

**University of
Maine School
of Law**

FY2026

**Budget
Presentation**



Market crash in 2008

Downward Trajectory of Maine Law:

- **By 2013, Plummeting Law School Applications** Law School Applicants were **down 38%** from 2010.
- **By 2016, tuition discounting had eroded revenues** - Only 29% of law students nationally paid full price.
 - **In Maine, Dean Danielle Conway** warned President Cummings and Chancellor Page that **Maine Law was failing:** enrollments were down; six key faculty departures; and six staff persons were retrenched; credentials of students were down
- **By 2018,** Maine Law sadly surrendered the Center for Law + Innovation and the Maine Patent Program.
- **In July 2019,** A committee convened by Chancellor Page reported on the future of Maine Law- among the Recommendations were: Independence from USM, Curricular innovation, expand Non-JD programming, Collaboration across the University System. Chancellor Dannel Malloy joined UMS in July 2019.

Resurgence of Maine Law

- **By 2020,** the Board had changed the governance of Maine Law, establishing direct reporting to the Chancellor and the Board.
- **By 2021 & '22,** the financial commitment of the Board and the Chancellor to Maine's only Law School was clear: the new facility had been leased and was under construction, an updated budget was underway, and excitement filled the Law School;
- **By January 2023,** Maine Law had moved into the beautiful building in the Old Port, drawing many more applicants, and reinvigorating the legal community.
- **By 2024,** Maine Law saw its first upfront funded, balanced budget, allowing the Law School's leadership to create priorities, plan improvements and assure financial stability.

Now, in 2025, as we work together to design a balanced budget that further addresses key priorities, we should celebrate how far we've come.



Maine Law has a **balanced budget** for FY26

Applications to Maine Law are up 61.8%



Applications to Law Schools nationally are up 22.9%

Applications in New England are up 28.4%

Applicants from Maine are up 38.1%



Maine Law continues to have vacant faculty lines due to our salary levels. We are at risk of experiencing more vacancies if we can not meet the market for law faculty pay.

(The FY26 Budget does not have capacity for full parity adjustments.)

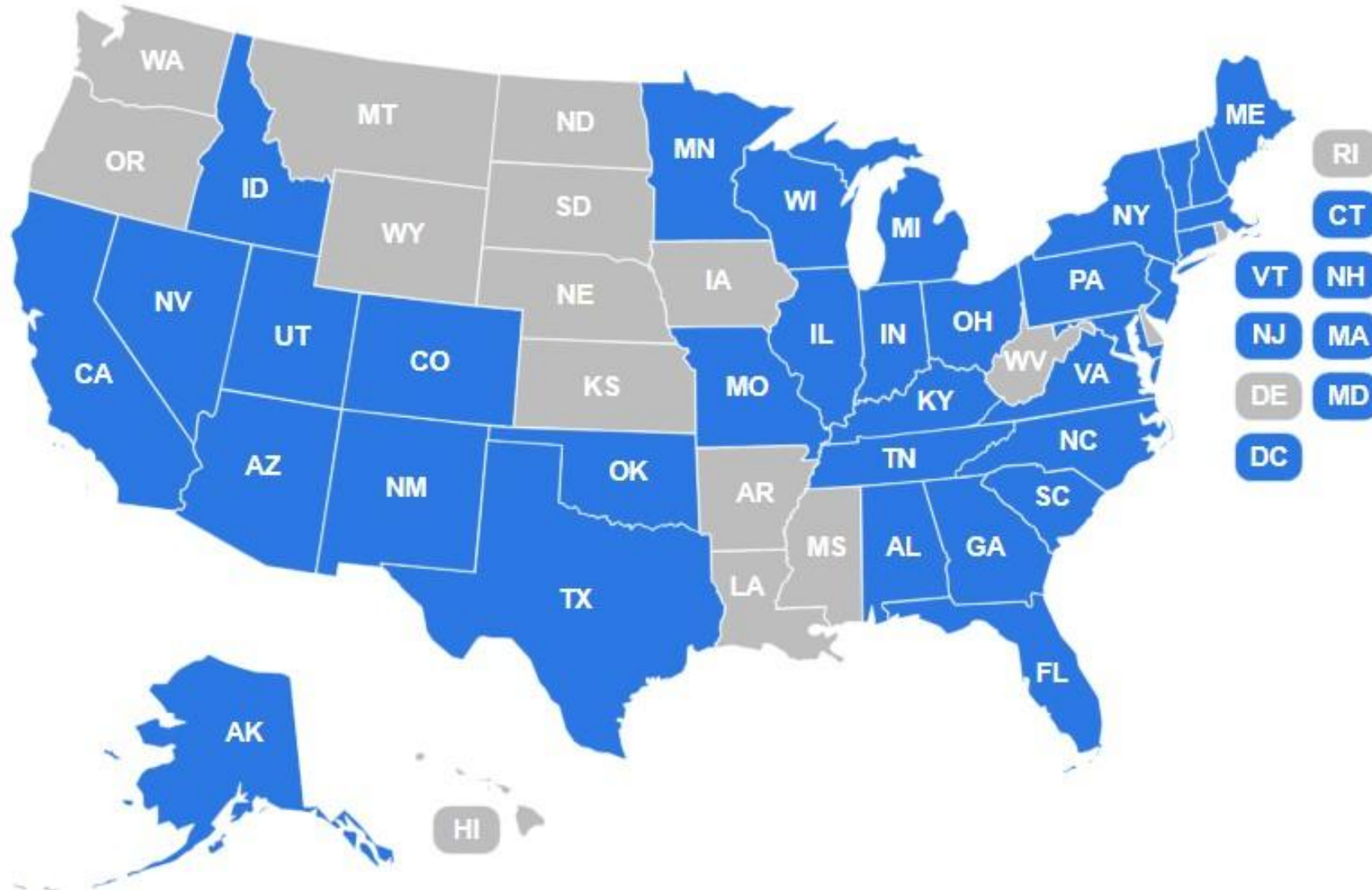


Maine Law's mission is to advance justice and leadership in a changing world. We provide an exceptional, inclusive, and student-centered legal education and serve our local and global communities through teaching, scholarship, and public service.

Budget Supports the Mission by:

- Providing a World Class **Facility** that enhances connection to business, the bar and leadership;
- Providing **scholarships** (tuition discounting) aimed at recruiting and retaining students of excellence from Maine and across the country
- Providing cutting edge **programs and faculty** to launch students into today's careers and future leadership positions;





Other Countries Include:

- Canada: 1
- Honduras: 1
- Jamaica: 1
- India: 1
- Ireland: 2



	FY25 Base	FY26 Proposed Base Budget	\$ Change	% Change	
Revenue	Tuition & Fees	\$8,647,035	\$9,728,260	\$1,081,225	12.5%
	Less: Waivers/Scholarships	(3,819,890)	(3,849,890)	(30,000)	0.8%
	Total Tuition Available	\$4,827,145	\$5,878,370	\$1,051,225	21.8%
	Apropriation Allocation	4,908,237	5,200,000	291,763	5.9%
	Investment Income	420,799	369,946	(50,853)	-12.1%
	Sales/Services/Other	8,270	8,000	(270)	-3.3%
	Total E&G Revenue	\$10,164,451	\$11,456,316	\$1,291,865	12.7%
Expense	Personnel Expense	\$8,130,659	\$8,852,907	\$722,248	8.9%
	Attrition	(101,000)	(105,000)	(\$4,000)	4.0%
	Fuel & Electricity	-	-	\$0	#DIV/0!
	Supplies & Services	491,001	759,554	\$268,553	54.7%
	Shared Services	430,101	190,132	(\$239,969)	-55.8%
	Travel	91,500	98,650	\$7,150	7.8%
	Memberships, Contributions & Sponsorships	42,400	41,400	(\$1,000)	-2.4%
	Maintenance & Alterations	43,401	43,401	\$0	0.0%
	Other Expenses	1,041,640	1,556,272	\$514,632	49.4%
	Depreciation		19,000	\$19,000	
	Total Other Expenses & Transfers	2,140,043	2,708,409	\$568,366	26.6%
	Total E&G Expense	\$10,169,702	11,456,316	\$1,286,614	12.7%
Modified Cash Flow	Operating Increase (Decrease)	(5,251)	\$0		
	Add Back Depreciation		-	-	
	System Reserves		-	-	
	System Reserves Carryover				
	Balance	(5,251)	-		

E&G Reserves: NONE

Scholarships:
Anticipate \$300k from Endowments available for scholarships to be used in FY26

Academic & Budget Priorities

FY26 Accomplishes the following:

- Reduces Tuition Discounting to below 50%
- Funds Software for Disability Services Needs - ADA (\$56k)
- Pays USM for Continued Shared Services Support (\$300k)
- Pays Membership Fee to the Maine Center (\$266k)
- Reinstates Operations Manager for Maine Laws Clinics
- Reinvigorates the Center for Law + Innovation
- Creates Fund for Legal Services (\$20k)

Priorities Not Yet Achieved

- Salary Parity for faculty & staff
 - Bolster Critical Staff
- One Person from failure in key positions:
- Registrar
 - Dean of Students
 - Dean of Admissions
 - Need for advanced staffing:
 - Learning Designer
 - Faculty Support
 - Secure Budget for the next President/Dean
 - Establish a Reserve Fund



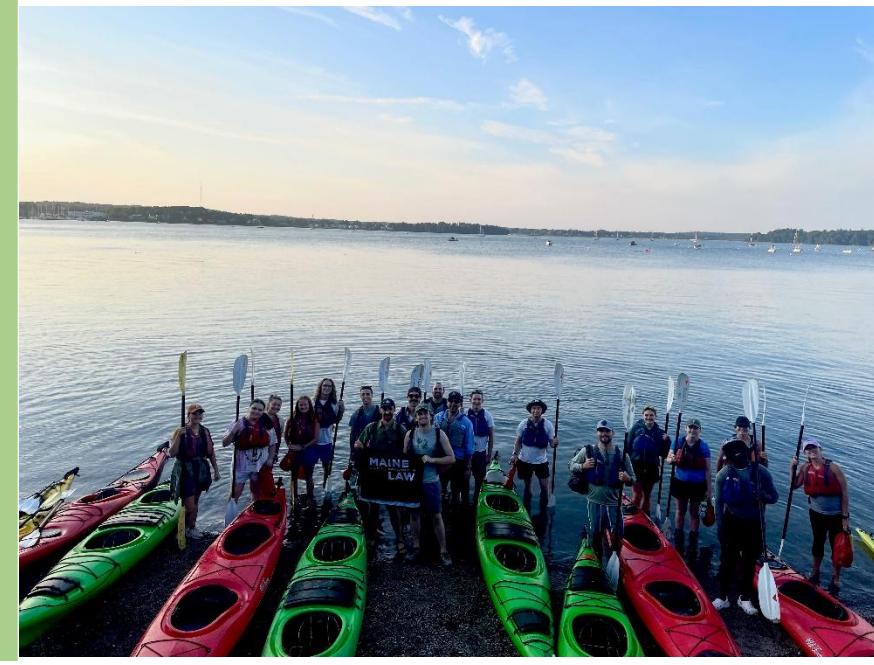
Admissions, Student Success, and Retention Strategies

Admissions Strategies

- Pipeline Programs (3+3, Extended Learning Opportunity Programs of Southern Maine.)
- Continue to highlight new facility and Community Connections.
- Fellowships for incoming students (focus on substantive fellowships)
- Tuition Discounting
- Investment in distinctive programming- Environmental, Privacy & AI, Business, Rural, Public Policy . . .
- Resident Tuition for - CBB, Military, CAN & Alaska Residents.

Student Success

- Working on a new Academic Success & Bar Passage program with an external vendor.
- Teaching Fellows program for 1L's
- Move to NextGen bar exam will be more focused on SKILLS. Planning for NextGen has begun.
- Experiential learning credits - either Clinic or Externship – now required for graduation
- Exceptional Job Placement Program, including internships and connections.



2024

- 2/24- Hired a Chief Development Officer
- 5/24- Hired a Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement

FY25 ROI

- 24% increase in overall giving
- 21% increase in average gift amount
- 16% increase in those who upgraded their gift from last year (i.e. gave more)
- 129% increase in those who gave their largest gift ever
- 28% increase in first time donors
- 122% increase in annual fund (highest need/unrestricted) giving
- 128% increase in annual fund giving average gift



8% Alumni Participation YTD

Scholarship Funds:

37 Endowed Scholarship Funds Existing
 Average Annual Distribution amount: \$5,000 per fund
 5% distribution from UMaine Law Foundation Funds

Total Current Market Value of Endowments:

Foundation held: \$5,970,173
 System held: \$5,980,854
Total: \$11,951,027



Annual Fund Data for Fall 2024

Annual Fund Giving (Unrestricted and Unrestricted Alumni funds only)	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	
Total Dollars	\$ 114,699	\$ 254,323	122%
Total Gifts	280	273	-3%
Average Gift	\$ 409	\$ 931	128%
Total Unique Donors	233	228	-2%
Alumni Giving			
Unique Alumni donors	337	324	-4%
Total Alumni dollars	\$ 289,014	\$ 409,450	42%
Total Alumni gifts	371	356	-4%
Average alumni gift	\$ 779	\$ 1,150	48%

Our Peers: New England Law School Std. 509 2024 Data



Res Tuition	\$24,600	\$30,692	\$41,000	\$53,768	\$59,730	\$59,900	\$62,826
Non/Res Tuition	\$36,000	\$40,159	\$49,000	\$53,768	\$59,730	\$59,900	\$62,826
Librarians	4	4	4	5	6	4	4
Full Time Faculty	24	28	29	57	80	32	63
Size of 1L Class	95	142 (120 Full Time)	242 (142 Full Time)	241 (117 Full Time)	409 (307 Full Time)	407 (341 Full Time)	265 (225 Full Time)
Median LSAT	157	151	156	151	155	153	163
Median UGPA	3.66	3.42	3.52	3.40	3.59	3.31	3.74
First Time Bar Pass Rate	88.16%	59.43%	71.52%	63.48%	79.33%	71.53%	86.22%
Acceptance Rate	58.3%	67.3%	57.4%	64.2%	64.3%	74.3	37.3%

Maine Law

Projected Enrollment										Campus 2025-26 Proj.		Explanation of Changes
Summer 2025										Summer 2025		
Career	Tuition Residency									Total Credit Hours	Total Credit Hours	
Law	In-State									121	121	
	Out-of-State/International									45	45	
	Canadian									0	0	
	NEBHE									0	0	
Total										166	166	

Fall 2025										Fall 2025		Explanation of Changes				
Career	Tuition Residency	Group	Fall 2024 Headcount	Continuing (Fall 2025)			New			Total Headcount	Avg. Credit Hours Taken		Total Credit Hours	# Change from Fall 2024	% Change from Fall 2024	Total Credit Hours
				0-29	30-59	60+	First-Time	Transfer	Other Admit Types							
Law	In-State	0-29	53	5	45	2	47	0	0	0	52		14.7	764		
		30-59	64	0	12	46	0	0	0	2	59	14.6	863			
		60+	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	50	13.6	678			
		Non-Degree	0								0	0.0	0			
		Crosslinked	0								0		0			
	Subtotal	164	5	57	48	0	47	0	0	4	0	161	2,305	-47	-2.0%	2,305
	Out-of-State/International	0-29	48	1	43	0	47	0	0	0	48	15.5	743			Larger % of Non Res Students
		30-59	39	0	7	21	0	0	0	0	50	14.7	737			
		60+	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	14.2	297			
		Non-Degree	2								2	11.5	23			
		Crosslinked	0								0		0			
	Subtotal	109	1	50	21	0	47	0	0	2	0	121	1,800	177	10.9%	1,811
	NEBHE	0-29	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	15.5	31			
		30-59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	0			
		60+	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15.0	0			
		Non-Degree	0								0	0.0	0			
		Crosslinked	0								0		0			
	Subtotal	3	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	31	-15	-32.6%	31
Total		277	6	109	69	0	96	0	0	4	2	286	4,136	103	2.6%	4,147

Spring 2026										Spring 2026		Explanation of Changes				
Career	Tuition Residency	Group	Fall 2025 Headcount (Projected)	Continuing (Fall 2025)			New			Total Headcount	Avg. Credit Hours Taken		Total Credit Hours	# Change from Spring 2024	% Change from Spring 2024	Total Credit Hours
				0-29	30-59	60+	First-Time	Transfer	Other Admit Types							
Law	In-State	0-29	52	49	2	0	1	0	0	0	50		14.8	738		
		30-59	59	0	49	9	0	0	0	0	51	14.2	723			
		60+	50	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	54	13.6	734			
		Non-Degree	0								1	3.0	3			
		Crosslinked	0								0		0			
	Subtotal	161	49	51	54	0	1	0	0	1	0	156	2,198	-118	-5.1%	2,206
	Out-of-State/International	0-29	48	47	1	0	0	0	0	0	47	15.2	716			Larger % of Non Res Students
		30-59	50	0	39	11	0	0	0	0	40	14.5	580			
		60+	21	0	0	21	0	0	0	1	33	14.6	480			
		Non-Degree	2								0	0.0	0			
		Crosslinked	0								0		0			
	Subtotal	121	47	40	32	0	0	0	0	1	0	120	1,776	415	30.5%	1,784
	NEBHE	0-29	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	0			
		30-59	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	15.0	30			
		60+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0			
		Non-Degree	0								0	0.0	0			
		Crosslinked	0								0		0			
	Subtotal	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	15	100.0%	30	
Total		286	98	93	86	0	1	0	0	1	1	280	4,004	287	7.7%	4,020

Grand Total 8,306

8,333

1	14.2	723			723	
4	13.6	734			742	
1	3.0	3			3	
		0			0	
56		2,198	-118	-5.1%	2,206	
7	15.2	716			724	Larger % of Non Res Students
0	14.5	580			580	
3	14.6	480			480	
0	0.0	0			0	
		0			0	
20		1,776	415	30.5%	1,784	
2	0.0	0			0	
2	15.0	30			30	
0	0.0	0			0	
0	0.0	0			0	
		0			0	
4		30	15	100.0%	30	
30		4,004	207	7.1%	4,200	

Grand Total 8,306

8,333



Maine Law is predicting a slight increase of 27 credit hours over the UMS Enrollment Prediction Model.

Student Credit Hours



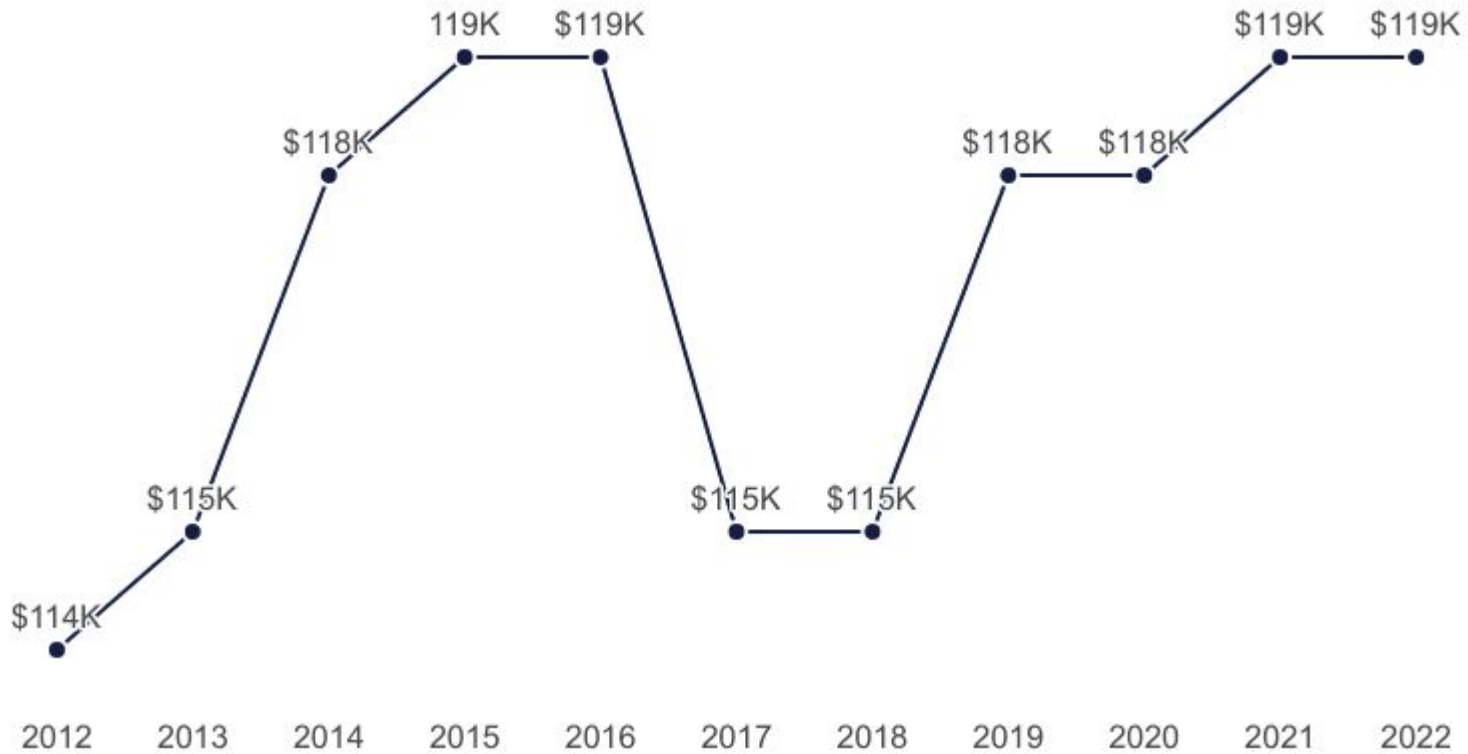
FY26 Tuition & Fee Changes

TUITION	Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Change
Tuition- Credit hour, Resident, Military, Canadian, Alaskan	\$796	\$820	\$870	2% overall tuition increase
Annual Rate	\$23,880	\$24,600	\$26,100	
Tuition- Credit Hour Non-Resident	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,272	No Change
Non-Res Annual Rate	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$38,160	2% overall tuition increase
Tuition- Credit Hour, NEBHE	\$1,055	\$1,055	\$1,055	No Change
NEBHE Annual Rate	\$31,650	31,650	31,650	No Change
FEES				
Activity Fee- per semester	\$75	\$75	\$75	No Change
Technology Fee- per credit hour	\$7	\$7	\$7	No Change
Unified Fee per credit hour	\$60	\$60	\$60	No Change
Parking (Opt Out)- per semester	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$100 increase
NEW FEE: Academic and Bar Success Materials Fee	\$350 per semester	\$350 per semester	\$350 per semester	\$700 increase

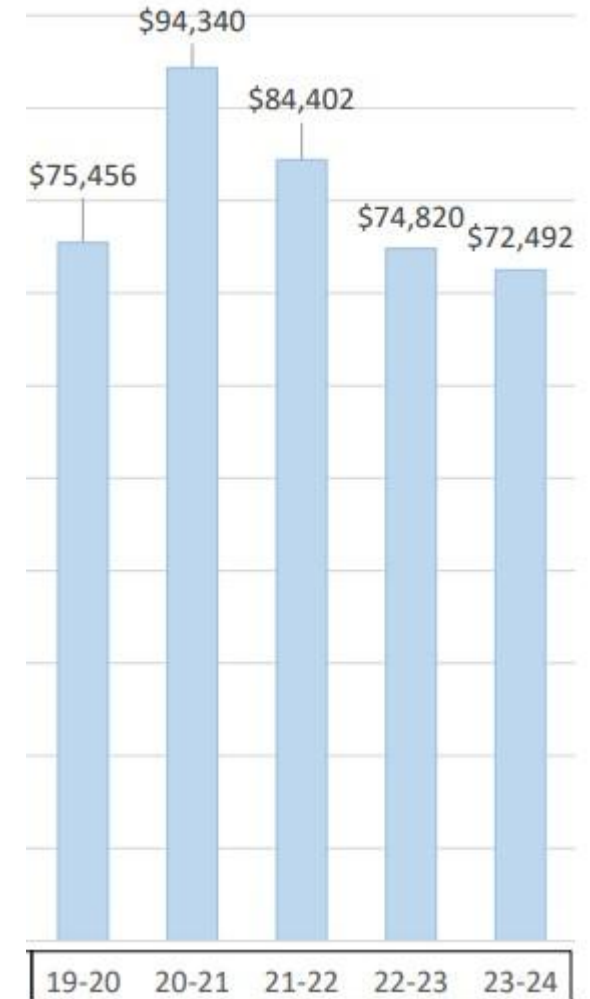
2025-2026 Law School Room Rates	Law Fall	Law Spring	2025-2026 USM Student Room Rates		Variance-\$
			Fall	Spring	
Single Bedroom with Ensuite Bathroom	\$5,362.00	\$5,362.00	4,510	4,510	\$1,704
Efficiency/Studio Apartment	\$7,870.00	\$7,870.00	6,825	6,825	\$2,090
2 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom Ensuite	\$5,203.00	\$5,203.00	4,362	4,362	\$1,682
2 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom Apartment	\$7,297.00	\$7,295.00	6,300	6,300	\$1,990



Average Debt Among Law School Graduates

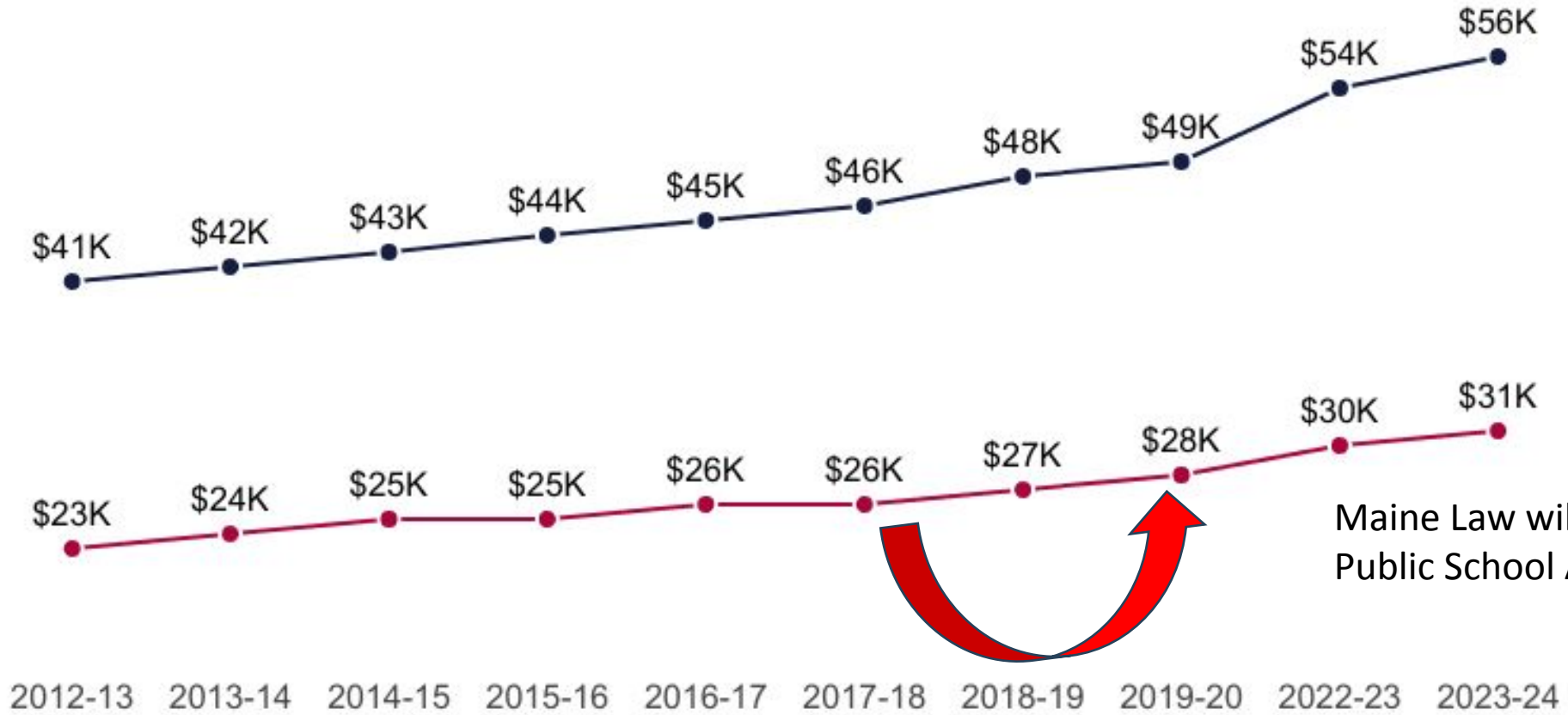


Source: Law School Transparency



Maine Law's Average Student Debt at Graduation

Average Law School Tuition Price



Maine Law will be closer to the Public School Average next year

● Private Law School Net Tuition ● Public School Net Tuition

Source: Law School Transparency

The UMS Strategic Plan’s Core Commitments	Maine Law’s Execution of the Core Commitments
<p>1. Advancing the state of Maine through teaching, research, and service</p>	<p>Maine Law is providing excellent teaching, scholarship and service. Evidence of those accomplishments: Students pass the Bar Exam at an impressive rate (89%) Professors generate excellent scholarship - 90% Professors serve on Rules Committees, Direct Certificate Programs, Assist with Student Organizations</p>
<p>2. Strengthening our System through financial sustainability and effective academic and infrastructure portfolio management</p>	<p>Maine Law’s sustainable and stable budget is assisting in priority setting. A new focus on streamlining adjunct costs and certificate management is helping with portfolio planning. We partner with the Maine Center to manage a single facility and future renovation goals.</p>
<p>3. Making our System a destination for public higher education and a respected, engaging, and rewarding place to work</p>	<p>Applications to Maine Law are up. Renewed alumni connections and community engagement have improved respect and support for Maine Law. We have challenges here, however. Low salaries have resulted in an inability to fill vacant faculty lines (two years of unsuccessful searches despite multiple offers). Staff and faculty at Maine Law carry more responsibilities than their New England peers.</p>



The Strategic Plan's Core Commitments	Maine Law's Execution of the Core Commitments
<p>4. Creating a sense of belonging in our System through our commitments to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, including opportunities for learning presented through multiple modalities (i.e. types of course delivery)</p>	<p>Maine Law's student population diversity has strengthened for several years, including an incoming class with 20% first generation students, and the support for student belonging and inclusion is improving every year. Learning modalities are also expanding, including mandatory experiential classes.</p>
<p>5. Expanding the ability of our universities and law school to collaborate and flourish through our unified accreditation</p>	<p>Through partnering with the Maine Center, Maine Law has expanded its collaborative courses in business and law and is in its second year of a new course in cross-disciplinary problem solving. Law and MBA collaborations are in the works, including the Business/Law Clinic.</p>

Thank You

For your time and your support.

