Michigan State University College of Law is a private, non-profit, independent law college that is academically integrated into one of the nation's premier research universities. Our students have full access to MSU's resources, including dual-degree options, a four-million-volume library system, dozens of athletic and cultural events, on-campus housing, and the global network of Spartan alumni.

SPARTAN LAWYERS ARE READY FOR ANYTHING

Michigan State University College of Law

Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
648 N. Shaw Lane, Room 300
East Lansing, MI 48824-1300
admiss@law.msu.edu
Our graduates are part of the 540,000+ Spartan network, connected to employment opportunities all over the world.

MSU Law students and graduates are making an impact in the legal profession and in their communities across the nation. Our alumni are working in private practice, nonprofit human rights organizations, prosecutors’ and defenders’ offices, Fortune 500 companies, and state and federal governments.
ENGAGE YOUR INTERESTS.
Our wide range of courses offers opportunities for every area of interest. MSU Law’s nationally recognized faculty members will challenge your intellect in 14 focus areas and certificate programs.

THE PROGRAM

Our required curriculum provides students with the building blocks for success in practice. Our curriculum is constantly evaluated to ensure our graduates are prepared to take on the latest challenges in the legal profession.

Students complete 88 credit hours to earn a Juris Doctor (JD) degree. Full-time students can complete the program in three years. Those whose schedules don’t permit full-time study can opt for a flexible, part-time day schedule.

All incoming students are assigned to “sections”—groups of students who take their first year courses together. Students start law school with a week-long Foundations of Law course, which equips them with an understanding of the legal system. The prescribed 1L curriculum gives students a solid foundation in Civil Procedure, Contracts, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Property, the Regulatory State, and Torts, along with an introduction to Contract Negotiation. All first-year schedules include Research, Writing, and Analysis and Advocacy—intensive courses that develop some of the most critical skills for lawyers.

Academic rigor.
Comprehensive curriculum.
Hallmarks of a Michigan State Law education.
Our wide range of electives enables students to shape their legal education based on their goals. Upper-level students can focus on a particular area of law, earn a certificate in a specialized practice area, or complement their legal education with an advanced degree in another field of interest. Students also can select any six credits of MSU graduate coursework to augment their legal studies.

**FOCUS AREAS**

Students can explore their interests while building expertise in a specific area of the law:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Child & Family Advocacy
- Commercial Law
- Constitutional Law
- Corporate Law
- Criminal Law
- Environmental & Natural Resource Law
- Family Law
- Geoffrey Fieger Trial Practice Institute
- Indigenous Law
- Intellectual Property, Information & Communications Law
- International & Comparative Law
- Public Law & Regulation
- Taxation Law

**Certificate Programs**

Michigan State Law certificate programs offer concrete ways for students to distinguish themselves in the job market. Students may earn any of the following certificates along with their Juris Doctor degree.

**Child and Family Advocacy**

Designed for those with a strong desire to make a difference in the lives of children and their families, this certificate program is an excellent way for students to develop the advocacy skills needed to work with abused, neglected, and at-risk children and their families.

> I’ll use my legal skills to enable low-income parents to become advocates for their children.

— Erin Hankins Diaz, ’15

Erin was awarded a Skadden Fellowship to fund two years of public interest work on behalf of children and families.
Indigenous Law

One of only a handful of similar programs in the nation, the Indigenous Law certificate program prepares law students to work on behalf of indigenous people and tribes throughout the country. As an independent nation, a tribe has the right to form its own government, adjudicate legal cases and levy taxes within its borders, establish its citizenship, and decide its own future.

With over 500 federally recognized American Indian tribes and still more petitioning for recognition, the need for lawyers educated in indigenous law is critical.

My clerkship at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of New Mexico in the Indian Country Crimes Section helped me to determine what area of Indian Law I wanted to pursue. It was the first job where I enjoyed going in early and staying late.

— Tamara Begay, '14

TPI has been a great experience. During the first year of the program, you focus on pretrial skills. We learned how to write motions, argue these motions in front of a judge, and mediate and facilitate contract disputes. This first-hand experience has proved immensely useful for my job search and externships.

— Ridhi Goswami, '14

Trial Practice

The selective-admission Geoffrey Fieger Trial Practice Institute (TPI) is an intensive two-year certificate program. Students learn the fundamental concepts of litigation while developing trial skills. One of the most comprehensive trial practice programs in the nation, TPI offers an ideal combination of classroom and courtroom experience, allowing participants to hit the ground running upon graduation.
Dual Degrees

Students can maximize their marketability by earning another graduate degree along with their law degree. Dual degree options allow a predetermined number of credits from each program to count toward electives in the other.

Our integration with a world-class university also allows students to build interdisciplinary expertise through custom-designed dual degree programs.

U.S.-Canadian Dual JD Program

Our students can earn both U.S. and Canadian Juris Doctor degrees through an exciting partnership with the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law. The program prepares students to deal with international integration and globalization, while making them marketable on either side of the border.

JD-MBA Program

MSU Law students can position themselves for a variety of leadership roles by completing a Master’s of Business Administration (MBA) at Eli Broad College of Business, MSU’s nationally-ranked business program.

For Toronto native Daniel Albahary, MSU College of Law offered an opportunity to experience American college life while readying himself for a career practicing law in Canada. After earning a dual JD from MSU Law and the University of Ottawa, he clerked at the Federal Court of Canada while studying to complete his master of laws (LL.M.) degree.

The law school specializes in creating new opportunities for students. The JD/MBA program provides me with the diverse skill set I need to accomplish my career goals.

— Paul Robertson, ’16
EXPERIENCE IS EVERYTHING

We offer a variety of practical learning opportunities to ensure that our graduates are ready for their first legal positions.

Clinical Programs

The MSU Law Legal Clinic provides a high-energy, small law firm environment in which student clinicians work under close faculty supervision to advocate for clients from the local community with real legal problems.

Our clinical programs currently include:

- Alvin L. Storrs Low-Income Taxpayer
- Chance at Childhood/Family Law
- Civil Rights
- Conflict Resolution
- First Amendment Law
- Food Law
- Housing Law
- Immigration Law
- Investor Advocacy
- Plea & Sentencing/Criminal Law

Students learn what it means to represent somebody in highly consequential cases. Clinic work gives students a chance to learn that as lawyers they can change people’s lives.

— David B. Thronson
Associate Dean for Experiential Education and Professor of Law
The Advocacy Board

MSU Law has one of the nation’s leading advocacy programs. Second- and third-year students are selected to represent MSU Law’s winning tradition, competing in appellate advocacy, trial advocacy, and alternative dispute resolution.

The Advocacy Board offers an opportunity for students to practice their skills at competitions hosted by law schools throughout the United States. Our students compete before federal and state judges, practicing attorneys, and distinguished law professors.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

With the vast majority of civil cases now resolved through negotiation, mediation, or arbitration, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is an in-demand skill set. The ADR Program at Michigan State Law prepares students to succeed in the 21st century legal profession.

Leading scholars, negotiators, mediators, and arbitrators deliver a comprehensive and innovative ADR curriculum that seamlessly blends theory with practical experience.

ADR is the present and the future. Dispute resolution—and especially mediation—saves time and money, and empowers people to reach their own decisions and find creative solutions that may go beyond what a court might decide.

— Brian Pappas
Associate Clinical Professor
and Associate Director of the ADR Program

MSU Law students Ashley Chrysler, Crystal Bultje, and Ashley Byers won the 2015 American Bar Association’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition, the largest moot court competition in the country. They triumphed over 202 teams representing 118 law schools.
**Indigenous Law & Policy Center**

The Law College’s Indigenous Law Program consists of a certificate program (see page 8) and a policy center, both of which are committed to the educational and professional development of those representing the native community. The Indigenous Law & Policy Center trains law students to work in Indian country while providing services to institutional clients such as Indian tribes, tribal courts, and other tribal organizations on a wide variety of legal and policy questions.

Center students have the opportunity to help develop and improve tribal court structures and administration; create administrative tax tribunals and handle tax controversies for clients; draft and revise tribal laws; and provide legal assistance regarding land tenure systems. The Center also serves as the conduit for legal internships with local law firms and tribal governments.

The Center provides opportunities to network with tribal court judges, public and private Indian lawyers, and legislative staff at all levels of government—opportunities critical to landing a job in Indian country.

*We put students interested in Indian law in the thick of things by assigning them real-world projects with real-world consequences. Our students are encouraged to write, research, and publish materials no other students, scholars, or practitioners have ever considered. Our goal is to prepare students to contribute to the field right out of law school, and the experience of our graduates suggests we’re doing exactly that.*

— Matthew L.M. Fletcher
Professor of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center

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**LegalRnD – The Center for Legal Services Innovation**

LegalRnD brings together professionals from a broad range of disciplines to improve legal service delivery throughout the legal industry. The Center teaches cutting-edge courses, connects students with exciting internship opportunities worldwide, and hosts legal tech competitions.

Contributors start with well-established concepts—such as lean thinking—and use them to improve legal service delivery. LegalRnD students take experiential classes from high-profile practitioners, entrepreneurs, and academics. Students apply process improvement and project management concepts to settings like legal aid organizations, corporate legal departments, law firms, and court systems.

*LegalRnD aims to lead the legal industry through the use of scientific research and development, organizational excellence and technology.*

— Daniel W. Linna Jr.
Assistant Dean for Career Development, Director of LegalRnD, & Professor of Law in Residence

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Brian Pike, ’15, incorporates his coursework in legal innovation into his job as a knowledge automation architect on UK-based law firm Riverview Law’s North American team.
Students can channel their passions and build their legal skills through countless co-curricular and extracurricular activities at Michigan State Law. With more than 45 student groups at the Law College, all students can find opportunities to participate.

Our student-run scholarly publications are among the most competitive and esteemed student organizations at MSU Law.

*Journal of Animal & Natural Resource Law*, the second legal journal on animal law established in North America, and one of only three in existence dedicated to this specialized topic.

*Journal of Business & Securities Law*, which provides insight into issues at the intersection of law and business, including commercial transactions, corporate litigation, e-commerce, employment, and securities regulation.

*Michigan State International Law Review*, which publishes thought-provoking articles and organizes topical symposia on provocative issues from around the globe.

*Michigan State Law Review*, MSU Law’s prestigious flagship journal, receives approximately 2,000 submissions each year from scholars all over the world, publishing three annual issues and hosting two symposia.

MSU Law offers all of the benefits of a Big Ten university, including the campus life, sporting events, and alumni connections. But it also offers the comfort of a small university. Having all of our classes in one building allows us to foster a great sense of community and to connect with one another.

—Rachael Roseman, ’14
Associate at
Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge
Grand Rapids, MI
Michigan State is truly a global brand, with over half a million Spartans living and working across the world. I chose to be a student at Michigan State University College of Law so I could leverage this alumni base to meet my career goals.

— Keith Voorheis, ’14
Business Analyst, MBA Development Program
Chevron—Houston, Texas
ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS.
With individual career coaching and hands-on skills building, our students have the tools to succeed wherever they plan to practice.

REWARDING CAREERS

Michigan State Law prepares future lawyers to practice in the real world—as litigators, corporate and transactional attorneys, business people, and public servants. The legal knowledge and practical skills that students acquire at MSU Law, together with the personalized assistance offered by our Career Services Office (CSO) staff, lead our graduates to satisfying careers.

The CSO staff provides individual guidance, offering services to satisfy a range of professional goals. The CSO team equips students with the tools needed to define, shape, and achieve their career goals.

Partners for Success

In the first semester of law school, the CSO team meets individually with each member of the first-year class to establish partnerships that will continue through graduation and beyond. CSO career advisors familiarize students with the legal profession, identify career opportunities, and implement action plans that will lead to success.

Career Exploration

The CSO provides programs that are designed to introduce students to the variety of legal career paths. The CSO hosts presentations by guest speakers who offer insights about particular practice areas, government employment, judicial clerkships, public interest careers, and the versatility of a Juris Doctor degree.

The CSO team is dedicated to helping you achieve your career goals. We will work with you to establish a proactive plan to achieve career success.

— Daniel Linna
Assistant Dean for Career Development
I knew I’d be able to obtain an excellent legal education with an emphasis on practicing in the real world. This background really helped me start my career in the right direction.

— Nicole P. Dogwill, ’98
Partner, Joseph & Cohen, San Francisco, CA

Nicole Dogwill attributes much of her success to Michigan State Law, where she was a managing editor of the Law Review and earned her JD, magna cum laude, in 1998.

Named a “future star” in recent editions of Benchmark Litigation, Dogwill was also named in the Top 40 under 40 LGBT Attorneys by the National LGBT Bar Association.

Graduates from our two most recent classes are working in 27 states, the District of Columbia, and six foreign countries.
**Summer Career Jumpstart**

Incoming first-year students work one-on-one with our CSO professionals to get a jumpstart on legal career planning before getting immersed in the 1L experience. In the summer before law school, participants learn how to clarify job goals, research job options, work to develop law-specific job-seeking skills, research various practice areas, and think about how their interests can translate into careers. Most importantly, incoming students start engaging with their futures in the law, and learn how the Career Services Office can support them.

**Job Search Resources, Workshops, and Guidance**

The CSO helps students find part-time, summer, and post-graduate positions. MSU Law students have access to a proprietary online job posting system, legal employer databases, and an alumni job bulletin featuring employment opportunities across the nation. CSO staff coordinate workshops that build students’ skills in resume writing, interviewing, networking, and business etiquette. Finally, the CSO team gives in-depth feedback on showcasing students’ experiences in a way that resonates with legal employers.

**Interviewing Opportunities**

The CSO facilitates interviewing opportunities for legal employment through a variety of channels. The annual On-Campus Interviewing (OCI) program at MSU Law attracts employers from across the region. The CSO coordinates collect-and-send and direct-send resume services for job-seekers, and connects students with off-campus programs such as the Patent Law Interview Program in Chicago and other job fairs.

As a student at Michigan State Law, you will have access to a dynamic, worldwide network of proud Spartans. With more than 542,000 alumni dispersed in all 50 states and around the globe, you’ll find the MSU family wherever you plan to practice.
Externships

MSU Law’s extensive externship program allows our students to enhance their legal analysis, negotiation, problem-solving, and communication skills at sites throughout the United States and abroad.

Externships provide students with insight into career options while building a portfolio of relevant legal work. Students receive valuable experience, build a professional network, and clarify career goals—all while earning academic credit.

In an average summer, our students work at 140 different sites in 26 states.

The Washington, DC, Semester Program

Dozens of Michigan State Law students experience life in the nation’s capital each year while engaging in on-the-job training at a federal agency. Participants work for U.S. government agencies, including the Commission on Civil Rights, Department of Justice, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

MSU Law has a great reputation with federal agencies, thanks to the network of fellow alumni who were hired following their externships. This exposure gives MSU Law grads an edge in a town that can be hard to break into.

— Rachel Dowell, ’11
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
(Washington, DC)
FACULTY

Michigan State Law faculty members will challenge you to expand your intellect while offering the personal support you need to develop professionally.

Respected Scholars
MSU Law professors are recognized scholars, exploring our legal system, expanding your understanding of its application, and examining today’s challenging legal questions. Infusing cutting-edge legal scholarship into the curriculum, they will provide you with the latest in the legal field.

Experienced Professionals
Your professors bring insights from their involvement in national and international professional organizations and their notable backgrounds in the public and private sectors. MSU Law faculty members have practiced at prominent law firms, clerked for federal judges, worked at leading governmental offices, and served at respected nonprofit organizations.
Dedicated to You

MSU Law faculty members are committed to helping you navigate the demands of law school and successfully transition into the legal profession.

As an MSU Law student, you will have an opportunity to connect with your professors beyond the classroom. Open-door policies allow lecture hall discussions to spill over into conversations in office hours, and professors are often available for group review sessions before final exams.

Professors advise co-curricular and extracurricular student organizations, or draw upon their expertise in the field to assist individual students as they consider career options.

As a student with a very specific passion in an emerging area of the law, the faculty and staff enthusiastically assisted with new research, publication of my work, community engagement, unique internships, and starting a new student organization.

— Sarah Warpinski, ’13
Skadden Fellow, Legal Aid of Western Ohio (Toledo, Ohio)

Office of Student Engagement

The Office of Student Engagement (OSE) is the “go to” spot for students at Michigan State Law. The OSE offers academic guidance and personal support to help students thrive during their time at the Law College. OSE staff also manage the more than 45 student groups that enhance the educational experience at MSU Law.

My desire to have every student succeed continues to be my motivating factor for being at MSU Law.

— Connell Alsup
Associate Dean for Student Engagement and Registrar

Diversity Services Office

The Diversity Services Office (DSO) exists to ensure a positive experience for all MSU Law students. The DSO continues MSU Law’s century-long commitment to diversity by recruiting qualified students from a variety of backgrounds, providing support to enable students to succeed academically, and promoting the importance of a diverse bench and bar.

STUDENT RESOURCES
Academic Success Program

The Academic Success Program (ASP) provides support to students as they identify and strengthen critical skills for law school success. All ASP services are designed to help students improve their performance in law school, on the bar exam, and in the legal profession.

John F. Schaefer Law Library

A home away from home for many students, the Schaefer Law Library is a quiet and comfortable place to explore the law. It houses more than 260,000 volumes, group study rooms, and all the reference materials students need. The librarians are happy to guide students through tough research questions, and the circulation desk is staffed by students who can give advice about the Law Library’s full range of resources.

Technology Resources

Our Technology Services Office staff members connect and acquaint students with a sizable computer lab, e-mail, network space, and convenient printing throughout the building. Students also have free access to LexisNexis® and Westlaw®, two major online legal research services. The Law College supports both PC and Mac platforms.

Clif and Carolyn Haley Moot Court Room

The Law College features a technologically equipped courtroom in which students receive the training they need. The Clif and Carolyn Haley Moot Courtroom incorporates the latest technology, giving MSU Law graduates a definitive advantage in today’s legal profession.

The law librarians are more than willing to assist students with their legal research. From finding sources on a particular research topic or helping to format a citation for an unusual source, the library staff is always available to help.

— Melissa Vatterott, ’14

I owe my career and many of my most valued friendships to my time in East Lansing. In today’s legal market, a friend can make a world of difference—and there is no better friend to have than a fellow Spartan.

— James Vicchairelli, ’13
U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General’s Corps (Washington, DC)
STUDENT LIFE

With a student population of nearly 50,000, Michigan State offers all the excitement of a Big Ten university. Law students organize tailgating for home football games in the fall, and March Madness sweeps the campus in basketball season. Our athletic programs provide a great opportunity to unwind and network with fellow Spartan fans.

Michigan State Law is surrounded by a wide assortment of affordable housing options. Convenient dorms are available just across the road at Owen Hall, which has a newly transformed dining area. You can live off-campus in an apartment, a downtown loft, or a house in a safe, attractive neighborhood. Whatever option fits your lifestyle, a top-rated public transit system provides an easy link between your home and MSU Law.

East Lansing is a classic university town, with a mix of art galleries, retail shops, and international restaurants. The environment is energetic and student-oriented. Thousands of Spartans bike, jog, and walk to class every day, enjoying the changing seasons on MSU’s beautiful campus.

With art, music, and cultural festivals in the area throughout the year, you can always find a place to unwind.

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

The value of a degree from Michigan State Law becomes greater as a result of our generous scholarship program, which provides as many as 150 full- and partial-tuition awards to incoming students.

All candidates admitted prior to February 15 will be given full consideration for scholarship aid. Those admitted after February 15 will be considered based on availability of funds.

By lowering my student debt, my Trustee Scholarship helped me focus more on my studies than on money, and it allowed me greater flexibility in my career search.

— Elaine Barr, ’11
Michigan Indian Legal Services
The cost of tuition for the 2015–16 academic year is $39,353 for 29 credit hours. Indirect costs for housing and other expenses range from $8,000 to $15,000 for the academic year.

**SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA**

- **Faculty Scholarship**—$32,500 to Full Tuition  
  157 LSAT, 3.70 UGPA

- **Academic Excellence Scholarship**—$22,500 to $30,000  
  154 LSAT, 3.55 UGPA

- **Alumni Scholarship**—$15,000 to $22,500  
  154 LSAT, 3.15 UGPA; 150 LSAT, 3.60 UGPA

- **Trustee Scholarship**—$10,000 to Full Tuition  
  Personal and professional background

- **Indigenous Law Award**—$10,000 to Full Tuition  
  Commitment to Native American culture

- **Intellectual Property Law Award**—$10,000 to Full Tuition  
  Engineering or science background

- **Excellence in Oral Advocacy Award**—$10,000 to Full Tuition  
  Excellence in public speaking and interest in trial advocacy

- **Continuing Student Scholarship**—$18,000 to Full Tuition  
  3.50 law school GPA after 1L year (minimum 24 credits)

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**ADMISSIONS**

MSU Law students come from dozens of professions and academic majors—engineering, liberal arts, political science, business, performing arts—and from universities across the country. This diversity creates a rich exchange of ideas in the classroom.

**Cultivating Talent**

We consider many variables in the application review process and may admit candidates with exceptional aptitude for the study of law as demonstrated by factors other than undergraduate grade point average and Law School Admission Test scores.

**Apply**

The Admissions Committee encourages Juris Doctor program candidates to apply for admission at the earliest possible date. Those who apply before February 1 will receive full consideration for scholarship aid. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis from early November through late spring.

**E-mail admiss@law.msu.edu to request a waiver of the $60 application fee.**

_The Financial Aid Office can help you plan a budget and find the funding that meets your needs. While you may need to take a loan to get your degree, you should not have to sacrifice your peace of mind in the process._

— John Garcia  
Director of Financial Aid
Dear Prospective Applicant:
On behalf of the Admissions Committee, I welcome your interest in Michigan State University College of Law and look forward to receiving and reviewing your application for admission.

Office of Admissions team members are here to assist you during each phase of the application process. We welcome your questions, so please contact us as you prepare for this next step of your professional development.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Roboski
Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid

Admissions Team
Theresa Allen, Admissions Application Coordinator
John Garcia, Director of Financial Aid
Alicia Lane, Associate Director of Admissions
Kimberly Wilkes, Admissions Coordinator
Justin Williams, Assistant Director of Admissions

admiss@law.msu.edu
517-432-0222

SCHOLARSHIP RECAP

2016 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Faculty Scholarship—$32,500 to Full Tuition
157 LSAT, 3.70 UGPA

Academic Excellence Scholarship—$22,500 to $30,000
154 LSAT, 3.55 UGPA

Alumni Scholarship—$15,000 to $22,500
154 LSAT, 3.15 UGPA; 150 LSAT, 3.60 UGPA

Trustee Scholarship—$10,000 to Full Tuition
Personal and professional background

Indigenous Law Award—$10,000 to Full Tuition
Commitment to Native American culture

Intellectual Property Law Award—$10,000 to Full Tuition
Engineering or science background

Excellence in Oral Advocacy Award—$10,000 to Full Tuition
Excellence in public speaking and interest in trial advocacy

Continuing Student Scholarship—$18,000 to Full Tuition
3.50 law school GPA after 1L year (minimum 24 credits)

NOVEMBER 1: Application Review Begins
FEBRUARY 1: Priority Deadline for Scholarship Consideration
APRIL 1: First Enrollment Deposit Due for Candidates Offered Admission by March 1.
APRIL 30: Application Deadline

Applying to law college can be expensive. E-mail admiss@law.msu.edu to request a waiver of the $60 application fee.
Michigan State University College of Law is a private, non-profit, independent law college that is academically integrated into one of the nation’s premier research universities. Our students have full access to MSU’s resources, including dual-degree options, a four-million-volume library system, dozens of athletic and cultural events, on-campus housing, and the global network of Spartan alumni.