Extraordinary Lawyers, Extraordinary Lives
Your Path to Extraordinary Begins at Syracuse University College of Law
Choose your path to extraordinary

Five degree options; 11 joint degree programs; a nationally ranked Advocacy Program; specialized curricular programs and certificates of advanced study; applied learning opportunities in externships and clinics; world-class research centers in national security, disability law, and innovation law.

Legal education at Syracuse has always been rigorous, intimate, skills-focused, and student-centered, now it’s easier than ever to choose the path to practice that’s tailored to your career goals.

Syracuse University College of Law: WHERE EXTRAORDINARY LAWYERS ARE MADE

The Residential J.D. Degree
The residential juris doctor program gives you the option to study and build skills in Syracuse, NY. Our innovative approach to legal education, our vast and connected alumni network, and our focus on student and faculty collaboration creates the foundation for a successful legal career. The residential J.D. is offered as a three-year, full-time day program or a part-time day program. With Third Year Away, J.D. students have the option of spending their third year entirely off-campus. This option allows students in good standing to satisfy graduation requirements with a supervised externship and by taking up to 12 credits of interactive online courses via JDinteractive.

JDinteractive
The nation’s first fully interactive, ABA-approved, online juris doctor degree offers flexibility in location and courses. Designed for talented and ambitious students who cannot relocate because of work or family commitments, JDi offers the same high-quality standards as our residential program. A part-time, year-round schedule of live online and self-paced courses, as well as six short residencies, allows consistent communication with professors and peers that fits your schedule. JDi students are fully engaged in student programs, such as externships, and activities, such as the Student Bar Association, Syracuse Law Journal, and Travis H.D. Lewin Advocacy Honor Society.

Master of Laws (LL.M.)
The Master of Laws is an advanced degree for foreign-trained legal professionals that offers an opportunity for skills-building through the study of the American legal process. A residential program hosted in Syracuse, the LL.M. degree can be earned in two or three semesters.

Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D)
The Doctor of Juridical Science in Law is a research doctorate comparable to a Ph.D. in other disciplines. S.J.D. students work under the supervision of a law faculty member to produce an original dissertation that makes a substantial contribution to legal scholarship. S.J.D. students also can pursue interdisciplinary coursework and academic engagement across Syracuse University, including at the world-renowned Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communication, and Whitman School of Management.

Two-Year J.D.
Foreign law students who have completed, or who expect to complete, an undergraduate degree in law (i.e., a Bachelor of Laws degree) from a foreign legal education institution can apply to our accelerated residential J.D. program that can be completed in two academic years. Students who have completed an LL.M. program—and ideally, who have sat for a state bar examination—can also apply.

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Law comes alive in our Clinical Program, where legal theory and practice intersect. As a student attorney, you will represent real clients under the tutelage of experienced faculty, whether advocating in court, drafting contracts, counseling on legal issues, or writing critical legal documents.

Through close supervision and rigorous feedback, you’ll develop competence in law practice management and professional responsibility while providing much-needed, otherwise unavailable legal resources to the people of Central New York.

- Bankruptcy Clinic
- Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic
- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Disability Rights Clinic
- Low Income Taxpayer Clinic
- Transactional Law Clinic

Our Externship Program allows you to move beyond the classroom to gain hands-on experience in a professional practice setting. As an extern, you will earn credit and develop professional relationships while working in premier placements supervised by alumni and others dedicated to your success.

The College of Law boasts alumni in all 50 states, allowing the externship program to continuously expand. Residential J.D. and JD students can complete externships throughout the US, including established programs in Central New York (NYEx), New York City (NYCEx), Philadelphia (PhillyEx), and Washington, DC (DCEx).

Additionally, LondonEx—Syracuse’s original externship—offers an unparalleled opportunity to study and practice within the rich legal tradition that produced the US legal system.

Recent placements include:
- BakerHostetler
- DLA Piper
- Ernst & Young
- Federal Communications Commission
- Federal Aviation Administration
- NYS Attorney General’s Office
- The Public Defender Service for DC
- US Coast Guard Investigative Service
- The Office of White House Counsel

“I am very grateful for the time I spent at the Office of White House Counsel, and the relationships and bonds I made there. From a law student’s perspective, my externship was amazing. There is simply no other place in the world that you can do the work I did there.”

~ Sergio Rumayor, Class of 2021
JOINT DEGREES = EXTRAORDINARY VALUE

For a greater amount of specialization, J.D. students can earn a joint master’s degree in a variety of in-demand fields at one of Syracuse University’s nationally recognized graduate schools, allowing law students to partner with thought-leaders in other fields and learn the law’s impact on policy and society.

For most programs, students can earn a joint degree within three years instead of the traditional four—and at little additional cost.

- J.D./Master of Public Administration (Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs)
- J.D./Master of Arts in International Relations (Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs)
- J.D./Master of Business Administration (Whitman School of Management)
- J.D./Master of Arts or Science in Public Communications (Newhouse School of Public Communications)
- J.D./Master of Science in Cultural Foundations of Education with Optional Certificate in Disability Studies (School of Education)
- J.D./Master of Science in Forensic Science (College of Arts and Sciences)
- Other joint degree options include Computer Science, History, Political Science, Philosophy, and Social Work.

PLUS ... The College of Law offers a concurrent program in Forest and Natural Resources Management with the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Curricular Programs & Certificates of Advanced Study

Starting in their second year, students can apply for one or more curricular programs in a specialized area of the law, including Disability Law and Policy, Entertainment and Sports Law, and Technology Commercialization Law Studies.


Certificates of advanced study (CAS) in National Security and Counterterrorism Law, Security Studies, or Postconflict Reconstruction are offered by the Institute for Security Policy and Law joint J.D./M.S. in the Cultural Foundations of Education candidates may opt to take a CAS in Disability Studies.

Get Involved with Extraordinary

At Syracuse, we encourage students to fully engage in campus life. Whether you join the Student Bar Association, Syracuse Law Review, or any of our 30 plus other student and professional organizations and journals, getting involved is not only a great way to connect with other students and have fun, it’s key to gaining valuable leadership experience and setting you on your path to extraordinary!

Other student organizations include:
- Asian-Pacific American Law Student Association
- Black Law Student Association
- Christian Legal Fellowship
- Corporate Law Society
- Criminal Law Society
- Disability Law Society
- Family Law Society
- First Generation Law Student Association
- Gay-Straight Law Student Alliance (OUTLAW)
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- International Law Society
- Journal of Global Rights and Organizations and ImpunityWatch News
- Journal of International Law and Commerce
- Journal of Science and Technology Law
- Latin American Law Student Association
- National Women’s Law Student Association
- Pro Bono Advisory Board
- Travis H.D. Lewin Advocacy Honors Society

At Syracuse, students can participate in research that is changing our world. The College of Law’s strategic research institutes are at the forefront of their disciplines, combining leading-edge legal theory with an interdisciplinary focus and cross-campus partnerships.

Disability Law and Policy

The College of Law is home to two world-renowned disability law and policy initiatives, and graduates of these programs are in high demand by national and international disability organizations. The Disability Law and Policy Program houses the nation’s first joint degree program in Law and Disability Studies, a Curricular Program in Disability Law and Policy, and the Disability Rights Clinic. The Burton Blatt Institute advances the civic, economic, and social participation of people with disabilities through extensive program development, innovative research, and policy initiatives.

National Security

A collaboration among the College of Law, the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and other Syracuse University colleges and departments, the Institute for Security Policy and Law is a multidisciplinary center for the study of national and international security topics, including emerging issues in AI, climate change, and human security. For students, the Institute offers three certificates of advanced study and opportunities to assist faculty with research projects.

Technology and Commercialization Law

Syracuse’s technology commercialization program was the first in the nation to examine the legal principles necessary to usher tech innovations from lab to market. Today, the Innovation Law Center’s academic and applied learning opportunities are a “win-win” for students, who learn their profession by helping innovators research the legal, market, and technical issues associated with developing new technologies.
EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT FOR YOU AND YOUR CAREER

Celebrating Diversity & Inclusion

The College of Law is committed to fostering a learning community that is free from discrimination and that celebrates the diversity of its community members.

At Syracuse, students learn that the rule of law is fundamental to maintaining pluralistic, democratic, and just societies. They learn that in practice they may advocate for individuals or communities for which the law, due process, and legal protections have not been applied fairly or equally. And they learn that, in practice, they will journey through diverse workplace cultures, representing myriad client needs and interests.

A central goal of diversity and inclusion initiatives at the College of Law is to prepare students for the challenges and the opportunities of cross-cultural representation and to refine awareness and skills that will enhance their capacity to develop relationships and effective communications styles for a successful career.

law.syr.edu/diversity-inclusion

Support is offered to all students from your first day at the College of Law to your first day on the job, you will be ready to succeed thanks to a comprehensive suite of academic success programs.

Orange Edge provides a rigorous introduction to the first-year law school experience for students who need additional support before commencing their law studies. Further support is offered to all students through workshops, counseling, peer mentoring, skills development sessions, and stress management programs.

For students who need additional bar support, we offer practice through our Foundational Skills for Attorney Licensing course.

Realizing Extraordinary

Wherever your career path may lead, a great place to start is at the Office of Career Services, which will support and advise you as you transition from law school to practice. Leveraging tools such as the Symplicity Career Services Manager and the On-Campus Interview Program, Syracuse provides counseling, networking, and programming to assist students in developing their job search skills, broadening their industry knowledge, and realizing their career goals.

EXTRAORDINARY ADVOCACY

Students can hone their advocacy skills in a program known nationwide for the high quality of its academics and the success of its competition teams.

The program combines academic advocacy courses with practical experience through the Travis H.D. Lewin Advocacy Honor Program with multiple intra- and intercollegiate competitions, and our own Syracuse National Trial Competition. Over the years, Syracuse students have won numerous national and regional awards at national and international competitions.

Intercollegiate tourneys include:

- ABA Negotiation Competition
- AAJ Student Trial Competition
- Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition
- Clara Barton International Humanitarian Law Competition
- National Appellate Advocacy Competition
- National Trial Competition
- Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
- Securities Dispute Resolution Triathlon
- Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition
- Top Gun
- Tournament of Champions
- Uvaldo Herrera National Moot Court Competition

U.S. News & World Report ranks our Advocacy Program #11

Syracuse #7 in national Trial Competition Performance Rankings 2020-2021

EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

The College of Law is committed to training lawyers who serve both the legal profession and their communities. As a law student, you are encouraged to participate in pro bono and community service activities from day one.

Students who complete more than 50 hours of community service receive special recognition from the Dean. In addition, the Syracuse Public Interest Network (SPIN) holds dedicated fundraisers each year to help fund public interest fellowships for students who obtain summer internships in the public sector.

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The Office of International Programs serves as the College of Law’s focal point for wide-ranging, ever-growing international engagement. The Office supports student and faculty initiatives abroad while offering an inclusive and innovative environment for foreign lawyers to learn in Syracuse.

International engagement includes:
- Master of Laws in American Law (LL.M.)
- Doctor of Juridical Science in Law (S.J.D.)
- Two-Year J.D. for Foreign Law Graduates
- LondonEx Externship Program
- Semester Exchange Program
- English for Foreign-trained Lawyers Program
- International Visiting Scholars/Lecture Series

Celebrating the strength of a Syracuse law education, our 11,000 alumni live and work in every state and around the world, creating a proud, truly global professional network of Orange Lawyers.

Closer to home, on any given day you will see alumni teaching in classrooms, interviewing students, and supporting their alma mater and future alums. The number of alumni in major legal markets is impressive. What is extraordinary is their willingness to help students however they can.

MAKE AN EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT AROUND THE GLOBE

JDinteractive PROGRAM

The Nation’s First Fully Interactive Online J.D. Program
Start on the path to extraordinary from wherever you are in the world with our one-of-a-kind, highly interactive ABA-approved online law degree program.

JDinteractive delivers our outstanding and engaging legal education well beyond Central New York. Designed for students who cannot relocate for a residential program but who desire a high-caliber legal education, JDi is an ABA-accredited model for 21st-century legal education incorporating an interactive learning platform and technology-enabled services.

The Nation’s First Online Joint J.D./M.B.A
Our groundbreaking online joint J.D./M.B.A. combines the College of Law’s online JDi program with the Whitman School of Management’s highly ranked online Master in Business Administration program.

OUR EXTRAORDINARY ALUMNI

Joseph R. Biden Jr. L’68, 46th President of the United States

11,000 law alumni in all 50 states and 39 foreign countries!

250,000+

Syracuse University Orange Network
The College of Law is situated on the campus of one of the top research institutions in the United States, and the College’s connection to the University has given Syracuse law students a distinct advantage since our founding in 1895.

Syracuse University boasts an inclusive, innovative, and ever-expanding network of academics, students, and athletes. Located on “The Hill” just minutes from downtown Syracuse, with panoramic views of the Onondaga Valley, Orange Nation is a draw for scholars and community members alike.

Catch a game in the Dome, take in a play at Syracuse Stage, engage with the many notable speakers who present at the University, or enjoy one of the many other advantages SU has to offer, including the Barnes Center at The Arch, a state-of-the-art, integrated hub for student health, wellness, and fitness. Go Orange!

It won’t just be the College of Law—the city of Syracuse and Central New York also will impact your law school experience.

The blend of urban and suburban life brings art, cuisine, events, sports, recreation, and four beautiful seasons directly to you. From the heart of the state, it’s easy to venture out from Syracuse to explore the Adirondacks, the Finger Lakes, Niagara Falls, and all of the major northeastern cities, including New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Toronto.

The multi-use National Veterans Resource Center serves as a focus for veterans and military members on campus, while in Dineen Hall students can hone their legal skills and serve the community working in the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic or participate in the Veterans Issues Support Initiative and Outreach Network (VISION), which coordinates Valor Day, where students offer a walk-in legal clinic for veterans.

The College of Law is also an active Yellow Ribbon Program participant.

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

Ranked as a top private institution for veterans and military members, Syracuse University’s commitment to serving those who serve carries proudly into the College of Law.

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HOW EXTRAORDINARY WILL YOU BE?

At Syracuse, we recognize that a legal education extends far beyond the classroom—and even beyond the law—embracing global endeavors in culture, community, policymaking, and entrepreneurial exploration. Our rigorous academic experience prepares students for extraordinary success and inspires vision through a hands-on, interdisciplinary, forward-leaning curriculum that equips students to face the challenges of an interconnected and diverse global society.

Our faculty are right there with you. Students work with student-centered professors who emphasize practice and who have distinguished themselves as noted and innovative scholars, influencing the development of law and policy in the US and internationally.

Our world faces a multitude of challenges, and the practice of law has never been as important—or as vibrant—thanks to a proliferation of career paths across multiple industry sectors, the government, the judiciary, and communities. I invite you to join us for a dynamic, 21st-century legal education that will prepare you for the career of your choice.

The right time for extraordinary is now. I look forward to meeting you!

Craig M. Boise
Dean and Professor of Law

Financial Aid & Scholarships

The College of Law offers important financial aid counseling complemented by a supportive scholarship program, including:

- Alumni sponsored scholarships
- Federal Student Aid through the Federal Loan Program
- Outside scholarship database
- A committed financial literacy program
- GI Bill or Yellow Ribbon benefits
- The Dean’s Merit Scholarship program

Students interested in law school may fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as October for the following academic year.

Contact the Office of Financial Aid at lawfinaid@syr.edu or 315.443.1962.

Admissions

Applications for each degree program open on September 1. Application decisions are made on a rolling basis starting in December. Visit law.syr.edu/apply for application instructions, important deadlines, and additional information or contact the Office of Admissions at lawadmissions@syr.edu or 315.443.1962.

VISIT US!

Check out our website to learn how you can “Step Inside Dineen Hall” and take a virtual tour of our state-of-the-art campus headquarters, as well as how to set up a virtual or phone appointment with our Admissions staff.

Craig M. Boise
Dean and Professor of Law

Apply Now