

# DONALD J. WEIDNER SUMMER FOR UNDERGRADUATES PROGRAM



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF LAW



# OVERVIEW

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The Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program at the Florida State University College of Law is the oldest and largest of its kind and has become a model for other law schools nationally. The overall purpose of the program is to help students direct their remaining time in college to best prepare for law school.

## ELIGIBILITY

College students enrolled at two- and four-year institutions, in all majors and from all backgrounds, are invited to apply following their freshman year. We particularly welcome students from groups historically underrepresented in the legal profession.

## PROGRAM COSTS

There is no tuition or application fee for this program. Florida State Law provides room and board in residence-hall accommodations, all course materials and a monetary stipend to all participants. Students are only responsible for their travel expenses to and from Tallahassee.

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THE PROGRAM IS  
PROVIDED FREE  
OF CHARGE WITH  
**NO TUITION OR  
APPLICATION FEE**



**“THE DONALD J. WEIDNER SUMMER FOR UNDERGRADUATES PROGRAM WAS THE PERFECT INTRODUCTION TO FSU LAW**, complete with class sessions, networking with alumni, and interactive field trips throughout Tallahassee. After completing the program, I knew that FSU Law developed lawyers that contribute to the legal field and communities. No matter where you want to go to law school, the program’s focus on preparing for law school and a legal career is extremely beneficial.”

Dominique Mortimer, a third-year law student at Florida State University, attended the summer program in 2014 and served as a law student mentor during the 2016 program.

# PROGRAM GOALS

The Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program is designed to achieve three main goals:

- ▶ To acquaint students with the study of law
- ▶ To assist students in acquiring skills that will benefit their undergraduate studies and future law school studies
- ▶ To introduce students to traditional and nontraditional opportunities in the legal profession

## 25+ YEARS

SINCE **1992**, FLORIDA STATE LAW HAS HOSTED THE AWARD-WINNING DONALD J. WEIDNER SUMMER FOR UNDERGRADUATES PROGRAM

Program participants on the Senate floor during the program's annual visit to the Florida Capitol.



# PROGRAM COMPONENTS

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Approximately 60 undergraduate students participate in the month-long program each year. During those four weeks, participants focus on three main components.

## CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

- ▶ Daily legal writing classes taught by law school faculty members
- ▶ Daily constitutional law class taught by an FSU law professor and national expert

## LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCESS

- ▶ Sessions with admissions staff and advisors regarding various aspects of the law school application process
- ▶ Practical workshops on completing the application, writing personal statements, studying for the LSAT, preparing resumes and cover letters, financing law school, and exploring career options

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

While the program is academic in nature, there are a number of enriching activities that take place outside of the classroom, such as:

- ▶ Visits to the Florida Supreme Court
- ▶ Behind-the-scenes tour of the Florida Capitol
- ▶ Networking with prominent attorneys
- ▶ Activities with current law students
- ▶ Moot court oral arguments
- ▶ Off-site team-building retreat

# FSU LAW ALUMNI SUPPORT

Thanks to the generosity of Florida State Law alumnus Wayne Hogan ('72) and his wife, Patricia, the Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program has a financially secure future. Large gifts from the Hogans allow the law school to permanently maintain the size of the program to accommodate 60 students each year. The Hogans take an active role in the program and Wayne Hogan has been an annual guest speaker. He is a celebrated trial lawyer and partner in the Jacksonville law firm Terrell Hogan. Many additional FSU law graduates and other local attorneys and judges participate in the program each year. They host students at their law firms and courts, visit the law school to network with participants and serve as speakers for the program.

Benefactors Wayne Hogan ('72) and his wife, Pat, speaking with a student at the annual networking reception.



# 60

APPROXIMATELY **SIXTY**  
**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**  
**FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY**  
PARTICIPATE IN THE MONTH-LONG  
PROGRAM EACH YEAR.

FSU College of Law alumni meet with students at the annual networking reception.



# PROGRAM ALUMNI

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Since the program's inception in 1992, we have welcomed more than 1,000 participants from approximately 150 two- and four-year colleges and universities within the U.S. and abroad. Hundreds subsequently earned their juris doctor degrees and launched successful careers in the legal field.

# 1,000+

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MORE THAN **1,000**  
**STUDENTS HAVE**  
**PARTICIPATED IN THE**  
**PROGRAM** SINCE ITS  
INCEPTION IN 1992.

## HOW TO APPLY

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To apply, students must submit the following items online:

- ▶ Application\*
- ▶ Resume
- ▶ Two letters of recommendation
- ▶ Current transcript

For official program dates and deadlines, as well as answers to frequently asked questions, visit our website at [law.fsu.edu/summerprogram](http://law.fsu.edu/summerprogram).

\*Applications are evaluated from October-March by the admissions committee. All applications must be received and complete by March 30.

The FSU Summer for Undergraduates Program was established by Dean Emeritus Donald J. Weidner in 1992 during his first year as dean of Florida State University College of Law. Weidner has remained committed to the program since its inception and to its goals of introducing students to the study of law and to opportunities in the legal profession. The program was renamed the Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program in February 2016 to honor him. Weidner retired as dean in June 2016 after serving in that capacity for more than 20 years.



Donald J. Weidner



**Contact us for more information about our  
Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program.**

Florida State University College of Law  
Office of Student Affairs  
P: 850.644.7338 E: [summerprogram@law.fsu.edu](mailto:summerprogram@law.fsu.edu)

**[law.fsu.edu/summerprogram](http://law.fsu.edu/summerprogram)**

