



Education Law

What would I do? Education Law is the area of law that relates to schools, teachers, and the rights of Americans to a public education, as well as standards for those students who attend private schools. (<https://www.hq.org/edu.html>)

Where would I practice? Education law involves a diverse range of issues from representing children with poor access to education to special education law to education reform. Lawyers in education law can work for **local school districts** where they deal with issues such as school governance, student records, collective bargaining and student discipline. Many lawyers who work in **nonprofits and advocacy groups** either represent children and families or focus on broader policy issues relating to educational reform via legislative and advocacy work.
(<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/careers/career-planning/practice-areas/education.cfm>)

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

- Student Residency
- Student Discipline
- Tuition Fraud
- Principal and Teacher Selection and Retention Process
- Governance Issues
- Special-Education Law
- Educational Policy Development

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

School Name	Specialty Program(s) ²
Florida Coastal School of Law (Jacksonville)	-Education Law Practitioner Clinic
Stetson University College of Law (Gulfport)	-Center for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy
University of Florida, Frederic G. Levin College of Law (Gainesville)	-Education Law Externship

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

Continued on next page

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.qgu.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>