





ABOUT

Each year approximately 85 students from across the country enroll at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana looking for a hands-on approach to legal education. Under the guidance of dedicated faculty and staff, students thrive in an experience-rich environment that integrates theory and practice. Long before it was fashionable, the School of Law made a commitment to training practice-ready lawyers. The atmosphere at the University of Montana is enhanced by the surrounding Rocky Mountains, where wilderness and recreation offer a break from the rigors of law study.



MISSION AND VALUES

The Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana prepares students for the people-oriented practice of law by integrating theory and practice in a competency-based curriculum; serves as the academic legal center in Montana; and contributes to the development of national, state and tribal law and legal institutions through teaching, scholarship and service. In pursuit of this mission, the School of Law strives to:

- Develop in its students the demonstrated ability to serve society as lawyers, to represent clients generally and in particular transactions, and to seek resolution of conflicts in appropriate forums;
- Foster intellectual inquiry, knowledge of the law, fundamental professional skills, perspective on the role of law and lawyers in society, and the character and values necessary to serve society;
- Support scholarship and provide professional service to Montana, tribal governments and communities, the nation and the international community;
- Emphasize those areas of law significant to the Rocky Mountain West, including natural resources, environmental and Indian law; and
- Promote among students, faculty and the profession a sense of community enriched by a diverse group of people devoted to freedom of inquiry and freedom of expression.





History

University of Montana's law school first opened its doors in 1911. For more than 100 years, the School of Law has educated lawyers and prepared them to serve society. In 1914, the School of Law became a member of the Association of American Law Schools and in 1923, received accreditation from the American Bar Association. In 2011, the Blewett School of Law celebrated 100 years of education and service.



Commitment to Diversity

The School of Law shall promote and support a learning environment that encourages, enriches and respects the multidimensional aspects of diversity. Recognizing that the quality of legal education is enhanced by a diverse educational community, the school is committed to recruiting and retaining students, faculty, staff, and administrators capable of creating a safe, vibrant, diverse, engaging, and intellectually stimulating learning environment. This educational environment reinforces and models the principle that diversity is an integral part of learning and the competent, people-oriented practice of law. Diversity includes, but is not limited to, differences based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation or background, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, economic class or status, points of view or disabilities.



By The Numbers

2022 Entering Class (current as of 9/1/22)

Class Size: 91
 Resident/Non-Resident: 49/42
 Female/Male: 51/40
 Minority Students: 20%
 Average Age: 24

LSAT 75%: 158
 50%: 155
 25%: 151

GPA 75%: 3.68
 50%: 3.44
 25%: 3.06

- 4 Dual Degree Programs
- 2 Certificate Programs
- 4 Areas of Concentration
- 7 Competition Teams
- 2 Law Reviews



Tuition

2022-23 Academic Year	Resident	Non-Resident
General Tuition	\$6,688	\$30,648
Law School Tuition	\$7,950	\$7,950
Fees	\$2,329	\$2,579
Total (Tuition and Fees)	\$17,167	\$41,177

Employment Outcomes

Montana First Time Takers
 2021 Bar Passage Rate: 83%

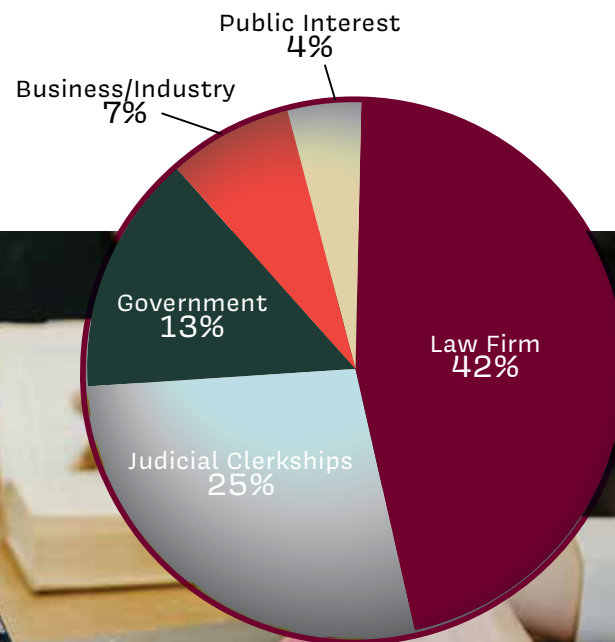
Placement
 (class graduating 2021)

71 total graduates

Employed or seeking
 advanced degree
 (10 months after
 graduation): 99.4%

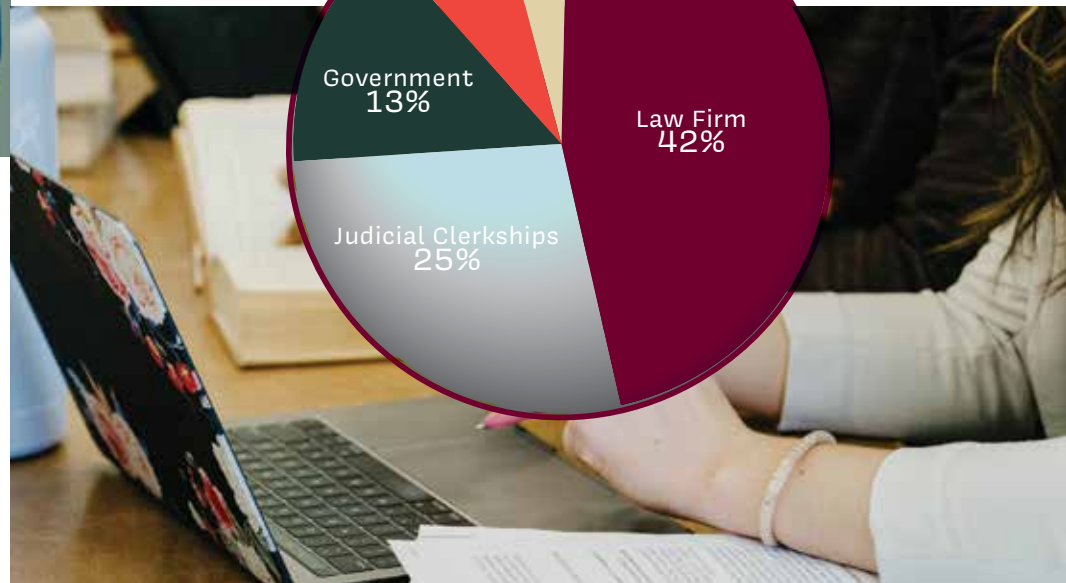
Percent of class with full-
 time/long-term Bar-passage
 or J.D.-preferred jobs: 90.1%

2021 Employed Graduates



The University of Montana's Alexander Blewett III School of Law is ranked 5th nationally on the *Princeton Review's 2022 Best Law Schools for State and Local clerkships*. 30.4% of its 2020 graduates placed in coveted judicial clerkships.

In the Spring 2022 edition of *PreLaw Magazine*, the law school was ranked a "Top School of Environmental Law" and also a top ten school in the category of practical training, with three in-house clinics and over 25 field placements with nonprofits, government agencies, and judges.





Natural Resource and Environmental Law

Montana has long been an innovator in natural resources and environmental law. As the Montana Constitution reflects, it is a community of people who both revere and rely upon natural resources, working hard to balance the varied demands placed upon the waters, lands and wildlife. It also recognizes that natural resource issues extend far beyond Montana's borders, affecting the nation and the world. The Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana models these values in its mission of serving people through an emphasis on natural resources and environmental law.

Indian Law

Take a prominent role in addressing legal issues relating to Indian people and Indian country. Experience Indian law while residing in western Montana, the beautiful homelands of the Bitterroot Salish, the Pend d'Oreille and the Kootenai tribes. Located in Missoula, the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana is the only law school in a state. Montana is home to seven reservations and eight federally recognized tribal governments that represent 12 tribes.

University of Montana's Indian Law Program addresses the complex and evolving principles of Indian law while recognizing the unique relationship between tribal, state, and federal governments. In addition to offering substantive Indian law courses and an Indian Law Certificate Program, the School of Law has the oldest in-house Indian Law Clinic in the nation, offers a progressive Summer Indian Law Program and supports an active Native American Law Students Association.





Missoula, Montana

It's hard to top Missoula as a beautiful place to live and study. Missoula is ringed by snow-capped mountains, and two rivers—the Clark Fork and the Bitterroot—flow through town. If you enjoy outdoor recreation or want a peaceful place to study, you'll fall in love with Missoula.

Missoula is a friendly town, full of active folks who appreciate their natural surroundings and are dedicated to preserving them. Biking is a way of life, both for transportation and recreation, and Missoula is considered one of the top biking communities in the country.

Missoula's quaint downtown is only a few blocks from campus. Here you'll find numerous buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places housing boutiques, art galleries, restaurants, craft breweries, local distilleries and coffee shops. Down by the river is Caras Park, where the town turns out to enjoy free music, local food trucks, festivals, and kayaking and surfing at the local's favorite spot, Brennan's Wave. Here, you will also find Missoula's carousel, one of the few in the country. The horses were hand-carved by local Missoulians as a labor of love.

For a smaller city, Missoula is remarkably sophisticated. We enjoy the arts, music, museums, high-quality performing arts and a variety of restaurants and shopping, without the hassles of big-city traffic and crime. Missoula is a great place to live, raise a family and receive your education.

- Missoula was named one of the 2020 Top 100 Best Places to Live by [Livability.com](#)
- Previously voted by *Outdoor Magazine* as one of the 16 greatest places to live in America
- Missoula's Wilma Theatre (#69) and the Top Hat (#135) were ranked among the best venues in the world by leading concert industry website [Pollstar](#).



Dual Degree Options

Students have the opportunity to obtain dual degrees in several disciplines. The Law School offers the following dual degrees:

- JD/Master of Public Administration
- JD/Master of Business Administration
- JD/Master of Environmental studies
- JD/Master of Social Work

To learn more about dual degree options, visit our website at www.umt.edu/law/academics/joint-degrees

Certificate Options

A thorough legal education consists of a solid foundation in addition to the opportunity to expand knowledge in areas of interest. As a student at the Blewett School of Law, you will be exposed to wide array of required areas of study. You will also have the opportunity to concentrate and expand your knowledge in specific areas by earning a certificate.

Certificates offered include:

- American Indian Law
- Natural Resources and Environmental Law
- Natural Resources Conflict Resolution

Learn more about certificate program opportunities, visit our website at www.umt.edu/law/academics/certificates





Special Admissions Programs

GRE Admissions

We accept both the LSAT and the GRE for admission. While we expect the vast majority of our applicants will continue to apply with only the LSAT, you may want to consider whether the GRE is a suitable alternative.

If you choose to apply with the GRE, you must submit all valid GRE test results for the past five years. You may not choose which results to share. This parallels the requirement that five years of LSAT scores be disclosed on an application. Similarly, with the LSAT, we will accept an explanation for discrepancies between multiple GRE scores. Any applicant who wishes to submit an addendum is free to do so.

Please visit the ETS website for additional information on the GRE.





Photo Credit: Frank Kuhl

3+3 Program

The School of Law offers qualifying students from our partner undergraduate institutions the option to earn their bachelor and law degrees in six years rather than the traditional seven.

Undergraduate students who gain admission into the law school through the 3+3 programs will follow the usual required course of study for first-year law students. After successfully completing the first year of law school, 3+3 participants will receive their bachelor's degree, assuming all other graduation requirements are met. The Juris Doctor degree will be awarded upon successful completion of the required minimum 90 total course credits for law school and all other J.D. requirements. The application deadline for 3+3 applicants is Feb. 1 and late applications will not be accepted.

The Blewett School of law has 3+3 program agreements with the following institutions:

- Carroll College (Montana)
- Rocky Mountain College (Montana)

For more information, please visit our website.

Summer Programs

Summer American Indian & Indigenous Law Program

Every summer faculty comprised of expert Indian law scholars and practitioners from around the country come to spend their summer in beautiful Missoula, Montana, to teach Indian law. Participants in the program may choose from any of the courses offered or take them all. Course topics vary each year, but touch on issues connected to or central to Indian law and Indian Country. Courses offered in the past include:

- Indian Law Research
- Mastering American Indian Law
- Civil Jurisdiction in Indian Country
- Native Hawaiian Law
- Criminal Justice in Indian Country
- Alaska Native Law and Policy
- Natural Resources Issues in Indian Country
- Indigenous Rights in International Law
- Indigenous religious Freedom
- Public Policy in Indian Country
- Social Justice Indian Country

For more information, please see our website at:
www.umt.edu/indianlaw



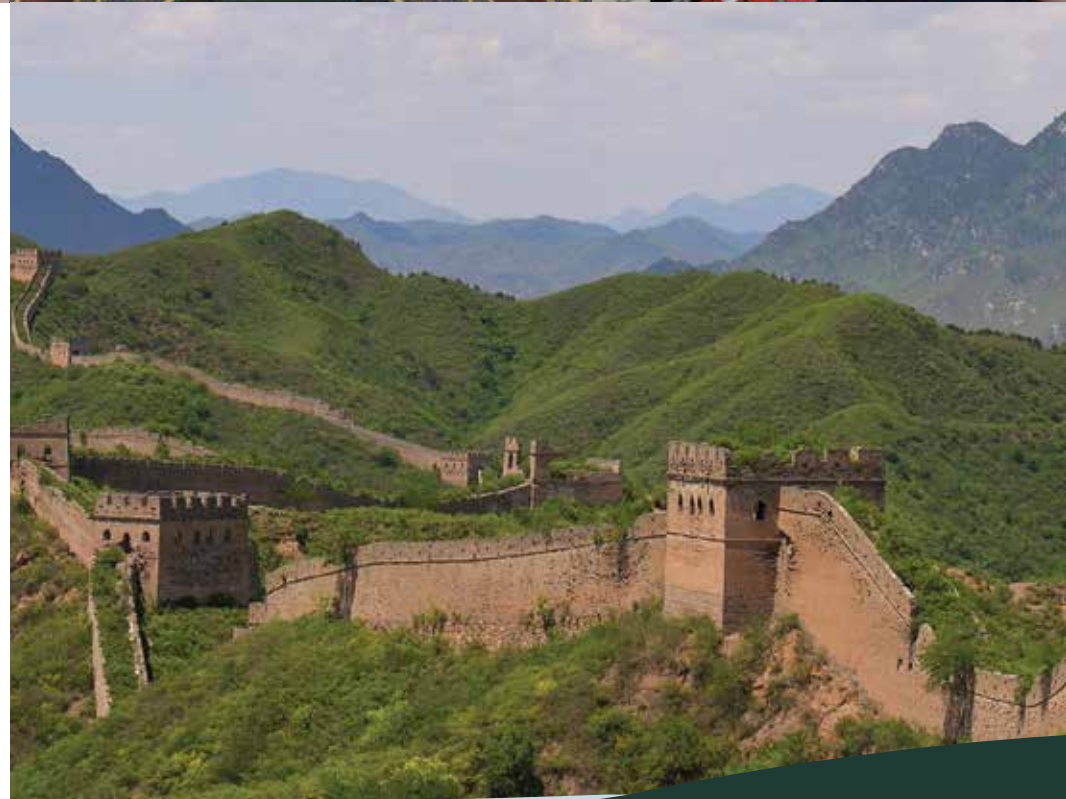


Baucus Institute Summer **Study Abroad in China**

China has emerged as one of the world's most powerful economic forces in today's global economy. The demand is increasing for experts familiar with the ever-changing nature of the Chinese economy and with Chinese political and legal systems to provide advisory services to businesses and policymakers. We recognize these needs and offer students an opportunity to experience China firsthand in our summer study abroad program. The Summer Study Abroad China program immerses students with colleagues from other western universities, as well as Chinese law students, using faculty from all involved schools. Each year offers different courses, the most recent program featured the following four 1.5 credit courses:

- Comparative Business Organizations
- Comparative Renewable Energy Law
- Comparative Constitutional Law
- Comparative International Business Transactions Law

For more information, please visit our website at:
www.umn.edu/law/baucus-institute/study-abroad





Baucus Institute Summer **Study Abroad in Ireland**

Europe and the US have deep historic connections in our governments and cultures. Western Montana and County Cork in particular have a special relationship, as many Irish leaving western Ireland in the late 1800s settled in Butte, Helena, Anaconda, and Missoula. Beginning in 2022, the University of Montana's Alexander Blewett III School of Law has partnered with the University County Cork in Cork, Ireland, to offer a comparative law Summer Study Abroad program. Prior courses have included:

- Comparative Environmental Law & Policy
- International Business Transactions and Dispute Enforcement Mechanism

Faculty

Pippa Browde

COURSES TAUGHT: Corporate Tax, Federal Tax, Partnership Tax, Taxation of Business Organizations, Taxation of Property Transactions

Michelle Bryan

COURSES TAUGHT: Administrative Law, International Environmental Law, Introduction to Natural Resources and Environmental Law, Land Use and the Environment, Water Law

Bari Burke

COURSES TAUGHT: Gender and the Law, Lawyer Well-Being and Self Care, Lawyers' Values

Jonathan Byington

COURSES TAUGHT: Bankruptcy, Business Transactions, Real Estate Transactions, Secured Transactions

Anna Conley

COURSES TAUGHT: Pretrial Advocacy, International Comparative Law, Federal Courts, Remedies

Craig Cowie

COURSES TAUGHT: Civil Procedure, Consumer Protection, Pretrial Litigation

Elaine Gagliardi

COURSES TAUGHT: Business Organizations, Business Transactions, Estate Planning: Wills and Trusts, Taxation of Estates and Gifts, and Tax Exempt Organizations

Jordan Gross

COURSES TAUGHT: Criminal Procedure–Adjudicative, Criminal Justice in Indian Country, Criminal Justice Reform Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar, White Collar Crime, Professional Responsibility

Anthony Johnstone

COURSES TAUGHT: Constitutional Law, Advanced Constitutional Law, Montana Constitutional Law, Legislation: Law and Politics, Philosophy of Law, Supreme Court Seminar

Andrew King-Ries

COURSES TAUGHT: Criminal Procedure: Investigative, Criminal Law, Domestic Violence, Juvenile Justice, Law and Literature, White Collar Crime

Samuel Panarella

COURSES TAUGHT: Business Organizations, Business Transactions, Contracts I and II, Renewable Energy Law, Study Abroad in China Program

Cathay Smith

COURSES TAUGHT: Introduction to Intellectual Property Law, Property Law, Art and Cultural Property Law

Kekek Stark

COURSES TAUGHT: Tribal Courts, Tribal Law, Indian Law Clinic, American Indian Diplomacy, American Indian Natural Resources Law

Hillary Wandler

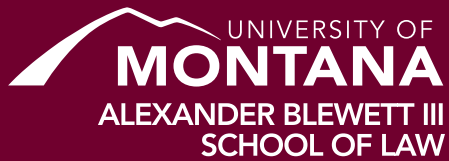
COURSES TAUGHT: Civil Procedure I and II, Lawyering Fundamentals: Analysis, Legal Writing, Veterans' Law, Veterans' Advocacy Clinic

Sandi Zellmer

COURSES TAUGHT: Public Lands, Water Law, Wildlife, Natural Resource and Environmental Law, Clinics, Torts



Faculty average more than seven years of practice before beginning their teaching careers at the Blewett School of Law.



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