

# BOSTON COLLEGE

## LAW SCHOOL

### INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Public/private	Private
Affiliation	Roman Catholic
Student-faculty ratio	14:1
% faculty part-time	56
% faculty female	39
% faculty minority	19
Total faculty	126

### SURVEY SAYS...

Great research resources  
Great library staff

### STUDENTS

Enrollment of law school	781
% male/female	55/45
% out-of-state	65
% full-time	100
% minority	24
% international	2
# of countries represented	7
Average age of entering class	25

### ACADEMICS

<b>Academic Experience Rating</b>	<b>92</b>
Profs interesting rating	90
Profs accessible rating	90
Hours of study per day	4.33

#### Academic Specialties

Business law, civil procedure, commercial law, constitutional law, corporation securities law, criminal law, environmental law, human rights law, intellectual property law, international law, labor law, legal history, legal philosophy, property, taxation.

#### Advanced Degrees Offered

JD 3 years, LLM 1 year.

#### Combined Degrees Offered

JD/MBA 4 years, JD/MSW 4 years, JD/MEd 3 years.

Clinical program required	No
Legal writing course requirement	Yes
Legal methods course requirement	Yes
Legal research course requirement	Yes

### Academics

Boston College law students may “work really, really hard,” but what the majority here find most remarkable about the school is how “interesting and enjoyable” it is. “So many people describe law school as being a bitter pill that one has to swallow in order to become an attorney,” a 2L writes. “That’s just not the case at Boston College.” It’s the people that make BC Law special, and professors are “truly extraordinary in their capacities as teachers, mentors, and friends.” Faculty members here are at the “top of their field” and “challenge their students to think critically without subjecting [them] to cruel and unusual punishment.” While some of the “Visiting professors are hard to follow,” instructors “are always well-prepared for class and dedicated to their students.” Reinforcing this dedication is the retreat held each year, lead by “approximately five faculty [members] and five students,” . . . “that aims to help students discern their vocation in the law.”

The “interesting, intellectual, and fun” students are another part of BC’s appeal. Law schools are frequently places where egos run rampant, but BC students compliment their peers by calling them “highly normal” and “willing to help.” While students would like to see more ethnic, geographic, and religious diversity on campus, there is “a high level of respect” among all in the BC community, and both faculty members and fellow students are “willing to use their personal contacts” to help advance a student’s career. “Last year I was able to help two classmates get summer jobs,” a 2L reports. Throw in “several events on campus with alumni and Boston attorneys,” and students say you can “get a position at a top law firm with relative ease,” though the employees in the Career Services Office often “seem limited in their knowledge of job markets to those in [the] major cities of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.”

While the administration here is sometimes “disorganized” and has, in the past, created “difficult scheduling conflicts for students,” others find it “approachable, flexible, and student oriented.” By all accounts, the school is “incredibly accommodating to people with family commitments, children, and disabilities.” “I have had friends that have had personal problems [and] illness, and the staff has been very helpful and understanding in allowing for help and guidance during difficult times and providing . . . things like make-up exams,” a 1L writes. The school is less flexible, however, when it comes to what many students believe to be its “overly conservative” policies.

On the academic front, BC’s legal writing program is “one of the best in the country” and “great for learning to write legal briefs.” In addition, its “1L class introducing lawyering and ethics helps pull together the various stages of a trial which helped me through my various internships. The course allowed me to ask questions about the legal process in a safe environment instead of learning it through ‘sink or swim later.’” Students do, however, call for “more concentrations outside of general corporate and public interest. Other big law schools are committing themselves to advancing IP studies or other ‘hot’ issues.” While “Some of the older sections of the law school show their age,” BC’s “Classroom and research facilities are beautiful and brand new,” and the “awe-inspiring” library particularly boasts “a legion” of “technologically savvy” “research librarians who are always more than willing to help with a particular problem. Many of them teach one-credit classes on legal research which students often take advantage of.” A 1L sums up the BC experience: “Where else would your research librarian tell you to call her up over the summer if you have a research issue you need help with?”

Moot court requirement	No
Public interest law requirement	No

## ADMISSIONS

<b>Selectivity Rating</b>	<b>92</b>
# applications received	6,322
# applicants accepted	1,224
# acceptees attending	257
Average LSAT	164
LSAT Range	162-166
Average undergrad GPA	3.58
Application fee	\$75
Regular application	3/1
Regular notification	Rolling
Rolling notification	Yes
Early application program	Yes
Early application deadline	11/1
Early application notification	12/15
Transfer students accepted	Yes
Evening division offered	No
Part-time accepted	No
LSDAS accepted	Yes

### Applicants Also Look At

American University, Boston University, Columbia University, Fordham University, The George Washington University, Georgetown University, New York University.

### International Students

TOEFL required	
of international students	Yes
Minimum paper TOEFL	600
Minimum computer TOEFL	250

### FINANCIAL FACTS

Annual tuition	\$34,770
Books and supplies	\$840
Room and board (off-campus)	\$16,835
Financial aid application deadline	3/15
% first-year students receiving some sort of aid	92
% receiving some sort of aid	85
% of aid that is merit based	9
% receiving scholarships	51
Average grant	\$15,019
Average loan	\$29,389
Average total aid package	\$42,541
Average debt	\$76,189

## Life

The Law Students Association (LSA) "sponsors monthly 'Bar Reviews' at Boston and Cambridge bars, as well as special events such as a fall Harbor Cruise, Halloween Party, and Spring Gala." The LSA has "also begun adding events for the incoming 1L class, such as a reception on Main Campus, a Duck Tour, and tailgating before home football games." As this just scratches the surface of student programming, it's not surprising that "people develop very strong friendships during their time here." Some go as far as to call BC "the Disneyland of law schools." When considering BC's social scene, however, its "massive workload" should not be overlooked.

The school is located "about a mile and a half down the road from BC's main campus, out in the suburb of Newton." While Newton is "a beautiful town," public transportation isn't easily accessible, which makes "the law school is somewhat isolated." Still, most BC law students choose to live in Boston, as there is no housing for law students on the Newton campus, and Newton itself is outside the budget of most students. Much to the chagrin of BC law students, however, there are "three freshman dorms" for undergraduate students on the Newton campus. While the law library "is off-limits for frosh, and the security people do a good job enforcing that," it "closes before midnight." A "cafeteria-type room [is] open all night," but "It is sometimes overridden with freshmen" who "are not particularly respectful of the peace and quiet needed to study late."

## Getting In

Only about one in five applicants is admitted to BC Law, but the school offers prospective students some nice options. Through the school's early notification plan, you can submit your application by November 1 and receive a decision by December 15. You can also reactivate an application submitted in the previous year by submitting a new application form, personal statement, LSDAS report, and application fee.

## EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

<b>Career Rating</b>	<b>97</b>	Association.	
Rate of placement (nine months out)	98	<b>Grads Employed by Field (%)</b>	
Average starting salary	\$100,000	Academic	1
State for bar exam	MA	Business/Industry	6
Pass rate for first-time bar	96	Government	8
<b>Employers Who Frequently Hire Grads</b>		Judicial clerkships	14
Bingham McCutchen; Brown Rudnick;		Military	1
Cadwalader; Choate Hall and Stewart; DLA		Private practice	65
Piper; Edwards, Angell, Palmer, and Dodge.		Public Interest	5

### Prominent Alumni

John Kerry, U.S. Senator/Democratic nominee for president; Debra Yang, former United States Attorney; Michael Greco, immediate past president, American Bar