At Virginia, law students can study health law in the clinical setting, interacting with medical students and physicians from all medical specialties, including pediatrics, neurology, internal medicine and psychiatry.

Law faculty teach in the School of Medicine, and Medical School professors teach Law School classes. This collaboration extends to health policy experts in the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, the Darden School of Business, and the Schools of Architecture, Arts & Sciences, Engineering and Nursing.

The distinguishing feature of the Law School’s Program In Health Law is its collaboration with the University’s School of Medicine and its Medical Center, which is consistently ranked among the nation’s top hospitals.

This interdisciplinary approach is further borne out through institutes and centers at UVA that allow students to study and work on pressing issues in health care, biotechnology, research, genetics and moral philosophy:

- Institute of Law, Psychiatry and Public Policy
- Virginia Center for Translational and Regulatory Sciences
- Institute for Practical Ethics and Public Life
- Center for Biomedical Ethics
- Center for Health Policy
- Center for Global Health

Health Law

Students benefit from viewing the regulatory context through the eyes of physicians, inventors, health care administrators and experts from a variety of fields.

Newsweek ranked the University of Virginia Medical Center No. 1 in Virginia and in the top 50 hospitals nationally in 2023.
are required to secure admission separately to the School of Medicine and UVA Law.

Health and Disability Law Clinic

Students in the yearlong clinic help represent mentally ill and elderly clients in negotiations, administrative hearings and court proceedings. The legal matters may involve civil rights, mental health care in jails and prisons, disability benefits claims, access to health or rehabilitative services, creating wills and other testamentary documents, and advance directives.

Fellowships and Externships

Students may apply for funding from the Law School’s health law fellowship program to work in a variety of settings. Students have worked for employers such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Law Program, and the Food and Drug Administration.

J.D.-M.H. Public Health Program

In conjunction with the Department of Public Health Sciences at the School of Medicine, the Law School offers a dual degree in public health. Students have access to graduate courses in health policy and management, health economics, ethics, global health, social and behavioral health, environmental health and research methodology. Instituted in 2001, the M.H.P. program offers concentrations in generalist practice and research, health policy, and law and ethics, and includes field placement options in global health, health policy and public health sites. The program takes four years to complete and requires a minimum of 12 credits.

J.D.-M.D. Program

Designed to educate the next generation of health leaders, the J.D.-M.D. program allows students to complete law and medical degrees in six years, instead of the seven years normally required if the degrees were pursued separately. Students spend the first three years and the summer of their first year in classes at the School of Medicine, and years four and five at the Law School. In the final year, one semester is spent in each school. Students are required to