



Juris Doctor (JD)

➤ Program Admissions



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Law
LAW.USASK.CA

CONTACTS

Admissions Office

University of Saskatchewan College of Law

15 Campus Drive

Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A6

Tel: (306) 966-5874 Fax: (306) 966-5900

Email: law_admissions@usask.ca

www.law.usask.ca

Program of Legal Studies for Native People (PLSNP)

Native Law Centre of Canada

University of Saskatchewan

160 College of Law

15 Campus Drive

Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A6

Tel: (306) 966-6189 Fax: (306) 966-6207

Email: plsnp@usask.ca

www.usask.ca/plsnp/

Law School Admission Council (LSAC)

662 Penn Street

Box 2000

Newtown, PA 18940-0998 USA

Tel: (215) 968-1001 Fax: (215) 968-1119

Email: lsacinfo@lsac.org

www.lsac.org

National Committee on Accreditation (NCA)

c/o Federation of Law Societies of Canada

World Exchange Plaza

45 O'Connor Street, Suite 1810

Ottawa, ON K1P 1A4

Tel: (613) 236-7250, ext. 229

Email: dwolfe@flsc.ca

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ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

We accept about 126 students to the first-year Juris Doctor (JD) program each academic year. However, we receive far more applications than the number of available places. Past experience indicates that, as a general rule, successful applicants have a grade point average of 3.7 or better on a 4.3-point scale (approximately a B+ or 80% average) in pre-law studies, and score 159 or higher on the LSAT.

Admission to the College of Law in every case is at the discretion of the college's Admissions Committee, and is determined based on merit, taking into account your academic record, your Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score, and any special circumstances the committee deems relevant. Additionally, the Admissions Committee gives a slight preference to applicants with a Saskatchewan connection or residents of the Yukon, Northwest and Nunavut territories, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador (these being provinces or territories with no law college).

REGULAR APPLICANTS

To be eligible, an applicant must have:

1. a university degree from a recognized institution, **or**;
2. successfully completed at least two years (60 credit units) of academic work at a recognized university, or the equivalent of such work.

All applicants for admission to the College of Law are required to write the LSAT. Details concerning dates and application procedures for this test can be obtained from the Law School Admission Council (see inside front cover).

SPECIAL APPLICANTS

If applicants feel they have personal circumstances of which the Admissions Committee should be aware, they should apply as special applicants. For example, a student whose LSAT score may be prejudiced because of language difficulties should apply as a special applicant.

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Criterion for Special Admission: Special applicants will be admitted based on the Admission Committee's assessment of their ability to cope successfully with the requirements of the JD program. Special applicants' LSAT scores will usually be given significant weight. There is no formal quota for special applicants, but the number of such admissions is necessarily limited.

Supporting Material: To ensure the Admissions Committee has adequate information to make an informed decision, applicants seeking special consideration should submit:

1. a statement identifying and explaining the nature of their educational disadvantage or interruption of studies;
2. any relevant supporting documentation, such as medical reports;
3. details of any relevant occupational experience or community involvement; and
4. two to three supporting letters of reference from people (not related by family to the applicant) who can comment on the applicant's aptitude and potential for law studies.

Examples of relevant educational disadvantages might be:

1. first language other than English
2. barriers resulting from ethnic or racial background
3. employment or domestic obligations preventing earlier application
4. learning disability or physical impairment that hampers access to or effective use of educational opportunities
5. significant interruption of post-secondary education

ABORIGINAL APPLICANTS

The Admissions Committee may consider Aboriginal ancestry (First Nation, Métis or Inuit) as a positive factor when assessing applications for admission, pursuant to an exemption by the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, and as a 'reasonable and justifiable measure' under section 48 of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Act. As a result, we have established a category for Aboriginal applicants.

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Aboriginal applicants may receive conditional offers of a place at the college, dependent upon their successful completion of the Program of Legal Studies for Native People (PLSNP) (see below).

Besides submitting the required documentation to the Native Law Centre, Aboriginal applicants must complete and submit the prescribed application form to the College of Law, write the LSAT, and provide transcripts and other documentation as set out for Special Applicants. Applicants must also include full details of personal circumstances in their applications, as well as evidence of Aboriginal ancestry. A limit is not set on the number of Aboriginal applicants accepted to the first-year JD program at the college.

Program of Legal Studies for Native People (PLSNP): Offered during the summer months through the Native Law Centre of Canada at the University of Saskatchewan, the program provides a unique opportunity for Aboriginal people, from across Canada, interested in studying law. Program completion is considered by the Admissions Committee a special supplementary predictor of success in law school. As well, successful completion gives students credit for the first-year Property Law course at the College of Law.

Many students take this eight-week, pre-law orientation and screening program as a condition of their admission to law school, under a special admissions category for Aboriginal students. Aboriginal applicants who have been directly admitted to first-year law may take the PLSNP if space is available. The program is designed to introduce students to the process, substance and demands of the first year of law school and is taught in the context of Property Law curriculum, with particular emphasis placed on the skills required to succeed in law school. Successful students receive credit for first-year Property Law at our college, and may at other law schools depending on their policies.

For further information on the PLSNP, as well as student financial assistance, please refer to the contact information for the Native Law Centre of Canada on the inside front cover.

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PART-TIME PROGRAM

Applicants are generally expected to study law on a full-time basis. However, part-time status may be granted on a discretionary basis in certain circumstances. Applications for part-time status are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The part-time program is available to assist applicants who have family commitments, disabilities, health needs, occupational obligations or financial needs which prevent full-time study. It is also available to applicants who have not been in an academic institution for a significant number of years. The part-time program is not available to persons who wish to test their interest in law or who would prefer a light course load. The part-time program requires a commitment to at least one-half of the workload of full-time law students. Part-time students are required to attend classes at the regularly scheduled times, and therefore must be available to attend classes during the day.

Applicants who wish to be admitted on a part-time basis must submit a written statement giving reasons why they feel they are unable to pursue full-time studies. Applicants admitted as part-time students must complete the first year of the three-year JD program before they can change their status to full-time.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Application Procedure: Application for admission can be completed online at law.usask.ca.

We accept about 126 students into first-year law each academic year. Applications are accepted from October 15 to February 1 for admission in the upcoming year, and must be completed on or before February 1. However, applicants are encouraged to submit their applications as early as possible after October 15, as offers are made on a rolling basis commencing in November. Please note that applications cannot be evaluated until all documentation, a Law School Admission Test (LSAT) account number (which we use to retrieve your score), and all

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transcripts have been received. Each applicant will be advised by email whether his or her application is accepted, denied or deferred. However, if an application for admission is incomplete, it will not be considered.

NOTE: The applicant is responsible for ensuring that their application is complete.

These items **must** be included in an application for admission:

1. completed (online) application form
2. \$125 application fee (online credit card payment)
3. transcripts (see below)
4. LSAT account number
5. personal statement

Application Form: A fully completed application form, available online, must be submitted.

Application Fee: Your application cannot be processed until an application fee of \$125 has been received. The application fee must be paid online, by credit card.

Transcripts: Students who have completed all of their university studies at the University of Saskatchewan do not need to submit transcripts. Transcripts must be submitted for any part of an applicant's studies taken elsewhere.

Two original transcripts must be received by us directly from each university or college attended or documentation will be incomplete and the application will not be considered. Transcripts will not be accepted directly from applicants, nor will photocopies of transcripts be accepted.

NOTE: The deadline for submission of final transcripts is June 1.

Law School Admission Test (LSAT) account number: All applicants are required to write the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The LSAT is offered annually at test centres in Canada and abroad.

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Applicants must supply us with their LSAT account number, which we use to retrieve the test scores.

The February test is the last LSAT writing we will accept for September entry, and only if we have already received your application form and fee by our application deadline of February 1. Your highest *current* score is used. LSAT scores are current for five years. For example, for entry in September 2018, the LSAT must have been taken on or after June 2013.

Information on the LSAT is posted on the Law School Admission Council's website at www.lsac.org. Additional contact information for the council can be found on the inside front cover.

Personal Statement: All applicants must submit a personal statement. Your personal statement provides further information used in reviewing your application. Applicants are encouraged to discuss special academic interests and achievements, work experience (including volunteer experience), special skills and personal attributes as well as any other significant life experiences (e.g., family, travel). The personal statement must be composed entirely by the applicant and should not exceed a maximum of 500 words.

Reference Letters: Two to three letters of reference are required for special and Aboriginal applicants and must come to us directly from the individual supplying the reference. For regular applicants, reference letters are not required and will not be looked at even if they are submitted.

Calculation of Grade Point Average (GPA): We calculate both a best-two-years GPA from two full years of university undergraduate study, and an overall GPA. We require a minimum of 24 credit units in the fall and winter terms per year in order to calculate a best-two-year GPA. Summer session and intersession classes are not counted in the calculation of the best-two-years GPA, but are counted towards your overall GPA.

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Applicants who have not attended university on a full-time basis should explain why they have not done so in their personal statement.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Second Degree Programs: The University of Saskatchewan offers a number of options for a combined JD degree through its Second Degree Programs. In all cases, the JD program is taken as the second part of the combined degree. Students choosing to pursue a combined JD degree are not guaranteed a place in the College of Law and, when they become eligible to enter the college, compete for placement with all other applicants.

Bachelor of Commerce/Juris Doctor: The combined BComm/JD program allows students to obtain both commerce and law degrees in six years rather than the seven years needed to complete the degrees separately. Students initially apply to the Edwards School of Business and spend three years completing the core and major classes. Once a student has gained admission to the College of Law, they complete the regular three-year JD program. Students receive their BComm after successful completion of two years in law. For information on this program, please contact the Edwards School of Business.

Bachelor of Arts/Juris Doctor or Bachelor of Science/Juris Doctor: The combined BA/JD or BSc/JD program can be completed in five years, including spring and summer session. Up to 18 credit units in the JD program may be counted as senior electives in the College of Arts and Science. Grades from all of the eligible law courses attempted will be used in the calculation of the Arts and Science average. Contact the College of Arts and Science at the U of S for more information on this program.

BA Four-year/Juris Doctor: To complete either program, students may use 18 credit units in law courses toward the elective requirements for the BA four-year program, and so complete both degrees in less time than if taken separately. Please contact the U of S College of Arts and Science for more information on this program.

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Bachelor of Business Administration/Juris Doctor: The University of Regina and the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan jointly offer a Second Degree Program of Administration and Law leading to a BBA/JD in six years. Please contact the University of Regina for information on this program.

Masters of Business Administration/Juris Doctor: Students accepted into this program are able to complete both a JD and an MBA degree in three calendar years. Students will take MBA classes during the summer between second and third year as well as the summer following third year. These classes will end in time for the student to begin the CPLED program in late August. Applicants must have finished a four-year honours degree or equivalent from a recognized college or university. To apply for this program, select the JD/MBA option when completing the online application form.

French Common Law Option: In partnership with the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, we offer students the opportunity to take 30 credit units of courses in French. Fifteen of these credit units will be taken at the University of Ottawa. This option will not extend the time it requires to complete a JD degree. To apply, select JD Certificate in French Common Law option when completing the online application form.

Exchanges: The College of Law participates in foreign exchange programs with Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. In recent years, our students have also gone to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Hungary. Students should be aware that while credits earned on exchange are counted toward the number of credits required for graduation, the grades earned on exchange are not incorporated into their grade point average. For additional information, please contact:

Exchange and Study Abroad Office, University of Saskatchewan
105 Administration Place, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A2
Tel: 306-966-5014 Fax: 306.966-6730
Email: study.abroad@usask.ca
<https://students.usask.ca/international/issac.php>

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UPPER-YEAR ADMISSIONS

Transfer Applicants: First-year law students wishing to transfer to the College of Law from common law JD programs at other Canadian universities must satisfy certain academic requirements. Official transcripts of pre-law and law school grades must be submitted to our college directly from the issuing institutions. A completed application form and a \$125 non-refundable application fee must also be submitted.

NOTE: All transfer students must have a current LSAT score.

Transfers from international law schools will not be considered.

Letter of Permission Applicants: Students wishing to take one year at our college for credit towards a degree from another Canadian law school may apply as “Letter of Permission Applicants.” Both the transfer and the program of studies must be approved by the dean or associate dean of the degree-issuing law school. Official transcripts of pre-law and law school marks must be submitted to our college directly from the issuing institutions. Students must supply us with a completed application form, a \$125 non-refundable application fee and a current LSAT score.

National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) Applicants: Individuals with law degrees from non-Canadian law schools who are interested in becoming members of a law society in Canada must have their credentials assessed by the National Committee on Accreditation. The University of Saskatchewan College of Law does not offer courses to students who are seeking to meet the requirements of the National Committee on Accreditation.

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FINANCIAL AID

Entrance Scholarships: All first-year applicants are automatically considered for most entrance scholarships upon acceptance. It is not necessary to submit applications for entrance awards. A preliminary screening of pre-law records of all students registered in first year results in a number of students being invited to provide additional information. Winners of the awards are informed in September.

Student Awards and Financial Assistance: The College of Law offers various student awards including numerous entrance scholarships, upper-year scholarships, course prizes and graduate student scholarships. Financial assistance for qualified students is available in the form of bursaries or, in special cases, emergency funding.

Bursaries: Applications for bursaries administered by the College of Law are invited at three distinct times: September, January and March. All are based on financial need. It is not necessary to apply for bursaries until a notice is posted inviting applications.

Emergency Funding: The University of Saskatchewan has an Emergency Loans Office. The College of Law also operates an emergency funding program for its students. Students in need are encouraged to contact:

Associate Dean, Academic
College of Law, University of Saskatchewan
Tel: (306) 966-5242
Email: ada@usask.ca

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HOUSING

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) offers assistance to students regarding housing, and additional information on housing can be found on the university website.

- ussu.ca/housing
- explore.usask.ca/housing

QUICK FACTS

Application Fee: \$125.00

Applications Accepted: October 15 (not before)

Application Deadline: February 1

Completed File for Regular Applicants: application form, application fee, personal statement, LSAT account number, official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended other than the U of S

Completed File for Special and Aboriginal Applicants: application form, application fee, personal statement, statement describing special circumstances, LSAT account number, official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended other than U of S, reference letters

Offers: Offers made on a rolling basis November to June



Admission Inquiries

*Admissions information is available by
email, telephone or in person at:*

College of Law

University of Saskatchewan

15 Campus Drive, Room 280

Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A6

Tel: (306) 966-5874 Fax: (306) 966-5900

Email: law_admissions@usask.ca



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