

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

January 23, 2024

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

As the spring semester begins I am full of excitement about what we are already accomplishing and what else we will do. In this update I share stats about our students' success in getting in to law school, where they are studying abroad, and how our Research Centers work for justice in the public sphere.

A brief pep talk for all of us: first, the pandemic was three years in the making and we are only 1.5 years out. I estimate it will be another 1.5 years before our collective resilience and mental health is anywhere near where it was before. We need patience and community to continue to work our way through this. Second, there are other strains such as the war between Israel and Hamas, the attacks on DEI and higher ed, and the rapid growth of AI in all sectors of our lives. Let's not even talk about the budget.

But colleges are built for the long haul. We are centers of humanity, creativity and critical thought and now more than ever we need to dig down and do what we do best: help people to become their most thoughtful, ethical and creative selves, which simultaneously helps communities to be more just. We are John Jay and this is what we do. My thanks and good wishes to everyone who makes up our community.

Allison

John Jay a Top Law School Feeder

The LSAC released the 2022-2023 law school admissions data and John Jay ranks 23rd in the list of the top 240 law school feeder schools.

Most impressive stat? John Jay ranked 3rd in the country for sending the most Black or African American applicants to law school.

We are right behind Howard and Georgia State, respectively, both of which have significantly larger black student populations.

John Jay was ranked 13th in the country for sending the most Hispanic/Latino applicants



Law School
Admission Council

#3 in US

for sending Black applicants to law school

to law school. John Jay was ranked 11th in the country for sending the most Puerto Rican applicants to law school.

144 John Jay students and alumni were accepted to one or more law schools last year. This is the result of remarkable work by faculty who work with these students as well as the brilliant staff of our [Pre-Law Institute](#) and the Ronald H. Brown Summer Law School Prep Program.



Students Studying Abroad Again

Our study abroad programs are back in full swing and we look forward to welcoming the return of 14 students who studied abroad during the winter session in Italy, Morocco, Japan, Ghana, Costa Rica, Korea, Spain, Cuba, Australia and England. This spring 12 additional students will depart for Spain, Australia, Peru, Italy and England.

Encourage students to consider studying abroad: we have a large number of scholarships to support their travel and it absolutely makes a difference in their learning. Kenneth Yanes and Daniel Braslavsky in the [International Studies & Programs office](#) work with students to help them find the right program for them, and get money to do it. We even offer international internships!

Research on studying abroad shows that students who study abroad have increased retention and graduation rates (Sutton & Rubin, 2004); higher grade point averages (Stebbleton & Cherney, 2013); and improved language learning (CCC SOAR Project, 2022) as well as greater employability and career skills (Crossman & Clarke, 2010). Study abroad fosters intercultural understanding and provides a global context for the students themselves, their friends, faculty, family, as well as their greater community (Jones, 2021). This impact of studying abroad has shown to be greater for racial minorities and those who come from economic disadvantaged communities as compared to their more economically advantaged peers and Whites (CASSIE, 2020).

Getting to Know John Jay's Research Centers:

Data Collaborative for Justice

Founded in 2013, John Jay's [Data Collaborative for Justice](#) (DCJ) conducts research on the criminal legal system to inform just and equitable policies in New York and around the country. DCJ's work spans a range of topics, although current projects largely fall into three broad areas: mass incarceration; disparities based on race, ethnicity, and the neighborhoods in which people live; and low-level enforcement. DCJ at times partners with other John Jay centers and outside organizations, both in conducting research and holding events intended to make research accessible for a broad audience, while underscoring its policy ramifications for advancing safety and justice.



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