

Law School Loans' Top Graduate School Profiles: Stanford Law School

Law School Loans is dedicated to helping law students obtain the best education possible. To assist you in making college choices, we have researched the top law schools in the country to help you decide which program is right for you. This article profiles **Stanford University Law School**, ranked #3 for 2008 Top Law Schools by *U.S. News & World Report*.

History

According to the school's website, a new law department was started when Benjamin Harris and Nathan Abbott were hired by Stanford University in 1893 to teach law courses. Nathan Abbott instituted the first academic program for law, but the formal three-year program was not introduced until 1916.

Since then, Stanford has seen a number of changes including restructuring of school government, student body and faculty, and a change in the physical location of the law school. These changes sometimes mirrored national changes surrounding World War II, the civil unrest of the 1960s, and myriad changes in and since the 1970s. These dynamics built a strong infrastructure for the academic program that, today, concerns all law specialties.

The Program

The program includes any legal specialty from environmental to international law, technology, and public service. At Stanford, you will be encouraged to participate in dialogue concerning U.S. government, international law, public policy, and legal discourse. Students are expected to develop policy making skills to serve their future clients. Students are also encouraged to participate in many forms of public service.

The law program focuses on interdisciplinary learning, research, and most advantageously, clinical work. The clinical program was established to help students work on actual cases through Stanford's partnerships with law firms.

Nine clinics and other programs serve students in honing their professional skills, legal ethics, and values. For more detail about the programs offered, see <http://www.law.stanford.edu/program/centers/>.

Admissions

To be considered for admission to Stanford Law School entrants generally have LSAT scores of 167-172 (25th-75th percentile range). The acceptance rate is 8.7%.

Tuition, Costs, and Related Requirements

According to the school's website, tuition for the 2007-2008 school year was \$39,500, and it will increase for the 2008-2009 school year.

Stanford's website also provides a comprehensive cost of attendance (used as a basis for determining the amount of federal financial aid needed each year). The expected annual cost of attendance is \$60,730 for single students.

Financial Aid

Stanford supports the federal financial aid program, but offers very few scholarships or stipends to students. Therefore, for most students, it will be necessary to have federal student loans or other financing. You can start this process by completing a FAFSA application at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm>.

A short list of top-notch national scholarship programs is listed on the Stanford website at http://www.law.stanford.edu/program/tuition/advanced/#financial_support.

Law School Loans

Since most students fund law school via several federal student loans, it very beneficial to consolidate your student loans into one, easy-to-manage loan. When you consolidate with **Law School Loans**, save money and lower the amount of your monthly payments!

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