

COLLEGE OF LAW

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The College of Law was organized in 1909 and is the only accredited law school in the state of Idaho, offering full three-year programs in both Moscow and Boise. The College is a member of the Association of American Law Schools and is fully accredited by the American Bar Association.

Purpose of the College

The College of Law prepares students to enter the legal profession and represent individuals, businesses, and public and private entities in a wide array of legal and policy matters. The college also prepares students to engage in law-related endeavors in business, government, and non-governmental organizations and to provide important public service in their communities. The curriculum provides instruction over three academic years in the legal rules and principles generally applicable in the United States and international courts, including an emphasis on the ethical responsibilities assumed by legal professionals. The study of law also prepares students for positions of leadership in government, business, or non-profit organizations.

The college's faculty adapt their methods of instruction to promote each student's highest potential. The college encourages individual initiative, the development of critical and logical thought, and effective written and oral communication. Students develop practical skills throughout the curriculum and participate in law-related volunteer service as a condition of graduation. Because the law changes rapidly, mere accumulation of information is subordinated to the more important ends of individual development and training in research, analysis, and critical habits of thought.

Admission to the Bar

The College of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools, and its degree is accepted by all state bar associations. Educational prerequisites vary among states, and the secretary of the bar examiners in the state in which the applicant intends to practice should be contacted to determine the existence of special requirements.

Application for Admission

Admission Requirements

Applicants for admission must present an acceptable cumulative undergraduate grade point average as computed from all undergraduate transcripts filed and an acceptable score on **either** the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) administered by the Law School Admissions Council or the GRE General Test administered by the Education Testing Service, unless seeking admission through the Direct Admission Program described below. Applicants must also register with Credential Assembly Services (CAS) and arrange for a complete report for release to the College of Law.

3+3 Program

The American Bar Association's accreditation standards permit law schools to enroll students still in the process of completing their

baccalaureate degrees so long as it will be completed by the end of the first year in the Juris Doctor degree. As a result of this standard, many law schools have 3+3 programs that allow undergraduate students, with the permission of their major advisor, to count up to 30 credits of the first-year law curriculum toward the completion of the baccalaureate degree. A qualified student would complete three years of the baccalaureate degree and finish the remaining credits through the courses in the first-year curriculum of the law degree. The law degree takes three years to complete, thus the 3+3 program title. The combined curriculum takes a year off a student's schooling.

Applicants seeking admission through an approved 3+3 program must have completed three-fourths of the credits leading to the bachelor's degree; and meet all other requirements of the 3+3 agreement. Those requirements typically include:

1. demonstration of outstanding ability by a cumulative grade point average at the most recently entered class median or higher;
2. demonstration of excellent aptitude for law study by a score on the LSAT at the most recently entered class median or higher; and
3. submission of a letter from the undergraduate major department attesting to the fact that the applicant will receive the baccalaureate degree after the successful completion of up to 30 credits of law study.

Direct Admission Program

The American Bar Association's accreditation standards permit law schools to enroll no more than 10% of an entering class through a direct admission program. Applicants seeking admission through the Direct Admission Program with the University of Idaho need not have received an LSAT score before applying but must:

1. Be current undergraduate students at University of Idaho,
2. Have an ACT or SAT score in the top 15% nationally at the time they took the test, and
3. Through at least six semesters of academic work, have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above or be ranked in the top 10% of their undergraduate class.

Application Deadline

While the College of Law considers applications on a rolling basis, to be assured timely consideration for admission in the fall, all applications must be received by June 30. The college is unable to consider the application until a CAS Report has been received. This requires applicants to take the LSAT or GRE as early as possible in order to assure timely application. The College cannot be responsible for delays in the mail or at the CAS.

Decision on Admission

Admissions decisions are made by an admissions committee. The College receives many more applications than it can accept. Consequently, the Admissions Committee must deny admission to many who are qualified to study law. In general, offers of admission are extended to those judged to present the greatest promise for success in law school. Matters relating to character are also considered in the admissions process.

Upon admission, a first and second enrollment deposit is required to secure a place in the fall entering class. These deposit will be returned or applied to a student's account after matriculation.

Transfers from Other Schools

Students who have attended other law schools and seek to transfer to the College of Law shall:

1. Have previously attended law schools that are (1) on the list of approved law schools of the American Bar Association, or (2) otherwise satisfy the standards for granting J.D. degree credit for prior law study in the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools;
2. Meet all standards for students who have not previously attended law school and are applying for admission to the College;
3. Present final transcripts reflecting all law school work undertaken. The cumulative grade point average and/or class standing reflected by such transcripts must be sufficiently high to indicate a strong probability of success in the College. Applicants who ranked in the lower half of their class or from a non-ABA-accredited law school must be reviewed by the Admissions Committee;
4. Present a letter from the dean of each law school previously attended, stating that the student is in good standing and is eligible to continue at that institution without qualification; and
5. Present a letter of recommendation from a professor at the student's current law school from whom the student has taken a class.

Credit hours for the work completed in such other school shall be granted on conditions determined by the Assistant Deans of Students. In no case shall more than 30 credit hours received from other law school programs be applied toward the total number of required hours for award of the Juris Doctor degree by the College. Transfer students will not be given formal credit for courses taken at other law schools until they have completed at least one semester of work in the College with an overall grade point average of 2.30 or above, although informal evaluation may be made at or prior to the time of initial registration in the College. Transfer students may be admitted to such advanced classes at the College in their entering semester as determined by the Assistant Deans of Students, but with the understanding that no credit for work at other schools will be recorded on their formal record (transcript) until they have achieved the requisite 2.30 grade point average at the College.

Non-degree Candidates

Students who are not degree candidates in the College of Law but are enrolled elsewhere at the University of Idaho are permitted to register for law courses if they receive permission from both the course instructor and the assistant dean of students. Such courses cannot be credited toward a law degree even if the student is later admitted to the College of Law.

Fees

See the section on "Fees and Expenses (<https://catalog.uidaho.edu/student-services/fees-expenses/>)".

Grading System

Grades for courses taken in the College of Law shall be awarded on the basis of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, and F; provided, however, that by resolution the law faculty may designate any course, or courses, to be graded on a pass-fail or pass-no pass basis. Any approved course work taken at any other law school will be recorded on the transcript as a P, if the student earned a C or better in that course. No credit will be awarded for work done at another law school if the student earned less

than a grade of C. Up to 6 credit hours of U of I graduate level courses may be taken with special permission of the associate dean. Credits will be recorded as a P for course work in which the student earns a B or better. Grades of P are not included in calculating a student's grade-point average or class ranking in the College of Law. Exceptions to the above may be made for U of I graduate level courses used in the approved U of I law/graduate concurrent degree programs.

Grade-point averages of students in the College of Law shall be computed by assigning the following numerical point values per semester hours: A = 4.00; A- = 3.67; B+ = 3.33; B = 3.00; B- = 2.67; C+ = 2.33; C = 2.00; C- = 1.67; D+ = 1.33; D = 1.00; D- = 0.67; F (or "fail" under the pass-fail basis) = 0.00. The cumulative grade-point average is the quotient of total points assigned divided by total hours undertaken. Courses in which marks of I, W, P (pass) or NP (no pass) have been given shall be disregarded in the computation. All course grades shall be included on the transcript and (except for marks of I, W, P or NP) in the calculation of the grade-point average, even if courses have been repeated. (For further information about repeating courses, see below.)

This grading system applies in determining

1. eligibility for continuing study in the College of Law;
2. compliance with requirements for the Juris Doctor degree; and
3. class ranking within the College of Law.

Grades are based on a variety of assessments, including midterm exams, final exams, and final papers, which are described in the syllabus for each course.

Final grades for Incompletes received in the fall semester or intersession must be assigned by the last day of the following summer semester. Final grades for Incompletes received in the spring semester or summer session must be assigned by the last day of the following fall semester. Incompletes not made up before that date automatically revert to the grade indicated by the professor as the "permanent" grade, usually an F. The grade ultimately given will be computed in the GPA for the semester in which the class was begun.

Repeating Courses for Credit

A student who has completed a law school course in which they have received a grade of C-, D+, D, or D- may repeat that law school course once (the "repeated course"), subject to the following conditions:

1. The credit hours earned by the student upon completion of the repeated course shall appear on the law school transcript, but shall not be applied toward the total number of required credit hours for award of the Juris Doctor degree by the College of Law.
2. The grade earned by the student upon completion of the repeated course shall appear on the student's law school transcript, but shall not be calculated as part of the student's law school grade point average.

Repeating Failed Courses

1. A student who has completed a law school course in which they have received a grade of F (the "failed course") shall receive no credit hours for application toward the total number of required credit hours for award of the Juris Doctor degree by the College of Law, but the grade shall be calculated as part of the student's law school grade point average.
2. If the failed course is a course required for graduation, the student must repeat the course and receive a grade above an F in order

to satisfy the graduation requirements. If the failed course is not required for graduation, the student may repeat the course one time only. If a student repeats a failed course and passes the course, the credit hours and grade received in the repeated course shall be treated as follows:

- a. The credit hours earned by the student upon completion of the repeated course shall appear on the law school transcript and shall be applied toward the total number of required credit hours for award of the Juris Doctor degree by the College of Law.
- b. The grade earned by the student upon completion of the repeated course shall appear on the student's law school transcript, but shall not be calculated as part of the student's law school grade point average.