The Law School is currently undergoing a construction and renovation project that will not only provide a remarkable new facility and significantly more space, but will also help to heighten the sense of community that has long been a hallmark of a Notre Dame legal education. Before spring semester 2009, Notre Dame Law School faculty, students, and staff will move into a new building that combines the university’s storied charm and tradition with cutting-edge technology. Connected to our existing building by a covered walkway and a chapel, with a common area above, the new facility will capture the Law School’s commitment to shaping the minds, hearts, and souls of the next generation of Notre Dame lawyers. Beginning in January 2009, the beautiful Gothic structure that has been home to the law school since the 1930s will be renovated to house the expanded Kresge Law Library and some administrative offices. The Kresge Law Library is among the top American law school research libraries. The staff of 29 is noted for its service to law school faculty, students, and staff, and the larger university community.

The Law School provides significant computing support for students and other members of the law school community. Five full-time technology professionals offer assistance for both hardware and software, in addition to other computing and technology needs.

Curriculum

The JD curriculum provides a strong foundation in those areas that have proven to be fundamental to the actual practice of law in every American jurisdiction, while giving students the opportunity to tailor coursework to particular career aspirations. Required courses, those that are critical to a mastery of specialized areas of the law, total 42 of the 90 credit hours needed for graduation. In addition to the JD degree, the Law School confers three graduate law degrees: an LLM in International and Comparative Law, an LLM in International Human Rights, and a JSD (also in International Human Rights). The LLM in International and Comparative Law is offered exclusively at the Law School’s London Law Centre.

London Programs

Notre Dame Law School recognizes that today’s legal practice increasingly involves problems that the law of no one nation can resolve. Hence, JD candidates may augment their legal education by participating in one of two programs offered by the Law School through its London Law Centre. Second-year students who wish to immerse themselves in comparative and international law, as well as in the traditions of the American and British common-law systems, can study in the only year-long overseas program offered by an American law school. Students who desire a shorter international-study experience and who have completed their first year of law school can spend six weeks in London during Notre Dame’s summer program.

Admission Process

Notre Dame offers both an Early Decision and a Regular Decision Program. The Early Decision Program is designed for those candidates who have researched other law schools and who are committed to enrolling at Notre Dame if admitted. The application deadline for applying via Early Decision is November 1, and all supporting admission material must be on file in the Law School Admissions Office no later than November 10. Early decision applicants will be notified of an admission decision by December 15 and, if admitted, have until January 5 to accept or decline the offer of admission. The Regular Decision Program follows a rolling admission process, with the first round of acceptances typically mailed by December 15. Regular decision applicants are encouraged to apply at the earliest possible date. The application fee is $60. Fee waivers are available upon request and demonstration of financial need. March 1 is the deadline for submitting the application.

Student Life

The sense of community and the quality of student life at Notre Dame have developed out of long-standing traditions that make the Notre Dame Law School experience different: admission policies that emphasize the importance of qualitative factors...
such as service to others; a mission that focuses on teaching, scholarship, and service in the legal and Judeo-Christian traditions; and an emphasis on forming and nurturing collegial relationships among and between students and faculty. The Law School is centrally located on the Notre Dame campus, and law students fully participate in athletic, cultural, religious, and social events on the campus. Law students also manage to find a comfortable balance between their studies and involvement in the Law School’s four law journals and any of 30 organizations that reflect the professional and personal interests of the student body.

### Expenses and Financial Aid

Notre Dame is committed to providing a legal education of the highest quality at a tuition structure that compares favorably to other nationally regarded private law schools. Additionally, law students benefit from the low cost of living in northern Indiana.

In recent years, fellowship assistance has been provided annually to approximately 65–75 percent of the entering students on the basis of merit, commitment to the Law School’s mission, and financial need. Fellowships range from $5,000 to full tuition and are renewable for all three years of legal study.

### Housing

Many single law students choose to live on campus in graduate-student housing. Married students with children can live in the unfurnished University Village apartments. Students who wish to live off campus can find reasonably priced accommodations near the campus and can secure on-campus parking for a nominal additional charge.

### Career Services

Graduates of Notre Dame Law School find success in identifying and obtaining a spectrum of rewarding and satisfying careers in all areas of the nation and abroad. For recent graduating classes, the employment rate has been between 95 and 100 percent within nine months of graduation. Each year, approximately 170 employers visit the campus to interview Notre Dame law students. Another 20 to 25 employers participate in interviews exclusive to Notre Dame law students in Los Angeles; Washington, DC; and New York. These employers, and others, are interested in interviewing Notre Dame law students because of the Law School’s reputation for preparing extraordinarily competent lawyers. A national network of over 8,000 Law School alumni and friends assist students and graduates in finding employment opportunities across the country.

Graduates of Notre Dame Law School have been successful in terms of obtaining judicial clerkships, with 10–15 percent of recent graduating classes choosing this career option. These highly sought-after positions provide graduates with a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about the inner workings of the judicial system, while at the same time honing important legal skills and problem-solving abilities.

The Career Services Office (CSO) also coordinates a variety of initiatives to encourage students who wish to be employed in public interest work following graduation. These include a variety of informational programs and services, including participation in our campus-wide, nonprofit career night. The CSO also participates in public interest law career fairs across this country and is a sponsoring and coordinating school for the Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference in Chicago. Additionally, the office coordinates a comprehensive summer stipend program that provides funding for approximately 100 students working in public interest positions each summer. The Law School recently expanded its Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) to assist eligible law school graduates who choose to work in public interest, public service, or other similar positions after graduation. The Law School seeks to help reduce the financial pressures that can discourage graduates from pursuing positions in public interest and public service employment.

### Applicant Profile

The Law School Admissions Committee employs a whole-person review philosophy. Academic ability, as reflected in the LSAT score and academic performance in college, are important. However, the committee considers a broad array of elements in addition to these two quantitative measures with a view toward assembling a diverse class while at the same time arriving at a fair appraisal of the individual applicant. Notre Dame Law School officials involved in the admission process are mindful of the school’s objective to produce lawyers who are competent, compassionate, and committed to serving their clients with integrity. Admission decisions are inevitably the result of selecting a relatively small class from a large number of highly qualified applicants.