



UAlbany and Albany Law School FAQ September 2015

What does this affiliation mean?

The University at Albany-Albany Law School affiliation strengthens both institutions with new pathways for students and faculty—creating economic and social benefits for the Capital Region and beyond.

What are the benefits of this collaboration?

This partnership leverages complementary capacity between UAlbany and Albany Law School.

Together we will:

- Deepen our existing relationship,
- Develop new academic programs,
- Create a more collaborative research environment, opening up new sources of grant funding and shaping new areas of scholarship, and
- Cultivate cross-disciplinary pedagogy and scholarship.

Additionally, the affiliation will:

- Strengthen both UAlbany's and Albany Law's roles in growing the upstate high-tech economy and impacting the communities in which we serve, and
- Facilitate closer recruitment of international students, a priority of both institutions.

What will students gain?

The new agreement provides UAlbany students with better access to a legal context relevant to their field of study, and creates new pathways for Albany Law students across UAlbany's vast academic portfolio—particularly in high-growth specializations like cybersecurity, atmospheric science, and information technology.

The affiliation will expand on existing pathways and build new ones for students including:

- Those preparing for the practice of law can join with students preparing for the practice of social work to understand and address more fully the problem of domestic violence.
- Tomorrow's 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 will faculty benefit?

Faculty will connect across disciplines, opening up new sources of grant funding and shaping new areas of scholarship. The creation of an asset map of research interests and expertise at both institutions will help faculty from both institutions explore research synergies that respond to needs and trends in legal education and across a wide range of disciplines.

Faculty will also be able to submit proposals to a dedicated Collaborative Venture Fund specifically for UAlbany-Albany Law collaborations.

Are the two institutions merging?

No. UAlbany and Albany Law School plan to work and function under the affiliation terms and continue to explore 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 and [Alicia Ouellette](#) is president and dean of Albany Law School.

Will there be a name change? Physical move?

There are no plans to change the name of either institution, nor will either institution change its physical location.

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.

Albany Law and the University at Albany will share costs and share revenues, as appropriate.

Will this impact tuition?

Each institution's tuition cost remains as it was before the affiliation, but 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.

Who will grant degrees?

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.

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, Albany Law School and the University at Albany will 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](#), founded in 1851, 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, we offer [120 undergraduate majors and minors](#) and more than 125 [master's, doctoral, and graduate certificate programs](#). UAlbany is a leader among all New York State colleges and universities in such diverse fields as [atmospheric and environmental sciences](#), [business](#), [criminal justice](#), [emergency preparedness](#), [engineering and applied sciences](#), [informatics](#), [public administration](#), [social welfare](#), and [sociology](#) taught by an extensive roster of [faculty experts](#). With a curriculum enhanced by 600 study-abroad opportunities, UAlbany launches great careers.