



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

FY2025 Operating Budget Development Narrative Prompts

School of Law

Programmatic & Academic Vitality Narrative

*Text submitted within this section **will** be published to OPB's Annual Budget Development website*

Where possible, you are encouraged to leverage published materials already created

- 1) Please provide a web link to your campus/unit strategic framework and provide three to five bullet points outlining the relationship between your resource plan and your strategic framework. *Word Limit: 750*

Our mission is – “to be the best law school measured by global impact.” We continue to structure our priorities consistent with this long-established mission. At UW Law, excellence is a core defining value among the shared values articulated in the School’s vision documents.

- Excellence
- Innovation
- Access
- Integrity & Respect
- Diversity, Multiculturalism, and Anti-racism
- Courage
- Collaboration & Interdisciplinarity

The School of Law has a strong history since 1899 and will celebrate its 125th Anniversary in FY25 enthusiastically highlighting many trailblazing accomplishments, showcasing distinguished graduates, and re-engaging the community, as well as forecasting a roadmap to inspire and launch our shared goals and objectives of the next 125 years. As the legal landscape continues to change, the School of Law continues to strive in areas of innovation, interdisciplinarity, leadership, and justice. Next year will be an exciting opportunity to celebrate the past and amplify the future goals and priorities for legal education and the profession.

The School of Law is poised to continue to make meaningful impacts in many critical areas of importance. Our centers of excellence, Asian Law Center, Native American Law Center, Global Business Law Institute, Barer Institute for Sustainable International Development, as well as our interdisciplinary centers, Tech Policy Lab and Center for the Informed Public remain within our top priorities.

Targeted financial investment will ensure excellence in the law student experience and the successful trajectory of all law graduates. Resources are needed to maintain the competitive edge and exceptional reputation of UW Law consistent with recruiting and retaining the best law students and world-class law faculty. Scholarship dollars remain critical as these resources bridge the financial barriers of access to the profession and provide means to compete with our peer institutions for the best and brightest students.

Through the collaborative efforts of the UW Law dean, faculty, staff, and administration, the School of Law has been sharpening the focus of its strategic priorities to meet the needs of students and equip them with the necessary skills to serve the community in their desired areas of specialty. Therein, our resources are uniquely deployed to support all law students emphasizing robust opportunities for experiential learning, professional identity formation, cultural competency training, pro bono service, and intensive legal research and writing. Investment in these programs and curriculum are key for preparing the next generation of global leaders in law.



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- 2) Please discuss your campus/unit's planned utilization of resources, as identified in your Adaptive entries (institutional initiative = UW Diversity Blueprint), in support of the [2022-2026 UW Diversity Blueprint](#) themes and goals. *Word Limit: 750*

We have a separate diversity budget that supports the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) activities of the School. We have our own plan which was built on the principles of the UW Diversity Blueprint, which is on our website [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion | UW School of Law](#). In addition, we have a dedicated budget related to DEIB activities that supports faculty, staff and student activities. This year we expanded our diversity week activities to include multicultural breakfasts, multiple speakers, a Fireside chat with Alumni, a faculty scholarship presentation, and our 2nd Annual Diversity Celebration held by our RSO Affinity groups moderated by the Chief Justice of the Washington Supreme Court.

In 2015 (updated in 2021) the unit adopted its Strategic Plan for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Multiculturalism and Antiracism (Diversity Plan). The unit's Diversity Plan goals are consistent with and complementary to those in the University of Washington's Diversity Blueprint. Each year, the unit sets institutional priorities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, assesses progress and impact throughout the year, adjusting as necessary and appropriate.

Our inaugural Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion returned to faculty after a three-year stint in this important administrative role and is retiring from the faculty at the end of 2023-2024. This staffing gap provided a chance for the unit this year to review the strengths and weaknesses of its DEIB efforts and impacts. Faculty, staff, students, and administrators participated in the review process. We anticipate receiving the reports from this review soon and will begin to discuss and implement the recommendations.

This Spring quarter, our Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development is hosting a training for our law faculty on *Unbiased Teaching* taught by Professor Steve Friedland, a master-teacher, and one of the top 26 law professors featured in the book *What the Best Law Teachers Do* published by Harvard University Press.

The unit continues several programs that enhance the goals of its Strategic Diversity Plan: Gates Public Service Law Scholarship, a program which historically has attracted diverse students <https://www.law.uw.edu/careers/gates/scholarship>; Gregoire Fellows Program, a program whose goal is increasing diversity in the legal profession <https://www.law.uw.edu/careers/gregoire>.

Continued allocating resources and support for the unit's DEIB plan and activities; budgeting approximately \$50,000 per year with supplements for special training. Continued the annual diversity student, staff, and faculty retreat prior to start of the 2023-24 school year. Continued implementing pre-orientation programming for students on topics related to academic success.



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Required Budget Development Consultative Process Summary – Faculty, Staff and Students

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-- If specific questions are not applicable to your unit, simply indicate n/a --

Consultation with your elected faculty councils, student councils and unit/campus staff, regarding your unit's/campus's budget proposal materials, including your proposed FY25 operating budget, narrative responses, tuition rate recommendations and fee-based rate recommendations are an important and necessary component of the UW's budget development process. Your responses to the questions below will be documented and included as part of the FY25 operating budget development review materials provided to Executive Leadership of the UW.

PLAN NOW to ensure that all unit/campus review and consultative processes are completed by the March 4, 2024 due date.

- 1) Please indicate the date that FACULTY leadership within your unit/campus was consulted and provided the opportunity to provide input as part of this budget planning exercise

January 29, 2024

- 2) Please list a point of contact for your FACULTY leadership (name and UW email address).

Peter Nicolas pnicolas@uw.edu

- 3) Please indicate the date that STUDENT leadership within your unit/campus was consulted and provided the opportunity to provide input as part of this budget planning exercise.

January 29, 2024

- 4) Please list a point of contact for your STUDENT leadership (name and UW email address).

William Kenick wkenick@uw.edu

- 5) Please discuss how you involved campus or unit staff in the consultative process.

Staff were consulted in discussions related to requests for budget and needs of programs focused on needs related to the student excellence, reducing risk and administrative efficiencies.

- 6) Since submission of your tuition and/or fee-based rate recommendations on February 1, 2024, has your campus or unit received any additional feedback from students? If so, please summarize here.

Yes, we received feedback from our students that while they do not like the tuition increasing but they do understand that it is necessary as costs to the school go up in relation to salary increases and other costs to the school. In addition, we went over how our tuition sits in comparison with our peer schools. Our tuition is in the middle of law school peers.

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UW Seattle / School of Law

Tuition-based Program Rate Recommendation Narrative

*Text submitted within this section **will** be published to OPB's Annual Budget Development website*

Responses to the questions below are required for each tuition category that your unit/campus recommends adjusting (as submitted to OPB by 2/1/24). **Please note question #4 is required for any programs for which no tuition increase is requested.** If you are recommending changes for multiple tuition categories, please differentiate your responses within each question.

- 1) Please explain how the proposed rate increase will enhance student experience and promote student success?

Word Limit: 500

The tuition increases of 3% resident and 2% for non-resident for all tuition-based programs will help the UW School of Law fund salary increases required by the UW for faculty, staff and student positions. In addition, these funds will support critical positions in the areas of student success, financial aid, and academic support.

- 2) Tuition and fee increases have a disproportionate impact on low-income students. Please comment on how each fee change will affect student debt loads, and specifically how the program will offset this impact. *Word Limit: 550*

We don't expect any significant increase in debt load for student as this is a very small increase in tuition. To help offset increases and make law school more affordable to students, the UW School of Law continues to work to increase our scholarship pool to support students in their educational journey. Scholarships are an ongoing need for the School of Law as we as a School behind our peers in providing scholarship support for our students. But last year UW School of Law initiated a bar exam stipend program which prioritizes financial need and first-generation student. We have received funding to support this from donors and expect to continue this program into the future.

- 3) Please discuss your unit/campus's overall tuition strategy for the next 3-5 years. Describe if you expect the proposed change to result in changes to enrollment (including changes to resident/nonresident composition) or the volume of tuition waivers awarded. *Word Limit: 250*

We anticipate small increases in tuition over the next 3-5 years to keep with inflation and to support any salary increases required by the University of Washington. The School of Law is a good value in comparison to other law Schools. We are approximately in middle of the JD tuition across the nation <https://www.lawschooltransparency.com/trends/costs/tuition/schools> with our tuition being less than Seattle University and only slightly higher than Gonzaga University.

- 4) If you are not planning to increase tuition for any program, please respond to the following: Generally, small, inflationary increases (1-2% annually) are preferred over no increase or large increases every few years. Please answer the following questions for each program where no increase is requested. *Word Limit: 250*
N/A

- a) Please explain why this program's rate does not warrant an increase by describing the program's financial position, structure, peer comparisons, or other relevant information.



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- b) What do you currently anticipate annual rate change requests will be for the next two years?
- 5) Enrolled students affected by rate increases must be consulted on proposed increases before proposals are finalized. Please describe when and how students were consulted and summarize the feedback they provided regarding EACH of your tuition rate recommendations. *Word Limit: 500*

We met with student leaders in our Student Bar Association who represents all students in UW School of Law on January 29, 2024. Feedback regarding the rate increases included questions about scholarships. But overall students understood the need for tuition increases.

Do Not Submit This File



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UW Seattle / School of Law

Fee-Based Program Rate Recommendation Narrative

*This section and accompanying Excel file for fee-based rate recommendations are replacing the previous process for annual fee-based program rate approval. Please reach out to Jed Bradley (jedbrad@uw.edu) with any questions. Text submitted within this section **will not** be published to OPB's Annual Budget Development website. However, responses and rate requests will be reviewed by the Faculty Senate Committee on Planning & Budgeting (SCPB) and approved by the Provost.*

-- If applicable to your unit. If not applicable, simply leave this section blank --

Responses to the questions below are required for **each** fee-based program that your unit/campus recommends adjusting. If you are recommending changes for multiple fee-based programs, please differentiate your responses by requests "Under 5%" and "5% and Above." **Please note question #4 is required for any programs for which no fee increase is requested.**

- 1) Please explain how the proposed rate increase will enhance student experience and promote student success?
Word Limit: 500

We will be increasing all fee based programs by 3% this year. This increase will help support salary increases for faculty, staff and students as well as supporting additional student services within the school to support the needs of these students. Many for which come from international and diverse backgrounds.

- 2) Fee increases have a disproportionate impact on low-income students. Please comment on how each fee change will affect student debt loads, and specifically how the program will offset this impact. *Word Limit: 550*

We don't expect any significant increase in debt load for student as this is a very small increase. In addition, the UW School of Law continues to work to increase our scholarship pool to support students in their educational journey.

- 3) Please discuss your unit/campus's overall fee-based rate strategy for the next 3-5 years. Describe if you expect the proposed change to result in changes to enrollment (including changes to resident/nonresident composition). *Word Limit: 250*

We will continue to ask for small yearly increases to support ongoing inflation and salary increases.

- 4) If you are not planning to increase fee-based rates for any program, please respond to the following: Generally, small, inflationary increases (1-2% annually) are preferred over no increase or large increases every few years. Please answer the following questions for each program where no increase is requested. *Word Limit: 250*
N/A

- a) Please explain why this program's rate does not warrant an increase by describing the program's financial position, structure, peer comparisons, or other relevant information.

- b) What do you currently anticipate annual rate change requests will be for the next two years?

- 5) Enrolled students affected by rate increases must be consulted on proposed increases before *proposals* are finalized. Please describe when and how students were consulted and summarize the feedback they provided regarding EACH of your fee-based program rate recommendations. *Word Limit: 500*



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We met with student leaders in our Student Bar Association who represents all students in UW School of Law on January 29, 2024. Feed back regarding the rate increases included questions about scholarships. But overall students understood the need for tuition increases.

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