

## Western Michigan University Thomas M Cooley Law School

<http://www.cooley.edu/careers/>



### Basic Information

300 S. Capitol Ave.  
Lansing, Michigan (MI), 48933  
United States  
517-371-5140

### Career Service Administrator:

Charles R. Toy  
Associate Dean of Career and Professional Development  
Phone: 517-371-5140  
toyc@cooley.edu

### Registrar:

Mohammad Sohail  
517-371-5140

### Admissions Profile (J.D. Candidates only)

Applications received	1481
Size of entering class:	445
# of undergraduate colleges represented:	184
# of states represented (incl. D.C.)	30
In-state enrollment:	11
Out-state enrollment:	115
Foreign countries represented:	15

### Grade Point Average / Law School Admission Test

In determining GPA and LSAT averages, are all students included? No  
If not, what percentage is not included and why?  
Students who earned an undergraduate degree at a foreign institution are not included.

### Contact Information for Other Career Services Staff

Lisa L. Fadler - Assistant Dean; Danielle Hall- Grand Rapids Career Services Coordinator; Alana Glass & Shari Lesnick-Auburn Hills Career Service Coordinators; Karen Poole-Lansing Career Service Coordinator; Bradley Merritt-Tampa Bay Career Service Coordinator

### Law School Demographics

		1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	Total
	<b>Total Class Size</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>1742</b>
	<b>Men</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>804</b>
	<b>Women</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>938</b>
<b>Latinx</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Latinx</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Native American or Alaska Native</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Native American or Alaska Native</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2 or more races</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>2 or more races</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Persons with Disabilities</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Persons with Disabilities</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>LGBTQ</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>LGBTQ</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Non-Resident Alien</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Non-Resident Alien</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>44</b>

### Comments

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### Degree Programs

Number of Students Enrolled:	
Full-Time:	303
Evening:	0
Part-Time:	1,439
Other:	1644
Fields of Study:	
LL.M. Degrees Offered:	Yes
Is LL.M. grading system equivalent to JD system?	No
Joint degree programs offered?	Yes
Number of LL.M. degrees awarded in previous year:	56

### JD Programs:

#### Special Training and Certification Programs:

Concentrations: Business Transactions /General Practice, Solo & Sm. Firm/ Litigation/ Administrative/Environmental/Constitutional/ Civil Rights/ Intellectual Property/ International/Taxation/ Canadian Law/Self-Directed. Joint-degree programs: Business (JD/MBA), Educational Leadership (JD/MA), Health Administration (JD/MHA), HR & Organizational Dev.(JD/MSHROD),Public Administration (JD/MPA), Social Work (JD/MSW). LL.M programs: Insurance (JD/LL.M), Taxation(JD/LL.M), Intellectual Property (JD/LL.M), Corporate Law & Finance (JD/LL.M), Insurance (LL.M/MBA), Homeland & National Security (JD/LL.M), U.S. Legal Studies for Foreign Lawyers, and Self-Directed (JD/LL.M)

Is Moot Court a required activity? No

#### Moot Court Program Description:

Four Moot Court competitions allow all students opportunities to participate: (1) First-year extracurricular intraschool competition; (2) Second-year elective; (3) Second-year intraschool competition; (4) Many interschool teams, for selected second- and third-year students. Other skills competitions, both internal and external, include trial skills, client counseling, negotiation, and mediation. All internal competitions are run by student boards, who select new members.

### Explanation of Grading System

Letter Grades	Other Grading System?	Numerical Equivalents
A+		
A		4.0
A-		3.5
B+		
B		3.0
B-		2.5
C+		
C		2.0
C-		1.5
D		1.0
F		0.0

#### Comments:

Based on May 2014 graduation class

#### Minimum Grade Required to Attain:

Top 10%:	3.59
Top 25%:	3.16
Top 33%:	3.05
Top 50%:	2.83
Top 75%:	2.51
Median GPA:	2.83
Minimum grade required for graduation:	2.0
Do you have a pass/fail option?	Yes
Intro to Law, Law Review, and all clinics are graded on a Pass/Fail basis.	
Are students ranked in their class?	Yes
If so, how often?	End of each semester
Will the school verify student grades?	Yes

#### School's Verification Policy

The Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School grading policy is demanding, but fair. In most courses, grades are based on written final examinations, administered and graded under a system that assures student anonymity. Professors adhere to established grade definitions.p>

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### Pre-Graduation Academic Honors

### Graduation Honors

### Areas of Practice & Employment

Areas of practice include both legal and non-legal positions: % of employed students with jobs in area	
Private practice	44.95
Business and industry	29.44
Government	14.63
Judicial clerkship	2.79
Military	0.69
Public interest organization	5.23
Academic	2.96
Job category not identified	0.00

% of students with known location who are in employment region	
New England (CT,ME,MA,NH,RI,VT)	0.87
Middle Atlantic (NJ,NY,PA)	9.77
East North Central (IL,IN,MI,OH,WI)	63.00
West North Central (IA,KS,MN,MO,NE,ND,SD)	2.44
South Atlantic (DE,DC,FL,GA,MD,NC,SC,VA,WV)	9.08
East South Central (AL,KY,MS,TN)	1.57
West South Central (AR,LA,OK,TX)	3.66
Mountain (AZ,CO,ID,MT,NV,NM,UT,WY)	4.19
Pacific (AK,CA,HI,OR,WA)	3.32
Non-US	2.09

### Jurisdictions:

Michigan, New York, Florida, Texas, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, California, New Jersey

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### OCI / Job Posting

#### OCI Reservations

OCI requests accepted by:  
Mail - beginning date: 01/01/2015  
Phone - beginning date: 01/01/2015  
Email to - beginning date: 01/01/2015: [recruit@cooley.edu](mailto:recruit@cooley.edu)  
Online, URL - beginning date: 01/01/2015: <https://law-cooley-csm.symplicity.com/>

Any changes in OCI procedures or policies that will be in effect for the first time during Fall 2015:

There are no changes in OCI procedures or policies.

OCI Date Assignment Procedure: First come first served

OCI Fee? No fee charged.

OCI Date Confirmation Sent to Employers:

If requested, our school will coordinate with:

Other schools and employers.

Required Employer Forms:

Registration online at: <https://law-cooley-csm.symplicity.com/>

#### OCI Dates:

August: 08/01/2015-08/31/2015  
Fall: 09/01/2015-12/31/2015  
Spring: 01/01/2016-04/30/2016  
Flyback dates: None specified.  
Is video conferencing available? Yes

Comments: OCI dates are available year round and are scheduled at the employer's convenience.

#### Pre-OCI Material Distribution:

Are employers permitted to prescreen? Yes  
OCI Drop date:  
Date student materials sent to employer:  
Date interview schedule sent to employer:  
Postage/express mail fee? No  
Comments:  
Do you provide resume collection or direct mail option for employers not participating in OCI? Yes  
Are all OCI conducted in campus buildings? Yes

#### Other Interview Programs

American Bar Association/Law Student Division Career Fair Equal Justice Works Career Fair and Conference Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference Loyola Patent Law Interview Program Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School is a member of PSJD and Equal Justice Works.

#### Diversity Interview Programs

AFL-CIO Lawyers Coordinating Committee Minority Outreach Program Boston Lawyers Group Job Fair Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Diversity & Inclusion Career Fair Cook County Bar Association Minority Job Fair Grand Rapids Bar Association/Floyd Skinner Bar Association Minority Summer Clerkship Program Heartland Diversity Legal Job Fair Hispanic National Bar Association Job Fair and Conference IMPACT Indianapolis Bar Association (Indy Bar) Job Fair Lavender Law Job Fair and Conference National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) Job Fair National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA) Job Fair Rocky Mountain Diversity Legal Career Fair St. Louis Diversity Job Fair Tri-State Diversity Recruitment Program Vault Legal Diversity Career Fair Wolverine Bar Association Summer Clerkship Program and Summer Federal Judicial Intern Program

#### For Employers who do not interview students on-campus, will you:

send, upon request, one package containing resumes/transcripts? Yes  
post a notice directing students to apply directly to employer? Yes

Employers may register and post their job listings online using the Symplicity career services management program at <https://law-cooley-csm.symplicity.com/> or may email their job listings to [recruit@cooley.edu](mailto:recruit@cooley.edu). CPD staff will post job listings received via email in Symplicity the same day. Job listings will remain posted for the period of time determined by the employer. Graduates can access Symplicity via the WMU-Cooley Portal to view job listings. Employers can view responses anytime after the job is posted online via Symplicity.

Are employers permitted to prescreen? Yes

If no, explain:

#### First Year Students

WMU Cooley Law School Career and Professional Development Office abides by the NALP guidelines. First-year students are eligible and encouraged to participate in the spring on-campus interview program.

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### Diversity

WMU-Cooley participates in 17 diversity interview programs. WMU-Cooley offers speaker programs and networking opportunities for students to develop the skills needed to gain employment and to learn about diversity in the legal profession and work place. WMU-Cooley features many law student organizations that support the diversity experience at WMU-Cooley.

### Pro Bono

Many students, faculty, and staff take the WMU-Cooley Pro Bono Pledge annually, committing to providing one pro bono activity each year for the remainder of their careers. The Career and Professional Development Office offers 45 pro bono programs school-wide through which students can undertake legal work for the indigent, deserving, and underserved. Cooley Volunteer Corps (CVC) is a program that matches nonprofit organizations with law students who seek substantial volunteer experience. It is designed to foster law student community service and pro bono service to encourage future lawyers to incorporate public service work into their careers. Any law student who has completed 9 credits and is in good academic standing is eligible to participate. The WMU-Cooley clinics provide free legal services to those in the greatest social and economic need. Extern students are encouraged to assist supervising attorneys in providing pro bono assistance. WMU-Cooley has formed a 58 member Professional Advisory Committee made up of State Bar leaders, judges, university presidents, and practicing attorneys. This committee made recommendations that will form the new professionalism plan for the next decade.

## Student Organizations

### Narrative

Proud to be a Western Michigan Bronco! Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School was established in 1972 to provide an opportunity to those who share the dream of becoming a lawyer. We excel in teaching not only the law but how to practice it competently and ethically so students can succeed in today's – and tomorrow's – world. We are exceedingly proud of our affiliation with Western Michigan University, one of the nation's top 100 public universities. Western Michigan University is rated by the Carnegie Research Foundation as a "high research" institution, by U.S. News as a top-tier university, and by Washington Monthly as a "best buy" and top-100 university. In WMU we have a partner that enthusiastically shares our access, teaching, service, and professionalism philosophies. With three shared-degree programs already in place, we are looking to build many new opportunities for learning, research, and job placement in the coming years. We invite you to explore our web site, itself recently ranked among the best in legal education. I think you'll discover why Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School is such a good place to learn the law. Come study with us. Be part of a great law school within a great university. We will teach you not only the law but how to be a lawyer. You will see why we are so proud of our 19,000+ law graduates worldwide and why they are so proud of their law school. We Prepare Students to Practice Law The Law School has always been a leader in innovative legal education by providing students with knowledge of the law, the skills they need to practice it competently, and the ethics they must observe while doing so. We require academic competence and professional conduct comparable to the standards of the legal profession itself. Through our rigorous academic program and unsurpassed clinical and externship opportunities, our graduates enter the profession prepared to hit the ground running as effective and productive lawyers. Our innovative, American Bar Association award-winning Professionalism Plan promotes a culture of professionalism that permeates every part of the school. Each member of our community thinks about, is exposed to, and is challenged to adopt professionalism as a way of life, every single day. We continuously encourage personal and professional growth and a commitment to community service and pro bono legal services. Our academic program is a model of modern legal education theory and practice. WMU-Cooley Law School stresses legal knowledge, practice skills, and professional ethics, a philosophy that, while now the latest trend in legal education, has been our approach since we were founded. We set high standards. Because we expect all graduates to pass the bar examination and to be competent, ethical practicing attorneys, our program of legal education is rigorous, challenging, and thorough. We require students to complete two years of course work on the fundamentals of law taught from the practitioner's perspective, and then to complete a third year of electives. We require each student to complete a clinic or externship placement, the kind of live-client experience that serves the crucial transition to the practice of law. The people of Western Michigan University Cooley Law School are its greatest asset. Our outstanding faculty members are highly experienced practitioners who bring years of expertise to the classroom. Caring and accessible, but demanding excellence, their top priority is to teach and help our students become good lawyers. No other law school's faculty is as student focused or as collegial. Our large, experienced, welcoming staff is devoted to supporting student achievement during law school and long after graduation. Our service programs – admissions, financial aid, academic support, professionalism, career and professional development, and alumni – are unrivalled in legal education. It is no wonder that students routinely tell us how warmly they are received at the law school. Our students themselves, who come from across the nation and around the world, bring a wealth of diverse backgrounds and experiences that enrich life at the Law School. Through numerous student organizations, law school activities, informal gatherings, and study groups, students socialize, learn, and grow in a nurturing and supportive environment unlike that at most schools. Our alumni in every state and more than 20 countries and U.S. territories lend important career connections to students. A Lifestyle to Match Yours Our campuses – at Lansing, Auburn Hills, Grand Rapids, and Tampa Bay, Florida – house wonderful, energy-efficient facilities located in vibrant, exciting communities full of wonderful attractions. One of our buildings, the only LEED-certified law school building in Michigan, was just named by a national source as one of the 35 most impressive law school buildings in the world. With our appellate and trial courtrooms, high-tech classrooms throughout, and one of America's largest law libraries, WMU-Cooley provides an exceptional setting in which our students can study and learn, our faculty can research and teach, and our staff can work and serve students. Flexible Programs WMU-Cooley operates a rolling admissions process with classes starting in January, May, or September. Study full or part time and complete the JD degree in two to five years by choosing from a variety of scheduling options. Our curriculum includes scheduling options that allow students with varying needs a way to attend law school. Classes are offered mornings, afternoons, evenings, and on weekends at some locations. You may choose from full-time or part-time programs, and from two, three, four, or five-year programs. No school offers a greater variety of scheduling options. Our flexible programs allow you to work and attend law school. We Make a Difference in Our Communities WMU-Cooley strives to foster the highest caliber of relationships with surrounding communities. Each year WMU-Cooley students are actively involved in pro-bono work. WMU-Cooley has been nationally recognized by the ABA for its outstanding professionalism programming, which encourages each student to adopt a personal code of ethics and provides students with a wide variety of opportunities for public service, pro bono, mentoring, professional development, and career exploration. Our professional development combines classroom experience, volunteering, public service, pro bono work, clinical experience, employment, and mentoring. Students develop portfolios to prepare them for their chosen careers. Career and Professional Development staff members offer résumé review services, mock interview programs, online job bulletins, and workshops. All students are members of the Student Bar Association, and there are more than 40 clubs and organizations in which students can become involved. We Give Generous Scholarships Unlike many law schools that only guarantee a scholarship for one year, WMU-Cooley scholarships are awarded for all 90 credits, so long as the student is not subject to sanctions under the Honor Code or disciplinary procedures. Earning a scholarship during the admissions process can significantly reduce the total cost of a legal education. At WMU-Cooley you can earn a 10-100% tuition scholarship that is applied to all 90 credits required for graduation. Scholarships are based upon merit and are determined by analyzing your LSAT score and undergraduate grade point average using a formula that determines academic success based upon the academic

outcomes of previously admitted students. Applicants can expect a clear indication of their scholarship eligibility when an official admission offer is made without conditions tied to the offer. We encourage you to compare the total value of the scholarship with other scholarship offers you may receive. Students may also be able to increase their scholarships through academic achievement in subsequent terms, based on WMU-Cooley's class ranking system. All WMU-Cooley students who have completed a minimum of 15 credit hours are eligible for a scholarship based on their academic achievement. A student who qualifies for both entering and class ranking honors scholarships will be awarded the higher of the two. Transfer students can also qualify for an Honors Scholarship based upon their class rank at the school from which their transfer occurs. We are Committed to Academic and Bar Exam Success WMU-Cooley students have access to a myriad of academic support options. Our faculty and staff provide ongoing assistance through the Introduction to Law class, seminars, one-on-one coaching, and other programs to help students refine skills critical to a successful legal career. WMU-Cooley also provides students with institutional support to prepare them for state bar examinations, including practice bar exams, pre-bar courses, and individual counseling. Computer-assisted legal instruction, assistance for students requiring disability accommodations, and other support services are all free to students. Graduate Programs WMU- Cooley offers LL.M. degrees in Homeland & National Security, Tax, Intellectual Property, Corporate Law and Finance, Insurance Law, U.S. Law for Foreign Lawyers, and Self-Directed Legal Studies. Dual JD/LL.M. degree programs are also available. International Programs WMU-Cooley cooperates with other law schools to provide students with foreign study options around the globe. Each January, WMU-Cooley's own 13-week program in Australia and New Zealand beckons students "down under." In the summer, WMU-Cooley invites students to study in Toronto, Canada.

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