

ABA REQUIRED DISCLOSURES STANDARD 509

Information compiled from AY 2014, submitted in the annual questionnaire, provided here in compliance with the ABA Standard 509.

Introduction

The University of Puerto Rico School of Law is the only public law school in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the top ranked law school on the island. We recruit the most talented and qualified students. Their diverse academic backgrounds range from natural and social sciences to business administration and the humanities. The student body is comprised of graduates from the University of Puerto Rico, private local universities, United States universities and foreign institutions. Students choose the University of Puerto Rico School of Law, not only because it is the most prestigious institution for the study of law in Puerto Rico, but also because it offers an excellent legal education at the lowest cost in the United States and in Puerto Rico.

Admissions

The School of Law accepts students based on their academic excellence percentile. This percentile is tabulated by combining three basic criteria: the student's Bachelor's Degree cumulative G.P.A., as per the calculations of the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS), their LSAT results, and their EXADEP results. The three criteria receive the same weight at the time of calculating the numeric ranking.

Medians of Class admitted in 2014:

G.P.A.:	3.62
LSAT:	145
EXADEP:	617

For additional information, refer to Section 1 of Admissions, 2014 Annual Questionnaire or visit the following link. ([Link 1](#))

Transfers Credits

The School of Law could validate a maximum of 30 credits earned by the transfer student at the school of origin. Only courses graded with "A" or "B" will be accredited at the Dean's discretion. The courses approved will receive a "Pass" grade.

Attrition

For information regarding attrition data, refer to Section 4 of Admissions, 2014 Annual Questionnaire. ([Link 2](#))

Financial Aid

Our Financial Aid Office assists our students with loan and scholarship applications. The office also serves as a guide for students in researching and applying for a variety of private and government scholarships.

Tuition, fees and living costs

- Students living on-campus: \$10,895.00
- Students living off-campus: \$15,155.00

The School does not award scholarships that are conditional on law school academic performance; therefore, we do not post an ABA' conditional scholarship retention worksheet. The only scholarship offered is the legislative.

Legislative Program Scholarship

The Legislature assigns funds up to a maximum of \$2,000 per students, chosen by the following criteria: their application reflects an Expected Family Contribution of 1,000 or less, and has good academic progress. The amount assigned to the School varies every year, depending on the availability of funds. In consequence, students will receive the scholarship until the funds are exhausted.

For additional information, refer to Section 1 of Scholarships, Fellowships and Grants, 2014 Annual Questionnaire. ([Link 3](#))

Academic Programs

J.D.

The Juris Doctor Program can be completed either in a three year day time session, or a four year evening session. To obtain a JD degree, students must obtain at least 92 credits with a grade point average of at least 2.00, and meet all additional requirements stipulated by the Law School. Out of the 92 credits, 46 credits must be from medular required courses and a minimum of 46 credits in electives. Among the required courses, six credits must be from the Legal Aid Clinic. Electives must include two two-credit seminars in which a rigorous monograph is required.

L.L.M.

Our School's *L.L.M* program is specifically tailored to lawyers who completed their legal education outside of Puerto Rico and who desire to immerse themselves in a rigorous one year program that compares and contrasts the civil law and angloamerican legal traditions. The program requires students to complete 24 credits over two semesters of 15 weeks each. Each student's program is individually tailored depending on their specific area of interest.

Joint Degrees and Exchange Programs

The School of Law offers a wide and flexible range of academic programs, a diverse faculty dedicated to legal research and teaching, a solid clinical curriculum, and innovative exchange programs with law faculties in Canada, the United States, South America, and Europe. The Exchange Program invites students from the United States and English speaking students from foreign countries to experience, in their own language, a mixed legal system.

Joint Degree Programs in the University of Puerto Rico:

- Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration (JD/MBA)
- Juris Doctor and Doctor of Medicine (JD/MD)
- Juris Doctor and Master of Architecture (JD/MArch)
- Juris Doctor and Master in Public Administration (JD/MAP)

Joint Degree Programs with other academic institutions:

- Dual Juris Doctor and Law Degree Program with the University of Barcelona (Grado en Derecho y Maestría en Abogacía)
- Juris Doctor and Master in Public Policy with the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
- Juris Doctor and *International and European Legal Studies Programme* with the Universiteit Antwerpen, Belgium (JD/IELSP)

Exchange Programs with:

- University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law
- University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law
- University of Connecticut School of Law
- Vermont Law School
- Florida International University College of Law
- Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Chile
- Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad Diego Portales, Chile
- Facultad de Derecho, Universidad de Palermo, Argentina
- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Winter and Summer Programs:

- Summer law program in Barcelona
- Summer law program in Argentina and Chile.
- Winter program at the University of Ottawa

Curriculum and course descriptions

The guiding principle behind our academic program has been to increase and diversify the learning and development experiences of our students. The School of Law offers a wide variety of courses and seminars combining the two elements of the Puerto Rican legal system: the Civil Law and the Anglo-American traditions of law. Two factors have been vital to achieve our goals: the adoption of an innovative curriculum and the implementation of novel academic programs. These two factors bring about opportunities which help students obtain the practical and professional skills they need, while enhancing their abilities to develop a keen understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of the law and contemporary legal institutions and processes. The study program consists of a minimum of 92 credit hours.

For additional information regarding our curriculum, see the *courses catalogue* at our website.

Academic Calendar

First Semester 2014-2015

Second Semester 2014-2015

Legal Clinic and Pro Bono Programs

The Clinical Program is a required two-semester program for students pursuing a J.D. It stands as testimony to the School's commitment to community service and to the education of lawyers who are capable of providing competent and ethical assistance. Students represent clients under the supervision of experienced attorneys and clinical professors. They are responsible for interviewing clients, negotiating settlements, drafting pleadings, practicing motions, discovery, and trial and appellate practice. Simulations, lectures, workshops and court appearances are all part of the clinics' curriculum.

The clinics specially designed and modern facilities offer a distinctive environment, typical of a medium-sized law firm, where students learn the inner workings of the legal profession. The Legal Aid Clinic allows students to choose from a wide variety of subjects: cyber law, mediation, criminal law, gay and lesbian rights, immigration, civil rights, general civil law, environmental law, juvenile law, employment law, federal criminal law, community economic development, and intellectual property.

As part of its mission of preparing ethical and competent lawyers committed to public service and of maximizing the general public's access to justice, the Law School has established a Pro Bono Program. By way of this program, students provide free legal services to people and communities with limited resources. Volunteer students dedicate 40 hours of service per academic year in areas such as labor law, democracy and participation, sexual rights, animal rights and the rights of communities at risk of displacement, among others. With this initiative, the School's academic program incorporates a visible and structured emphasis on values that distinguish our legal community as one committed to service and social responsibility.

Faculty

Our faculty, comprised of 28 full-time and 51 adjunct professors, is a very well trained group of academics with special sensitivity to transcultural and transnational issues and concerns. Faculty

members contribute to projects with international implications, and to diverse academic bodies and institutions. Through these activities they demonstrate their substantial commitment to public service, to their students, and to their academic work.

For information about our full-time professors, visit our website in the faculty section.

Library

The UPR School of Law Library, established in 1913, is the preeminent law library in Puerto Rico and the biggest in the entire Caribbean Region. The Library's collection brings together the Civil Law tradition and the Anglo-American Common law tradition, both of which permeate Puerto Rico's unique legal system. The bibliographical collection consists of more than 400,000 volumes, both in print and microform. It also has more than 4,000 serial publications. The Puerto Rican legal collection is particularly well diversified; not only does it feature published material but it also encompasses the archives of former justices of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico. The United States collection is no less impressive. It contains laws, regulations and opinions published by all Federal and State courts. Since 1991, the library has served as a repository for documents and publications of the US Government Printing Office. The collection also encompasses an ample selection of Latin-American, European, and Anglo-American treaties. The Library has an excellent collection of law journals, dictionaries, encyclopedias, codes, and decisions by administrative dependencies.

The Law Library also features a comprehensive legal collection from the Caribbean Basin including Mexico, all Central American countries, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Surinam and the Caribbean islands. Our library has been designated by the Central American Parliament (Parlacen) as depository of its publications. In 1990, it was appointed as a European Document Center by the European Community.

Facilities

- Building with administrative and professors' offices.
- 74,275 sq. ft. library
- Wifi enabled
- 3 classrooms ranging in capacity from 100 to 200 students.
- 2 classrooms with a capacity of up to 44 students.
- 4 classrooms ranging in capacity from 20 to 25 students.
- Two courtrooms. One in an appellate court configuration.
- Smart classrooms.
- 3 classrooms with videoconference and digital evidence technology.
- Legal Clinic with interview rooms.
- Courtyard and student lounge.
- Bookstore.
- Cafeteria with outdoor seating.

Career Development

The Career Development Office provides services for students, alumni, and employers in the legal employment markets of Puerto Rico, the United States, Latin America and Europe. We coordinate on-campus visits and interviews during the Fall and Spring semesters. We also conduct a variety of

educational activities, coordinate an annual job fair, maintain a resource center, and advertise employment opportunities. The Career Development Office works hand in hand with the School to help it fulfill its mission of preparing leaders in the practice of law, public service and commerce. We offer the opportunity to help employers identify the best candidates for available positions.

For information regarding employment outcomes, refer to 2013 Employment Summary Report or refer to the following link. ([Link 4](#))

Bar Passage

Bar passage for first time takers for the class of 2012:

Test Takers:	179
Passers:	96
Pass rate:	53.63%

For additional information, refer to Section 5 of Bar Passage at the 2014 Annual Questionnaire or refer to the following link. ([Link 5](#))

ABA contact information

American Bar Association

http://www.americanbar.org/utility/about_the_aba/contact.html