

2000

# Study Law at Night

Nova Southeastern University

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Shepard Broad Law Center



# Study Law at Night?

**S**ure you have a lot of questions! It's a big commitment of time, money and energy to get a law degree on a part-time basis. At Nova Southeastern University we understand and appreciate the sacrifices you have to make to pursue the J.D. degree in the evening. But at NSU, we're experts in making higher education available, conveniently and efficiently, to those who can't attend classes during traditional daytime hours. So we're ready to answer your tough questions.

**C**an I meet my real-life obligations and get an NSU law degree in the Evening Division? Do I have to go to school every night of the week? How about weekends? How long will it take to complete the program?

We designed the NSU Evening Law program so that you will earn the NSU Juris Doctor degree without abandoning commitments to family, friends, and employer. The program is structured so that the Evening student will only attend classes Monday through Thursday for the first two years. Two of those nights you'll be in class from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and on the other two evenings the courses will run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The evening program will include 60 first year students. It follows a traditional academic calendar with the semester beginning in the middle of August and ending in December. After you have completed the required program, basically after the first two years, there will be some flexibility in setting your class schedule. Certain courses, mostly electives, will be offered on Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Time will have to be set aside, of course, for class assignments and exam preparation.

Naturally, obtaining your law degree at night will take longer than going to school full-time. It takes less time, however, than most people expect. At NSU, you'll be able to get your J.D. degree in four years (eight semesters) if you attend two terms of summer school. You'll spend four and one-half years (nine semesters) if you take off both summers. This compares with three years (six semesters) for full-time day students.



**I**f I attend the Evening Division, will I receive the same education as those who go full-time? Will employers and other lawyers evaluate me in the same way they judge Day Division students? Are my chances on the Bar Exam any less than those of full-time students?



The faculty of the Law Center has structured the Evening program so that you and employers will find it comparable to the education received by students in the full-time program. In fact, each Evening student will complete all of the principal Bar Exam courses as part of the required curriculum. For Day students, some of those courses are only available as electives. We want to make sure that Evening Division students, whose time is less flexible, will have a seat in all those courses the faculty deems essential to success in practice and on the Bar Exam.

Full-time faculty will teach all of your required and core courses, just as in the Day Division. The best practitioner professors who serve as adjunct faculty will be assigned evening as well as day electives. Indeed, to insure equal access to classes that are particularly popular, we plan on offering a "Twilight Program" of high demand classes that will be available in the 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. period to allow cross-registration of Day and Evening Division students.

Not surprisingly, Evening Division students will have fewer clinical education opportunities than those available to the Day students. The primary reason for this discrepancy is that most of the legal system operates in the 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. period. We anticipate, however, some clinical offerings for Evening Division students. For example, we are exploring a Mediation Clinic and a Legal Services Counseling Clinic for Evening students. We also will study the possibility of giving Evening Division students clinical credit for work in the legal departments of their employers' business.

Likewise, we expect that there will be somewhat fewer co-curricular activities open to Evening Division students than there are available to full-time Day students. However, Evening Division students will be invited to participate in key organizations, such as Law Review, Law Journal, and Moot Court Board.



**A**re the admission criteria of the two Divisions identical? Are Evening students eligible for the Summer Conditional Program? If I begin as a part-time Evening student can I transfer to the full-time Day program? Can Day students switch to the Evening Division? Are the joint degree programs open to Evening students?

We expect successful applicants to the Evening Division to have the same credentials as those accepted to the Day program. As an Evening Division student, you are not required to be employed full-time or have family responsibilities that occupy all of your daytime hours.

At this time, the Summer Conditional Admission Program is available to candidates for the Evening Division. As we gain experience with the Evening Division that decision may be reviewed. We are aware that many Evening Division candidates have not been enrolled in formal and traditional graduate academic classes for some time. Therefore, we are also instituting a Summer Entry Program that will be open to some accepted Evening and Day students. The program is designed to provide a context for their further law school studies and "jump start" their legal education. The course will be taught during the evening and on Saturdays to allow students to meet their work and other obligations.

The practical constraints imposed by curricular and budget planning preclude the transfer of students between the two divisions. While transfers are not anticipated, we will do what we can to be as flexible as possible in scheduling classes and adjusting class load standards to meet student needs.

Joint degree opportunities are available to Evening students on the same basis as they are to Day students. Under Law Center rules, Evening



Division joint degree candidates must devote full academic attention to law courses for three semesters after they begin the study of law. This allows students to start their joint degree program by initially enrolling in the companion academic department. However, when they begin the law school phase of their studies, Evening Law students must take only law courses for three full terms.



**W**hat will be the tuition for the part-time Evening Program? Will it all be charged on a per-credit basis? Will Evening students qualify for financial aid?

A law degree, as one in medicine, engineering, and other professional fields, is an investment. As such, it is not inexpensive. On the other hand, it is more affordable for NSU Evening students because, unlike their colleagues in the Day Division, they can continue to work full-time while pursuing their law degrees.

Tuition for NSU Evening Law students who take 9 to 11 credits per term (i.e., a full-time academic load for part-time students) will be three-quarters of the tuition of the Day Division. Evening students who receive permission to take 12 or more credits will pay an additional per credit charge at the prevailing Law Center rate. Summer school, including the Summer Entry Program, will be charged at the standard per credit fee. The 1996 Day tuition will be \$9,425 per semester and the Evening tuition will be \$7,070 per semester.

Evening Division students are eligible for academic loans on the same basis as Day students. The University's Financial Aid staff is very experienced in working with part-time graduate students in a wide variety of professional programs. We are actively soliciting an endowment that will help to fund scholarships and grants for future Evening Division students.

**I** always wanted to get a law degree and it sounds like NSU has created a part-time program that will allow me to pursue my goal without giving up the rest of my life. What do I do now to get started on my law career?

### ***Admission Requirements:***

Students entering the Law Center must have either (1) an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution, (2) an undergraduate degree from a foreign institution that the Admissions Committee believes provides an adequate educational foundation for the study of law, or (3) an appropriate professional degree. There is no prescribed pre-legal undergraduate course of study.

### ***Law School Admission Test***

Each applicant must submit scores from a *recently* administered Law School Admission Test (LSAT). **For this year only**, we will accept the June LSAT test score for the Evening program.

### ***Application***

You should file your application as soon as possible. Decisions will be made during the summer to accommodate June test takers. It is your responsibility to submit the necessary information to LSDAS and to list the Law Center as a recipient of the LSDAS report.

**Be sure to check off part-time Evening Division on your application and, in your personal statement, indicate why you have chosen to apply to the Evening Division.**



# **Contact Information**

## **Admissions Information**

Admissions Office  
Nova Southeastern Law  
3305 College Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314  
(954) 452-6117  
(954) 452-6109 FAX

## **Financial Aid Information**

Financial Aid Office  
Nova Southeastern University  
3301 College Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314  
(954) 452-3380

## **LSAT/LSDAS Information**

Law School Admission Council  
Box 2000  
Newtown, Pennsylvania 18940  
(215) 968-1001

## **Veterans' Benefits Information**

Nova Southeastern University  
3301 College Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314  
(954) 452-7241