UNH Law broke new ground in practice-ready legal education with the Daniel Webster Scholar (DWS) Honors Program, a first-of-its-kind program in the country allowing students to graduate client-ready without the need to take the traditional two-day bar exam.

Students accepted into the program prior to their second year of law school discover first-hand what it takes to succeed in today’s legal marketplace. They hone their skills in both simulated and real settings - counseling clients, working with practicing lawyers, taking depositions, appearing before judges, negotiating, mediating, drafting business documents - while creating portfolios of written and oral work for bar examiners to assess every semester.

Successful Webster Scholars pass a variant of the New Hampshire Bar exam and are sworn into the New Hampshire bar the day before graduation. They are eligible to sit for the bar exam in any jurisdiction outside New Hampshire for which they would qualify having graduated from an ABA-accredited law school – alumni of the program have been admitted to many other bars from coast to coast.

DWS Courses
- DWS Business Transactions
- DWS Capstone
- DWS Miniseries
- DWS Negotiations & ADR
- DWS Pretrial Advocacy
- DWS Trial Advocacy
- Legal Residency and/or Clinic

DWS students may also choose electives. DWS students graduate with the rest of their class, assuming all other requirements are met. Although summer school is an option, Webster Scholars can complete the work within the regular academic schedule.

Program Highlights
- First program in the United States in which students graduate client-ready without the need to take the traditional two-day bar exam
- Third-year Webster Scholars outperformed lawyers admitted to practice with up to two years of experience, according to four years of data analyzed by the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver
- Recipient of the 2015 E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award from the ABA
- Students gain real-world experience in front of practicing judges and lawyers
E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award

The Daniel Webster Scholar Honors Program was one of three recipients of the E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award from the American Bar Association (ABA) in 2015. In honoring the DWS program, the ABA recognized it as “an exemplary and extraordinarily innovative approach.” The award honors “excellence and innovation in professionalism programs by law schools, bar associations, professionalism commissions and other law-related organizations,” according to the ABA website.

The DWS program has also received acclaim from other national and local media outlets, including the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

Study lauds DWS as “Ahead of the Curve”

A January 2015 report following a two-year study by the Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers Initiative of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) at the University of Denver proclaimed that Daniel Webster Scholars are “Ahead of the Curve.”

The study found that DWS graduates were outperforming their colleagues in the field who had been licensed to practice law for up to two years. “The legal profession is consistent in its call for new lawyers who can hit the ground running,” said Alli Gerkman, director of Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers and co-author of the report. “Our findings show that this program delivers that.”

The findings of the Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers study are published in Ahead of the Curve: Turning Law Students into Lawyers.

JD CURRICULUM

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

COURSE & CREDITS

First year required fall courses
- Torts (3)
- Contracts (3)
- Civil Procedure (4)
- Legal Writing & Analysis I (2)
- Legal Research & Information Literacy (2)
- The Legal Profession (1)

First year required spring classes
- Property (4)
- Constitutional Law (4)
- Sales (2)
- Legal Writing & Analysis II (3)
- Fundamentals of Law Practice (3)
  OR
  Fundamentals of Intellectual Property (3)

Upper level requirements
- Criminal Procedure (3)
- Administrative Procedure (3)
  OR
  Administrative Law & Advocacy Clinic (4)
  Professional Responsibility (3)
- Upper Level Writing Requirement (2 or 3)
- Upper Level Skills Requirement (2 or 3)

We offer a range of such courses each semester.

OUTCOMES

Our DWS graduates work around the country, at firms and organizations that include the following:

- Bailey & Glasser (Boston)
- Butenhol & Bomster (Manchester)
- Crusco Law (Bedford)
- Devine Millimet (Manchester)
- Fish & Richardson (Boston)
- McLane Middleton (Manchester)
- National Labor Relations Board (Philadelphia)
- New Hampshire Superior Court
- Nixon Vogelman Barry Slawsky Simoneau (Manchester)
- Reed Smith (New York City)
- The Sanders Firm (Mineola, NY)
- Soule, Leslie, Kidder, Sayward and Loughman (Salem)
- Strafford County Attorney’s Office (Dover)
- Welts White & Fontaine (Nashua)
- Wilton Police Department

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