



Health Law

What would I do? Health law is an evolving field that focuses on legislation related to health care. Health law attorneys may represent patients, clinics, insurance companies, or individual health practitioners. The federal government employs attorneys in this field to oversee the crafting, implementation, and enforcement of policies. Health law specialists also work at academic institutions and biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. (<https://www.brown.edu/academics/college/advising/law-school/fields-law/fields-law>)

Where would I practice? Many health care lawyers work for **law firms** that have departments that specialize in health care law. Others work for **government agencies, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies, medical equipment corporations**, or other organizations with a health care focus. (<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/careers/career-planning/practice-areas/health.cfm>)

What types of cases would I handle? (<http://www.lsac.org/jd/thinking-about-law-school/fields-of-law>)

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|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| -Fraud | -Medicare Policy and Compliance |
| -Public Health Policy | -Mergers and Acquisitions |
| -Employee Benefits | -Bioethics and Clinical Ethics |
| -Intellectual Property | -Biomedicine |

What schools in Florida specialize in this field of law?¹

School Name	Specialty Program(s) ²
Florida International University College of Law (Miami)	- Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic
Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center (Davie)	- Health Law Concentration
University of Florida, Frederic G. Levin College of Law (Gainesville)	- Health Care Law Externship
University of Miami School of Law (Miami)	- Health Rights Clinic

¹This is not an exhaustive list of Florida schools specializing in this field. ***Although these schools offer specialty programs in this field, this does not mean you are unable to gain exposure to this field at another law school not listed above.***

²Information obtained through school website and officialguide.lsac.org

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What are these “specialty programs?”

Specialty Program	Definition
Certificates	<p>Specialization certificates allow JD students to focus their elective courses, build substantive knowledge and relevant skills, and enhance their resumes. Though specializations are not required for graduation, they can provide a guiding structure for exploration of various fields of law. With a variety of courses to choose from within each field, students can customize their specialization to their particular area of interest.</p> <p>(http://law.ggu.edu/academics/specialization-certificates/)</p>
Clinics	<p>At many law schools, clinical pedagogy is well established and robust. Typically clinics are focused in areas of law – civil or criminal litigation, civil rights litigation, or representation of community organizations. These clinics involve “live” clients with active legal matters. They include a classroom component and close supervision by a clinical faculty member.</p> <p>http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=jel</p>
Concentrations	<p>"While it is not the best comparison to make, a Concentration is similar to a major in undergraduate studies, in that a student with a specific interest in a field can do focused study in that field. A major difference though, is that students who graduate law school with a Concentration will have the same degree as those without a Concentration, a juris doctor, that will be viable in any area of law in which they wish to practice."</p> <p>(http://www.lls.edu/academics/concentrations/)</p>
Externships	<p>Today, accepted externship pedagogy involves faculty instruction in a classroom component to every externship opportunity, and some training for the practitioner supervising attorneys. Further, while externships used to include the equivalent of 3-5 credit hours of work outside the law school, an emerging form of externship involves the student spending the entire semester, and 15 credits, working onsite on an externship assignment.</p> <p>http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=jel</p>
Practicum	<p>In practicum classes law students get hands-on learning working under the supervision of attorneys and professors in a non-lawyering role as they work on cases and practica give students insight into a specific area of legal interest and a window into what it is like to practice in that area.</p> <p>http://www.law.miami.edu/academics/externships-fellowships</p>