Being enrolled in the two-year program allowed me to save on the costs of law school. However, I was still afforded the same career and extracurricular opportunities as my peers on the traditional, three-year track. Alexandria Esposito ’18
Pursuing a law degree doesn’t have to be a daunting task. If you are considering starting a new career as a lawyer, or are facing the challenge of balancing your studies with the demands of life, we have the answer.

**OUR TWO-YEAR J.D. PROGRAM STUDENTS:**

- Take the *same challenging course load* over six semesters, just like those earning their degree in three years. By being part of a small group of 20 to 30 students, you will receive our faculty’s undivided attention and focus, and experience the kind of lively and stimulating classroom discussions only a small class can offer.

- Participate in *experiential programs, including our required Externship Program and one of our four Law Clinics.* This allows you to work with real clients with real legal needs and receive essential hands-on training.

- Gain skills, vital for today’s practice of law, through our strong *Legal Profession Program,* led by faculty at the forefront of writing and research.

- Are eligible to be considered for our prestigious *Leadership Honors Program* and *Law Review.*

- Contribute to *student service* and *academic organizations.*

And, if you need academic support, you will get it. Our *Academic Success Program* will help you build a strong academic foundation and develop skills you will use throughout law school and your career. Plus, our *Bar Passage Program* provides tailored guidance and support for every step of the bar exam preparation process.
Students participating in the Two-Year J.D. Program take the same challenging courses as those earning their degree in three years. After the first two semesters, students have the flexibility to create a schedule that works for them.

1st semester (May to August) — 14 credits
2nd semester — 15 credits
3rd semester — 15-18 credits
Summer term — 7-15 credits*
4th semester — 15-18 credits
5th semester — 15-18 credits

*The more credits taken during the summer term, the fewer semesters needed at 18 credit hours.
Craig Dunham went to law school because he wanted to be an Air Force JAG. But he faced a hurdle.

The Air Force has an age ceiling of 35, which Dunham was approaching when he was ready to start law school. That meant he needed to earn his J.D. quickly to have a chance to land his dream job.

“I researched the fastest law school degree and discovered that the University of Dayton offered a two-year J.D.,” he said. “It turned out to be a fantastic decision for me.”

Once he was enrolled, the School of Law helped Dunham secure an externship at nearby Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. “UDSL did an excellent job of preparing me for my work with the Air Force, and I was given some excellent recommendations,” he said. “Professors and deans also wrote letters of recommendation to help with my Air Force application package. Some of the adjunct professors were incredibly helpful with my career progression. They truly cared about my well-being.”

After graduation, Dunham got the job with the JAG Corps. “Had I not been in the two-year program, and had the school not worked so hard to get my placement as an extern,” he said, “I would not have gotten my dream job.”

Stephanie O’Banion was ready to shift gears to a new career, but didn’t want to be out of the workforce for long.

When asked why she chose the University of Dayton School of Law, O’Banion doesn’t mince words.

“Quite frankly, the two-year program is the reason I chose UD,” said O’Banion. “The program gave me the chance to complete my degree and return to the workforce a year sooner than I would have had I chosen a traditional J.D. program. And that resulted in noticeable cost savings.”

O’Banion also makes it clear that you can be successful and competitive as a two-year law student. She graduated summa cum laude and was ranked No. 1 in her class.

“Looking back, the two-year program was tough, but never unmanageable, and ultimately very rewarding,” said O’Banion. “And now it’s a great feeling when I tell people I finished my degree in two years — especially in job interviews.”

O’Banion immediately landed a job as a judicial law clerk for the United States Department of Labor Office of Administrative Law Judges in Cincinnati. In August 2014, O’Banion began her tenure as a staff attorney for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. That’s an impressive résumé. And she achieved it by completing an impressive program.
Before attending Dayton Law’s Two-Year Program, Samantha Steiner was an emergency room nurse. 

Steiner always had an interest in becoming an attorney. She also had a passion for her first career, helping others through her work as a nurse – a job she held for several years before attending law school.

Today, Steiner is Corporate Counsel for Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta where she handles a variety of legal matters for the entire hospital system, including clinical operations, custody and consent, regulatory issues, contracting and compliance.

“I really enjoyed my mediation, research, regulatory and family law courses and utilize these concepts almost daily in my in-house role. While I consider myself a healthcare attorney, having a broad range of legal skills has been extremely valuable in my practice,” she said.

Although she was willing to relocate for a great legal education, she knew she wanted to return to her home state of Georgia to practice law.

“Having the ability to complete my law degree in only two years let me return to my family and friends as well as start the next chapter in my career path sooner,” she added.

“I am so grateful for the well-rounded legal education I received at UDSL.”

Brandon McClain had already earned a master’s, along with a B.A., when he enrolled in our Two-Year J.D. Program.

With his rich educational and military background, he wanted to earn his J.D. quickly, without sacrificing the quality of his legal education or his law school experience. McClain benefited in other ways from the Two-Year Program. It helped him save time and money, allowed him to learn alongside a diverse group of classmates and helped him develop the time management skills needed to succeed in law school and to practice law.

“Throughout my education at UDSL,” he said, “I took courses in criminal and civil litigation, trial strategy and, most importantly, brief writing and preparation. In the real world, these courses are truly vital to being an efficient attorney because they are invoked at a moment’s notice on a daily basis.” After graduating from our Two-Year J.D. Program, McClain entered private practice and eventually joined the Montgomery County Public Defender’s Office as a docket attorney. Just a few years later, he was sworn in as a Magistrate in the Dayton Municipal Court. Recently, he was appointed, then elected, Montgomery County Recorder where he has implemented initiatives to assist veterans and protect property owners.

“I can confidently say that UDSL truly prepared me for my career.”
As one of the first law schools to offer a Two-Year J.D. Program, Dayton Law has been ahead of the curve for over 10 years. Our students and alumni benefit from a time-tested accelerated program with a proven record of success.

**CONTACT**

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