbaugh. Professor Sharbaugh spent many years as Managing Partner of a global law firm, and he teaches his Clinic students the basics of private practice and client interaction. The Clinic gave me a head start in my profession because it made me familiar with several of the projects I’ve been assigned to early in my career. I learned to interview clients, draft operating contracts, form a new business, and many other things you would not necessarily learn in a classroom. For anyone who might be interested in transactional work, I would highly recommend getting involved with the Clinic.”

Johnathan M. Nucci, Esq., ’22
Associate Attorney
Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP
Rochester, NY
Law Review and Journals

Law Review and Journal service provides students with invaluable experience and scholarly legal research, writing, and analysis. In addition to researching and writing their own articles, students work closely with leading academics on their scholarly articles. Penn State Law students edit and publish three scholarly publications:

- The Penn State Law Review
- The Arbitration Law Review
- The Penn State Journal of Law and International Affairs

Moot Court & National Trial Competitions

Penn State Law students compete in a variety of moot court and trial competitions across the U.S. and internationally:

- National Black Law Students Association’s Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition
- John J. Gibbons National Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition
- Mid-Atlantic Black Law Students Association’s Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition
- International Law Students Association’s Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
- National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition
- Tulane University Law School’s Mardi Gras Sports Law Invitational
- Robert F. Wagner National Labor & Employment Law Moot Court Competition
- Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, Austria
- American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition
- National Trial Competition, hosted by the American College of Trial Lawyers
- Trial Advocacy Competition, hosted by the American Association for Justice

Research Centers

Penn State Law’s research centers engage faculty, students, and practitioners in the study of law and policy, allowing students to gain advanced knowledge in specific areas of the law. The law school also plays a leadership role in collaborative university-wide centers in energy law, national security, artificial intelligence, and immersive experiences.

- The Center for Agricultural and Shale Law
- The Center for the Study of Mergers and Acquisitions
- The Institute of Arbitration Law and Practice
- The Institute for Sports Law, Policy, and Research

Penn State Law Wins Championship @ 2019 Willem C. Vis International Moot

The Penn State Law Vis Moot team, competing against 372 teams from 87 countries, took top prize in the international commercial law and arbitration moot court competition—the first time in 15 years a U.S. team was victorious.

Penn State Law Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Teams Wins Competition in 2022

The 2022 mock trial team was one of 18 to compete at the national level in Memphis. They advanced through two preliminary rounds, the semi-finals, and the finals to win the Mid-Atlantic Region Mock Trial Competition. Congrats to Daijah Blackburn, Leilani Brown, Michelle Miles, and Taylor Washington, and coaches, alumnae Kelsi Robinson, Tyla Swinton, and Amber Bynum!
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Start here. Extern anywhere—for class credit.

Externships Everywhere

Through Penn State Law’s unique Externships Everywhere program, law students can spend a semester working in an approved externship anywhere in the world without interrupting their studies or delaying graduation.

The program provides second- and third-year law students the opportunity to spend a semester away from University Park, working in an approved externship with a state or federal judge, government agency, public interest/nonprofit organization, business, or law firm. Plus, participants may have the opportunity to earn up to three more credits through independent study or digital learning, with administrative approval.

Traditional Externships

Penn State Law also offers an array of local and regional externship programs that allow students to continue taking courses while gaining vital practical experience outside of the classroom. Externship opportunities include:

- Federal Government placements
- Federal Judicial placements
- Penn State Administration placements
- Public Interest and Nonprofit placements
- State Government placements
Semester in Washington, D.C.

Penn State Law students who participate in the Washington Program work approximately 35 hours per week at an approved externship and attend a weekly seminar on federal regulatory and legislative practice. Students are encouraged to identify externships related to their prior studies at the law school and their future career goals. The program is facilitated by Stanley Brand, Distinguished Fellow in Law and Government at Penn State Law and a prominent Washington attorney. Brand previously served as general counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives and, in private practice, he has had a succession of high-profile political and public corruption cases and clients. The weekly seminar course meets in Brand’s office building in downtown Washington.

Potential Externship Placements Include:

- AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly
- American Bar Association, Government Affairs Office
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice
- Department of State
- Department of Treasury
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Federal Communications Commission
- House Committee on Means and Ways
- Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- National Labor Relations Board
- Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- U.S. Office of Special Counsel
- U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia

ALUMNUS INSIGHT

“In both internships, the judge was not extremely explicit in what should go into an internal memo and how it should be formatted. Upon my first memo assignment, I immediately went back and looked at my Applied Legal Analysis & Writing internal memo assignment and used it as a starting point. It was extremely helpful and was critical to building my confidence in my externship.”

David Reimel ’20
Associate Attorney
Rossway Swan Tierney Barry & Oliver PLLC

ALUMNA INSIGHT

“Spending a semester externing full-time at the Smithsonian Office of the General Counsel was a dream come true. I saw the inner workings of the general counsel of a premiere institution and merged my legal studies with my passion for art, history, and archaeology. Career services and faculty helped me to pinpoint externship opportunities and also encouraged me to apply to positions that, before my studies at Penn State Law, would have seemed out of reach. I truly appreciated their guidance, as the experience of attending client meetings and depositions, participating in on-site visits to zoos, museums, and research facilities, and working with top attorneys on unique and timely projects, was invaluable.”

Catherine Scott, ’20
Associate
Baker Botts
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY AT PENN STATE

Customize your legal education with rigorous courses or joint degree options.

Graduate Coursework
Penn State Law students can customize their legal education by applying up to 12 course credits from any graduate discipline toward their J.D. requirements.

Joint Degree Programs
Penn State Law offers several established joint degree programs so that they may earn a J.D. and a master's or Ph.D. at Penn State at the same time.

Established Joint Degree Programs
These joint degree programs generally allow students to complete a J.D. and master's or Ph.D. on an accelerated timeframe. Opportunities include:

Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications
J.D./Master of Arts in Media Studies

College of Education
J.D./Master of Arts in Educational Theory and Policy
J.D./Doctor of Educational Theory and Policy (Ph.D.)
J.D./Master of Education in Higher Education
J.D./Doctor of Higher Education (Ph.D./D.Ed.)
J.D./Master of Educational Leadership
J.D./Doctor of Educational Leadership (Ph.D./D.Ed.)

College of Health and Human Development
J.D./Master of Health Administration

College of the Liberal Arts
J.D./Master of Science, Human Resources & Employment Relations

Smeal College of Business
J.D./Master of Business Administration

School of International Affairs
J.D./Master of International Affairs

Further Interdisciplinary Opportunities
For more information about opportunities to study in a law-related area of interest to you, please contact the Penn State Law Admissions Office at: admissions@pennstatelaw.psu.edu.

ALUMNUS INSIGHT
“There are many benefits to a joint J.D./M.I.A. degree, but the biggest benefits are the intangible ones. I'm learning to think like both a lawyer and a diplomat. I'm learning the logic of law and how it relates to the complexity of international business and geopolitics. [And when I graduate,] I'll walk away with two sets of skills: those of a lawyer, and those of a scholar and practitioner of international affairs.”

Chuck Deibel ’20, CPT, U.S. Army Judge Advocate, Administrative Law Attorney/Instructor Maneuver Center of Excellence Fort Benning, Georgia
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student organizations shape the Penn State Law experience by sponsoring social activities, volunteering with community organizations, bringing guest speakers to campus, and allowing students to reflect their diverse backgrounds and beliefs, explore shared interests, and advance common causes.

Penn State Law has student organizations for nearly every affinity and interest, and the Student Bar Association is flexible in launching new groups. A sampling of student organizations includes:

- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Criminal Law Society
- Environmental Law Society
- Family Law Society
- First Generation Law Students Association
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Latinx Law Students Association
- Military Law Caucus
- Muslim Law Society
- OutLaw
- Phi Alpha Delta
- Phi Delta Phi
- Public Interest Law Fund
- Sports and Entertainment Law Society
- Women’s Law Caucus

Many More Opportunities
For a complete list of Penn State Law student organizations, visit: pennstatelaw.psu.edu/studentorgs

ALUMNUS INSIGHT

“Penn State Law gave me the skills I needed to not only pass the Bar Exam, but also to effectively go directly into practice. In addition to individualized attention from professors renowned in their respective fields, Penn State Law’s Student and Career Services Departments are there for you every step of the way up to and even after graduation. Further, becoming a Penn State student means joining the ranks of the largest and most cohesive Alumni Association in the world.”

Fred Lokuta ’18
Associate Attorney
Burns White LLC
Wilkes-Barre, PA
Penn State Law offers a variety of courses and programs for students to gain a global perspective on law.

Penn State School of International Affairs
The Penn State School of International Affairs (SIA) is located in the same building as Penn State Law, so law students can conveniently take SIA courses or pursue a joint J.D./Master of International Affairs.

Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs
The Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs (JLIA) is a digital, interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal, jointly published by Penn State Law and the School of International Affairs.

Semester Study and Work Abroad
Penn State Law students may pursue Fulbright-funded study abroad or choose from several semester study or work abroad programs offered in collaboration with leading universities in China, Hungary, India, Italy, Norway, and more.

Foreign Language Study
Law students can master a foreign language through Penn State courses or free online language immersion courses in more than 20 languages. Spanish-proficient students can acquire the skills necessary for bilingual legal practice in the course in Spanish and Bilingual Communication for Lawyers.

A Global Community
Penn State Law’s LL.M. program attracts accomplished lawyers from all over the world. These students are fully integrated into the learning community and at Penn State Law and their presence enriches the global perspectives of all students.

ALUMNA Insight
“Penn State Law gave me the chance to learn from practicing attorneys, professors, and mentors before it was my turn to enter the ‘real world.’ I especially appreciated learning about trauma-informed advocacy because I use it almost every day with my clients who are asylum applicants. I felt that Penn State Law—and CIRC in particular—equipped me with the right mentors, resources, and skills I needed to grow into the attorney I have always wanted to be.”

Bianca Gutierrez ’21
Staff Attorney
The Law Offices of Johanna Herrero
Miami, Florida
Penn State Law is at the forefront of the legal-tech movement, with an innovative lab that teaches law students how technology is changing legal practice, and advanced audiovisual telecommunications tools to allow for distance learning.

Legal-Tech Virtual Lab

Drawing on Penn State’s extensive strengths in cyber, information sciences, and technological advancement, Penn State Law’s Legal-Tech Virtual Lab trains law students in groundbreaking technologies being implemented in today’s legal practice, while exploring the legal questions surrounding emerging technologies in society.

Working with leading legal-tech companies, law firms, and other corporate partners, the lab offers Penn State Law students hands-on experience in emerging legal technology, such as AI-powered legal research and contract drafting tools. It also helps students assess and develop their basic technology skills and learn to use client management systems and eDiscovery tools. The lab’s main objectives are to expose law students to technology and innovation that impacts the practice of law and to teach law students basic technology competence.

State-of-the-Art Telecommunications

Every classroom, interview room, and nearly every meeting space in Penn State Law’s Lewis Katz Building is equipped with modern, high-definition teleconferencing technology, allowing Penn State Law students to access a world of information and connections from University Park. This technology allows law students to:

- log into classes while completing externships away from campus;
- interact with guest speakers from around the world;
- interview remotely with employers; and
- reference lecture recordings to review what happened in class.
CAREER SERVICES

Partners in Your Success

Penn State Law’s Career Services Office offers a dynamic menu of programs and individual counseling sessions to assist students in identifying and achieving their career goals.

- Individualized career counseling
- On-campus interviews with top law firms
- Job fairs in major regional markets
- Interview prep
- Special events on campus for students/employers
- Résumé review
- More than 1,500 job postings annually

Comprehensive Mentoring

From the time they commit to Penn State Law, incoming students are matched with mentors in the legal field so they can immediately begin making professional connections and learning from successful practitioners before setting foot on campus. The Mentorship Program refines these mentorship matches throughout law school so that students launch their careers through connections with professionals working where they want to live and in their practice areas of interest. The Minority Mentor Program matches students from groups that are typically underrepresented in law school with Penn State Law faculty and administrators as well as practicing attorneys to help the students achieve academic success and emotional well-being during law school.

CAREERS IN THE LAW

Now entering its sixth year, the CSO’s flagship program, Careers in the Law, draws an average of 60 attorneys from around 30 different practice areas to the Katz Building for an information fair & networking reception in the spring. This event provides all Penn State Law in University Park students the opportunity to explore possible career paths, gaining knowledge & insight from experienced law professionals in their respective fields.

EMployment DATA

FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT

92.6% of the class of 2022 secured full-time, long-term employment that either requires a J.D. or in which a J.D. is preferred.

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Private Practice 56%
Judicial Clerkships 15%
Government 18.4%
Public Sector 44%
Law Firms 40%
Public Interest 9.6%

The number of foreign countries where our graduates were employed from 2019-2022, including: Canada, China, England, and Taiwan.

JOB HOTSPOTS

41 states and U.S. territories where they worked (2020-2022).
Where Our Grads Go

92.6% of Penn State Law in University Park 2022 grads work in Gold standard jobs (where bar passage is required or where a J.D. is preferred). When you start here, you can go anywhere!

Here is a snapshot of where our alumni began working after graduation:

- Law firms like Alston & Bird, Dechert LLP; Benesch Freidlander; Buchanan Ingersoll; Cozen O'Connor; Eckert Seamans; Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath; Flaster Greenberg; Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell; Reed Smith; Richards Layton & Finger; Steptoe & Johnson; and Wilson Sonsini.

- Government offices - Army Judge Advocate General (JAG); Navy JAG; US Department of Defense Honors Program; Brooklyn DA; FCC; Los Angeles County PD; Manhattan DA; NYC Law Department; PA Office of Consumer Advocate; PA Office of Attorney General; and Texas Attorney General.

- Corporations like Allstate Corporation; Astranis Space Technologies; Ericsson; Grant Thornton LLP; Olympus Corporation; Philips UK; and Q Investments LP.

- Labor organizations like AFSCME Council 65 and NY State United Teachers.

- Public interest organizations like Dauphin County PD, Legal Aid Services of OK; Maryland Legal Aid; and Public Interest Privacy Center.

- 19 State Judicial Clerkships

Class of 2022 Stats

- 40% employed in law firms
- 18% employed in government
- 16% employed in Business and Industry
- 15% employed in judicial clerkships
- 10% employed in public interest
- 01% employed in Education

Class of 2021 Stats

- 57% employed in law firms
- 16% employed in judicial clerkships
- 11% employed in government
- 09% employed in business and industry
- 06% employed in public interest
- 01% unknown
DIVERSITY

Diversity enriches every aspect of life at Penn State, and Penn State Law supports initiatives that foster understanding and acceptance of differences—differences in thought, background, age, life experience, gender, race, abilities, religion, and culture. Students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds and experiences enrich the Penn State Law learning community by providing multiple perspectives and divergent views. We believe in facilitating open discussions, integrating diversity into coursework, and celebrating our differences.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Penn State Law is committed to ongoing work to advance concrete action on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and anti-racism. The Penn State Law community is committed to moving these steps forward with collaborative work that includes:

- A track record and commitment to a diverse student body and to advancing inclusion through programs that include a robust Minority Mentor Program now in its eighth year with more than 250 participating law students, faculty, staff and alumni
- A strong curriculum that includes a concentration in Race, Equity and Law, a new course on Law and (In)equity featuring more than one dozen faculty, eleven legal clinics, including a cutting-edge gender equity lab where students often work to help marginalized groups, a free Minority Business Development Course and courses and activities centered on teaching students about structural racism in law;
- Six equity scholarships that include The George Floyd Memorial Scholarship Fund, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan Equity Scholarship Fund, Emerita Beth Farmer Educational Equity Scholarship Fund, and the Congressman John Lewis Educational Equity Scholarship Fund
- More than one dozen student affinity groups that include: Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, Black Law Student Association, Disability Law Caucus, Jewish Law Students Association, Latinx Law Students Association, Military Law Caucus, and OutLaw

Student Organizations

Reflecting their diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and passions, Penn State Law students explore shared interests and advance common causes through student affinity groups and organizations that include:

- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Latinx Law Students Association
- Muslim Legal Society
- OutLaw
- Women’s Law Caucus

STUDENT SNAPSHOT
I am honored to serve as Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Penn State Law in University Park. I come to this position as the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and as a person who is deeply committed to advancing equity in law and beyond. I am excited to continue the important work of DEIB to which so many members of the Penn State Law community have already shown their commitment. Penn State Law’s longstanding commitment to diversity is an extension of our commitment to excellence. At Penn State Law, we operate a Minority Mentor Program; extend courses and a concentration in race, equity, and law; offer new scholarships focused on equity and access for underrepresented students; collaborate with central university on broader diversity initiatives; and listen to our community about enduring challenges. Penn State Law should be a place where inclusion, equity, and diversity are valued in curriculum, scholarship, and community. I plan to amplify and elevate the work of so many members of Penn State Law as we strive to make the law school, the community, and the legal profession diverse and equitable spaces in which everyone truly belongs.

Dr. Wende’ Ferguson
Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
Assistant Dean for Student Services

Connect
For more information contact Wende’ Ferguson at wpf5069@psu.edu
ALUMNI INSIGHTS

“I’ve always wanted to be a lawyer but when I arrived to law school I realized that I underestimated the work that goes into it. Luckily, the Penn State Law community felt like family. The faculty and my classmates at Penn State all contributed to my personal and professional development. Penn State Law gave me the opportunity to learn and thrive.”

Rachel-Rebekah Brown ’18
Assistant District Attorney
Manhattan District Attorney’s Office
New York, New York

“In addition, I found an immediate community in the Black Law Students Association (BLSA). During an open house I was approached by a few BLSA members and they made me feel welcomed. I knew that if I chose Penn State Law I would have a community in BLSA.”

Sidnee McDonald ’22
Associate Attorney
Cozen O’Connor
Philadelphia, PA

“The reach of the alumni network at Penn State is incredible. Even once I accepted my offer, the Career Services Office was connecting me with even more people in the area to help in my transition.”

Jacob Walsh ’18
Corporate Associate
Latham & Watkins LLP
Costa Mesa, CA
VALUES

Integrity, Ethics, and Professionalism

All members of the Penn State Law community are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. Faculty and students are governed by University conduct rules. Law students pledge to comply with the law school’s Honor Code and participate as members of the Honor Code Committee. J.D. candidates complete a three-credit course that focuses on the ethical challenges faced by lawyers and teaches rules of professional conduct. Faculty and staff members who are attorneys are subject to the rules of professional responsibility that govern all lawyers and take seriously their responsibility to model professional conduct for students.
Penn State Law is located on Penn State’s 13-square-mile University Park campus in State College, Pa. University Park is the largest of Penn State’s campuses and is the academic home of a diverse population of about 46,000 graduate, undergraduate, and professional students, including approximately 7,500 international students. University Park houses Penn State’s central administration, its renowned graduate and undergraduate programs, and its NCAA Division I Athletics Department.
Perhaps better known as Happy Valley, State College is a quintessential college town that offers students many of the amenities of a major metropolitan area in a clean, safe, and welcoming setting. State College is consistently ranked among the nation's smartest, safest, and most livable cities by a variety of organizations and publications.
State College is within a few hours’ drive of New York, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh. The University Park airport, located 10 minutes from the law school’s Lewis Katz Building, offers direct flights to Chicago, Detroit, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa, and Washington, D.C., with convenient connections to other major cities. The State College bus terminal provides convenient access to Greyhound’s nationwide bus routes and Megabus offers direct or continuing service from State College to Harrisburg, New York, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh. Several taxi companies and Lyft and Uber provide additional affordable transportation options.
THE H. LADDIE MONTAGUE JR. LAW LIBRARY
Located in the Lewis Katz Building, the library provides access to legal resources and a range of services that support the law school’s curriculum.
Penn State Law’s Financial Aid Office works with admitted students to identify resources and obtain the necessary funds to finance their legal education. Regardless of personal family income or year in school, students are welcome to apply for financial assistance at any point during their legal education at Penn State.

Penn State Law Scholarships

All applicants to Penn State Law are automatically considered for school-funded scholarships. These awards may range in amount up to full tuition. Scholarships are renewable in the second and third years, provided the student remains in good academic standing. Admitted applicants are notified whether they have been awarded any Penn State Law scholarships or grants upon admission.

Need-Based Grants

Through the generosity of alumni and other donors, need-based grant funds are awarded to incoming students primarily based on demonstrated financial need. Need-based grants are especially valuable to first-year students who are expected to devote more time and energy to academic efforts and are discouraged from working, when possible.

In order to be considered for need-based grants, all students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA form can be completed online at fafsa.gov. Students wishing to be considered for Need-Based Grants must also complete the Penn State Law Financial Aid Application, available online at pennstatelaw.psu.edu/financial-aid.

The priority deadline for financial aid applications is March 1 for prospective students. While the law school will accept applications after the priority deadline, submitting applications by the priority deadline, regardless of your admission status at that point, will yield your best opportunity to be awarded a need-based grant. Please note that the federal school code for all Penn State locations is 003329.

Outside Scholarships

In addition to federal and institutional financial aid, incoming students should consider seeking scholarships from outside providers. The Penn State Law Office of Financial Aid maintains a list of outside scholarships available to Penn State Law students. Students may also wish to sign up for the Fastweb (fastweb.com) scholarship search service or review the options available on the College Resource Network (collegeresourcenetwork.com/scholarships/majors/law).

Connect

For more information on financial aid options at Penn State Law, please contact Director of Financial Aid Susan Bogart at sab36@psu.edu.
THE PENN STATE ALUMNI NETWORK

Penn State Grads are Everywhere

Graduates of Penn State Law instantly join a powerful network of more than 740,000 Penn State alumni around the world. With alumni working and living in all 50 states and more than 160 countries, you can find Penn Staters everywhere. Our alumni share cherished memories of their student experience, extraordinary loyalty to their alma mater and each other, and an unrivaled commitment to expanding opportunities for their fellow graduates.
Penn State Law
The Pennsylvania State University
Lewis Katz Building
University Park, PA 16802

Photos provided by Michelle Bixby, Ian Bradshaw Photography, Albert Vecerka/ESTO, Matt Gardner, Michael Garrett, Greg Grieco, Reidar Jensen, Emma Kappel, Patrick Mansell, Annemarie Mountz, Peter Olson Photography, Mark Selders, Dyanna Stupar, Austin Shank, Mary Szmolko, Steve Tressler, University Marketing, and Simon W. Miller.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University's educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Gender-based and sexual harassment, including sexual violence, are forms of gender discrimination in that they deny or limit an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from University programs or activities.

Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to Linda Tobin, Human Resources Consultant, Penn State Law, Pennsylvania State University, Lewis Katz Building, University Park, PA 16802-1017; Tel (814) 867-4252.

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CAMPUS SECURITY CRIME STATISTICS: The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and Pennsylvania Act of 1988 require that crime statistics for Pennsylvania colleges and universities be made available to applicants upon request. Penn State’s combined Annual Security and Annual Fire Safety Report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings owned or controlled by the University, and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as those concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other matters. You may obtain this information for the Penn State campus to which you are applying by accessing the website at www.police.psu.edu/clery. A printed copy of the report may be obtained by writing to University Police & Public Safety, The Pennsylvania State University, Eisenhower Parking Deck, University Park PA 16802-6703 or by calling 814-865-1864.