Why MSU LAW?

Wherever you’re going, PREPARE TO LEAD.
Michigan State University College of Law students learn to think like lawyers – and to apply those foundational reasoning skills outside of the classroom. By the time they graduate, they’re not only ready to join the legal profession. They’re prepared to be leaders in their workplaces and in their communities.

Our graduates join a global network of over half a million living MSU alumni, and they benefit from worldwide name recognition. Around half of our students come from outside of Michigan, and they start their legal careers in dozens of states each year.

Find your niche, and CUSTOMIZE OUR CURRICULUM.
Maybe you know exactly what kind of law you plan to practice, or maybe you don’t. Either way, our flexible curriculum will allow you to explore the law.

Our programs and focus areas provide course groupings, allowing you to build your expertise in a particular area of legal practice. We offer around 170 different elective courses every year, with instructional styles that range from classic Socratic lectures to intimate, discussion-driven seminars.

Don’t wait until graduation to MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
MSU Law students can perform meaningful social justice work after their first year of law school.

Our live-client clinics connect students with children, immigrants, low-income renters, exploited animals, prisoners, and student journalists who need help. Students work closely, with faculty mentors to resolve important legal issues – and change their clients’ lives.

Experience EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT.
Law school is intense. With law-specific academic success programming, a network of student wellness resources, and dedicated career services professionals, MSU Law commits to helping our students navigate the challenges of legal education and emerge as confident professionals.

Faculty members play a key role in shaping the student experience. You’ll be inspired by our passionate faculty as you learn from their standout scholarship and connect with them beyond the classroom.

Combine a close-knit community with BIG TEN OPPORTUNITIES.
Everything that our students need is located in the Law College building, from open-door faculty offices to student-run journals and study groups. Our culture is friendly and collaborative, and you’ll form lifelong connections with other future Spartan lawyers.

Our students also share one of the nation’s largest, greenest campuses with 50,000 other Spartans. You’ll be able to learn alongside them through classes in leading graduate programs, and you’ll come together to cheer on MSU’s powerhouse basketball and football teams.
Wherever you’re going, PREPARE TO LEAD.

MSU Law graduates leave law school with a unique set of analytical tools that enables them to succeed in traditional legal careers—and beyond. From the rigorous classroom setting to demanding co-curricular activities, a Spartan legal education teaches students essential leadership skills:

- Maintaining professionalism under pressure
- Considering all sides of an issue
- Framing persuasive arguments
- Conducting top-notch research
- Collaborating with a team
- Negotiating solutions to complex problems
- Communicating with clarity and concision

A Spartan law degree is flexible. It can take you to the courtroom, the boardroom, the classroom, or the halls of government.

LOCATED FOR LEADERSHIP

MSU Law is located minutes from Michigan’s Capitol, enabling students to easily participate in state government as interns, externs, and volunteers throughout law school. Our students and graduates serve their communities by advocating for change on both sides of the aisle.

MICHIGAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

This new program provides an elite group of incoming students with opportunities to engage with state leadership. From networking with high-profile alumni to undertaking competitive legislative internships, participants benefit from unique access to Michigan’s leaders.

When you start law school, everyone tells you they’re going to train you to think like a lawyer. You don’t even know what that means until you get out in the world and see how you’ve changed. It’s looking at an issue and anticipating both sides of the policy. That’s an important skill that you only get through legal training.

— GRETCHEN WHITMER, ’98

Gretchen Whitmer got her start in government during law school, as an intern for the co-speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives. Two years after graduating from MSU Law, she was elected as a state representative, then as a state senator, serving as Minority Leader of the Michigan Senate. In January 2017, she announced her candidacy for Michigan governor. She credits her MSU Law education with preparing her for a career in state leadership.

GRETCHEN WHITMER, ’98 | Former Michigan State Representative and Senator | 2018 Michigan Gubernatorial Candidate
MSU Law graduates make an impact all over the country. The Class of 2016 works in 30 states and countries, as well as DC.

With 552,000 living alumni in all 50 states and around the globe, you’ll find the MSU family wherever you plan to practice.

**2016 GRADS**

**JOBS BY SECTOR**

- **45%** Private Practice
- **20%** Business & Industry
- **15%** Government
- **10%** Judicial Clerkship
- **5%** Education
- **5%** Public Interest

**TOP EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONS**

- **88** Michigan
- **9** Canada
- **9** Illinois
- **7** Florida
- **7** DC
- **6** Texas
- **6** California
GET A START IN THE NATION’S CAPITAL.

MSU Law students can gain hands-on experience by working as externs for federal agencies in Washington, DC. From doing policy work at the Department of Defense to researching enforcement mechanisms at the Environmental Protection Agency, Spartan law students take on serious responsibilities while spending a semester in Washington, DC.

A DC semester provides a powerful supplement to coursework. There’s nothing like experiencing the political process at the center of American government. Students work closely with policy-makers, elected officials, and regulators to participate in the creation and enforcement of federal policy.

2Ls and 3Ls can work as externs for federal agencies between 24 and 34 hours per week, leaving plenty of time to take courses, sightsee, and experience life in nation’s capital.

Previous DC work sites include:
- Commission on Civil Rights
- Department of Defense
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice
- Department of Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Equal Opportunity Employment Commission
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- United States Coast Guard

MAKE GOVERNMENT CONNECTIONS

The DC semester builds a bridge between studying and practicing law. It’s an impressive resume-builder, and students leverage their on-the-job experiences into employment opportunities.

Policy is where the law is written. It’s the genesis for laws and the basis for all the advice lawyers give their clients. Today, the most rewarding part of my job is working with bright, talented, and dedicated individuals at J.P. Morgan while trying to bring advanced solutions to the Department of Defense.

— DAVID RADER, ’16

SERVE YOUR COUNTRY

Spartan lawyers combine their legal skills with a passion for public service. The result? Standout careers in the federal government that make a difference in the lives of their fellow Americans.

PREPARE TO LEAD: DC SEMESTER

DAVID RADER, ’16
Former DC Extern, Department of Defense
Former Investment Analyst, Department of Defense
Current Vice President of Treasury Services, J.P. Morgan Chase

MAHFOUZ ACKALL, ’09
DARREN FERNANDEZ, ’14
Associate Attorney, FDIC
Attorney, FCC
ASHLEY GUTWEIN, ’16
Legislative Counsel, US House of Representatives
Contract Specialist, National Institutes of Health
NDIDI OKEAGU, ’14
MARTIN PETERS, ’09
Associate Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs
Contract Specialist, National Institutes of Health

Policy is where the law is written. It’s the genesis for laws and the basis for all the advice lawyers give their clients. Today, the most rewarding part of my job is working with bright, talented, and dedicated individuals at J.P. Morgan while trying to bring advanced solutions to the Department of Defense.

— DAVID RADER, ’16

DAVID RADER, ’16
Former DC Extern, Department of Defense
Former Investment Analyst, Department of Defense
Current Vice President of Treasury Services, J.P. Morgan Chase
JD students must complete 88 credits to graduate, and most full-time students complete law school in three years. While the first year curriculum is prescribed, 2Ls and 3Ls are free to select most of their own classes for the next two years, providing ample opportunity to explore a wide range of subjects or to concentrate on a specific area of the law.

CUSTOMIZE
Our Curriculum

Spend time with the basics
We’ve calibrated the required first year courses to reflect the enduring fundamentals of legal theory and the realities of today’s legal practice. You’ll spend a year immersed in the principles of the law, setting the stage for success in law school.

Be curious
Once the first year is over, you’ll be free to choose courses that inspire you. MSU Law offers around 170 different electives every year.

Not sure what kind of law you’re planning to practice? You’ll explore topics that you’ve never encountered before, opening up exciting career avenues. Your coursework will also provide a springboard for hands-on learning experiences.

Choose your path
If you already know your niche, you’ll have opportunities to pick classes that align with your ambitions by immersing yourself in a curricular focus area. Each focus area represents a grouping of course offerings, faculty expertise, and co-curricular options.

Work with experts
Our faculty members are leaders in their fields, and our courses represent the impressive range of their interests. You’ll have the opportunity to work closely with them in small classes.

Broaden your knowledge
You can take six credits of coursework at MSU’s prestigious graduate schools. Our students benefit from classes in Labor Relations, Social Work, Urban Planning, the world-class Broad Business School, and many more.

Non-JD Programs

Global Food Law
Experienced professionals in the food industry bring their backgrounds in regulatory affairs, compliance, quality assurance, food safety, nutrition, labeling, and more into a unique online learning environment.

American Legal System
Attorneys from all over the world come to MSU Law to learn about the fundamentals of the American legal system. They take many courses alongside JD students, contributing valuable global perspectives.

Intellectual Property
Lawyers and non-lawyers seeking specialized knowledge in IP, Information, and Communications can earn an LLM or MJ degree by taking courses from leading experts in those fields.

Master of Legal Studies – New for Fall 2018
The customizable MLS degree provides career-critical legal knowledge to professionals in a wide range of fields, particularly those who work in state government as officials, lobbyists, and regulators.
SPEND TWO FULL YEARS LEARNING HOW TO STAND OUT IN THE COURTROOM.

Trial Practice Institute (TPI) students conduct full civil and criminal trials in front of real judges, sharpening their skills with personal feedback. Graduates go on to excel as trial attorneys: prosecutors, public defenders, criminal defense attorneys, and civil litigators.

Admission to TPI is COMPETITIVE AND HIGHLY SELECTIVE. Around 30 students are chosen each year through a rigorous application and interview process. Practicing lawyers and judges teach students how to present expert witness testimony, engage jurors with performance skills, and understand scientific evidence. They’re exposed to the basics of computer forensics, accident reconstruction, and forensic pathology.

TPI students will master core litigation skills like:

- Analyzing factual claims
- Drafting pleadings
- Negotiating discovery
- Taking and defending depositions
- Writing motions
- Developing the theme and theory of a case
- Selecting jurors

The program gives law students a realistic view of the practice of law. This includes the strategic planning, research, and time demands that go into each case. Our students learn networking, the importance of professionalism, and the value of hard work.

— VERONICA VALENTINE MCNALLY, ’04
Trial Practice Institute Director

TRIAL PRACTICE INSTITUTE ADVANTAGES

1. Refine your speaking skills. Oral advocacy is a critical trial component, and TPI will put you in front of audiences for two years.

2. Create a professional portfolio. You’ll build strong legal writing samples – from briefs to written appeals – to impress prospective employers.

3. Lead the curve in tech training. Training in the high-tech TPI courtroom will prepare you to hit the ground running in legal practice.

4. Develop faculty mentors. Student-faculty engagement extends outside of the classroom, as professors share insights on their careers.

5. Build a classroom community. TPI cohorts spend two years working on the same projects, sharing ideas in class, and striving for similar career goals.

TRIAL PRACTICE INSTITUTE
Leave law school as a litigator.
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, INFORMATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS LAW
Protect the next big idea.

MSU Law trains intellectual property attorneys to enable innovation. Lawyers play a pivotal role in ensuring that creators benefit from their ideas. MSU Law’s comprehensive Intellectual Property, Information, and Communications Law (IPIC) program prepares our grads to play this pivotal role in the information economy.

Our IPIC faculty leads the field in intellectual property law, and they bring their scholarship and hands-on experience into the classroom. Michigan State University’s position as a global leader in the sciences also connects our students with up-to-the-minute developments in engineering, computer science, agriculture, and communications – as well as efforts to protect MSU’s own innovations.

Professor Carter-Johnson’s undergraduate background in mathematics and biology, her PhD in microbiology, and her legal studies, provide the perfect backdrop for her work on biological research and the law. Her primary interests involve technology transfer from universities and the regulations surrounding transgenic plants and animals.

The law lends itself to being flexible, which means a science background can be used in many different ways. My students explore the impact that scientific advancement has on society as a whole.

— JENNIFER CARTER-JOHNSON

Professor Candeub previously served as an attorney-advisor in the Media Bureau of the FCC, where he was involved in critical decisions in communications law. He brings those experiences into the classroom, and they inform his scholarly interests on regulation, economics, and communications law.

IPIC grads are in demand. It’s intellectually stimulating work with an impressive return on investment. Our graduates work at leading global IP firms and as in-house counsel for some of the world’s most iconic brands.

— ADAM CANDEUB

CUTTING-EDGE COURSES
Aside from the foundational courses, like Copyright Law and Patent Law, we offer hard-to-find courses in emerging areas. Our classes include intimate seminars, hands-on workshops, and exciting study abroad programs.

Antitrust Law
Biotechnology Law Seminar
Copyright Law
E-Discovery
Great Lakes First Amendment Law Clinic
Intellectual Property Survey
International Intellectual Property Law
Licensing Intellectual Property
Media Law
Patent Application Preparation
Patent Law

Patent Litigation
Quantitative Analysis for Lawyers
Research, Writing, and Analysis: Intellectual Property
Trademark Law
Sports Law

Croatia Study Abroad Program:
Topics in Comparative Copyright
Topics in Cyber Law from an International Perspective
Topics in European Private Law and Intellectual Property Law
Immigration law integrates elements from a wide range of legal disciplines. With national leaders in the field teaching core courses and working one-on-one with students in the Immigration Law Clinic, MSU Law trains students to represent their clients with skill and empathy.

Courses that help prepare immigration practitioners include:

- Administrative Law
- Child Advocacy
- Client Counseling and Interviewing
- Constitutional Law and the Regulatory State
- Criminal Procedure
- Domestic Violence
- Employment Law
- Family Law: Marriage and Divorce
- Family Law: Child, Family and the State
- Federal Jurisdiction
- Immigration Consequences of Crime
- Immigration Law
- Immigration Law Clinic I and II
- International Human Rights
- Refugee and Asylum Law

Our cases are compelling: children who are facing deportation from the United States, victims of domestic violence and refugees with disabilities confronting barriers to naturalization, among others. Our students commit themselves to challenging legal work, and they make a difference in the lives of their clients.

The Immigration Law Clinic has served clients from more than 80 countries.

Immigration Law Clinic:

CHANGE LIVES.

Immigration Law Clinic students advocate for vulnerable immigrant populations, including unaccompanied children, domestic violence victims, and indigent families. Students and faculty work together to find creative solutions for clients who often are at life-altering crossroads. Students can represent their clients in immigration courts, administrative agencies, family courts, and federal courts of appeal.

Once an undocumented immigrant herself, Monica Andrade is now a US citizen, a law school graduate, and an elite public interest fellow. The highly-selective Skadden Fellowship Program, which has been described as "a legal Peace Corps," provides funding for recent law grads who plan to devote their professional lives to providing legal services to the disadvantaged.

Andrade will work with the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan in Flint, advocating for immigrant families harmed by the toxic water crisis. Her project includes direct outreach to immigrants, strategic litigation, and using media to highlight the problems faced by the immigrant community.

Andrade described her work as a student in MSU Law’s Immigration Law Clinic as "the most compelling part of my education." Working with faculty, she navigated clients through a bewildering web of immigration laws and regulations.

I come from a background where so many people live in fear and don’t have a voice in their treatment. I know what it feels like to be treated with such disrespect in employment, education, or housing. The law can bring hope and address the all-too-common pains experienced by the less powerful.

— SKADDEN FELLOW: MONICA ANDRADE, ’17

MONICA ANDRADE, ’17 | Skadden Fellow, ACLU of Michigan | Flint, MI
Environmental law coursework connects students with the increasingly complex world of environmental legal issues. Students explore the role of agencies, courts, and citizen groups in the implementation of environmental and conservation law. They also examine the challenges associated with enforcement.

I help students think about the relationship between regulatory instruments and policy goals, and to consider the inevitable trade-offs among regulatory choices.

— NOGA MORAG-LEVINE
Professor of Law
Constitutional Law and the Regulatory State
Environmental Law, and Regulating Environmental Risk

There’s objective evidence of a growing awareness in the general public of animal issues, which supports and lends credibility to their expanding representation in the legal system.

— DAVID FAVRE

The Indigenous Law and Policy Center (ILPC) at MSU Law is one of only a few programs that trains lawyers to work on behalf of indigenous people and tribes. As independent nations, tribes can form their own governments and adjudicate their own legal cases. With over 500 federally-recognized American Indian tribes, there’s a critical need for this specialized knowledge.

The ILPC faculty are leading thinkers on Indian law issues, connecting students with leading lawyers, scholars, and policymakers. Alumni work for tribes nationwide, major law firms, nonprofits, and the federal government.

The most rewarding aspect of my firm’s work is being directly involved with tribal leaders who are trying to improve opportunities in their communities, or defend their rights. I also work as a tribal judge, serving my own tribe.

— BRYAN NEWLAND, ’07
Attorney, Fletcher Law
Lansing, MI
Tribal Judge, Bay Mills Indian Community (Ojibwe)
Trustee, MSU Law Board of Trustees

The leading resource for animal law scholars, practitioners, and the media, the Center provides a comprehensive online library of materials for both lawyers and non-lawyers. Offering expert explanations of 60+ animal law topics, over 1200 full text cases, and historical perspectives on social attitudes toward animals, it’s a critical resource in a rapidly changing environment.

There’s objective evidence of a growing awareness in the general public of animal issues, which supports and lends credibility to their expanding representation in the legal system.

— DAVID FAVRE

Legal Fellow,
National Congress of American Indians
Washington, DC

Member,
US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Washington, DC

TAMARA BEGAY, ’15

JOHN SIMMEYER, ’14

BRYAN NEWLAND, ’07

DAVID FAVRE | Professor of Law | Animal Law | Journal of Animal Law and Natural Resources | Property
DUAL DEGREES
Sometimes you need to think outside the law.

Interested in maximizing your marketability? MSU’s many professional degree programs provide opportunities to build interdisciplinary expertise. Our students can enhance the value of their J.D.s by earning another graduate degree concurrently. Dual degrees allow a predetermined number of credits from each program to count as electives in the other.

Recent custom degree programs include:
- J.D.-M.A. in English
- J.D.-M.S. in Fisheries & Wildlife
- J.D.-M.S. in Forestry
- J.D.-M.A. in Labor Relations & Human Resources
- J.D.-M.A. in Urban & Regional Planning
- J.D.-M.S.W. in Social Work

J.D.-M.B.A. PROGRAM
The legal employment market is crowded. Stand out.

MSU Law students can position themselves for leadership by completing a Master’s of Business Administration (M.B.A.) at MSU’s Eli Broad College of Business.

Combining an MSU Law J.D. with an M.B.A. from MSU’s nationally-ranked Eli Broad College of Business will prepare you for the unique opportunities available in corporate legal settings. The Broad M.B.A. program is ranked in the top 15 public US business programs across all five major ranking platforms, and students learn from leading experts. J.D./M.B.A. students also build standout networks with Spartan alumni from both schools, which is a major asset in a post-graduation job search.

Whether you plan to represent clients in a courtroom or spend your career in the boardroom, the skills you earn as a J.D./M.B.A. will be valued in a wide range of roles.

- Corporate counselors
- Financial advisors
- Law associates
- Global contracting team leaders
- Sales executives
- Investment analysts
- Consultants

US-CANADIAN DUAL J.D. PROGRAM
Practice law on both sides of the border by earning law degrees in two countries in four years. Dual U.S.-Canadian J.D. degree recipients prepare to represent clients on either side of the world’s largest bilateral trade relationship.

East Lansing is located about a 90-minute drive from the Canadian border, making it easy to transition (and visit) between the two countries. Program participants live and study for two years in each country while preparing to practice law in both the U.S. and Canada. Grads can take the bar exam in the U.S. as well as the Canadian Barrister’s Exam.

I am originally from Toronto, and I saw firsthand the increasingly global nature of communication and business. Pursuing a dual J.D. allows me separate myself from other professionals with my strong understanding of the operation of law on both sides of the border.

— MATTHEW DOWNER, ‘16
Associate, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin
Toronto, ON

WHERE A J.D./M.B.A. CAN TAKE YOU

MAX KOZINN, ’11
Director of Sales, Spurs Sports
San Antonio, TX

EMILY STRICKLER, ’14
IP and Data Privacy Associate
McGuireWoods
Richmond, VA

JOSEPH DOMENICO, ’16
Senior Consultant, EY
Chicago, IL

MAX KOZINN, ’11
Director of Sales, Spurs Sports
San Antonio, TX

EMILY STRICKLER, ’14
IP and Data Privacy Associate
McGuireWoods
Richmond, VA

JOSEPH DOMENICO, ’16
Senior Consultant, EY
Chicago, IL

PAUL ROBERTSON, ’16
Associate, Wells Fargo
Orlando, FL

DANIEL ELLIOT, ’16
Legal Business Analyst
Elevate Services
Chicago, IL

JOSEPH DOMENICO, ’16
Senior Consultant, EY
Chicago, IL

PAUL ROBERTSON, ’16
Associate, Wells Fargo
Orlando, FL
MSU Law students get an early start using the law to help others. We encourage second- and third-year law students to participate in clinics, resolving real legal problems for members of vulnerable groups. Clinics represent underserved communities: elderly renters on the brink of eviction, unaccompanied immigrant children, domestic violence survivors, prisoners whose civil rights have been violated, and Indian families struggling to stay together.

Along the way, students also experience what it’s like to be a lawyer. They have full ownership over their cases. Students receive intensive support from faculty members, who often serve as personal mentors and allies in the post-graduation job search. Working in the clinic creates a close-knit community of students with a passion for representing clients.

Clinic work gives students a chance to learn that as lawyers they can change people’s lives.

— VERONICA THRONSON
MSU Law Clinic Director, Clinical Professor of Law

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Make a difference
MSU Law Clinic

Animals law encompasses nearly every practice area, and our students gain hands-on experience in this rapidly-developing field. Clinic students devise and deploy creative legal strategies designed to further the welfare of animals that are exploited in captivity. Clinical activities focus on areas in which the law is lacking or critically under-enforced, while working to enhance legal protections for domestic and exotic animals.

Clinic students also cultivate relationships with leading practitioners in animal law through an ongoing series of guest lectures and presentations.

The Clinic devises strategies that address issues like:

- Inhumane treatment at roadside zoos
- Exploitation in entertainment acts
- Abuse in industrial farming operations
- Live-animal use for trauma training

As one of only two active law school clinics in the country that focus exclusively on animal welfare, MSU Law’s Animal Welfare Clinic provides our students with opportunities to stand out in the practice of animal law.
The Tax Law Clinic provides free legal services to low-income taxpayers who are in controversy with the Internal Revenue Service. Tax Law Clinic students represent their clients by challenging tax controversies before the IRS, state tax courts, the United States Tax Court, and federal courts of appeal.

Working in the Tax Law Clinic provides students with invaluable experience in navigating the incredibly complex tax system. Along the way, they learn how to prioritize work across multiple cases, litigate tax controversies, and manage long-term client relationships.

From assisting clients with innocent spouse claims and tax collection problems to offering educational programming to migrant laborers in rural communities, clinic students offer much-needed services.

By pairing future social workers with future lawyers, the Chance at Childhood clinic offers a unique opportunity for students from different disciplines to learn from each other.

Social work students and law students work in pairs to interview adults and children, perform home checks for child safety, and make recommendations to the court. The clinic mainly deals with abused, neglected, and at-risk children, but will handle any matter that directly involves children’s legal interests.

Law students are required to take a child welfare course in the School of Social Work and social work students must take at least one family law course in the College of Law.

At the end of the day, regardless of how emotional and difficult the situation may be, you always remember that you are speaking for a child who wouldn’t otherwise have a voice in the legal proceedings.

— COURTNEY LYMAN ’13
Assistant Deputy Public Defender, Office of the Law Guardian
Camden, NJ

Hearing the relief in clients’ voices when you tell them that you got their huge tax debt wiped out or that the collections notices will stop is incredibly satisfying.

— STEVEN HARDING ’15
Case Administrator, Castle Law Office
Kansas City, MO
Exceptional student SUPPORT

The whole MSU Law community is dedicated to student success, and we take an active approach. From helping new students navigate the 1L year to preparing them to pass the bar, we’re dedicated to fostering an engaged, accomplished, and happy student body.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM

The Academic Success Program (ASP) builds academic and personal skills that will see you through an intense three years. In addition to attending ASP programming, students can meet with ASP Director Goldie Pritchard for private coaching sessions. These meetings help to foster wellness and build a studying strategy – including techniques and schedules – customized for different courses and professors.

The ASP offers:

One-on-one consultations
Group workshops on:
  - Reading for class
  - Briefing a case
  - Notes-taking
  - Final exam preparation
Labs built around specific professors’ testing styles
Simulated practice exams

LEGAL WRITING SUPPORT

One of the first challenges that new 1Ls face is learning how to write for legal audiences. Writing Skills Specialist Jeremy Francis’ primary focus is on helping students to transition from an undergrad writing environment to writing for legal audiences. Professor Francis hosts an annual series on writing mechanics, small group workshops, and one-on-one paper reviews. He also helps upper-level students to develop a professional writing portfolio.
I never lose sight of the fact that I'm here to support students.
Developing programming is great, but I keep my door open because I need to be here for the students.
— MARY ANN FERGUSON, '02
Director of Diversity Services
Title IX Coordinator

The Career Services Office (CSO) is a team of legal career experts that works with students through every stage of the career-building process. They coach students on exploring law careers, developing polished application materials, and networking with prospective employers. The CSO’s lunches, workshops, and panel discussions offer opportunities to develop career-critical skills.

Recent programs include:
- Business Analytics Basics
- Connecting with Lawyers
- Dressing for Interviews
- Leadership for Lawyers
- Launch Your Career: Social Media
- Mock Interview Program
- Navigating Law School: Insights from 3Ls
- Professional Etiquette Dinner
- Self-Promotion for Women
- Speed Networking
- Utilizing LinkedIn

The Diversity Services Office has an inclusive mission: to make sure that all students experience a welcoming, supportive environment. That mission extends from the classroom to the Academic Success Program to cultural events to developing personal relationships with students of all backgrounds.

Interacting with our dedicated, accomplished faculty members is at the heart of the MSU Law experience. MSU Law professors have studied and practiced law worldwide, and they share unique insights with their students, bringing the law to life for a new generation of lawyers.

Faculty members will help you find your niche in law through classroom engagement, one-on-one learning opportunities, and lifelong mentorships. Faculty members co-author papers with their students, create personalized experiences through directed study courses, coach trial competition teams, and offer research opportunities on cutting-edge legal scholarship.

Open-door policies mean that you can always find professors in the building who are willing to share their expertise – and a listening ear.

Our faculty are known for:
- Advocating for Holocaust education in schools
- Navigating the legalities of biological research
- Pioneering high-efficiency legal services
- Exploring constitutional oddities
- Promoting Native American tribal rights
- Developing virtual legal education
- Revealing patterns of racial bias in juror selection
- Influencing administrative policy
- Pursuing justice for families
Like many of my colleagues, I bring my professional experiences into the classroom – my work as an attorney representing Chicago-area school districts and my time at the US Department of Education Office for Civil Rights during law school. My students learn that it’s not enough for lawyers to advise our clients about whether they would prevail in a lawsuit — ultimately we need to help our clients solve their problems.

— KRISTI BOWMAN

Teaching at MSU has been the most rewarding experience of my professional career. I love working with the students here, writing about the law, and participating in the broader life of the Law College.

— MICHAEL SANT’AMBROGIO

I have tremendous respect for my students. They’re smart, they’re determined, they’re passionate, and they inspire me to do my best work. Every time I stand in front of my class, I’m reminded that it’s a great privilege to be there.

— PHILIP PUCILLO

Four-time recipient of the Student Bar Association’s Excellence in Teaching Award
STUDENT- RUN JOURNALS

Journal of Animal & Natural Resource Law was the second legal journal on animal law established in North America and remains one of just three dedicated to this topic.

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

Michigan State Law Review receives 2,000 annual submissions from legal scholars and brings exciting thought-leaders to campus for two yearly symposia.

COMPETITION TEAMS

MSU Law was ranked one of the top 20 moot court programs of the last decade by PreLaw Magazine, as well as one of last year’s strongest programs. Our students work closely with faculty mentors to hone their skills, showcasing their intellect, preparation, and teamwork at competitions all over the nation.

STUDENT LIFE AT MSU LAW

As an MSU Law student, everything you need is located in the Law College building. From classrooms to clinics to faculty offices to our own library to an on-site coffee shop, students experience the building as a home away from home. It’s where you’ll form close, lifelong relationships with your famously outgoing Spartan classmates.

Students can channel their passions through countless co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Our 35+ student organizations include active political groups, a musical theatre revue, social justice societies, and interest-specific clubs.

MSU’s moot court program is ranked 9th in the country.

Welcome to Spartan country. Michigan State University owes its environment to its student population of over 50,000. The campus brings together people from all over the world into a diverse, energetic community.

It’s easy to stay busy at MSU; we’re home to almost a hundred miles of walking paths, our own dairy store with 32 custom ice cream flavors, 20,000 bicycle parking spaces, and a canoe rental facility. Every day, thousands of Spartans bike, walk, and jog to class, enjoying the changing seasons on one of the nation’s largest, greenest campuses.

MSU Law students enjoy the academic benefits of our connection with Michigan State. They can select any six credits of graduate-level MSU coursework, building specialized knowledge by studying under experts in many fields.

Law students often take elective courses in:

- Social Work
- Labor Relations & Human Resources
- Business
- Urban & Regional Planning

US News & World Report ranks MSU 78th among the world’s top 100 universities.
The EAST LANSING experience

East Lansing is a classic university town, with year-round cultural events and a diverse population. When you need a study break, check out the local retail shops, art galleries, and international restaurants. East Lansing has a reasonable cost-of-living, a user-friendly mass transit system, and all the character of a classic Midwestern college town.

The community offers safe, affordable housing: on-campus graduate student dorms, local pet-friendly apartments, downtown lofts, and houses in quiet family neighborhoods.

EAST LANSING HAS:

- 48,900 RESIDENTS
- 24 PARKS
- 14 MILES OF BIKE LANES
- 21 COFFEE SHOPS
- 35 BARS
- 156 RESTAURANTS
- 900+ BUSINESSES

East Lansing hosts an array of street fairs, including the annual Art Festival, the East Lansing Film Festival, the Great Lakes Folk Festival, and the Summer Solstice Jazz Festival.

SPARTAN ATHLETICS

Every fall, 75,000 fans fill the stadium to cheer for the Spartan football team. But football season isn’t just about watching the games – it’s an experience. The streets are closed to traffic as thousands of students, alumni, and sports fans tailgate on campus: bodies are painted, the fight song plays, the smell of barbecue fills the air. Official MSU Law football events bring Spartan lawyers and law students together.

MSU has a legendary basketball program, and we make regular appearances in the NCAA Final Four. When March Madness sweeps the campus, MSU students and fans will be drawing up their brackets and cheering on the team from bars all over East Lansing.

You’ve seen Spartan teams pulling off spectacular last-second victories. From the joy of the win to the heartbreak of defeat, millions of loyal fans come along for the ride.
JOIN

THE

SPARTAN
NATION