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Information About the Law School

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The University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law



THE UNIVERSITY

Established at Vermillion by the Dakota Territorial Legislature in 1862, The University of South Dakota began instruction in 1882. It is situated in the southeast corner of the state upon a bluff north of the last remaining natural portion of the majestic Missouri River. Vermillion is only one hour from two substantial population centers, each with airports served by major commercial carriers.

The University offers over ninety majors in seven colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Fine Arts, the Graduate School, the School of Business, the School of Education, the School of Medicine, and the School of Law. These colleges and schools offer students degrees ranging from the two-year Associate Degree to Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Medicine, and Juris Doctor. The Knudson School of Law offers interdisciplinary and joint degree programs with the other schools and colleges of the University.

THE LAW SCHOOL

The School of Law opened in 1901. It has been accredited by the American Bar Association since 1923 and a member of the Association of American Law Schools since 1907. In August 1981, the school moved into a new building which provides class rooms, a teaching courtroom that is fully wired with state-of-the-art video-conferencing technologies, and office space for faculty, student activities, and administration. With a total student enrollment of approximately 228 and eighteen full-time faculty, the Law School's student-faculty ratio of 9:1 is one of the more favorable in the nation.



The McKusick Law Library occupies three floors of the Law School building. The largest and most complete law library in South Dakota, the library houses the equivalent of a collection of over 208,000 print volumes. The Law Library provides access to primary authority including court reporters, South Dakota and surrounding state statutes, select Congressional documents, and the opinions and briefs filed in the cases of the South Dakota Supreme Court. The Law Library also provides access to secondary legal authority including treatises, law reviews and journals, practice and other materials. An on-line catalog allows immediate access to the University of South Dakota I.D. Weeks Library and McKusick Law Library catalogs as well as to other university and public libraries throughout South Dakota. Individual study carrels are located in the library and assigned to individual students. Additional seating is available for other patrons and guests of the Law School.

Total enrollment in 2022-2023 for the Knudson School of Law is approximately 228 students. Regular classes are seldom larger than eighty and can be as small as seven. The Law School offers a broad range of electives, co-curricular activities, and professional events to enhance the educational experience. Many of the faculty members are former practitioners. The faculty is a community of active scholars who have written books, monographs, law review articles, and teaching materials. Students are provided insight into day-to-day problems of legal practice in private firms and public agencies through the Law School's internships and externship programs.

THE SOUTH DAKOTA LAW REVIEW

The *South Dakota Law Review* was first published in the spring of 1956 and is published three times a year by students at The University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law. For over fifty years, the *South Dakota Law Review* has provided a forum to publish materials presenting views on subjects of interest to the legal profession. With a circulation of nearly 200 subscribers a year, the *South Dakota Law Review* reaches all fifty states and many foreign universities and institutions. The Board of Editors, which has the responsibility of publishing the *Law Review* each year, is chosen from students who have contributed articles for publication during the preceding year.

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