University at Albany and Albany Law School
Frequently Asked Questions
May 2015

What is an affiliation?
An affiliation connects or associates with a person or organization. In this situation, it provides an opportunity to examine synergies and determine where the two institutions might partner academically and operationally.

Are the two institutions merging?
This is not a merger. UAlbany and Albany Law are exploring synergies to deepen and extend existing academic partnerships.

Who are the leaders of each institution?
Robert J. Jones is the president of the University at Albany, while Penelope Andrews is president of Albany Law School and Alicia Ouellette is the dean of Albany Law School. On July 1, 2015, President Andrews will step down and Dean Ouellette will become President and Dean.

Will there be a name change?
There are no plans to change the name of either institution.

Will Albany Law School move from its current location?
Albany Law School has no plans to move from its current facilities.

Will Albany Law School become one of UAlbany’s schools and colleges?
Albany Law will remain its own entity and leverage the interdisciplinary strengths of UAlbany’s diverse schools and colleges.

Are there fiscal implications?
The two institutions will remain financially independent. Each institution will retain its own endowment.

Will this impact the cost of tuition?
Both institutions remain concerned about the cost of higher education. The affiliation provides an opportunity to examine synergies that may offer cost savings to students.

For fall 2015, graduate and undergraduate students who are accepted for admission to Albany Law School will be offered a SUNY Legal Fellowship. It provides $17,000 per year guaranteed funding. Students must apply for, be accepted by, and enroll at Albany Law School for fall 2015 to be eligible for this one-time offer. Learn more here.

Which will be the degree granting institution?
Each institution will continue to grant its own degrees, and retain its own accreditations. For example, Albany Law School students will receive a law degree from Albany Law School, which will retain its accreditation by the American Bar Association.

What will happen with Albany Law School’s affiliation with Union University?
Albany Law School is part of Union University. In 1873, Albany Medical College, Union College, and later on Albany College of Pharmacy (now Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences) formed Union University.
Today, Union University exists in name only – each member institution has its own governing board and operates its own institutions independently. Discussions are ongoing about the continued viability of the Union University relationship.

What are the potential student benefits of an affiliation?
- Partnerships for expanded course and degree offerings for students at Albany Law and students in UAlbany’s School of Business, School of Criminal Justice, School of Social Welfare, School of Public Health, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, School of Education, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the new College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity.
- The two institutions can build new collaborative programs and research initiatives and jointly pursue grants and other funding.
- The affiliation increases prospects for experiential learning, collaborative study, and career preparation in the fastest-growing sectors of the economy.

For Albany Law School, the affiliation provides an expanded repertoire of offerings to build its strategic plan for new opportunity pathways for students in emerging areas of law.

For the University at Albany, the largest public university in the area, an affiliation would leverage the law school’s legacy as the oldest independent law school in the country, strengthen its academic reach in areas of disciplinary inquiry and professional practice, and build on its public mission to the region and state.

How do the two institutions currently work together?
We already have collaborative programs between law and business, regional planning, public administration and policy, and social welfare. There are also 3+3 accelerated programs for most of UAlbany’s undergraduate majors where a student’s fourth year at UAlbany is their first year at Albany Law School.

How will a deeper affiliation expand on existing pathways and build new ones?
There are many pathways on which to build and expand, including:
- Those students preparing for the practice of law can join with those preparing for the practice of social work to understand and address more fully the problem of domestic violence.
- The future scientist can learn about the legal context of environmental contamination.
- The future attorney can develop expertise in cloud computing and cybersecurity.
- Students of public administration and law can work together to develop expertise in state regulation and nonprofit management.
- Law students, whose practice will take them into other languages and cultures, can develop the specialized knowledge and skill to work effectively.

How might this interest prospective students?
This presents a great opportunity for prospective students. Not only will undergraduate students have expedited pathways into the legal profession, but there will also be expanded opportunities for law students to develop special areas of expertise for their future practice as lawyers. With both institutions having a significant presence in the capital of New York state, both undergraduate and graduate students will have enhanced opportunities for experiential learning across the state legislature and agencies.

What are the public engagement implications from an affiliation?
As publicly engaged institutions, the alliance could provide opportunities to create reciprocal partnerships to tackle what matters most to the community. Through combined research, teaching, and service, we can partner with our communities, from local to global, to address complex societal challenges.

It is invaluable to the Capital Region to have a strong public research university team up with a strong law school to help address the many issues where the law and societal needs intersect. This public engagement includes, for example, best practices in non-profit management, tech transfer, commercialization, and entrepreneurship that support economic development programs such as Innovation Hot Spots and START-UP NY.

The connections between UAlbany and Albany Law abound, from broad areas such as public policy and government, to specific areas like business, the environment, education, public health, disability law, community policing, domestic violence, and more.

**How will the University at Albany and Albany Law School measure success from the affiliation?**
The University at Albany and Albany Law School believe that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The two institutions have agreed to explore a deeper affiliation because they believe there are areas that can be leveraged more effectively together. Success will be measured by traditional means: strong interest in enrollment, constituent satisfaction, and the success of graduates, among others.

**Institutional Backgrounds:**

**About Albany Law School**
Albany Law School is the nation's oldest independent school of law. Founded in 1851, it has played an important role in the development of legal education in the United States. The institution offers students an innovative, rigorous curriculum. Several nationally recognized programs—including the Government Law Center and the Albany Law Clinic & Justice Center—provide opportunities for students to apply classroom learning to real situations. Students have access to New York's highest court, federal courts, the executive branch, and the state legislature. With 10,000 alumni practicing in every state, its graduates serve as a vital resource for the law school and its students.

**About the University at Albany**
Educationally and culturally, the University at Albany-SUNY puts "The World Within Reach" for its more than 17,300 students. An internationally recognized research university with 118 undergraduate majors and minors and 138 graduate programs, UAlbany is a leader among all New York State colleges and universities in such diverse fields as criminal justice, information science, public administration, social welfare, business and sociology. With a curriculum enhanced by 500 study-abroad opportunities, UAlbany launches great careers. Visit UAlbany's extensive roster of faculty experts.