

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL

Twin Cities Campus

*Career & Professional Development Center
The Law School
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STANDARDS, WRITING REQUIREMENTS, GRADES, HONORS AND RANKS/QUARTILES Fall 2008: Class of 2009 and 2010

As one of the most selective law schools in the nation, the University of Minnesota Law School welcomes students who are high achieving and highly credentialed. The median LSAT score of the most recent entering class was in the top 8% nationwide (165), and the median GPA was 3.55. The school's rigorous academic program challenges students' intellects and prepares them to address tomorrow's world. Long recognized for its excellence, the Law School boasts bar passage and employment rates among the highest in the country, with 97% Minnesota bar passage and 98% employment nine months post-graduation.

WRITING REQUIREMENTS: As one of a small number of schools with a second-year writing requirement in addition to both first- and third-year writing, **the Law School requires each student to participate in one of four student law-review caliber journals or on one of eight moot court programs.** Students write onto *Minnesota Law Review*, *Law & Inequality: A Journal of Theory and Practice*, *Minnesota Journal of International Law* or *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology*. In a writing competition they may apply for positions on the moot courts (Jessup International Law Moot Court, Environmental Law Moot Court, National Moot Court, Wagner Labor Law Moot Court, William E. McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court, Giles Sutherland Rich Intellectual Property Moot Court, Maynard Pirsig Moot Court, and the ABA Moot Court Competition Team). In each Moot Court, students participate in a **year-long, academically supervised and graded appellate practice** in which they work on refining both written and oral communication skills. All of the moot courts field teams to participate in interscholastic competitions; Maynard Pirsig Moot Court additionally hosts its own intrascholastic competition judged by members of the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

GRADES: When evaluating students and their academic performance, understanding the unique grading system is important. While acknowledging the competitive environment inherent in a group of high achievers, the Law School faculty imposes a standard distribution for grades in order to prevent grade inflation. For first year courses, the average (mean) of all grades in a given course must fall between a 3.000 ("B") and a 3.333 ("B+"). The same curve is encouraged for upper division lecture courses.

HONORS: The Law School confers the following honors:

Order of the Coif: The Law School sponsors a chapter of Order of the Coif, a national honorary society for law students. The faculty elects students to this society at the close of the third year. Students in the top 10 percent of the graduating class are eligible for election.

Graduation with honors: Students with grade point averages of 3.333-3.499 receive their degrees *cum laude*; averages of 3.500 to 3.999 are deemed *magna cum laude*, and above 4.000 are granted degrees *summa cum laude*.

GRADING SCALE:

Letter Grade	
A+	4.333
A	4.000
A-	3.667
B+	3.333
B	3.000
B-	2.667
C+	2.333
C	2.000
C-	1.667
D	1.000
F	0

CLASS RANK: Class ranks are computed but not revealed to students or others except (1) for qualification for Law Review or the Order of the Coif, although ranking is not revealed to individual students; and (2) for the limited purpose of application for judicial clerkships or academic teaching positions.

QUARTILES: The University of Minnesota Law School publishes student performance by grade point average quartiles. Quartiles for the preceding academic year are determined in the summer. Quartiles for the 2007-2008 academic year are:

	Class of 2009 254 students 64 students/quartile	Class of 2010 259 students 65 students/quartile
First Quartile	3.547 – 4.065	3.481 – 4.074
Second Quartile	3.351 – 3.546	3.234 – 3.480
Third Quartile	3.079 – 3.350	3.037 – 3.233
Fourth Quartile	- 3.078	- 3.036

JOINT DEGREE STUDENTS: Joint degree students are ranked based on the number of credits they have received. Students with 32 law credits or fewer are ranked with the current first year class. Students with between 33 and 54 credits are ranked with the current second-year class. Students with 55 or more credits are ranked with current third-year students.

QUESTIONS? The Career & Professional Development Center staff will answer any questions about these grades, and will provide quartile information for graduates of prior years. Call 612/625-1866 or go to <http://www.law.umn.edu/careers/grades.html>.