

University of Southern California, Gould School of Law

Los Angeles, CA 90089-0074

Phone: 213.740.2523; Fax: 213.740.4570

E-mail: admissions@law.usc.edu; Website: www.law.usc.edu

■ Introduction

The University of Southern California Gould School of Law is a private, highly selective national law school with a 100-year history and a reputation for academic excellence. Under the leadership of a stellar, energetic faculty, the school's rigorous, interdisciplinary program focuses on the law as an expression of social values and an instrument for implementing social goals. USC is known for its diverse student body, its leadership in clinical education, and its tight-knit alumni network composed of national leaders in the legal profession, business, and the public sector. With 200 students in each class, the school is small, informal, and collegial.

The School of Law is located on the beautiful main campus of the University of Southern California, just south of downtown Los Angeles and in the heart of the city's exciting "Arts and Education Corridor." A dynamic laboratory for legal training, Los Angeles is a center of state, national, and international commerce and government, and the city's legal market is among the most extensive in the world. The law school is housed in a five-level, technologically advanced facility that provides a superb setting for professional training and sophisticated legal research.

■ Curriculum

USC's curriculum is comprehensive, uniquely interdisciplinary, and designed to challenge. Courses provide a solid foundation in all substantive areas of law as well as extensive opportunities to explore specializations in traditional and emerging fields. Many faculty members have expertise in both law and other disciplines, such as economics, communication, public policy, medicine, history, psychology, and philosophy. The first-year curriculum consists of courses that examine the foundation of the legal system. The second and third years of study allow students to pursue individual interests in such areas as international law, intellectual property, corporations and business-government relationships, taxation, bioethics, civil rights and liberties, and judicial administration.

■ Special Programs

Dual Degrees: The law school offers 16 dual-degree programs in coordination with USC graduate and professional schools and the California Institute of Technology. These programs enable qualified students to earn a law degree and a master's degree in the following fields: Business Administration, Business Taxation, Economics, Communications Management, Gerontology, International Relations, Philosophy, Political Science, Public Administration, Public Policy, Real Estate Development, and Social Work. A JD/PhD program in Political Science, a JD/PharmD program, and a JD/PhD program in Social Science with the California Institute of Technology are also offered.

Legal Clinics: The nationally recognized Post-Conviction Justice Project, the Children's Legal Issues Clinic, the Employer Legal Advice Clinic, and the Immigration Law Clinic enable students to gain valuable advocacy and lawyering skills by representing real clients under faculty supervision. Students in the Intellectual Property Clinic review technology contracts,

engage in patent evaluation and application, assist with litigation, and perform film clearance work.

Public Service Programs: The Office of Public Service provides comprehensive opportunities and coordination for all external service learning and community service. These opportunities include more than 60 clinical field placements, allowing students to earn academic credit while engaging in service learning at government and public interest agencies and with federal and state judges, as well as pro bono and community service in the surrounding Los Angeles neighborhoods.

International Programs: USC offers students several opportunities to study abroad. Students can participate in the law school's semester abroad exchange program with the University of Hong Kong, which is designed for individuals interested in international business or comparative law. And the law school offers a dual-degree program (JD/LLM) with the London School of Economics. Moreover, students may participate in programs offered around the world by other ABA-approved law schools.

Research Centers: Law students participate in the scholarly activities of several interdisciplinary research centers: the Center for Communications Law and Policy; the Pacific Center for Health Policy and Ethics; the Center for Law, Economics, and Organization; the USC-Caltech Center for the Study of Law and Politics; the Center for Law, History, and Culture; and the Center for Law and Philosophy.

Continuing Legal Education: Students help coordinate the law school's practice-oriented programs and serve as research assistants for the Entertainment Law Institute and the Intellectual Property Institute.

■ Student Activities and Cocurricular Programs

Academic life is exciting and fast-paced, and students are often engaged in numerous scholarly pursuits and cocurricular programs. The *Southern California Law Review* has one of the largest circulations in the country. Students also publish the *Southern California Interdisciplinary Law Journal* and the *Southern California Review of Law and Social Justice*. The Moot Court Honors Program sends participants to national and state competitions.

Public service activities abound. The Public Interest Law Foundation is one of the largest in the country, providing summer grants for public service employment as well as the Irmas Fellowship for Public Interest Law, which awards a year's salary to a third-year student committed to postgraduate work in public interest.

The School of Law has a long tradition of student participation in governance, and elected student members serve on most committees and attend and vote at faculty meetings. The Student Bar Association allocates funds to support voluntary student organizations. Asian, African American, and Latino law students are represented by associations. Other student organizations include international and entertainment law societies, Women's Law Association, Middle Eastern and South Asian Law Association, Gay and Lesbian Law Union, Christian Legal Society, Jewish Law Students, and chapters of the ACLU and the Federalist Society.

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■ Professional Careers

USC graduates accept job offers in all regions of the country, with New York and Washington, DC, the most popular placement locations outside the West Coast. A significant percentage of graduates begin their professional careers as judicial law clerks to federal and state judges. Each year, several hundred private firms, government agencies, public interest organizations, and corporations from throughout the country come to USC to recruit students for summer and permanent employment. An off-campus recruiting program helps coordinate interviews with East Coast employers. The school's enthusiastic network of alumni is a valuable tool in the job-search process. The Law Alumni Mentor Program pairs first-year students with a graduate who practices in the student's field of interest, and other programs bring alumni from a range of fields to campus to discuss career opportunities. Overall placement statistics are consistently strong; historically, more than 95 percent of each graduating class finds employment. Average starting salaries are among the highest in the nation.

■ Housing

Housing is available in an apartment-style residence located within easy walking distance of the law school for a limited number of incoming students. The apartments are fully

furnished and equipped with high-speed Ethernet lines. A roommate referral service is available to help incoming students arrange shared housing in various LA neighborhoods.

■ Admission and Financial Aid

Admission decisions are made on the basis of the student's academic record, LSAT score, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and other information in the file. The Admissions Committee gives primary consideration to outstanding academic and professional promise and to qualities that will enhance the diversity of the student body or enrich the law school educational environment. Two letters of recommendation are required; applicants are strongly urged to submit at least one academic recommendation letter. The law school operates on a semester basis and admits only full-time students. USC is committed to helping students successfully finance their legal education. In addition to various loan programs, the School of Law offers substantial scholarship awards to a large percentage of the incoming class. Most scholarships are based on merit and need, although a number of scholarships are awarded based solely on the applicant's potential as indicated by the admission file. In addition, the Loan Repayment Assistance Program assists graduates who accept employment with low-paying public interest organizations. Prospective applicants should not allow financial concerns to deter their interest in USC.

Applicant Profile

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This grid includes only applicants who earned 120–180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

LSAT Score	GPA															
	3.75 +		3.50–3.74		3.25–3.49		3.00–3.24		2.75–2.99		Below 2.75		No GPA		Total	
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm
175–180	14	13	12	12	12	9	5	1	7	0	4	0	0	0	54	35
170–174	93	89	96	91	68	38	27	3	15	0	6	0	1	0	306	221
165–169	265	231	385	311	233	92	134	9	33	1	19	0	10	1	1079	645
160–164	384	28	511	56	346	29	143	12	63	0	41	0	23	2	1511	127
155–159	239	6	356	17	303	18	146	6	72	2	46	0	16	0	1178	49
150–154	80	0	173	1	220	0	122	0	69	1	58	0	13	0	735	2
Below 150	44	0	116	0	158	0	153	0	121	1	114	0	39	0	745	1
Total	1119	367	1649	488	1340	186	730	31	380	5	288	0	102	3	5608	1080

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.