VIRTUAL TOUR

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY
School of Law
WELCOME TO THE BLAKE LAW CENTER, HOME TO WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW!

Like you, students are drawn to our collegial and supportive learning environment where they are inspired by a faculty that is passionate about the law and its power to impact our world for the greater good. Our learning space is more than bricks and mortar, it is a place where students find their voice as legal scholars, advocates, and defenders of the rule of law. Come be a part of this life-changing community.

“Western New England School of Law is a mission-driven school dedicated to educating the next generation of lawyers. We place great emphasis on experiential learning that prepares graduates for work as ethical professionals in a legal landscape that is undergoing seismic change. You will be part of a University that for over one hundred years has upheld the tenets of knowledge, service, and integrity. As members of the legal profession, you will be specially trained to pursue the goals with the added obligation to advance the rule of law especially for those that have been historically denied access.”

Zelda B. Harris
Dean, School of Law
The Law Common is where you will be welcomed to the Blake Law Center. As the heart of the Law Center, it serves as a community gathering space for guest lectures, School celebrations, open houses, symposia, and other events. On a day-to-day basis, it is also a space where students come to unwind or socialize with friends.
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Just off of the Law Common you will find the administrative wing. Your one-stop-shop for the Registrar’s Office, Dean’s Suite, and the Center for Social Justice. All of the resources our law students need are located within the Blake Law Center. However, law students also have access to other amenities on our 215-acre campus, such as the main library on campus, dining options at the new University Commons, housing options, and the Alumni Healthful Living Center.
The recently remodeled student lounge is a great space to grab a bite, relax, and enjoy a game of table tennis or foosball with your classmates.
LAW LIBRARY

The Law Library spans three floors and contains over 300,000 volumes. Our knowledgeable law librarians are available seven days a week to assist students, alumni, faculty, and staff with their research. There are numerous study space options, including study carrels, silent areas, and group study rooms. Additionally, the library houses a print and copy center, computer lab, and meditation space.

In addition to the resources in the library, our students have full access to a number of electronic resources, including Bloomberg Law, Lexis, and Westlaw—on campus and remotely. Students have access to these resources throughout law school and for 6 months after graduation.
CLINIC OFFICE

At WNE University School of Law, we have eight clinics (listed below). Students in our Small Business Clinic and Global Justice Clinic work in our new clinic office space, which contains conference rooms and classrooms. Students working in our six other clinics are placed at sites throughout western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut.

› Criminal Defense Practicum
› Criminal Prosecution Practicum
› Family Defense Practicum
› Family Law Mediation Clinic
› Global Justice Clinic
› Legal Aid Clinic
› Real Estate Practicum
› Small Business Clinic

In addition to the clinics, we have a wide variety of externships available each semester. Our Externship Program places students with judges and lawyers who have agreed to provide a mentored learning environment.
The Pellegrini Moot Court Room is a state-of-the-art court room, equipped with a recording system, judge’s chambers, and jury deliberation room. This room is used primarily for our simulation-based classes and moot court teams. Additionally, the Massachusetts Court of Appeals holds hearings here each semester.
At WNE, we have a robust academic support program to help you succeed in law school and on the bar exam. On the first floor of the Blake Law Center, you will find the Center for Academic Success and Bar Programs, which contains a resource room with numerous study aids, meeting space, and the office of our Assistant Dean of Academic and Bar Success and Professor Justin Dion.
The work of the Law School Career Services Office centers around counseling law students and alumni on all aspects of career development and placement, ranging from private sector firms to public interest and governmental sector internships, clerkships, fellowships and permanent positions.

Some of the services provided include individual application material review, the creation and presentation of programming that explores the legal marketplace and informs students and graduates of potential career paths, and the administration of our students’ graduation pro bono requirement. The Law School Career Services Office works to enable WNE School of Law students and graduates to find the path that will lead them to rewarding, fulfilling careers.
The JD program is structured to prepare you for the practice of law in any American jurisdiction. You will begin with several required courses that form the foundation for more advanced legal studies. These courses include Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Introduction to the Law, Introduction to the Legal Profession, Lawyering Skills I, Lawyering Skills II, Property, and Torts. Later, you will take Advanced Legal Analysis, Business Organizations, Evidence, Income Tax I, and Professional Responsibility.

Many of the foundation courses are held in our larger classrooms. All of these rooms are equipped with Wi-Fi, smart podiums, recording equipment, and other learning technology that you would expect to see in a modern classroom.
WNE School of Law offers a wide variety of elective courses. These courses range in size and in learning style (i.e. lecture course, seminar, simulation-based course, writing course etc.) Many of our elective courses are designed to be more intimate and are taught in one of our smaller classrooms.

Although many of our students choose to design their own curriculum with guidance from a faculty advisor, we also offer five concentrations: Criminal Law, Gender and Sexuality, International and Comparative Law, Public Interest Law, and Transactional Law.
The Blake Law Center has several open study spaces throughout the building. This lends itself well to the collegial atmosphere that we pride ourselves on. Our students truly see each other as colleagues rather than competitors. This mentality forms a great base for our alumni community—a strong network of over 8,500 people stretching across the nation and several countries.
The Law Review Office is located on the third floor of the library. Full-time students may join after their first year and part-time students may join after their second year. Law Review is a two-year commitment and involves writing an original piece of legal research of publication quality and editing articles that have already been slated for publication.
The Student Bar Association (SBA) is our form of student government. The SBA oversees all student organizations and school-wide events. It is also involved in the management of the law school, with students attending faculty meetings, admissions committee meetings, and other operations that have a direct effect on our student body.
The School of Law’s full-time faculty members are extremely accessible to our students and pride themselves on their commitment to teaching and mentoring the next generation of great legal minds. All of their offices are located on the second and third floors of the Blake Law Center.

Our adjunct faculty is composed of more than 30 professionals, including practicing attorneys and judges, who bring current legal practice into the classroom. Our students benefit from their knowledge and professional networks. While they may not have offices located within the Blake Law Center, they do make themselves as accessible as possible to our students via phone, email, and ad hoc meetings.
The School of Law’s roots in community-based legal education stretch back a century, with the mission of promoting opportunity for students and engagement with the greater Springfield community. Launched in 2019, the University’s Centennial year, the Center for Social Justice has two main goals. The first is to provide a cohesive organizing framework for the School of Law’s justice-related teaching, scholarship, and service. The second is to broaden the School of Law’s academic offerings in the social justice arena, engage students more robustly, and work closely with community organizations and partners to identify and address unmet needs that require a multidimensional response cutting across law and other fields.
Western New England University is located in a residential neighborhood of Springfield, Massachusetts. Our campus is an expansive 215 acres. The Blake Law Center is located on the edge of campus and is conveniently located a short walk from graduate housing and other university amenities.
LEARN MORE

Please contact Admissions with questions at admissions@law.wne.edu or 413-782-1406