

UNB LAW

Admissions Requirements 2017 – 2018



ADMISSIONS AT A GLANCE

Based on 2016-2017

Programs:	JD (3 years) and MBA/JD (4 years)
Students admitted:	92
Average LSAT:	158*
Average GPA:	3.7* (on a 4.3 scale)
Admissions Index:	GPA 60% / LSAT 40%
Application deadline:	March 1
Application deadline for Major Scholarships:	January 31
Last LSAT- Admissions:	February
LSAT score used:	Highest score
Waitlist:	Mid-July
Tuition (2016-17):	\$10,329*
Compulsory student fees -	\$869

*Based on Regular Category

Admissions Overview

The admission application deadline is 1 March 2017. Applications will not be accepted after this date. Applicants are urged to apply early. Early applications are considered for first offers of admission and scholarships. We consider applicants for admission only after their file is complete. A number of places in the first year class are kept open until all applications received by the final deadline have been processed.

Enrolment in first year is limited to 92 students. Each year the number of applications greatly exceed the 92 seats. The selection process is highly competitive in all admission categories and many qualified applicants are not selected for admission. Admissions policies assist in ensuring consistency and fairness but admission decisions are wholly within the discretion of the Law Faculty through the Admissions Committee.

Minimum Requirements

To be considered for admission, applicants must have *one* of the following qualifications:

- A. Regular Category:
 - (a) a degree from a recognized Canadian university;
 - (b) a degree from a non-Canadian university acceptable to UNB Law; or in exceptional circumstances
 - (c) in their final year of a four year degree (120 credits) of full-time academic study or; in exceptional circumstances, at least three years (or 90 credit hours) of full-time academic study at a recognized Canadian university; or
- B. Discretionary and Aboriginal Categories:
 - (a) regular criteria or
 - (d) demonstrated experience, maturity, and outstanding qualities that indicate an ability to undertake the study of law successfully.

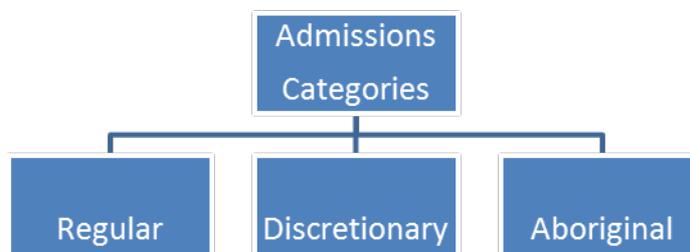
The LSAT (Law Services Admissions Test) is required for all admission categories. Although there is no minimum LSAT score required, students with a LSAT score below 150 are unlikely to be admitted.

An applicant who has completed three or more years of university study should have a **minimum** grade point average in university level academic courses of 2.7 or better on a 0-4.3 scale, as calculated in accordance with the Admissions Policies. **Please note 2.7 is a minimum GPA, and is not competitive for admission purposes as the average is 3.7 on a 4.3 scale.** UNB Law uses a re-calculated GPA for admissions purposes.

Applicants not eligible for admission: persons in failing academic status in the most recent year of study in another law program; persons ineligible to continue in their own program due to academic misconduct; and persons who provide false or misleading statements on their applications to UNB Law.

Admissions Categories

There are three categories for admission to the first year of the Law program: (i) Regular; (ii) Discretionary; and (iii) Aboriginal. All eligible applicants are assessed in the Regular category. Applicants may also request assessment in the Discretionary (Diversity, Significant Achievement, or Disability) or Aboriginal categories. Applicants not selected in the Discretionary or Aboriginal categories are assessed in the Regular category provided they satisfy the minimum requirements.



REGULAR CATEGORY:

Eligibility –

To be eligible for admission in the Regular category, an applicant must meet the academic minimum requirements and provide (i) a personal statement (ii) a resumé and (iii) official transcripts. Letters of reference, while not required, are useful when conducting Supplementary Review and determining eligibility for general scholarships.

Selection Policies –

Most offers of admission in the Regular category are based solely on the applicant's Admissions Index. However, because the number of similarly qualified applicants is invariably high, we conduct a Supplementary Review of many files. As a result of this process, applicants may be re-ranked taking into consideration additional factors relevant to potential academic performance in law and contribution to UNB Law and the legal profession. Among them are: coping with long-term physical or sensory impairment; learning English at a late age; extra-ordinary family responsibilities; multi- or bilingualism; post-graduate study; academic honours; scholarly publications and other evidence of superior writing skill; the nature and extent of employment; and extra-curricular and community activities. Personal statements, resumés, and letters of recommendation are read with care. Occasionally additional materials (such as samples of written work) are requested.

The use of a regional preference in the selection process recognizes UNB Law's ties to the Atlantic region. It is not intended to discourage national and international applicants. On the contrary, UNB consciously fosters diversity in its student body, including geographical and cultural diversity. A number of offers are reserved for residents of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island.

DISCRETIONARY CATEGORY:

Eligibility –

In establishing this category, the Faculty of Law seeks to increase access to legal education and the legal profession by persons who have limited academic credentials but distinctive and sustained life achievement, to enhance the opportunity for disadvantaged groups to acquire legal assistance from members of their own group and to increase social and cultural diversity of the student body and the legal profession. *However, discretion is exercised only where there is clear probability that the applicant will be successful at the study of law.* Applicants must apply in one or more of the below subcategories:

- a) Diversity - membership in a disadvantaged racial, cultural, linguistic or socio-economic group;
- (b) Significant Achievement - sustained and distinctive non-academic achievement in the paid workforce, at home (in any field of endeavour), or in the community; or
- (c) Disability - coping with a physical or sensory impairment, or learning disability.

An applicant applying under one of the Discretionary subcategories must provide: (i) a resumé; (ii) a statement relating the applicant's personal circumstances to the selection criteria in the Discretionary category; and (iii) at least two letters of reference. We may request further documentation or additional materials.

Selection Policies –

All applicants in the Discretionary category must write the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Although there is no minimum LSAT score required for admission, students with an LSAT score below a 150 are unlikely to be admitted. An applicant in the Discretionary category who does not meet the ordinary requirements for post-secondary education must have the experience, maturity and outstanding qualities that indicate an ability to undertake the study of law successfully. Normally this will be shown by evidence of sustained and distinctive non-academic achievement.

ABORIGINAL CATEGORY:

Eligibility-

UNB Law seeks to further justice by improving access to legal education and the legal profession for Indian (status or non-status), Métis and Inuit persons; enhancing legal services to Indian, Métis and Inuit communities; and increasing the social and cultural diversity of the student body and the legal profession. The category is open to Métis, Inuit, and status and non-status Indians. Preference is given to residents of Canada. An applicant in the Aboriginal category must provide: (i) a resumé; (ii) a statement relating personal circumstances to the selection criteria in the Aboriginal category including connection to an Aboriginal community; and (iii) at least two letters of reference. We may also request additional material.

Selection Policies –

All applicants in the Aboriginal category must write the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Although there is no minimum LSAT score required for admission, students with an LSAT score below 150 are unlikely to be admitted. Applicants are assessed on the likelihood of successfully completing the Law program and the ways in which the applicant is likely to further the objectives of the Aboriginal category. An applicant in the Aboriginal category need not have post-secondary academic education. Applicants who do not have three years or equivalent of post-secondary education, must demonstrate experience, maturity, and outstanding qualities that indicate an ability to undertake the study of law successfully.

Attendance at the University of Saskatchewan's Native Law Centre may be required for admission in the Aboriginal category. Applicants lacking substantial university experience should apply to the University of Saskatchewan at the same time as applying to UNB.

www.usask.ca/nativelaw/

Admissions Index

The Admissions Index is determined using the applicant's *re-calculated* Grade Point Average (GPA) (see below) and *highest* LSAT score. The GPA is weighted at 60% and the LSAT score at 40%. In recent years, the average re-calculated GPA of an admitted student has been approximately 3.7 (on a 4.3 scale) and the average LSAT score has been approximately 158. The range is typically 3.2 - 4.3 for the GPA and 152 - 173 for the LSAT.

Re-Calculating the GPA:

The GPA is based on the applicant's entire university academic record, including post-first degree work. The applicant's grades are converted to their equivalent on the grade point scale used at the University of New Brunswick as follows:

Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Grade Point	4.3	4	3.7	3.3	3	2.7	2.3	2	1.5	1	0

If the applicant has completed three years (or equivalent), *the lowest 15% of the grades* are excluded from the calculation of the applicant's GPA; if the applicant has completed four or more years (or equivalent), *the lowest 25%* are excluded; if an applicant is currently in their final year of a four year degree program, *the lowest 25%* will be excluded.

Application Documents Required:

Law Admissions Test (LSAT): All applicants seeking admission to first year must write the (LSAT) Law School Admission Test (based on the 120-180 scale). Applicants must take the LSAT no later than February 2017. The June 2017 LSAT score is not accepted for admission into the 2017-18 academic year. With respect to consideration for scholarships that require an application, the December 2016 LSAT score is the last one accepted for scholarship applications for the 2017-18 academic year, the February 2017 LSAT score is not accepted. For information on the LSAT and the specific test dates, test centers and registration can be found at www.LSAC.org Please note that test scores will be request directly from Law Services.

Academic Transcripts: Applicants must arrange for the most current academic transcript from each university, college, or other post-secondary institution attended (both undergraduate and graduate) to be sent directly to the Admissions Office. Applicants currently enrolled in university courses should have a transcript of already-completed courses forwarded immediately and then, as courses are completed, have updated transcripts forwarded when they become available. It is particularly important to have marks for fall semester courses forwarded as soon as possible. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that transcripts are received by the Admissions Office. Even after accepting an offer of admission, students should ensure that their admissions file contains their latest transcript as this may affect decisions relating to scholarships.

Personal Statement: A personal statement is required for all applicants in all categories. You may forward personal statements to the Law Admissions Office by mail or send by email to lawadmit@unb.ca If an applicant wishes the Admissions Committee to consider a disability, the personal statement must explain the nature of the disability in detail and provide supporting documentation including a statement of requested accommodation, if any.

For applicants in the Discretionary and Aboriginal categories, the statement should relate the applicant's personal circumstances to the selection criteria in the relevant category. Personal statements should describe such matters as personal strengths, reasons for seeking admission, interest in law, career ambitions and special circumstances as appropriate. Please note that we do not have a required minimum or maximum for the personal statement. Most statements are (1-2 pages) in length.

Resumes: Resumes are required for all applicants and should detail the applicant's education, work experience, and community involvement since high school. Resumes can be sent by email to lawadmit@unb.ca.

Recommendation Letters: Letters of reference, while not required for applicants in the Regular category, are useful when conducting Supplementary Review and determining eligibility for general scholarships. At least two letters of recommendation are *required* in the Discretionary and Aboriginal categories. Letters must be sent directly by the referee to the Law Admissions Office lawadmit@unb.ca. Reference forms are not required for reference letters.

Joint MBA/JD Program

The University of New Brunswick offers a Joint MBA/JD program (Master of Business Administration and Juris Doctor) which allows students to receive both degrees in four years. The joint degree program is an option for students who want to add a business component to their law studies. Applicants must apply and be accepted to each program separately.

The eligibility requirements and selection procedures for an applicant intending to complete the joint degree program are the same as for any applicant applying to the MBA or JD program. Normally an undergraduate degree is required for entry into the MBA program; however completion of the first year of the JD program combined with three years of post-secondary study may be deemed equivalent to an undergraduate degree. Students accepted into the JD program are not able to defer for one year to complete the MBA year first. For further information on MBA requirements please visit www.mba.unb.ca or email mbacontact@unb.ca

Finances Fees & Costs

Estimate of Expenses:

This rough guide to costs for law students attending UNB is based on an academic year from early September to early May. Tuition for Canadian citizens and permanent residents for the 2016-2017 academic year is \$10329 for first year students. Tuition for 2017-2018 will be determined in the spring of 2017. “Miscellaneous” includes clothing, laundry, transportation.

Law Tuition (2016-2017)	\$10329
(includes law program fee)	(3833)
Student Union Fee	115
CHSR	15
Bruns	13
Student Union Health Fee	142
Student Union Dental	118
Student Union Bursary	10
Technology Fee	53
Health Fee	53
Facility Improvement Fee	189
Facility Access Fee	161
Books & Supplies	1500
Miscellaneous	1500
Total	<u>\$18,031</u>

Note: All student loan forms must be sent to UNB Financial Services.

<http://www.unb.ca/financialservices/students/paymentoptions/loans.html>

For tuition payments and options please visit the Financial Services website, deadlines: <http://www.unb.ca/moneymatters/tuition-fees.html>

Law Scholarships

Entrance Scholarships:

UNB Law is committed to ensuring that our program is financially accessible to our students. We have an excellent financial aid program that is growing every year with the addition of new scholarships. Our Scholarship Committee is committed to offering our top ten entering students scholarships in amounts up to full tuition. Students are encouraged to apply for the “Special Scholarships” noted as part of the online application. These scholarships require specific supporting documentation that is required in order to be considered. For many scholarships students are automatically considered by the Scholarship Committee.

Three Lord Beaverbrook Scholarships in Law are awarded to students entering the JD program. Students at the top of their undergraduate program with solid LSAT scores are encouraged to apply. Beaverbrook Scholars are chosen on the basis of qualities suggesting attainment of distinction in the legal profession. Candidates are interviewed by a committee, chaired by the Chief Justice of New Brunswick or an alternate designate of the court, as well as prominent members of the legal and academic communities. Current scholarship is valued at \$54,000 (\$18,000/year) based on renewal criteria.

Upper Year Scholarships:

Students must be full-time law students who, at the relevant time are registered in the Law Program and paying UNB tuition fees to be eligible for law scholarships. Students are encouraged to apply for all scholarships in which they are eligible. The Faculty is committed to rewarding those students ranking among the top ten in their second year guaranteeing scholarships in amounts ranging from \$5,000 to full tuition. Scholarships will be awarded each year during the October Awards Night ceremony.

Bursaries:

Law bursaries are awarded to full-time law students, who at the relevant time are registered in the JD program and paying UNB law tuition. Applications are requested in late October with funds distributed in late January. Students are also eligible to apply for the UNB General Bursaries.

Contact Information

**University of New Brunswick
Law Admissions Office
Faculty of Law
PO Box 44271, Fredericton, NB
E3B 6C2**

**lawadmit@unb.ca
www.law.unb.ca**

(506) 453-4693 (telephone)

Student Inquiries:

Wanda Foster

Law Admissions & Scholarships Officer

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