

Outcomes for Law School Graduates

Questions: What is the bar exam passage rate for law graduates for first-time takers? What percent of recent law school graduates are employed in Ohio? What is the average, full-time in-state salary of recent Ohio law school graduates? Do bar passage rates, in-state employment, and average earnings vary by institution?

Why ask about the law school outcomes? The vast majority of students who enroll in law school have an expectation that they will pass the bar the first time they take the bar exam, be employed with a legal position, and be compensated for earning their law degrees. Some students enroll in law school for other reasons. Some enroll for the enjoyment of learning about law with no expectation of taking the bar exam in their state. Others enroll while they are employed with no intention of changing jobs, and may not need or want to take the bar exam, and may have little expectation of salary increases.

Note: To answer these employment questions, two sources were consulted. First, the National Association for Law Placement' 2000 publication of survey results from 1999 graduates was reviewed. Second, the law school graduating classes of Spring 1998 and Spring 1999 were cross-matched against the employment database maintained by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS). This cross-match was to determine if graduates were employed within the state of Ohio in the fourth quarter of the year following their Spring graduation and to calculate their annualized incomes based upon their quarterly salary.

There are four known limitations of these ODJFS data: 1) The data matching process does not reflect income received by an owner of a small law firm although the data matching is successful for any employee of the small firm who is paid wages. 2) The data matching process does not reflect employment on federal payroll in such installations as Wright-Patterson AFB, NASA Lewis, the Defense Supply Center in Columbus, and EPA in Cincinnati. 3) To make a distinction between part-time and full-time work, we have used an annualized salary of \$16,000 or more to indicate full-time salary. 4) Job matches may occur whether or not a position is with a known law firm.

National Answers: *The American Bar Association reports* the combined Summer and Winter 1998 average first-time bar passage rate for all states and territories was seventy-nine percent. A recent study by the National Association for Law Placement* indicated that ninety percent of the graduating 1999 class of new lawyers were employed by the next term. The national median full-time salary reported for the class of 1999 was \$50,000.*

Statewide Answers: *Statewide, seventy-eight percent of first-time Summer 1997 and Winter 1998 bar examinees passed the bar. A majority of law school graduates in Ohio are being employed in-state and the average full-time salaries for in-state law school graduates of Spring 1998 and Spring 1999 was \$44,469.*

- Seventy-eight percent first-time bar examinees in Summer 1997 and Winter 1998 passed the bar.*
- Known in-state employment of recent Ohio law school graduates was fifty-nine percent. The NALP survey ** reported ninety-one percent employment for 1999 graduates, including employment in-state and out-of-state.
- The average full-time in-state salary of the 1998 and 1999 Spring graduates, one term following graduation, was \$44,500.
- The average Ohio full-time salary reported to the NALP by the national sample of 1999 graduates was \$50,483.

* Official ABA Guide to Approved Law Schools, 2000 Edition

**Jobs & JDs: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates, Class of 1999

In-State Employment and Schooling Outcomes for Spring 1998 and Spring 1999 Law School Grads*

Known In-State Employment and Continuing School	Known In-State Employment and Not Continuing School	No Known In-State Employment and Continuing School	Either Known In-State Employment or Known Continuing School	No Known In-State Employment and Not Continuing School
1%	58%	2%	61%	41%

*Source: ODJFS employment cross-matched data.

Annualized Full-Time Salaries – 1998, 1999 Spring Law School Graduates*

# Full-Time Graduates	Average Salary of Full-Time In-State Graduates
607	\$44,500

*Source: ODJFS employment cross-matched data.

*Note that the data source for this information does not distinguish between full-time and part-time salaries, therefore salaries \$16,000 and above are assumed to be full-time for this report.

Campus Answers: *Significant differences in recent bar passage rates are evident among law schools in Ohio. Significant differences also are evident in the percentage of law school graduates employed in-state as well as the salaries of full-time law graduates.*

- State-supported law schools bar passage rate in 1999 for first-time examinees ranged from ninety-three percent to sixty-three percent.
- In-state employment rates for state-supported institutions varied greatly from seventy percent to fifty-two percent.
- Average in-state salaries for recent graduates of state-supported institutions varied from \$52,500 to \$38,600.

Bar Passage Rates for July Graduates First-Time Bar Takers*

State-Supported Universities	1997	1998	1999
University of Akron	76%	79%	85%
University of Cincinnati	95%	88%	93%
Cleveland State University	66%	71%	68%
The Ohio State University	86%	85%	84%
University of Toledo	67%	69%	63%

*Source: Ohio Supreme Court data provided to Ohio Board of Regents May 12, 2000.

Institution	Known In-State Employment and Continuing School	Known In-State Employment and Not Continuing School	No Known In-State Employment and Continuing School	Either Known In-State Employment or Known Continuing School	No Known In-State Employment and Not Continuing School
Cleveland State University	1%	69%	0%	70%	30%
The Ohio State University	0%	51%	1%	52%	47%
University of Akron	2%	60%	4%	66%	34%
University of Cincinnati	1%	60%	1%	62%	38%
University of Toledo	0%	55%	0%	55%	45%

Institution	# Full-Time* In-State Graduates	Average Salary of Full-Time* In-State Graduates
Cleveland State University	101	\$41,000
The Ohio State University	180	\$52,500
University of Akron	133	\$37,500
University of Cincinnati	111	\$47,200
University of Toledo	82	\$38,600

*Note that the data source for this information does not distinguish between full-time and part-time salaries, therefore salaries \$16,000 and above are assumed to be full-time for this report.