Listing, Computation and Description of Law School Specialty Programs

Listing – As of its 2006 edition of America’s Best Graduate Schools, both online and in hard copy, USNWR listed 9 law school specialties as follows:

1. Dispute Resolution (since 1998)
2. Clinical Training (since 1993)
3. Environmental Law (since 1993)
4. Health Law (since 1994)
5. Intellectual Property Law (since 1993)
6. International Law (since 1993)
7. Legal Writing (since 2005)
8. Trial Advocacy (since 1995 – when it was initially titled "Trial and Appellate Advocacy")
9. Tax Law (since 1993)

Computation – The online edition states that the 2006 law school specialty rankings were "computed in January of the year cited [i.e., 2006], based on data from a survey sent out in the fall of the previous year [i.e., 2005]." It appears that the hard copy editions’ rankings were computed in the same way. (Note that in 2004 two specialties, Intellectual Property Law and Tax Law, re-used the previous year’s rankings – see the bracketed years indicated below under the heading "Stanford Law School’s Specialty Rankings since 1993.")

Specialty Ranking Methodology

USNWR provides an explanation of its specialty ranking methodology online in its "Frequently Asked Questions – Rankings" web page (<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/about/faq_meth.php>) as follows:

6. How do you rank specialties within various disciplines?
   <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/about/faq_meth.php#six>

For each discipline, we identify the subjects in which schools most often offer concentrations. These areas are usually the most popular choices of specialization among graduate students. In some instances an area of specialization may not have large enrollment but may be of particular or emerging importance in the field. We ask the respondents to the peer assessment survey in a field—graduate school deans, program directors, and/or senior faculty—to nominate schools that have outstanding programs in each specialty area. Each survey respondent may nominate up to 10 schools in any specialty area. Since a directory of law faculty is available, we survey law faculty members who are listed as teaching in the specific specialty area we rank. Law faculty are asked to nominate up to 15 outstanding programs in the specialty they teach. We publish the schools receiving the highest number of nominations in each specialty area. Specialty rankings are based solely on the number of nominations they receive in each specialty area. The number of schools we publish in any specialty area varies, depending on the statistical significance of our survey results.... [Emphasis added.]

2
For its 2006 edition of America’s Best Graduate Schools, USNWR also states in hard copy (at page 62):

Specialty rankings: Rankings are based solely on votes by law faculty who are listed in the AALS [Association of American Law Schools] Directory of Law Teachers 2003-2004 as teaching in the field. They named up to 15 of the best in each field. Schools receiving the most votes are listed.

The online 2006 edition <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/about/06law_meth.php> states similarly:

Specialty Rankings: Legal educators nominated up to 15 schools in each field. Legal educators chosen were a selection of those listed in the Association of American Law Schools Directory of Law Teachers 2003-2004 Directory as currently teaching in the subject. Those schools that received the most nominations appear.

Hard copy editions of America’s Best Graduate Schools from 1999 to 2005 also state the same methodology – see, e.g., the 2001 statement:

Specialty rankings: Legal educators identified the 15 schools with the best offerings. The 10 schools receiving the most nominations appear. Schools verified their offerings.
Stanford Law School's (SLS's) Specialty Rankings since 1993

Since '93, SLS has been ranked in 5 of the 9 following specialties as follows:

1. Dispute Resolution
   a. 1993: ~
   b. 1994: ~
   c. 1995: ~
   d. 1996: ~
   e. 1997: ~
   f. 1998: ~
   g. 1999: ~
   h. 2000: 8th
   i. 2001: ~
   j. 2002: 7th
   k. 2003: 8th
   l. 2004: 8th [re-used 2003 ranking]
   m. 2005: 3rd
   n. 2006: 2nd

2. Environmental Law
   a. 1993: ~
   b. 1994: ~
   c. 1995: ~
   d. 1996: ~
   e. 1997: ~
   f. 1998: ~
   g. 1999: ~
   h. 2000: ~
   i. 2001: 10th
   j. 2002: 10th
   k. 2003: 11th
   l. 2004: 8th
   m. 2005: 10th
   n. 2006: 11th

3. Intellectual Property Law
   a. 1993: 5th
   b. 1994: 3rd
   c. 1995: 4th
   d. 1996: 3rd
   e. 1997: 7th
   f. 1998: 6th
   g. 1999: 8th
   h. 2000: 10th
   i. 2001: 10th
   j. 2002: 6th
   k. 2003: 9th
   l. 2004: 9th [re-used 2003 ranking]
   m. 2005: 7th
   n. 2006: 11th

4. International Law
   a. 1993: ~
   b. 1994: ~
   c. 1995: ~
   d. 1996: ~
   e. 1997: ~
   f. 1998: ~
   g. 1999: ~

5. Tax Law
   a. 1993: ~
   b. 1994: ~
   c. 1995: 8th
   d. 1996: 8th
   e. 1997: 9th
   f. 1998: 5th
   g. 1999: 10th
   h. 2000: 10th
   i. 2001: 10th
   j. 2002: 6th

As can be seen just above, SLS has not been ranked in Clinical Training, Health Law, Legal Writing and Trial Advocacy.

The SLS specialties that have been ranked the longest by USNWR are Intellectual Property Law (since 1993) and Tax Law (since 1995). SLS Dispute Resolution and Environmental Law have been ranked since 2001. SLS International Law has been ranked since 2003.
In addition, the median value for each of SLS’s rankings in the 5 specialties can be stated as follows:

1. Dispute Resolution – 10th
2. Environmental Law – 10th
4. International Law – 12th
5. Tax Law – 9th

Stanford Law School’s specialty rankings since 1993 are also available online at <https://juris.stanford.edu/library/RANK20052006.pdf>.

Attachments - selected photocopies of pages from hard copy editions, 1993-2006
- selected printouts from 2006 online edition

5
PROGRAMS RANKED BEST BY FACULTY WHO TEACH IN THE FIELD

Specialties

DESPITE REGISTRATION
1. Pepperdine University (CA)
2. Nova Southeastern University (FL)
3. Florida Atlantic University (FL)
4. Nova Southeastern University (FL)
5. Florida International University (FL)
6. St. Louis University (MO)
7. Barry University (FL)
8. Nova Southeastern University (FL)
9. Nova Southeastern University (FL)

CHANCELLORS
1. George Washington University (DC)
2. University of Maryland, Baltimore County (MD)
3. University of Maryland, Baltimore (MD)
4. University of Maryland, Baltimore (MD)
5. University of Maryland, Baltimore (MD)
6. University of Maryland, Baltimore (MD)
7. University of Maryland, Baltimore (MD)
8. University of Maryland, Baltimore (MD)
9. University of Maryland, Baltimore (MD)

ENTREPRENEURIAL LAW
1. U.S. Supreme Court, Washington, D.C.
2. University of Virginia (VA)
3. University of Virginia (VA)
4. University of Virginia (VA)
5. University of Virginia (VA)
6. University of Virginia (VA)
7. University of Virginia (VA)
8. University of Virginia (VA)
9. University of Virginia (VA)

UNEQUAL PROFESSIONAL LAW
1. U.S. Supreme Court, Washington, D.C.
2. University of Virginia (VA)
3. University of Virginia (VA)
4. University of Virginia (VA)
5. University of Virginia (VA)
6. University of Virginia (VA)
7. University of Virginia (VA)
8. University of Virginia (VA)
9. University of Virginia (VA)

Other schools to consider

The next two specialties of schools are listed alphabetically in two groups, the Third Tier and Fourth Tier, law schools with
in each of these tiers should be considered formally similar in quality. To be listed, a law school must be accredited and fully
approved by the American Bar Association and must draw most of its students from the United States. Remember that con-
sidering a law school you should look at only at Strumking"or tier but also at other characteristics: its location, price, cost
of living, and faculty experience, to name a few. More information
up on the schools is available in the directory (Page 101).

THIRD TIER
(ranking begins at 103; schools are listed alphabetically)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Third Tier</th>
<th>Fourth Tier</th>
<th>Yearly tuition</th>
<th>Acceptance</th>
<th>Class Size</th>
<th>Median LSAT Score</th>
<th>Median GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1001</td>
<td>Albany Law School (NY)</td>
<td>7-11</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>$38,250</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1002</td>
<td>Arizona State University (AZ)</td>
<td>7-11</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>$27,760</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1003</td>
<td>East Carolina University (NC)</td>
<td>7-11</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>$30,540</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1004</td>
<td>Florida Gulf Coast University (FL)</td>
<td>7-11</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>$30,540</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1005</td>
<td>Florida International University (FL)</td>
<td>7-11</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>$30,540</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1006</td>
<td>Georgia State University (GA)</td>
<td>7-11</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>$34,910</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1007</td>
<td>Georgia State University (GA)</td>
<td>7-11</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>$34,910</td>
<td>156</td>
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<td>1008</td>
<td>Georgia State University (GA)</td>
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<td>$34,910</td>
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<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>1009</td>
<td>Georgia State University (GA)</td>
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<td>11-15</td>
<td>$34,910</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on these schools, please visit www.usnews.com
Specialties

PROGRAMS RANKED BEST BY FACULTY WHO TEACH IN THE FIELD

However, the image contains text and is not clearly readable due to the quality of the scan. It appears to be a page from a book or a document discussing specialties and rankings. The text is partially obscured and difficult to decipher in its original form. It seems to include listings of academic programs ranked best by faculty who teach in the field, possibly related to law or another discipline. Due to the quality and resolution of the image, it is challenging to extract clear text without further processing.
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS AT A DINNER AND DISCUSSION AT THE HOME OF DEAN SAUL LEVIAIRE

[2004]

More at:www.ergonews.com  AMERICA'S BEST GRADUATE SCHOOLS 29
SPECIALTIES
 Programs ranked best by faculty who teach in the field

CLINICAL TRAINING
1. Georgetown University (5)
2. New York University (4)
3. American University (2)
4. University of Maryland (3)
5. CUNY-Queens College (2)
6. Washington Univ. in St. Louis (3)
7. Univ. of Michigan-Ann Arbor (2)
8. University of Maryland
9. Northwestern University (2)
10. University of New Mexico

DISPUTE RESOLUTION
1. Harvard University (5)
2. Pepperdine University (3)
3. Ohio State University (4)
4. Univ. of Missouri-Columbia (2)
5. Hamline University (3)
6. Williamette University (4)
7. Catholic University (3)
8. Georgetown University (5)
9. Northwestern University (2)
10. University of Texas-Austin

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
1. Lewis and Clark College (2)
2. Vermont Law School (3)
3. Pace University (4)
4. St. John's University (3)
5. University of Maryland (5)
6. Univ. of California-Berkeley
7. Georgetown University (2)
8. Tulane University (3)
9. George Mason University (5)
10. Univ. of Colorado-Boulder

HEALTHCARE LAW
1. University of Houston (5)
2. Boston University (4)
3. Loyola University Chicago (2)
4. Robert Morris University (3)
5. University of Maryland
6. Case Western Reserve U (4)
7. Seton Hall University (5)
8. Indiana Univ.-Indianapolis (4)
9. Widener University School of Law (3)
10. DePaul University (3)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
1. University of California-Berkeley
2. George Washington Univ. (4)
3. Franklin Pierce Law Ctr (3)
4. New York University (2)
5. Catholic University (2)
6. University of Houston (3)
7. Columbia University (3)
8. Stanford University (4)
9. Santa Clara University (2)
10. Boston University

INTERNATIONAL LAW
1. New York University (5)
2. Columbia University (4)
3. Harvard University (2)
4. Georgetown University (3)
5. Yale University
6. George Washington University
7. American University (2)
8. New York Law School (2)
9. Univ. of Michigan-Ann Arbor


9. University of Virginia (5)
10. University of California-Berkeley

TAX ADVOCACY
1. Northeastern University (3)
2. Temple University (2)
3. Georgetown University (3)
4. Harvard University (4)
5. Yale University  (5)
6. University of Texas-Austin
7. University of Miami
8. University of Virginia
9. Stanford University (3)
10. University of Chicago

METHODOLOGY
The rankings of 112 accredited law schools are based on a weighted average of the 20 measures of quality described above. Specialty rankings are based on the same methodology, using only the schools that are rated in the field in question. The data on which the rankings are based are from the most recent available from the relevant bar and state agencies, law schools, and other sources.

1. Quality of students, faculty, and programs (30 percentage points)
2. Placement rates (20 percentage points)
3. Employment rates (20 percentage points)
4. Part-time law school (10 percentage points)
5. Average salary and net worth for graduates (10 percentage points)
6. Average length of time between graduation and first job (10 percentage points)
7. Average length of time between graduation and first job (10 percentage points)
8. Average length of time between graduation and first job (10 percentage points)
9. Average length of time between graduation and first job (10 percentage points)
10. Average length of time between graduation and first job (10 percentage points)

The clinical training program at Georgetown ranks first among its peers.

More at www.theskynews.com

AmeriJas Premier Graduatd Schools

2003
SPECIALTIES

Programs ranked best by faculty who teach in the field

DEGREE DESCRIPTION
1. University of Missouri-Columbia
2. Pepperdine University
3. Harvard University
4. Ohio State University
5. Vanderbilt University
6. Cardozo, York University
7. Georgetown University
8. University of Texas-Austin
9. Stanford University

HEALTH LAW
1. University of Houston
2. St. Louis University
3. Loyola University Chicago
4. University of Maryland
5. Seton Hall University
6. Case Western Reserve U.
7. Indiana Univ.-Indianapolis
8. Widener University
9. Boston University
10. DuPaul University

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
1. Univ. of California-Berkeley
2. George Washington U.
3. Franklin Pierce Law Ctr.
4. University of Houston
5. Cardozo, York University
6. New York University
7. Stanford University
8. Santa Clara University
9. Boston University
10. DuPaul University

INTERNATIONAL LAW
1. New York University
2. Georgetown University
3. Harvard University
4. Columbia University
5. Yale University
6. Univ. of California-Berkeley
7. Univ. of California-Davis
8. Univ. of Michigan-Ann Arbor
9. University of Virginia
10. Georgia Washington U.

FRIAL ADVOCACY
1. Temple University
2. Seton University
3. Northwestern University
4. Georgetown University
5. South Texas College of Law
6. University of Notre Dame
7. New York University
8. Loyola Law School
9. Thomas University
10. John Marshall Law School

TAX LAW
1. New York University
2. University of Florida
3. Georgetown University
4. Harvard University
5. University of Texas-Austin
6. Stanford University
7. University of Miami
8. Yale University
9. Boston University
10. University of Colorado

METHODLOGY

The rankings of 114 accredited law schools are based on the weighted averages of the 12 measures of quality described here. Specialty rankings are based on faculty reputation. An overview of our methodology appears on Page 25.

Reputation (weighted by 40) is determined by two surveys conducted in fall 2003. The first, among law faculty, is based on a national survey of law schools, while the second, faculty members of 10 U.S. law schools were asked to rate schools from "excellent" (5) to "marginal" (1). 67 percent of the faculty respondents in the latter survey was completed by 35 percent of the overall score. Lawyering, specialization, and senior judges ranked school, 3 percent of the overall score of reputation is weighted by 5.5 percent of the overall score of reputation.

Selectivity (25): Combines median LSAT scores (25 percent), median undergraduate GPA (40 percent), and proportion of applicants accepted for fall 2000 (35 percent).

Placement success (25): Placement rate at graduation for 1999 graduates (30 percent) and on-and-off-the-bar pass rate (10 percent). Employment graduates include those reported as working for themselves and other programs at the Bar, the bar examination is required in all states.

Faculty resources (15): Based on average 1999-2000 expenditures per student for instruction, library, and supplies (25 percent), student-faculty ratio (30 percent), and average non-student spending in 1999 and 2000 on all other items, excluding faculty and non-student (30 percent) and total number of full-time and part-time faculty and staff (15 percent).

Overall rank: A school's score on each indicator was weighted, totaled, and ranked on the full scale of 100. The top score is 100. Any school below 100 is ranked at or above that score.

Specialty rankings: Legal education is broken up by 15 schools in each field, with the rank included in the top 10.

[2002] For more go to www.nymag.com
SPECIALITIES

Programs ranked best by faculty members who teach in the field

**DISPUTE RESOLUTION**
- Univ. of Missouri-Columbia (1)
- Ohio State University (2)
- Pepperdine University (5)
- Harvard University (6)
- Villanova University (7)
- Hamline University (8)
- Georgetown University (9)
- Florida State University (10)

**HEALTH LAW**
- St. Louis University (1)
- University of Houston (2)
- Seton Hall University (3)
- Loyola University Chicago (4)
- University of Maryland (5)
- DePaul University (6)
- Case Western Reserve U. (7)
- Boston University (8)
- Indiana Univ. - Indianapolis (9)
- Widener University (10)

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW**
- Univ. of California-Berkeley (1)
- George Washington Univ. (2)
- Franklin Pierce Law Ctr. (3)
- University of Houston (4)
- Santa Clara University (5)
- Cardozo School of Law (6)
- DePaul University (7)
- John Marshall Law School (8)
- Columbia University (9)
- New York University (10)

**INTERNATIONAL LAW**
- New York University (1)
- Harvard University (2)
- Georgetown University (3)
- Columbia University (4)
- Yale University (5)
- University of Virginia (6)
- Univ. of California-Berkeley (7)
- George Washington Univ. (8)
- American University (9)
- Univ. of Michigan-An Arbor (10)

**TRIAL ADVOCACY**
- Temple University (1)
- Seton Hall University (2)
- Northwestern University (3)
- Georgetown University (4)
- University of Texas-Austin (5)
- New York University (6)
- University of Notre Dame (7)
- Stanford University (8)
- South Texas College of Law (9)
- Univ. of Michigan-An Arbor (10)

**TAX LAW**
- New York University (1)
- University of Florida (2)
- Georgetown University (3)
- Harvard University (4)
- University of Texas-Austin (5)
- University of Miami (6)
- Yale University (7)
- University of Virginia (8)
- Boston University (9)
- Stanford University (10)

**CLINICAL TRAINING**
- Georgetown University (1)
- New York University (2)
- Yale University (3)
- NYU (4)
- CUNY-Queens College (5)
- American University (6)
- University of Maryland (7)
- Washington Univ. in St. Louis (8)
- University of New Mexico (9)
- Univ. of Calif.-Los Angeles (10)

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**
- Vermont Law School (1)
- Lewis & Clark College (2)
- Pace University (3)
- University of Maryland (4)
- Tulane University (5)
- Univ. of Colorado-Boulder (6)
- Univ. of California-Berkeley (7)

**METODOLOGY**

The rankings for 174 accredited law schools are based on a weighted average of the 12 measures of quality described here. The specialty rankings are based on reputation, as seen in overviews of methodology, page 11:

- Reputation (40 percent): Measured by two surveys conducted in fall 1999. The dean and three faculty members at each school selected other schools from among the "major" (1) to "distinct" (5). 50 percent were required. The score accounts for 25 percent of the rank. Lawyers, lawmakers, and senior academic rated schools, 30 percent combined. The score accounts for 15 percent of the rank.

- Selectivity (25 percent): Comprises median LSAT scores, GPA (percentile), median undergraduate GPA (percentile), and proportion of applicants accepted for the fall of 1999 (percent). The score accounts for 15 percent of the rank.

- Placement success (15 percent): Employment rates at graduation for 1996 graduates (percent), and six months after (60 percent), and bar passage rate (10 percent). Employed graduates are those working at a paying job or in school, not seeking employment. The score accounts for 15 percent of the rank. The median number of months during which graduates were unemployed was 1.5.

- Faculty resources (3 percent): Based on average 1999 and 1999-2000 expenditures per student for instruction, library, and supporting services (5 percent), student-to-teacher ratio (3 percent), and per-student graduate student spending in 1999 and 1999-2000 on all other items, including financial aid (40 percent), and total number of full-time, tenure-track (15 percent).

- Overall rank: A school's score on each indicator is rounded to the nearest whole number. The scores are weighted, summed, and re-sorted. In 1999 the top school received 100 and other schools received a percentage of the top score.

- **Specialty rankings**: Legal networks identified the 15 schools, with the top 10 receiving the most nominations. Schools received two votes.
Where U.S. News and the deans disagree

In the past few years, law school officials have expressed concerns that applicants pay too much attention to rankings. U.S. News believes none of the concerns stem from a fundamental misunderstanding of the purpose of our ranking system.

The rankings are designed to assess the overall quality of a school's academic program. This independence, however, does not mean that the ranking of a particular school gives applicants valuable information on their chances of acceptance into that school. However, U.S. News has heard that applicants use other information, for example, to help them choose among schools. At this point, U.S. News has no direct information about whether applicants use our rankings for this purpose. Moreover, the rankings were neither designed nor intended to help applicants choose schools.

U.S. News analyzes the academic research and the great deal of communications with legal experts in an effort to find ways to keep important rankings. For example, this year we decided it would be appropriate to adjust our measure of instructional expenditures to account for regional differences in cost of living. We also attempted to update reputation survey data as of the fall of 1998.

The obvious problem we face is the large number of schools we write about. It is not possible to cover all schools in any single issue. We have decided that each issue will focus on the schools we consider most important to our readers. We hope the survey results will provide valuable data for future years.

But rankings should not be the only guide applicants use. Prospective students should visit schools and research their programs, as importance to them. But the law school deans we spoke with this year were happy.
# SPECIALTIES

Programs ranked by law school faculty who teach in the field

## METHODOLOGY

The overall rankings for the nation's 183 accredited law schools are based on a weighted average of the 12 measures of academic quality described above. The specialty rankings are based solely on reputation, as an overview of our methods appears on Page 76.

### Reputations (40 percent)
Reputations for academic quality were measured through two surveys conducted in the fall of 1997. The dean and three faculty members at each law school were asked to list the quality of schools from "marginal" (1) to "distinguished" (7). Only two surveys returned, and the resulting reputation scores account for 75 percent of the schools' rank. Professors, teaching partners, and career advisors were asked to rate each school. They were percent approved, and their opinions account for 25 percent of the final rank.

### Satisfaction (25 percent)
Combines median Law School Administrative Test scores (5 percent of the respondent), median student graduation rate (10 percent), and proportion of graduates employed as full-time JDs in the fall 1997 entry class (10 percent).

### Placement success (15 percent)
A measure of employment rates: a graduation rate/100 (percent of the class), and one-sixth of the median annual starting salary, and the percentage of those whoinite (10 percent). Employment graduates in those employed, and the bar passage rate (10 percent). Employed graduates include those employed who are not currently employed.

### Faculty quality (15 percent)
This factor focuses on that standard and is not used in the data. This factor focuses on the best standard and is not used in the data. This factor focuses on the best standard and is not used in the data. This factor focuses on the best standard and is not used in the data. This factor focuses on the best standard and is not used in the data. This factor focuses on the best standard and is not used in the data. This factor focuses on the best standard and is not used in the data. This factor focuses on the best standard and is not used in the data. This factor focuses on the best standard and is not used in the data.

### Overall rank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Law School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>Reputation</td>
<td>1. University of Pennsylvania Law School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Satisfaction</td>
<td>2. University of Texas, Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Faculty quality</td>
<td>3. University of California, Berkeley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Placement success</td>
<td>4. University of Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. University of Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6. New York University School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7. Harvard University School of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8. Stanford University School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9. University of California, Los Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10. University of California, Santa Clara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### International Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Law School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reputation</td>
<td>1. Columbia University Law School</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Satisfaction</td>
<td>2. New York University School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Faculty quality</td>
<td>3. Harvard University School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Placement success</td>
<td>4. University of California, Berkeley</td>
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<td>5. University of Texas, Austin</td>
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<td>6. University of Chicago</td>
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<td>7. University of Michigan</td>
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<td>8. University of California, Los Angeles</td>
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**U.S. News & World Report**

March 1999

95
SPECIALITIES

Programs ranked by legal educators

CLINICAL TRAINING
1. New York University
2. Georgetown University (NG)
3. American University (NG)
4. CUNY-Golden Gate
5. Yale University (NG)
6. University of New Mexico
7. U. of California-Los Angeles
8. University of Maryland
9. Northwestern University (NG)
10. Harvard University (NG)

DISPUTES RESOLUTION
1. Pepperdine University (NG)
2. Harvard University (NG)
3. Univ. of Missouri-Columbia
4. Ohio State University
5. Williamette University College of Law (NG)

ENVIRONMENTAL
1. Lewis and Clark College
2. Vermont Law School
3. Pace University (NG)
4. U. of California-Berkeley
5. George Washington Univ. (NG)
6. Univ. of Colorado Boulder
7. Tulane University (NG)
8. University of Maryland
9. University of Oregon
10. University of Washington

HEALTH
1. University of Houston
2. St. Vincent University
3. Loyola University-Chicago
4. University of Wisconsin-Madison
5. University of Maryland
6. DePaul University
7. Seton Hall University (NG)
8. Widener University
9. Boston University
10. Indiana Univ.-Indianapolis

INTERNATIONAL
1. Franklin Pierce Law Center
2. Columbia University
3. George Washington Univ. (NG)
4. New York University
5. Univ. of California-Berkeley
6. Stanford University (NG)
7. University of Chicago
8. John Marshall Law School
9. University of Texas-Austin
10. Santa Clara University (NG)

INTERSTATE
1. Harvard University (NG)
2. New York University
3. Georgetown University (NG)
4. University of Colorado
5. Yale University (NG)
6. American University (NG)
7. Univ. of Michigan
8. University of California-Berkeley
9. University of Virginia
10. Boston University

TRADE LAW
1. Seattle University
2. Temple University
3. Northwestern University (NG)
4. New York University
5. Emory University (NG)
6. St. John's University, Garden City School of Law (NG)
7. Chicago-Kent College of Law (Illinois Institute of Tech.)
8. Harvard University (NG)
9. University of Notre Dame (NG)

U.S. News agrees that rankings should not beapplycants' main source of information, and guidance on the schools they provide are an independent assessment, an efficient way to compare schools, and a means for gathering data that judgments experts have made about each law school. The magazine also believes that any debate about rankings should be based on an accurate description of how they are compiled. The editors make incomplete or misleading references to the U.S. News rankings, which the magazine would like to correct.

The dean says that the ranking "ignores" important factors such as: faculty quality and curriculum. In fact, in its surveys, U.S. News finds that the academics and lawyers take such factors into account. The dean cites the magazine's use last year of bar passage data that may have reflected different exam formats for each year. The next year's U.S. News used standardized data for this factor, which accounts for only 2 percent of a school's overall ranking. The dean faults U.S. News estimates for some placement data, calling them an "invention." In fact, the rankings make standard adjustments in accounting for graduates who don't report their status, to prevent invalid comparisons among schools.

METHODOLOGY

The ranking of 152 of the nation's approximately 150 law schools are based on the following factors: student quality, employment, faculty expenditures, student loan default rate, and participation in the AALS convention of the AALS convention of the legal aid society. These factors are considered in the following categories:

Student quality: 40 percent
Employment: 35 percent
Faculty expenditures: 15 percent
Student loan default rate: 10 percent
Participation in the AALS convention: 10 percent

The rankings are based on data from the AALS convention of the legal aid society and other sources. The rankings are not subject to the AALS convention of the legal aid society's approval or endorsement.
Specialties
Programs ranked best in the U.S. News survey by legal educators who teach in these specialized fields

CLINICAL TRAINING
1. Georgetown University (DC)
2. New York University
3. American University (DC)
4. University of New Mexico
5. Yale University (CT)
6. University of Maryland
7. DU (Denver) College
8. University of California Los Angeles
9. University of Michigan
10. Northwestern University (IL)
11. Harvard University (MA)

DISPUTE RESOLUTION
1. Harvard University (MA)
2. University of Missouri Columbia
3. Pepperdine University (CA)
4. Ohio State University
5. Whittier Law School (CA)

ENVIRONMENTAL
1. Vermont Law School (Northeastern) (VT)
2. Vermont Law School
3. Florida State University (FL)
4. University of California Berkeley
5. University of California Berkeley
6. George Washington University (DC)
7. North Carolina State University
8. Duke University (NC)
9. University of Oregon
10. Chicago Kent College of Law (IL)

INTERNATIONAL
1. New York University
2. Harvard University (MA)
3. Columbia University (NY)
4. Yale University (CT)
5. Georgetown University (DC)
6. University of Michigan (Ann Arbor)
7. American University (DC)
8. University of California Berkeley
9. University of Virginia
10. George Washington University (DC)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
1. Franklin Pierce Law Center (NH)
2. George Washington University (DC)
3. University of Houston (Houston)
4. Columbia University (NY)
5. John Marshall Law School (IL)
6. University of California Berkeley

LAW
1. New York University
2. Stanford University (CA)
3. University of Texas Austin
4. Cardozo School of Law Yeshiva University (NY)

TAX
1. New York University
2. University of Florida
3. Georgetown University (DC)
4. Harvard University (MA)
5. University of Virginia
6. University of Texas Austin
7. Yale University (CT)
8. University of Miami (FL)
9. Stanford University (CA)
10. University of California Los Angeles
11. University of Southern California

TRIAL ADVOCACY
1. Stetson University (FL)
2. Temple University (PA)
3. New York University
4. Northwestern University (IL)
5. University of Notre Dame (IN)
6. Georgetown University (DC)
7. William Mitchell College of Law (MN)
8. Cumberland's School
9. University of South Carolina (SC)
10. University of Iowa

[1997]
SPECIALTIES

Programs ranked by faculty experts in the U.S. News reputation survey

CLINICAL TRAINING
1. Georgetown University (D.C.)
2. New York University
3. American University (D.C.)
4. Yale University
5. University of New Mexico
6. Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham
7. University of Chicago
8. Columbia—Queen's College
9. Boston College
10. Univ. of Connecticut at Hartford

ENTREPRENEURIAL
1. Emory & Clark (Northwestern) (Ill.)
2. Ventura Law School
3. Pace University (N.Y.)
4. University of Colorado at Boulder
5. George Washington Univ. (D.C.)
6. Chicago-Kent College—III
7. University of California at Berkeley
8. Univ. of Maryland at Baltimore
9. University of Washington
10. University of Oregon

HEALTH
1. St. Louis University
2. Loyola University of Chicago
3. University of Toronto

LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP
1. Duke University
2. Yale University
3. Columbia University (N.Y.)
4. New York University
5. George Washington University (D.C.)
6. University of Virginia
7. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
8. George Washington Univ. (D.C.)
9. University of California at Irvine
10. American University (D.C.)

INTERNATIONAL
1. Harvard University
2. Yale University
3. Columbia University (N.Y.)
4. New York University
5. George Washington University (D.C.)
6. University of Virginia
7. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
8. George Washington Univ. (D.C.)
9. University of California at Irvine
10. American University (D.C.)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
1. George Washington Univ. (D.C.)
2. Franklin Pierce Law Center (R.I.)
3. Columbia University (N.Y.)
4. Stanford University
5. New York University
6. University of Wisconsin
7. John Marshall Law School (III.)
8. Boston University
9. Chicago-Kent College—Ill
10. George Mason University (Va.)

TAX
1. New York University
2. Georgetown University (D.C.)
3. Harvard University
4. University of Florida
5. University of Virginia
6. Yale University
7. University of Texas at Austin
8. Stanford University
9. University of Miami
10. University of Chicago

TRIAL AND APPELLATE ADVOCACY
1. Georgetown University (D.C.)
2. Temple University (Pa.)
3. Georgetown University (D.C.)
4. New York University
5. Northeastern University (Mass.)
6. University of Notre Dame (Ind.)
7. Case Western Reserve Univ. (Ohio)
8. South Texas College of Law
9. University of Texas at Austin
10. William & Mary Law School (Va.)

METODOLOGY

Here is how the ranking was determined by the editors in the study's associ- ated report. The data is based on data submitted by schools, placement offices, faculty, and employer reviews in a comprehensive survey.

A Global University for the Future. (U.S.) is the only national magazine that ranks the nation's leading legal schools. (1) The survey is based on the results of a comprehensive survey of the nation's leading legal schools. (2) These results are used to rank the schools on a variety of factors, including: faculty credentials, publication record, research reputation, and student performance. (3) The rankings are based on the results of these surveys, which are then weighted to reflect their relative importance.

The survey was conducted in the early 1990s. In this survey, we asked all schools participating to rank their faculty, employers, and students. The rankings were then weighted to reflect the relative importance of each factor.

The survey included a comprehensive review of the schools' curricula, faculty, and student performance. The rankings were then weighted to reflect the relative importance of each factor.

The ranking method is designed to identify the schools that best prepare their students for success in a variety of legal careers. The highest rankings are given to schools that offer a balanced curriculum, a strong faculty, and a supportive environment. The rankings also take into account the opinions of employers and alumni, as well as the results of a comprehensive survey of the nation's leading legal schools.
1. New York University
2. Georgetown University (D.C.)
3. University of Maryland at Baltimore
4. CUM (New York College)
5. American University (D.C.)

1. Emory University School of Law
2. Loyola-Catholic College;
3. Georgetown University Law (D.C.)
4. University of Colorado at Boulder
5. University of California at Berkeley

1. Columbia University (N.Y.)
2. Howard University (D.C.)
3. Tulane University (D.C.)
4. University of Virginia
5. Georgetown University (D.C.)

1. New York University
2. University of Florida
3. Georgetown University (D.C.)
4. Harvard University (D.C.)
5. University of Texas

Legal educators and law
years have not been
bound to the suggestions
changes in the criteria that
N.Y. Bar exam to test law
schools. Although some of
these suggestions proved
practical and worthy,
others were incor-
porated in the year's
feud methodology. For ex-
ample, in the placements
category, we have put more
emphasis on how law
alumni had fared after
production and ten on
the proportion of graduates
with jobs at commencement
time. We have also de-
ephasized acceptances
and nonacademic expendi-
tures. The result: more
quality than usual in the law
school rankings. We are pleased
for the suggestions. The new
methodology is explained in
detail below.

METODOLOGY
Here's how we did it: First, we determined the criteria for ranking law schools. These include academic standards, placement success, bar exam passage percentages, and institutional reputation.

1. Academic standards were based on the following: (a) the median LSAT score for the entering class, (b) the median grade point average for the entering class, and (c) the median cumulative grade point average for the entering class. These scores were weighted equally and added together to determine the academic standards.

2. Placement success was based on the percentage of the 1992 graduating class that had secured full-time jobs within one year of graduation. The percentage was calculated by dividing the number of graduates who secured full-time jobs by the total number of graduates in the class.

3. Institutional reputation was based on the opinions of law school experts and deans. A survey was conducted among leading law school experts and deans to determine the reputation of each law school.

4. Overall ranking was based on a weighted average of the three criteria: academic standards (40%), placement success (30%), and institutional reputation (30%). The weights were determined based on the importance of each criterion in law school selection.

The rankings were determined by taking the average of each criterion for each school and then determining the overall ranking based on the weighted average. The rankings were then published in the annual law school rankings report.
SPECIALITIES

These programs were ranked best by academic specialists, se-
vior faculty in each area and law school deans in this year's
U.S. News reputational survey.

ENVIRONMENT
1. Vermont Law School
2. Lewis & Clark Law School ( Ore.)
3. Pace University (N.Y.)
4. University of Colorado at Boulder
5. University of California at Berkeley

INTERNATIONAL
1. Stanford University
2. Columbia University
3. Yale University
4. Georgetown University
5. University of Virginia

CLINICAL TRAINING
1. Georgetown University
2. New York University
3. Columbia University
4. Temple University

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
1. George Washington University (DC)
2. Columbia University
3. New York University
4. Fordham University Law Center
5. University of New Hampshire

TAX
1. New York University
2. University of Florida
3. Georgetown University
4. Harvard University
5. University of Missouri
Law Specialties: Clinical Training

New! Ranked in 2005*

1. Georgetown University (DC)
2. American University (Washington College of Law) (DC)
3. Washington University in St. Louis
4. New York University
5. CUNY-Queens College
6. Yale University (CT)
7. University of Maryland
8. University of New Mexico
9. Northwestern University (IL)
10. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
11. Catholic University of America (DC)
12. Northeastern University (MA)
13. George Washington University (DC)
14. Harvard University (MA)
15. University of California-Los Angeles
16. Brooklyn Law School (NY)
17. University of Tennessee-Knoxville
18. Columbia University (NY)
19. Tulane University (LA)
20. University of Baltimore
21. University of the District of Columbia (Clarke)
22. Boston College
23. Rutgers State University-Newark (NJ)
24. University of Nevada-Las Vegas (William S. Boyd)
25. University of Chicago
26. Fordham University (NY)
27. Thomas M. Cooley Law School (MI)
28. University of California (Hastings)
29. University of California-Berkeley
30. University of Denver (Sturm)
31. William Mitchell College of Law (MN)

*This ranking was computed in January of the year cited, based on data from a survey sent out in the fall of the previous year.

Law Specialties: Dispute Resolution

New! Ranked in 2005*

1. Pepperdine University (McConnell) (CA)
2. University of Missouri-Columbia
3. Harvard University (MA)
4. Ohio State University (Montz)
5. Hamline University (MN)
6. Cardozo-Yeshiva University (NY)
7. Pennsylvania State University (Dickinson School of Law)
   Willamette University (Collins) (OR)
9. Georgetown University (DC)
   Northwestern University (IL)
11. Marquette University (WI)
12. Stanford University (CA)
13. Quinnipiac University (CT)
14. University of Oregon
15. Duke University (NC)
   Fordham University (NY)
   University of Nevada-Las Vegas (William S. Boyd)
18. University of Texas-Austin

*This ranking was computed in January of the year cited, based on data from a survey sent out in the fall of the previous year.

Law Specialties: Environmental Law

New! Ranked in 2005

1. Lewis and Clark College (Northwestern) (OR)
2. Vermont Law School
3. Pace University (NY)
4. University of Colorado–Boulder
5. Tulane University (LA)
6. University of Maryland
7. Stanford University (CA)
8. University of Oregon
9. Georgetown University (DC)
10. Duke University (NC)
11. George Washington University (DC)
12. New York University
13. University of California–Berkeley
14. Florida State University
15. University of Washington
16. University of Denver (Sturm)
17. University of Utah (S.J. Quinney)
18. Boston College

go
to: Golden Gate University (CA)

University of California–Los Angeles
University of Texas–Austin
Yale University (CT)

23. University of Hawaii (Richardson)

*This ranking was computed in January of the year cited, based on data from a survey sent out in the fall of the previous year.
Law Specialties: Healthcare Law

New! Ranked in 2005*

1. St. Louis University
2. University of Houston
3. University of Maryland
4. Loyola University Chicago
5. Seton Hall University (NJ)
6. Widener University (DE)
7. Boston University
8. Case Western Reserve University (OH)
9. Indiana University–Indianapolis
10. DePaul University (IL)
11. University of Pittsburgh
12. Georgetown University (DC)
13. University of Louisville (Brandens) (KY)
14. University of Minnesota–Twin Cities
15. Duke University (NC)

*This ranking was computed in January of the year cited, based on data from a survey sent out in the fall of the previous year.

Law Specialties: Intellectual Property Law

New! Ranked in 2005*

1. University of California-Berkeley
2. Stanford University (CA)
3. George Washington University (DC)
4. University of Houston
5. Cardozo-Yeshiva University (NY)
6. Franklin Pierce Law Center (NH)
7. Columbia University (NY)
8. Duke University (NC)
   New York University
10. Boston University
11. DePaul University (IL)
    Harvard University (MA)
13. Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago-Kent)
14. Georgetown University (DC)
15. John Marshall Law School (IL)
    Santa Clara University (CA)
17. University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
18. University of Texas-Austin
19. Michigan State University
    Washington University in St. Louis
21. University of California-Los Angeles
22. Fordham University (NY)
    University of Pennsylvania
24. University of Washington
25. George Mason University (VA)
26. Boston College
27. Case Western Reserve University (OH)
    University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

*This ranking was computed in January of the year cited, based on data from a survey sent out in the fall of the previous year.
Law Specialties: International Law

New! Ranked in 2005*

1. New York University
2. Columbia University (NY)
3. Georgetown University (DC)
4. Harvard University (MA)
5. American University (Washington College of Law) (DC)
6. Yale University (CT)
7. University of Michigan–Ann Arbor
8. University of Virginia
9. George Washington University (DC)
10. University of California–Berkeley
11. Cornell University (NY)
12. Stanford University (CA)
13. Duke University (NC)
14. University of Texas–Austin
15. University of Chicago
16. Washington University in St. Louis
17. University of California–Los Angeles
18. Emory University (GA)
19. Fordham University (NY)
20. Northwestern University (IL)
21. University of Georgia
22. University of Iowa
23. University of Minnesota–Twin Cities
24. Vanderbilt University (TN)

*This ranking was computed in January of the year cited, based on data from a survey sent out in the fall of the previous year.

Law Specialties: Legal Writing

New! Ranked in 2005*

1. Mercer University (GA)
2. Seattle University
3. John Marshall Law School (IL)
4. Stetson University (FL)
5. Temple University (Boasley) (PA)
6. Brooklyn Law School (NY)
7. University of Nevada-Las Vegas (William S. Boyd)
8. Boston College
9. Villanova University (PA)
10. Northwestern University (IL)
11. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
12. Gonzaga University (WA)
13. Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago-Kent)
14. University of Arkansas-Fayetteville
15. University of Detroit Mercy
16. Arizona State University
17. Ohio State University (Moritz)
18. Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
19. Thomas Jefferson School of Law (CA)
20. Georgetown University (DC)
   Lewis and Clark College (Northwestern) (OR)
   South Texas College of Law
   University of Dayton (OH)
   University of St. Thomas (MN)

*This ranking was computed in January of the year cited, based on data from a survey sent out in the fall of the previous year.

Law Specialties: Tax Law

New! Ranked in 2005*

1. New York University
2. University of Florida (Levin)
3. Georgetown University (DC)
4. Northwestern University (IL)
5. Harvard University (MA)
6. University of Miami (FL)
7. Boston University
8. University of California—Los Angeles
9. University of Texas—Austin
10. Yale University (CT)
11. Stanford University (CA)
12. University of San Diego
13. University of Michigan—Ann Arbor
14. University of Virginia
15. University of California (Hastings)
16. Duke University (NC)
17. Loyola Law School (CA)
18. Villanova University (PA)
19. Boston College
20. Southern Methodist University (TX)
21. University of Chicago
22. University of Washington
23. Emory University (GA)
24. George Washington University (DC)
25. University of Denver (Sturm)

*This ranking was computed in January of the year cited, based on data from a survey sent out in the fall of the previous year.

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Law Specialties: Trial Advocacy

New! Ranked in 2005*

1. South Texas College of Law
2. Stetson University (FL)
3. Temple University (Beauley) (PA)
4. Georgetown University (DC)
5. Seattle University
6. Baylor University (TX)
New York University
Northwestern University (IL)
University of California (Hastings)
University of Michigan–Ann Arbor
University of Notre Dame (IN)
University of Texas–Austin
7. Loyola Law School (CA)
8. Pepperdine University (McConnell) (CA)
9. Texas Tech University
10. University of Florida (Levin)

*This ranking was computed in January of the year cited, based on data from a survey sent out in the fall of the previous year.
Law Methodology

The rankings of 178 law schools accredited by the American Bar Association are based on a weighted average of the 12 measures of quality described here. Specialty rankings are based on nomination by legal educators at peer institutions.

Quality Assessment (weighted by .40)

- Peer Assessment Score (.25)
  In the fall of 2004, law school deans, deans of academic affairs, the chair of faculty appointments, and the most recently tenured faculty members were asked to rate programs on a scale from "marginal" (1) to "outstanding" (5). Those individuals who did not know enough about a school to evaluate it fairly were asked to mark "don't know." A school's score is the average of all the respondents who rated it. Responses of "don't know" counted neither for nor against a school. About 70 percent of those surveyed responded.

- Assessment Score by Lawyers/Judges (.15)
  In the fall of 2004, legal professionals, including the hiring partners of law firms, state attorneys general, and selected federal and state judges, were asked to rate programs on a scale from "marginal" (1) to "outstanding" (5). Those individuals who did not know enough about a school to evaluate it fairly were asked to mark "don't know." A school's score is the average of all the respondents who rated it. Responses of "don't know" counted neither for nor against a school. About 27 percent of those surveyed responded.

Selectivity (weighted by .25)

- Median LSAT Scores (.125)
  The calculated median of the scores on the Law School Admissions Test of the 2004 entering class of the full-time J.D. program. The calculated median is the midpoint of the 25th and 75th percentile scores.

- Median Undergrad GPA (.10)
  The calculated median of the undergraduate grade point average of the 2004 entering class of the full-time J.D. program. The calculated median is the midpoint of the 25th and 75th percentile scores.

- Acceptance Rate (.025)
  The proportion of applicants to the full-time program who were accepted for entry into

http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/about/06law_methodology.php

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the 2004 entering class.

Placement Success (weighted by .20)

- Employment Rates for Graduates
  The employment rates for 2003 graduating class. Graduates who are working or pursuing graduate degrees are considered employed. Those graduates not seeking jobs are excluded. Employment rates are measured at graduation (.06) and nine months after graduation (.12). For the nine-month employment rate, 25 percent of those whose status is unknown are counted as employed.

- Bar Passage Rate (.02)
  The ratio of the school's bar passage rate of the 2003 graduating class to that jurisdiction's overall state bar passage rate for first-time test takers in summer 2003 and winter 2004. The jurisdiction listed is the state where the largest number of 2003 graduates took the state bar exam.

Faculty Resources (weighted by .15)

- Expenditures Per Student
  The average expenditures per student for the 2001 and 2004 fiscal years. The average instruction, library, and supporting services (.0975) are measured, as are all other items, including financial aid (.015).

- Student/Faculty Ratio (.03)
  The ratio of students to faculty members for the fall 2004 class, using the American Bar Association definition.

- Library Resources (.0075)
  The total number of volumes and titles in the school's law library at the end of the 2004 fiscal year.

Overall Rank: Data were standardized about their means, and standardized scores were weighted, totaled, and rescaled so that the top school received 100; others received their percentage of the top score.

Specialty Rankings: Legal educators nominated up to 15 schools in each field. Legal educators chosen were a selection of those listed in the Association of American Law Schools Directory of Law Teachers 2003-2004 Directory as currently teaching in the subject. Those schools that received the most nominations appear.

http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/about/06law_meth.php

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Frequently Asked Questions—Rankings

1. Why does U.S. News rank graduate schools?
2. How do you rank schools?
3. Do you rank all schools in a graduate discipline?
4. How do you select the schools or programs you rank?
5. Why does U.S. News rank certain disciplines and not others?
6. How do you rank specialties within various disciplines?
7. Are rankings from previous years still valid?
8. Why don’t the ranking lists show all the rank numbers?
9. How do the U.S. News rankings compare with other graduate school rankings?
10. How does U.S. News get a peer assessment score?
11. What are “input” measures of academic quality?
12. What are “output” measures of academic quality?
13. What does it mean when schools are tied?
14. Where do the data on quality measures come from?
15. Why are there more rankings online than in print?

1. Why does U.S. News rank graduate schools?

The process of selecting from among the various schools that offer graduate programs in your area of interest involves factors ranging from the personal to the objective. We want to help you with this process by giving you an independent assessment of the academic quality of programs in your field. By collecting data annually for the fields of business, education, engineering, law, and medicine, we are able to present the most current figures on enrollment, job placement, faculty, and other critical quality indicators that help you make informed decisions. In other graduate fields, we usually gather data on a program every three or four years, asking the

http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/about/inq_meth.php

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experts who teach and direct programs in these fields to evaluate their peer programs.

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2. How do you rank schools?

There are two different ways that we rank graduate programs.

For the five graduate program areas with the largest enrollments—business, education, engineering, law, and medicine—we use a combination of statistical data and expert assessment data. The statistical data we collect include both input and output measures. Input measures reflect the quality of students, faculty, and other resources brought to the education process. Output measures signal an institution’s success in managing that process so graduates achieve desired results, such as passing the bar exam or getting a high-paying job offer.

The expert assessment data for these areas come from surveys of knowledgeable individuals in academia and practitioners in each profession. Survey respondents are asked to rate the programs with which they are familiar on a scale of “marginal” (1) to “outstanding” (5).

Statistical and assessment data are standardized about their means, and standardized scores are weighted, totaled, and rescaled so that the top score is 100 and other scores are expressed as whole percentages of the top score. Schools are then ranked by their rescaled score.

We also rank a variety of programs—including Ph.D. programs in the sciences and humanities and programs in healthcare and the arts—solely on the basis of peer assessment data from academics involved in that particular field.

For a more general explanation, please read “How U.S. News ranks graduate schools.” For specific information about how we rank each discipline, review the methodologies for business, education, engineering, law, medicine, Ph.D. in the arts, health sciences, and public affairs.

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3. Do you rank all schools in a graduate discipline?

We survey all programs in a discipline that meet generally recognized criteria for a professional program in that field. In many fields—business, law, and the health professions—we survey only accredited programs. Since other programs generally do not have an accrediting body, we do not construct surveys in these areas. We use alternative resources, such as the most recent Survey of Earned Doctorates, and cooperate with organizations and schools to determine which schools are currently offering graduate programs in a field.

While we rank all schools for which we have data, we publish rankings of only the top schools in business, education, engineering, law, and medicine in our print edition of America’s Best Graduate Schools. For law, we publish the top 100 and list the remaining schools in two tiers (the third and fourth). For business, education, engineering, and medicine, we publish the top 50 schools in print.

We have expanded the number of schools in business, education, engineering, and medicine for which we published the rankings in our premium online edition.

In those disciplines where we collect peer assessment data only, we publish in print the ranks of roughly one quarter of the schools we survey. In our premium online edition, we increase that number to include all schools that achieve a score of 2.5 or higher on a 5-point scale.

We rank 179 U.S. law schools, including all those that have fully approved American Bar Association accreditation status. Law schools from Puerto Rico and those that have provisional

accreditation status are not ranked. In the fields of business, education, engineering, and medicine we publish lists of the top-ranked schools.

For schools of education, we present a table showing some important information about the teacher training and professional development programs at all the education schools that returned our survey. This table lists them alphabetically; it should not be confused with a ranking.

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4. How do you select the schools or programs you rank?

If an accrediting body exists for a discipline or professional preparation program, we use the list of accredited programs at the time our survey is constructed to define the population of schools or programs to be considered in our ranking. In a very few instances, schools or programs may be excluded, usually because of restricted access, because a program is too young to permit gathering of all the data needed to compute indicators based on multyear data, or because a program is not fully accredited by the appropriate accrediting agency. Our list of law schools contains virtually all schools in the United States accredited by the American Bar Association. We consult the American Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association for lists of accredited medical schools, and AACSB International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, for accredited master’s programs in business located in the United States.

For the fields of engineering and education, we use the Survey of Earned Doctorates and other resources to develop our lists of schools. The list of engineering schools is similar but not necessarily identical to the list of engineering schools having programs accredited by ABET, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.

The following list contains the total number of schools or programs that we surveyed in each discipline:

- Applied mathematics - 164
- Audiology - 105
- Biological Sciences - 245
- Business - 391
- Chemistry - 195
- Clinical Psychology - 196
- Community Health - 49
- Computer Science - 143
- Criminology - 32
- Economics - 132
- Education - 249
- Engineering - 198
- English - 148
- Geology - 102
- Health Services Administration - 61
- History - 142
- Law - 189
- Library Science - 48
- Mathematics - 158
- Medical Schools - 145
- Nursing - 354
- Nurse Anesthesia - 85
- Nurse Midwifery - 39
- Occupational Therapy - 117
- Pharmacy - 88
- Physical Therapy - 194
- Physician Assistant - 80
- Physics - 170
- Political Science - 117
- Psychology - 370
- Public Affairs - 253
- Public Health - 32
- Rehabilitation Counseling - 85
- Social Work - 159
- Sociology - 115
- Speech-Language Pathology - 233
- Veterinary Medicine - 27

This year, we have surveyed 635 additional schools that offer graduate education programs. These schools are not ranked, and directory information for them appears as available.

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5. Why does U.S. News rank certain disciplines and not others?

Because we cannot survey every area of study, we make our decisions on the disciplines to rank on the basis of how to best serve the greatest number of readers. We look at enrollment figures to determine the most popular areas of study. The disciplines we survey every year are the areas of law, business, medicine, engineering, and education. In these areas we collect peer assessment data as well as objective data on entering students, faculty, finances, and job placement that we use to calculate quality indicators.

We survey graduate programs in other areas on a rotating cycle, collecting peer assessment

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data. In areas where rankings are not computed annually, we publish the date of ranking with each list. These areas include doctoral programs in the physical and social sciences and the humanities, as well as master's programs in public affairs and a number of programs in the health sciences.

The specialty areas in a discipline that we rank are selected on the basis of trends as well as enrollment. In some instances, we may rotate certain specialties to provide a more comprehensive coverage of a field. Specialty rankings are determined by the number of nominations for excellence in that area a program receives. Only respondents to the peer assessment survey in the discipline are asked to nominate programs for excellence in any specialty.

If a discipline is not ranked by U.S. News, it is not because the editors think it is unimportant. The primary determinants for selecting disciplines to rank are size of enrollment and the number of schools offering that degree program.

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6. How do you rank specialties within various disciplines?

For each discipline, we identify the subjects in which schools most often offer concentrations. These areas are usually the most popular choices of specialization among graduate students. In some instances an area of specialization may not have large enrollment but may be of particular or emerging importance in the field. We ask the respondents to the peer assessment survey in a field—graduate school deans, program directors, and/or senior faculty—to nominate schools that have outstanding programs in each specialty area. Each survey respondent may nominate up to 10 schools in any specialty area. Since a directory of law faculty is available, we survey law faculty members who are listed as teaching in the specific specialty area we rank. Law faculty are asked to nominate up to 15 outstanding programs in the specialty they teach. We publish the schools receiving the highest number of nominations in each specialty area. Specialty rankings are based solely on the number of nominations they receive in each specialty area. The number of schools we publish in any specialty area varies, depending on the statistical significance of our survey results.

This year for engineering specialties, we worked in conjunction with the American Society for Engineering Education to obtain a list of department heads in each of the specialty areas. The department heads were given a list of the schools that offered doctoral programs in their particular specialty and asked to rate them on a scale from "marginal" (1) to "outstanding" (5). The responses for each school were then averaged by the number of responses for that school.

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7. Are rankings from previous years still valid?

Rankings from previous years contain valid information but are not necessarily comparable with rankings based on data collected and analyzed this year. For the disciplines of business, education, engineering, law, and medicine, where we do extensive statistical data gathering, we constantly strive to improve our data-processing procedures to spot errors. We review our statistical surveys each year to sharpen our questions so that our indicators yield results as closely comparable as possible over all schools. There may also be trends and situations, such as the economic climate, that differ and have an impact on the data points we collect. If you are going to compare a school from year to year, we recommend that you compare the data, not necessarily the ranking of the school. This year's rankings use the data that best reflect current conditions.

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8. Why don’t the ranking lists show all the rank numbers?

Among the live most popular areas of graduate and professional study—business, education, engineering, law, and medicine—U.S. News publishes numbered rankings of the top schools. A school’s rank tells you how many schools garner a higher score on the U.S. News ranking model. Schools that have the same score are listed alphabetically.

For example, suppose that a single school scores higher than all others on the U.S. News ranking model. It then has Rank 1. Now suppose that three schools are tied with the second-highest score. Each of these three schools will have Rank 2. Then the next-highest—scoring school will have Rank 5. The ith-ranked school achieves a third-highest score, but because of the three-way tie among schools achieving the second-highest score, there are four schools that rank higher, so the third-highest-scoring school has Rank 5, not Rank 3. In this example, no school has a rank of 3 or 4.

For rankings of specialties within these areas and programs outside of them, we have used the visual device of printing the rank of tied schools only once, to emphasize that the schools are tied on our ranking lists.

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9. How do the U.S. News rankings compare with other graduate school rankings?

First, there aren’t a lot of graduate school rankings.

The National Research Council (NRC) last released rankings of graduate programs in September 1995. The NRC has been collecting data at 10-year intervals and is currently evaluating various methodologies for its next study. Also under consideration is the question of whether the NRC will publish rankings or adopt another format for presenting its evaluations.

Researchers Evan Rogers and Sharon J. Rogers have compared rankings produced by the 1995 NRC study with those U.S. News has developed, looking specifically at the U.S. News rankings based on peer assessment data only. They concluded that there was “a very high positive association between U.S. News peer assessment scores and rankings and those reported by the NRC.” Their article in the May 1997 issue of the American Association of Higher Education Bulletin further discusses this topic.

Some other organizations compile business school rankings. Our ranking methodology differs, giving different results. If you choose to consult other rankings, we encourage you to study the methodology to understand the differences between the U.S. News rankings and those of other organizations.

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10. How does U.S. News get a peer assessment score?

One way of getting at the quality of a graduate program is to survey the people in the best position to have an informed opinion—academics who administer and teach in these programs and people who hire or work directly with graduates of these programs.

For all disciplines we rank, we surveyed deans or program directors as well as department chairs or faculty members, asking them to rate the quality of each program in their field on a scale from

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"marginal" (1) to "outstanding" (5). If the respondent was unfamiliar with any program, s/he had the option of indicating "don't know."

A second survey was sent out to practitioners in the fields of business, education, engineering, law, and medicine. These people-recruiters of recent graduates from business or engineering schools, school superintendents, professionals in legal fields, including law firm hiring partners, judges and state attorneys general, and directors of medical residency programs—were surveyed using the same survey format (a five-point Likert scale) used with academics.

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11. What are "input" measures of academic quality?
Input measures of academic quality reflect the relative performance of factors brought to the graduate education process. These factors include: the academic preparation of the entering class, faculty-student ratio, and research funding.

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12. What are "output" measures of academic quality?
Output measures of academic quality are measures we use to gauge how well an institution succeeds in its mission of preparing its graduates for professional life. These measures include job placement rates, starting salaries for M.B.A. program graduates, and bar passage rates for law graduates.

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13. What does it mean when schools are tied?
Schools that achieve the same score on our ranking model are published with the same rank. This means that, taking into account all the factors considered in the ranking model, tied schools are comparable overall. However, tied schools may vary in their performance on certain individual factors that go into determining overall rank. Look at the detail provided in our table to see how tied schools perform on individual factors, especially those of importance to you. For example, tied schools may show differences in research expenditures or student-faculty ratios.

Schools that are tied are listed in alphabetical order. For further details see Question 8, Why don’t the ranking lists show all the rank number?

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14. Where do the data on quality measures come from?
Most of the information is reported to us directly by the schools. Each year, U.S. News sends an extensive questionnaire to each school for each of the disciplines of business, education, engineering, law, and medicine. When the surveys are returned, U.S. News analyzes the data for errors, large changes, or inconsistencies. Errors and anomalies are resolved in concert with the school, which then verifies data stored in our database.

Where possible, we cross-check data with other sources.

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15. Why are there more rankings online than in print?

When we publish our rankings in print, there are space limitations that prevent us from going as deeply as we are able. As we do not have those limitations online, we are able to extend the number of schools we rank online to the level that we think is appropriate.

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