kansas law

Viewbook
2021-22

KU SCHOOL OF LAW
The University of Kansas
At KU Law, we don’t define value in traditional terms. Instead, we ask what we can give our students that will help them succeed anywhere they imagine.

We’ll equip you with the deep knowledge and practice-ready skills to achieve your goals. With programs in areas as diverse as corporate law, international law, public interest law and others, Jayhawk lawyers have been exploring new horizons near and far for more than 140 years.

You’ll build connections with nationally recognized legal scholars. You’ll form lasting bonds with your classmates. And you’ll find a home in a top 10 college town.

Ready to discover the value of a degree from KU Law?
First-Year Experience
Academic Areas
Summer Start Advantage

Hands-On Learning
Clinics
Field Placements

Expert Faculty
Community
Student Involvement

Career Services
Alumni Network
6th Semester in D.C.
Application Timeline
First-year curriculum includes small-section classes with 18 to 22 students.

**FIRST-YEAR CLASSES**

- Civil Procedure
- Contracts
- Criminal Law
- Property
- Introduction to Constitutional Law
- Lawyering Skills I and II
- Torts
GETTING STARTED

The first-year experience

The KU Law program starts with our five-day introduction to Lawyering Skills. Our faculty will provide you with the essential tools to excel in law school, then take you on a deep dive into the case law that forms the basis of a legal education. From how to read a case to how to properly outline a class, you will be ready to achieve.

CURRICULUM

The first year of law school sets the foundation for your legal career. KU Law faculty with extensive practice experience prepare you for intellectual and practical challenges in law school and beyond. The program begins with a core curriculum of doctrinal classes. You’ll learn Contracts, Constitutional Law, Property and other key subjects. Adding to that base, our first-year Lawyering Skills Program provides a full spectrum of preparation, from writing to training in negotiation, mediation and other skills.

SMALL CLASS SIZES

What makes it all work? Small class sizes. If you start in the fall, half of your first-year classes meet in small sections of 18 to 22 students. Summer starters begin as a single small section. Those small working groups allow for personal interaction with professors and an informal learning environment that encourages in-depth discussion and critical analysis. The trend continues for second- and third-year classes, with a median class size of 13.
Summer start advantage

As a first-year student, you may choose to begin your studies either in the summer or the fall. Summer starters begin law school in late May and enjoy these benefits:

**SMALL CLASS SIZES**
Summer start classes typically have 20 to 25 students.

**LIGHTER LOAD**
You’ll work hard in summer school, but you’ll only be taking two classes at a time.

**FLEXIBLE START**
Summer starters get an 8-credit head start on completing the 90 credits required to graduate, creating the opportunity to take fewer credits per semester and still graduate on time.

**ACCELERATED DEGREE**
Summer starters who accelerate their studies can complete their J.D. in two and a half years by attending school during summer and winter sessions. Combined with one of our joint degree programs, you can complete two degrees in as few as three years.

About 20 students in each entering class begin law school in the summer.
RISE AND SPECIALIZE

Upper-level courses and concentrations

You’ve conquered your first-year requirements. Now you have access to more than 100 upper-level courses in a variety of practice areas, from environmental law to sports law. Many are seminars, simulations, directed research or clinics.


law.ku.edu/academics →

12 JOINT DEGREES
Including Social Work, Economics, Public Administration and Journalism

4 LAW DEGREE PROGRAMS
J.D. | 2-Year J.D. for Foreign-Trained Lawyers | LL.M. in American Legal Studies | Doctor of Juridical Science

8 CERTIFICATES
Including International Trade & Finance, Business & Commercial Law, and Advocacy Skills

81 percent of upper-level classes have 25 or fewer students.
More than 55 years ago, KU Law started its first clinic: the Paul E. Wilson Project for Innocence. Today, students have access to an experiential learning program that includes live-client clinics, field placements and skills simulations. You can take and defend depositions, write and argue mock appellate briefs, represent state and federal inmates in post-conviction appeals, and more — all under the direction of clinical faculty, practicing attorneys and judges.

ADVOCACY COMPETITIONS

Competition is fun and challenging. At KU Law, you can participate in moot court, mock trial and transactional law contests. In your second year, you can enter the moot court competition, drafting an appellate brief and arguing before the “U.S. Supreme Court.” Top teams form the Moot Court Council and represent KU Law at national and international competitions. You can also train for national mock trial competitions and transactional law contests in which you negotiate and close a mock business deal.

Students can take part in skills simulation courses in Expert Witness testimony, Deals and Due Diligence.
EMORY SAUCEDO, L’19
HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE

EXPLORE
Summer intern at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

CONNECT
6th Semester in D.C. field placement with the National Association of Attorneys General

DISCOVER
Policy and program associate at National Alliance for Hispanic Health in D.C.
Donald Pinckney, L’23
Judicial Field Placement | Johnson County Courthouse

“The Judicial Field Placement is an enjoyable and educational experience that gives you the autonomy to determine how best to shape your summer.”

Aidan Graybill, L’21
Tribal Judicial Support Clinic

“Participating in the Tribal Judicial Support Clinic provided me with a unique perspective on tribal law practice. Working in the clinic allowed me an opportunity to develop a clearer understanding of the concepts of tribal law and sovereignty in an environment where I could directly apply it.”

100% of eligible students can take a clinical or field placement spot, with nearly 600 seats available in hands-on learning courses for students in 2020-21.
Real-world practice

Translate classroom theory into real-world practice in one of our 9 clinical and field placement programs. We’re talking real clients, real cases and real opportunities to make a difference for individuals and communities. Not only will you be testing your knowledge and gaining confidence — you’ll be showing employers you’re ready to hit the ground running.

CLINICS
• Legal Aid Clinic
• Mediation Clinic
• Project for Innocence
• Tribal Judicial Support Clinic

FIELD PLACEMENTS
• Criminal Prosecution
• Elder Law
• Field Placement Program, including 6th Semester in D.C.
• Judicial
• Medical-Legal Partnership

SKILLS SIMULATIONS
KU Law skills simulations provide training in advanced litigation, contract drafting, First Amendment advocacy and more. Taught in the same way top firms train new associates, these courses offer hands-on experience developing litigation and business law skills. Veteran attorneys teach Deposition Skills, Expert Witness Skills, Deals, and Due Diligence workshops, providing guidance and feedback as you practice with your peers.

Audrey Nelson, L’22
Project for Innocence

“The Project for Innocence allowed me to have a hands-on experience and apply what I have learned in my classes to real clients and their cases. I gained a deeper understanding of the injustices ingrained in our criminal system and further solidified my choice to pursue a career in public defense.”

law.ku.edu/hands-on →
Your professors at KU Law are scholars and lawyers recognized nationally and abroad as leaders in their fields. Many have written the casebooks used in their classrooms and, frequently, at law schools across the country. With decades of experience in practice and in the classroom, they will constantly challenge and engage you.

They’ll also offer advice and guidance as you navigate the challenges of becoming a lawyer. Faculty offices surround and open into the heart of Green Hall, the Wheat Law Library. So you’re never more than a few steps away from your teachers and mentors, and their doors are always open to students.

**Raj Bhala**
Distinguished Professor of Law  
Senior Advisor, Dentons  
Columnist, BloombergQuint  
Member, US State Dept. Speakers Program

- **5** Textbooks + treatises on international trade, Islamic law  
- **30** Countries taught/presented in  
- **28** Years teaching law  
- Member, Council on Foreign Relations

[law.ku.edu/faculty](http://law.ku.edu/faculty)
KU Law faculty members rank among the top 25 percent of all U.S. law schools for scholarly impact.

7-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio. Know your professors.

Jean Phillips
Clinical Professor of Law
Director, Project for Innocence

27
Years teaching law and supervising clinical students

67
Direct appeals, constitutional challenges and actual innocence cases won with assistance of students in the Project for Innocence
When you come to KU Law, you don’t just get an outstanding school. You get to live in a top 10 college town with hundreds of things to do. It’s large enough to give a big-city vibe, but small enough to make you feel right at home. A stunning hilltop campus overlooks the Kansas River and a vibrant downtown, where you can discover concert venues and street-corner musicians, browse locally owned art galleries and boutiques, and satisfy your craving for just about any food imaginable.

Lawrence is among the top 20 best places to live in the U.S., according to Livability.

Unmistakably Lawrence

Ideally located between the state capital and Kansas City, Lawrence gives you quick access to shopping, entertainment and an international airport. This geographic advantage equates to outstanding employment opportunities right here in Lawrence, 20 minutes west in Topeka (the seat of state government) and 40 minutes east in Kansas City (home to major corporations, law firms and a tech-fueled start-up culture).
Founded by abolitionists in 1854, Lawrence carries on the values of its founders: tolerance, optimism and community.

VISIT KU LAW
As our guest, you can take a student-led tour, sit in on a first-year class and meet with an admissions staff member. We also regularly host events online and in person.

law.ku.edu/visit →
A little competition is good, but collegiality is essential. You and your classmates are on this journey together, becoming fast friends and forming relationships that will last long after you leave Green Hall.

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**
KU Law students take full advantage of opportunities outside of the classroom. You can get involved in student government, intramural sports and student organizations. There are dozens of student interest groups at the law school alone and more than 600 across campus. More than social clubs, many of these groups contribute dollars and hours of service to the university and Lawrence communities.

**TRADITIONS**
A history more than 140 years in the making has produced a legacy of traditions and pastimes at KU Law. Camping out for prime student seats at Allen Fieldhouse, where the Kansas Jayhawks dominate in basketball. Inspiring your classmates and professors to donate thousands of dollars to area families in need. Testing your legal citation prowess in a fast-paced relay that pits small sections against one another in friendly competition. KU Law traditions bond students together across classes and generations: Thanksgiving Food Drive • Pub Night fundraiser for women’s charities • Diversity in Law Banquet • Barber Emerson Bluebook Relays • Walk to “Old” Green Hall

**SO MANY CHOICES**
KU Law student groups cover a wide range of interests and affinities. A few options:
- American Constitution Society
- Black Law Students Association
- Environmental Law Society
- Federalist Society
- Hispanic American Law Students Association
- Military Law Society
- OUTLaws & Allies
- Sports Law Society
- Women in Law
KU Law students access Big 12 sports, top-notch recreation facilities and miles of running and bike trails.

top-notch recreation facilities and miles of running and bike trails.

law.ku.edu/student-life →
Take the Next Step

One-to-one career planning

Your path to success starts the day you enter Green Hall. The Career Services Office takes an intensive one-to-one approach, developing a career strategy that is unique to you and your aspirations.

While most graduates enter legal practice with law firms, government agencies and corporations, others seek out nontraditional careers with consultancies, nonprofits and startups. Through individual and group programming, the Career Services Office will help you discover the breadth of amazing opportunities available to you and develop a detailed plan for launching the career you want.

Our office will connect you with the powerful network of KU Law graduates practicing throughout the region, across the country and around the world — opening doors that will assist you in securing your first job and throughout your career.
JANET MURGUIA, L’85
CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

KU Law grads have enjoyed successful nontraditional legal careers with public interest organizations, such as the ACLU, Amara Legal and Kansas Appleseed.

DISCOVER
President/CEO of UnidosUS, nation’s largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization

CONNECT
Jobs on Capitol Hill, in the White House and at the University of Kansas

EXPLORE
Earns 3 KU degrees, building Jayhawk network that opens doors

IMAGINE
Daughter of Mexican immigrants, raised in Kansas City, KS
EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

Career Services helps you make connections

**Legal Career Options Day**

Nearly 100 representatives from employers across the region come to KU Law each fall to meet the 1L class during Legal Career Options Day. Employers represent every possible legal career — from firms big and small, to state and federal agencies, to nonprofits and corporations — and they are here to help you expand your horizons and understand the array of career options available with a KU Law degree. You will make connections that could lead to summer and post-graduate employment.

**Summer Stipend Programs**

Sometimes the best legal job opportunities can only pay students with great experience. For that reason, KU Law has enlisted the help of donors to provide stipends for students taking unpaid or low-paid summer legal jobs. In summer 2021, the law school distributed $67,000 in stipends to support students in their summer employment at public interest organizations, government agencies and other offices across the country. Will you be next?

**Equal Justice Works Conference Program**

Supporting careers in public service is a priority for the CSO. Attending the Equal Justice Works Conference in Washington, D.C. is at the center of our commitment. Fully paid for by the school, students have the chance to interview with hundreds of public service employers from across the nation. We also host a reception where you can meet Jayhawk lawyers who have launched careers in the D.C. region, so you get the inside line on their path to success.

More than 93% of KU Law graduates in the Class of 2020 were employed within 10 months of graduation.
Key stats

$0.00
Free: that’s the cost of KU Law’s Bar Prep Program for all students, offered in partnership with Themis.

#44
Listed in Above the Law’s 2021 Top 50 Law School Rankings.

90% or better
Overall employment + full-time grad school for KU Law graduates over the past 7 years.

800+
Number of virtual interviews conducted with KU Law students by 70 law firms, government agencies and other employers in 2020-2021.

Best Value Law School
KU Law is #19 Best Value Law School in the country, according to National Jurist, based on bar exam success, job placement and affordability.

Support for Out-of-State Job Searches
Each year, the CSO commits funds to assisting our students who are looking for jobs outside of Kansas and the Kansas City area. A new Travel Stipend Program supports students wanting to attend job fairs or interviews across the country. Stipends can cover expenses including travel, lodging and mileage reimbursement. No matter where you want to go, the KU Law Career Services Office is ready to invest in helping you make your career goals a reality.

Speed Networking & Mock Interviews
Spring is a busy time for first-year law students, in part because the summer job search is in full swing. During interactive networking events, KU Law brings together dozens of successful alumni to work with students and help them hone their interviewing skills. You will connect with potential mentors in a wide range of practice areas during the CSO’s Speed Mock Interview sessions and other career development programs with KU Law alumni.

law.ku.edu/careerservices →
Go anywhere

Madhu Singh, L’09
Chief legal officer
Foundry Law Group | Seattle
IP and Entrepreneurial Law

“Getting a law degree at KU has turned out to be one of the best decisions I made for myself. Graduating with a wide network of KU Law alumni helped me transition to another city to practice law with ease. Look for those alumni connections while in school and set yourself up for the future.”

The KU Law Career Services Office helps students and alumni develop and execute career strategy.
Wherever you end up, the Jayhawk lawyer network will be there to welcome and support you. More than 8,000 KU Law alumni live in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, three U.S. territories and dozens of foreign countries.
CAPITAL CONNECTION

6th Semester in D.C. Program

6th Semester in Washington, D.C. students spend their 3L spring semester living, learning, working and connecting in our nation’s capital. They work nearly full-time in field placements and take courses from KU Law faculty. Supported by a Midwest-friendly network of KU Law alumni in the D.C. metro area, the program opens doors for students in Washington and beyond.

Live: Spend your final semester of law school immersed in the culture of our nation’s capital with fellow law students.

Learn: Take courses from KU Law faculty on topics essential to working in the competitive D.C. market.

Work: Gain realworld experience in a field placement with a government agency, nonprofit, or advocacy group.

Connect: Be part of KU Law’s deep D.C.-area alumni group before you graduate, creating your network.

Marissa Hotujac, L’20

Exterrnship: U.S. Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division

“Spending my 6th semester in D.C. was one of the best decisions I made in law school. I would never have anticipated the professional and personal growth that I would experience, and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity and the memories made.”
In the D.C. program, you may earn up to 12 credit hours through courses and field placements at approved organizations.

Students have secured placements at organizations such as the National Resources Defense Council, PBS, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, Department of Homeland Security, and House Judiciary Committee.

law.ku.edu/6th-semester →
**September**
**Sept. 1** // Application available
[law.ku.edu/apply](http://law.ku.edu/apply)

**October**
**Ongoing** // Check Admissions events to find out if a KU Law rep will be visiting your area. KU Law also attends virtual recruiting events in the fall.
[law.ku.edu/admissions-events](http://law.ku.edu/admissions-events)

**Oct. 1** // Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available.
[fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov)

**Fall 2020**
**Ongoing** // Virtual Info Sessions

Meet with the Office of Admissions online. Join us for regularly scheduled information sessions and live virtual events throughout the fall.
[law.ku.edu/connect](http://law.ku.edu/connect)

**February**
**Feb. 15** // Priority application deadline for scholarship consideration.

**March**
**March 1** // Priority date to file the FAFSA. File earlier if you can.

**March 15** // Seat deposit due (summer starters).

**March 15** // Priority application deadline.
If you’ve been admitted, register for Admitted Students Weekend.
April
April 8-9 // Admitted Students Weekend
April 15 // First seat deposit due (fall starters).

May
Summer starters attend orientation and start classes.

June
June 15 // Second seat deposit due (fall starters).

June/July
Schedule a visit.
law.ku.edu/visit
Start looking for housing.
law.ku.edu/housing

August
Attend orientation and start classes.

law.ku.edu/apply →