The Strength and Depth of the Class of 2019

The 221 students in Duke Law’s class of 2019 come from 38 states and eight foreign countries. Of the 20% of applicants offered admission, 12% were elected to Phi Beta Kappa and 8% hold advanced degrees. They bring backgrounds in science, teaching, entertainment, the arts, politics, government, business, accounting, finance, technology, sports, and non-profit work to their legal studies.

At Duke, they will...

Learn. Our 8:1 student-to-faculty ratio is one of the lowest of any top law school.

Write. 75% of students work on one of our nine student-led journals.

Serve. Recent classes have given more than 7,000 hours to pro bono projects.

Lead. More than 50 student organizations host approximately 700 events a year.

Work. 99% of 2Ls work during the summer; 80% choose summer associate positions.

Clerk. Nearly one-third serve in a post-graduate judicial clerkship.

Academic Background

Median GPA: 3.76
GPA 25/75 percentiles: 3.59/3.84
Median LSAT: 169
LSAT 25/75 percentiles: 167/170

Top undergraduate majors
• Political Science
• Economics

Nearly 10% of the class of 2019 majored in a STEM field.

Demographics

45% Female
55% Male

35.7% Enrolled directly after college
64.3% Enrolled one or more years out of college

7.2% Black/African American
8.1% Hispanic/Latino
15.4% Asian (includes South Asian)

Enrolled directly after college
Enrolled one or more years out of college
Duke’s rigorous Legal Analysis, Research and Writing program emphasizes an integrated approach to ensuring students become strong writers. A requirement for all 1Ls, the year-long course is taught by full-time faculty with substantial practice experience; class sizes are small with frequent opportunities for one-on-one interaction. In assignments ranging from short office memos to trial and appellate briefs, students master sophisticated research skills, complex analysis, careful construction of legal arguments, and the special requirements of legal prose. Upper-level courses enable further development of writing skills with courses geared to specific subject-matter or settings, such as corporate counseling, complex litigation, and e-discovery.

Service

We believe the value of service is core to the profession and central to the Duke Law experience. Through pro bono projects, students each year provide thousands of hours of free tax assistance, legal aid to cancer patients, counsel to veterans, and other services to the community. In fact, about two-thirds of each class signs on and fulfills the Pro Bono Pledge, committing to 50 hours of public service during their three years of law school. All students are eligible to receive stipends to support summer internships in public interest agencies and government offices, creating summer employment opportunities that otherwise might not be available.

Experiential Learning

Duke is committed to integrating the teaching of legal doctrine with in-depth instruction in, and opportunity to practice, professional skills. Nearly every course explores some intersection of theory and applied learning, and “Course Plus” classes pair traditional doctrinal courses with option practical units, typically taught using simulation techniques. During Wintersession, offered prior to the start of the spring semester, students can take short, hands-on courses that teach important skills for young associates. And many go on to semester-long externships with local non-profit and government offices or, through the Duke in DC program, federal agencies such as the SEC and DOJ.

The Duke Legal Clinics build an experiential bridge between law school and practice. Operating collectively as a public interest law firm with eleven distinct practice areas and housed in its own wing of the law school, the Duke Legal Clinics provide students challenging opportunities to deepen their substantive legal knowledge, strengthen their lawyering skills, and build their professional identities.

70% of students take one of our 11 legal clinics

- Appellate Litigation Clinic
- Children’s Law Clinic
- Civil Justice Clinic
- Community Enterprise Clinic
- Environmental Law and Policy Clinic
- Guantanamo Defense Clinic
- HIV/AIDS Policy Clinic
- Health Justice Clinic
- International Human Rights Clinic
- Start-Up Ventures Clinic
- Wrongful Convictions Clinic

Duke Law students are in high demand because they are known as leaders, clear thinkers, and excellent writers who are ready to serve as effective advocates from their first day on the job. Both in and out of the classroom, they enjoy a wide array of opportunities to prepare themselves for legal practice through the development of critical professional skills.