

What Makes Dickinson Law Unique?

Founded in 1834, Dickinson Law is one of the oldest law schools in the country and the oldest in Pennsylvania.

Dickinson Law emphasizes individualized attention and hands-on training as part of an intentionally small class of no more than 100 students. Students engage in career-building opportunities in nearby major legal markets, including Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Wilmington, New York City, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C.

Experiential Learning Requirements

Dickinson Law is committed to experiential learning that goes beyond the minimum requirements set by the American Bar Association. All J.D. students must earn at least twelve experiential learning credits. Six of those twelve credits are required to be in a law practice setting which can be satisfied through participation in an externship, clinic or semester-in-practice. Externships can be completed in judicial settings, governmental settings, in-house corporate setting, nonprofit setting or with a private law firm. Dickinson Law offers three in-house Clinics: Children's Advocacy Clinic, Community Law Clinic and a Medical Legal Partnership Clinic. Students can spend a semester in Washington, D.C., New York City, San Francisco/Silicon Valley, Los Angeles, Texas, at the International Justice Program in The Hague, Netherlands or Harrisburg—the professional hub and capital of Pennsylvania—where they work alongside policy makers and practitioners.

"Each of my law clerks from Dickinson Law demonstrate initiative, competence, and integrity - a great reflection on the legal education received at Dickinson Law that emphasizes creating practice-ready lawyers."



The Honorable William S. Greenberg,
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Federal Judicial Externship Program

Students have the opportunity to extern with federal judges in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania during the spring of their 2L year and the fall of their 3L year in exchange for six credits. Students also have the opportunity to extern with state court judges and other organizations such as the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts and the Judicial Conduct Board.

26%
of the Class of 2020 completed a judicial externship prior to graduation

22%
of the Class of 2021 completed a judicial externship prior to graduation

"I have been extremely impressed with the quality of my students at Dickinson Law. They are hard-working, compassionate, and articulate. They have a passion for learning the law and it is evident that they will be fantastic lawyers. I also love that Dickinson Law students are so diverse. They come from all across the world and from many different ethnicities and they bring their personal experiences into the classroom which really enriches our class discussions."



The Honorable Kuyomars Golparvar, Immigration
Judge, Executive Office of Immigration Review,
U.S. Department of Justice



"My experience at Dickinson Law laid a wonderful foundation for my work as a law clerk on the Utah Court of Appeals. Between my federal judicial externship, the wonderful feedback I received in each of my research and writing classes, and the guidance of my professors, I felt ready and confident to dive headfirst into my work on day one of my clerkship."



McKay Lewis, Class of 2021,
Law Clerk to the Honorable Ryan Harris,
Utah Court of Appeals

"It has been 63 years since my graduation from Dickinson Law. I have always remained in contact with the school that equipped me to be a lawyer, a county judge, a federal judge, and an associate professor of law. As the only female in my class, the school has grown to be noted for its trial advocacy, mentorship, and inclusiveness in its student body. I am proud to be a graduate of the school."

The Honorable Sylvia H. Rambo, U.S. District Court
for the Middle District of Pennsylvania



"The practical experiences I took advantage of during law school helped make me a better writer and advocate."



Stephanie-Rose Orlando, Class of 2021
Law Clerk to the Honorable Carmen
Messano, New Jersey Superior Court,
Appellate Division

Relevant Curricular Offerings

From day 1, the Dickinson Law curriculum emphasizes the importance of legal writing, research, communication and problem-solving skills. These core competencies are built upon through practical training in the required experiential learning curriculum. Writing is also emphasized in capstone experiences such as seminars and Semesters-in-Practice.

In May of 2020, Dickinson Law took measurable action to combat systemic inequality when the faculty unanimously passed a resolution condemning violence against people of color. Following this resolution, they also instituted a new course, "Race and the Equal Protection of the Laws," which is now a requirement for all first-year students. Dickinson Law also requires students to take an upper-level course in civil rights, equal protection, or social justice.

During Spring of their 1L year, Dickinson Law students take a course entitled Law Practice Skills II: Contexts and Competencies. In this course, students are taught about important extra-legal competencies that will arm them with the knowledge and skills to address multi-faceted issues in an interdisciplinary world. Students also take both an objective and persuasive legal writing course as well as two separate courses on legal research.

"One of the true strengths of Dickinson Law is its tradition of empowering students to take charge of their legal education in various ways. From the first semester of 1L year, the curriculum emphasizes the importance of tangible, practical lawyering skills. Exposure to this kind of responsibility this early in a legal career enables Dickinson Law students to grow confidence in their abilities to think critically, work with others effectively, meet deadlines, and balance mounting responsibilities – all skills necessary while working with a Judge in chambers."

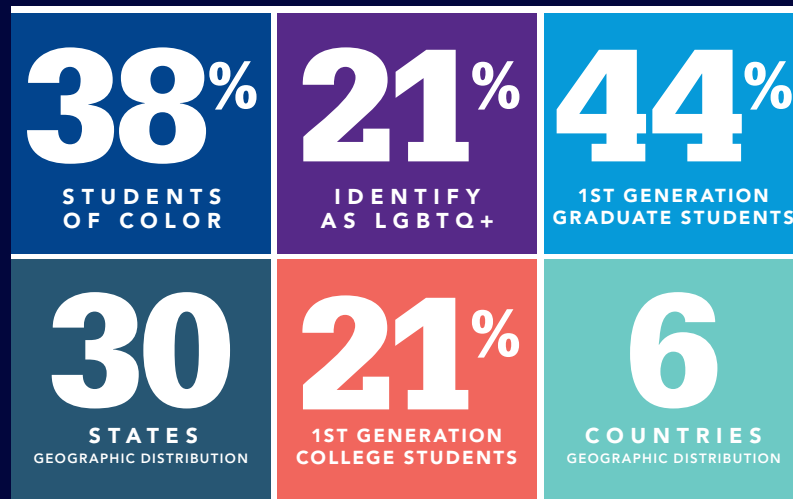


Elikem Tsikata, Class of 2021, Judicial Clerk to the Honorable Jan Jurden, Delaware Superior Court

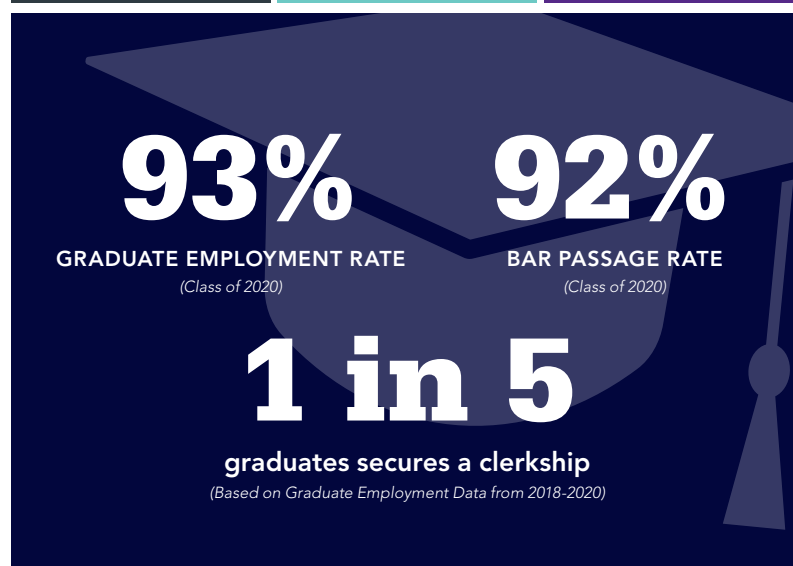
CLASS PROFILES

DIVERSITY & STUDENT CREDENTIALS

CLASS OF 2024



CLASS OF 2023



The Pennsylvania State University
Dickinson Law
150 S College St
Carlisle, PA 17013



Consider a Clerk from Dickinson Law

