follow the dream
Ideally situated in Northern California and housed in Martin Luther King Jr. Hall, UC Davis School of Law can help you fulfill your greatest ambitions. Whether the goal is corporate law or public service, UC Davis provides the knowledge, tools and connections within a uniquely supportive and collegial learning environment.
Welcome to UC Davis School of Law, where we offer the highest quality of legal education to outstanding students from all backgrounds. Our unwavering commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is known worldwide.

Consistently highly ranked among the nation’s top law schools, UC Davis Law views excellence as the standard. Yet the culture is friendly and inclusive. Our world-class “majority-minority” faculty consists of scholars whose expertise ranges from constitutional and business law to the latest takes on intellectual property and big data.

In the classroom and on the world stage, our faculty lend crucial, astute perspective to the most urgent issues of the day. They are the experts the media calls to help clear the cloud of misinformation surrounding free speech, immigration and civil rights, gun rights or the abortion debate.

Social justice principles guide Martin Luther King Jr. Hall. Through our ongoing Racial Justice Speaker Series, leading criminal law, civil rights and race scholars and top attorneys address the systemic racism that infects U.S. society.

We are committed to positioning our students as favorably as possible in the legal job market. Our Career Services staff attorney-counselors are ready to advise, and our devoted alumni willing to lend a hand.

If you are admitted and come to UC Davis Law, you will join a community ready to ensure you succeed. And you will never regret the decision.

Kevin R. Johnson
Dean, Mabie-Apallas Professor of Public Interest Law,
and professor of Chicana/o Studies
Professor David Horton teaches a UC Davis Law class outdoors.
The artful lawyer

Reza Harris was the graduate speaker at 2019’s commencement, and the artist behind a mural tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. painted on behalf of the Black Law Students Association. He started his law career at Silicon Valley’s Cooley LLP.

The King Hall community: A shared vision

With more than 50 student groups and six student-run law journals, student life reflects the remarkable diversity of UC Davis Law. The pursuit of social justice and public service remains as avid as it was 53 years ago, when students lobbied successfully to name the then-new law school building after Martin Luther King Jr. UC Davis graduates lawyers of conscience, regardless of their practice areas.
REMARKABLY ACCOMPLISHED 
AND DIVERSE:
UC Davis Law draws exceptional students.

- 40% will receive need-based aid
- 20% non-residents
- 3.69 undergraduate median GPA
- 178 undergraduate schools represented
- 22% first-generation college graduates
- 19% identify as LGBTQ+
- 61% Women
- 57% Students of Color

Figures based on the 2021-22 UC Davis School of Law student body.
AN INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE FACULTY

UC Davis School of Law is proud of its groundbreaking "majority-minority" faculty, ranked No. 22 in the nation in scholarly impact. The law school's modest size and community feel allow for greater interaction among students and faculty than at other top-tier law schools.
A productive partnership

Kendra Clark ’19 spent two years as a research assistant to Professor Irene Joe, a former New Orleans public defender whose scholarship incorporates criminal procedure and legal ethics. “Kendra is extremely dedicated to life as a public defender and the work public defenders do with indigent defendants,” Joe said. “Having her come on to provide a fresh perspective was crucial.”

Joe also assisted Clark, by providing examples of how to craft scholarly articles. While working with Joe, Clark drafted an article that later would be published by the UC Davis Law Review and win the school’s prestigious Hopkins award. Clark is now an Alameda County associate deputy public defender.
A degree from UC Davis School of Law opens doors to the United States’ premier law firms. We have alumni in the most desirable markets nationwide, with special concentrations in nearby — and red-hot — San Francisco and Silicon Valley. Southern California also is a hub.
Minutes from campus is Sacramento, California’s capital and one of the state’s most diverse and fastest-growing cities. An established Davis-Capitol pipeline helps graduates secure government and law-firm jobs.
Realize your ambitions

UC Davis Law offers one of the finest, and most well-rounded, legal educations available. Students can gain hands-on experience through externships, internships and clerkships, skills classes, moot court and law reviews, and by helping represent underserved populations via public service fellowships and our law clinics. Our Career Services office helps create further connections by bringing employers to campus to meet students.

From Law Review to entertainment law

“My time on the UC Davis Law Review was very helpful, just in the attention to detail. Especially as a transactional lawyer – every word you use matters.”

Cheryl Wei, class of 2011, at Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in Los Angeles, where she represents studios, production companies and television networks.
Working for you

Our Career Services office connects students to more than 200 employers each year. They include representatives from the nation’s largest law firms, small and midsize firms and the government and public interest sectors.

In 2022-23, Career Services is working with these employers and others to recruit UC Davis Law students through a virtual job-interview program and virtual job fairs. These online programs have made it easier for employers who are geographically distant from Davis to recruit students.

Class of 2021 employment summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Setting</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private practice</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business/industry</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial clerkships</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public interest/legal services</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UC Davis School of Law students have served as externs for the Chief Justice of California, Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, from UC Davis Law’s class of 1984, and for Justice Goodwin Liu (left) and (now-retired) Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar (right).
“At UC Davis School of Law, I got to know the professors really well. When I expressed an interest in entertainment, I was able to carve out that area for myself by taking the types of courses that would lead me on this track: contracts, intellectual property, copyright. ... There was such a broad array of opportunities. I was able to explore interests if I had them, and also parlay the classes I took into getting a job.”
J.M. Florentino ’21 spent the summer of 2019 working at Sacramento’s Weintraub Tobin law firm as a Sacramento County Bar Association Diversity Fellow. Florentino worked alongside fellow UC Davis Law student Anders Bostrom ’20, who was a summer associate at the firm.
Immigration Law Clinic

UC Davis School of Law’s Immigration Law Clinic often makes national headlines for its tireless work on behalf of detained migrant children and families and other immigrants in need. Now four decades old, the UC Davis Law clinic was among the first of its kind.
A TRADITION OF SERVICE

Public service is a foundation of UC Davis School of Law, which places students in government offices, the court system and nonprofits throughout the state and country through externships, public service law fellowships and other programs.

Dayja Tillman ’22 received UC Davis School of Law’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Award in 2022.
100+

UC Davis Law students received summer and post-grad public service fellowships in 2022

MORE THAN ONE QUARTER OF THE CLASS OF 2022 RECEIVED PUBLIC SERVICE LAW PROGRAM OR PRO BONO CERTIFICATES.

28K+

public service hours were amassed by the class of 2022

In fall 2020, Georgia native and 2020 MLK Service Award recipient Reid returned to the South to work on death-penalty cases as a fellow with the Equal Justice Initiative, the organization headed by professor and lawyer Bryan Stevenson (“Just Mercy”).

Evan Reid
CLASS OF 2020
Create the future

UC Davis Law alumni help shape the future, whether they are protecting copyrights of Silicon Valley tech entrepreneurs or safeguarding our waterways as environmental gatekeepers.

“I wanted to attend law school to better understand governance systems and the legal constraints in natural resource management.”

Before law school, Kalua worked at Ocean Conservancy, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit. Drawn to UC Davis Law’s outstanding environmental law program and opportunities to work in the state capital, Kalua externed with the Governor’s Office and State Water Resources Control Board. She is now water quality program manager for the California Ocean Protection Council.
Karen Johnson-McKewan  
CLASS OF 1985

A partner at Orrick in San Francisco, Johnson-McKewan has represented Netflix and Oracle in high-profile cases. In 2019, she was named to The Hollywood Reporter’s “Power Lawyers” list for the second consecutive year. Dedicated to pro bono work, Johnson-McKewan also scored a key win for Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky in 2018.

Alica Del Valle  
CLASS OF 2006

“There is no one singular definition of ‘lawyer’ today. If you have the skill set and confidence in your abilities, you can define ‘lawyer’ in a way that works for you.”

Del Valle at Airbnb in San Francisco, where she is global head of diversity and belonging.
At UC Davis Law, we are committed to helping provide equal access to a legal education. The King Hall Outreach Program helps undergraduates from underrepresented communities prepare for the law school admissions process; the Community College Pathway to Law School initiative targets law school hopefuls in community college; First Generation Advocates pairs first-generation UC Davis Law students with faculty mentors.
Ben Lima ’21, a first-generation college graduate, realized his plan of working with emerging companies when he went to work for Cooley LLP in fall 2021.
BEAUTIFUL, SUSTAINABLE, LIVABLE:
THE UC DAVIS EXPERIENCE

2ND
best public university in upward social mobility of its graduates,
(Washington Monthly, 2021)

5TH BEST
public university (Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings, 2020)

#1
most sustainable university in the U.S.
(GreenMetric World University Ranking)

LIGHT-FILLED AND AESTHETICALLY STRIKING,
Martin Luther King Jr. Hall sits in the loveliest part of the UC Davis campus, near the stately Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts and stunning Manetti Shrem Museum of Art.
STEPS AWAY FROM KING HALL lies the lush UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, a 3.5-mile literal pathway to environmental stewardship lined with carefully labeled trees and plants. The sustainability message carries throughout campus, where “zero waste” is the mandate.
SUPPORTING YOUR VISION

At King Hall, we believe finances should not be a barrier to a high-quality public legal education. We offer generous financial aid packages.

We offer a wide variety of funding options, and our extraordinarily generous merit- and need-based gift aid ensures that UC Davis School of Law remains financially accessible.

Financial assistance is available for students including: merit-based scholarships, need-based grants, early decision select scholars and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. public interest scholarships. The law school also offers financial aid for international students, veterans and undocumented students.

Detailed Financial Aid information & application instructions at law.ucdavis.edu/admissions/financial-aid

Average cost of attendance

**CALIFORNIA RESIDENT STUDENT COSTS (AVERAGE)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and fees</td>
<td>$53,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and supplies</td>
<td>$2,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic living</td>
<td>$17,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(housing, food, and personal)</td>
<td>$2,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$2,327</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$75,381</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Health: Insurance Plan (SHIP)</td>
<td>$5,610*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total with SHIP</strong></td>
<td>$80,991</td>
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</table>

**NON-RESIDENT STUDENT COSTS (AVERAGE)**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$2,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$87,382</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Health: Insurance Plan (SHIP)</td>
<td>$5,610*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total with SHIP</strong></td>
<td>$92,992</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All tuition and fees are subject to the control of the UC Regents and California Legislature and may change without notice.

Please see the Office of Budget and Institutional Analysis for the most current information at budget.ucdavis.edu/studentfees.

* Non-residents pay an additional $12,001 in tuition and fees, which includes a non-resident supplemental tuition fee. Eligible non-residents can establish California residence for purposes of tuition after one year. Please see registrar.ucdavis.edu/tuition/residence for more information.

* Students who have comparable insurance can apply for a SHIP waiver that will reduce the cost of attendance by $5,610.

Joana Peraza Lizarraga
CLASS OF 2021

“Scholarships are one of the most important gifts you can give to future generations.”

Peraza, recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Public Interest and Satre Family scholarships and a daughter of immigrants, is practicing immigration law as a fellow for the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

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what is your dream?
Apply

Required documents checklist for J.D. applicants

☐ Application for admission  
   Electronic or disabled-accessible submission required

☐ Personal statement  
   2 to 4 pages in length, double-spaced

☐ Résumé

☐ LSAC Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report

☐ Law School Admission Test (LSAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score

☐ Two letters of recommendation

Key dates

SEPT. 1, 2022  
Application period opens for fall 2022  
J.D. admission

NOV. 1, 2022  
Deadline to submit Early Decision applications  
(Applicants receive decisions on or before Nov. 30, 2022)

MARCH 15, 2023  
Deadline to submit J.D. applications for fall 2023

There is no fee to apply.

For the most current and detailed admission information, visit law.ucdavis.edu/jd

CONTACT US:  
530-752-6477 | admissions@law.ucdavis.edu