

Southern Illinois University School of Law

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■ Introduction

The School of Law is located on the campus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, a 134-year-old university with a tradition of excellence as well as a diverse, multicultural student body of 23,000. Carbondale, a community of 27,000 people, is one of the most scenic areas of Illinois. National forests, state parks, historic sites, campgrounds, theaters, festivals, and cultural events make Carbondale's quality of life among the highest in small cities in Illinois.

The 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio at the School of Law is among the best in the nation. The School of Law is fully accredited by the ABA and the AALS.

■ Curriculum

All students have a uniform first-year curriculum. A broad range of courses and seminars are offered in the second and third years. Throughout the curriculum, the faculty emphasizes professional skills such as writing, oral argumentation, drafting documents, interviewing, negotiating, and counseling.

An innovative and nationally recognized first-year Lawyering Skills Program gives students a strong foundation in basic lawyering skills, including legal research and writing, oral advocacy, client interviewing and counseling, and negotiation.

The school has a strong health law curriculum and is the site for the National Health Law Moot Court Competition as well as a Center for Health Law and Policy. The school also has groups of courses in trial/litigation skills, intellectual property, and criminal, labor, corporate, family, international, and environmental law.

■ Special Programs

Clinical programs enable senior law students to represent clients under the supervision of licensed attorneys. The Civil Practice/Elder Clinic provides direct legal assistance to persons 60 years of age and older in the 13 southernmost counties of Illinois. Students may participate in the Externship Program and obtain academic credit while working at nonprofit, local, state, or federal legal offices. The Domestic Violence Clinic provides legal assistance to victims of domestic violence. Students can also gain valuable experience through work in the award-winning Self Help Legal Center.

The school provides a comprehensive **trial and appellate moot court program** with teams that have competed in the National Moot Court, ABA Moot Court, all-Illinois Moot Court, and Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court competitions. The school also provides an annual intraschool Negotiation Competition and Appellate Moot Court Competition.

All entering law students are assigned a study group and an upper-level law student tutor as part of the Academic Success Program.

The School of Law sponsors two annual **lecture series**: the Hiram H. Lesar Distinguished Lecture Series and the Dr. Arthur Grayson Distinguished Lecture Series. Past speakers include Morris Dees, Dr. David Kessler, Nadine Strossen, Governor Douglas Wilder, Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, and Hans Blix. In addition, the school cosponsors an annual health law

symposium, the Health Policy Institute, that brings experts in health law policy from across the country to Carbondale.

Students participate in the Professional Development Workshop Series, which received the 2004 E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award from the American Bar Association.

A variety of **concurrent JD/master's degree programs** in accountancy, business administration, education, electrical and computer engineering, public administration, and social work are offered in conjunction with the graduate school. A concurrent PhD program is available in political science. A six-year program offered in cooperation with the School of Medicine permits students to concurrently obtain JD and MD degrees. A Master of Legal Studies program and Master of Laws program are also available.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

Technological improvements include 24-hour keypad access to the law building and library, a wireless network allowing Internet access anywhere in or near the building, and distance-learning capabilities allowing live correspondence with national law schools. The courtroom and classrooms are stocked with the latest computers, smartboards, video cameras, and digital projectors to enhance learning. The vast collection of legal authorities the law library houses meets the demanding research needs of the prospective lawyer. All facilities are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

■ Student Activities

The school publishes the *SIU Law Journal*, which provides editorial and writing experience for a number of upper-class students. Students with a particular interest in health law can also publish articles in the *Journal of Legal Medicine*.

All students belong to the Student Bar Association. The SBA schedules lectures and social affairs, provides services to its members, and serves as a channel of communication between students and faculty. Students play an active role in law school governance, serving on most faculty committees. Past and current student organizations include Equal Justice Works, Phi Alpha Delta, International Law Society, Women's Law Forum, Environmental Law Society, Parents as Law Students, Animal Legal Defense Fund, Business Law Society, Black Law Student Association, Federalist Society, Law School Democrats, Law School Republicans, Media Law Society, Lesbian and Gay Law Students and Supporters, Sports Law Society, Phi Delta Phi, Law and Medicine Society, Christian Legal Society, Decalogue Society, Employment and Labor Law Association, Justinian Society, Military Law Society, Hispanic Law Student Association, Asian American Law Student Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution Student Society, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, and law student divisions of the Illinois State Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

■ Career Services

Employment opportunities are notable. School of Law graduates find employment nationwide, with alumni in 48 states and several foreign countries including Austria, Belgium, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Puerto Rico, Ukraine,

and the Virgin Islands. School of Law graduates continue to excel with bar passage rates at or above the state and national averages. The Office of Career Services provides services for both enrolled students and alumni, including individual career counseling, on-campus interviews, career workshops, subscriptions to a variety of job newsletters, an in-house job-vacancy bulletin, and job-bulletin exchanges with other law schools. Special presentations that cover a variety of career and employment topics are offered throughout the year, and students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of regional and national job fairs and career conferences. The Career Library contains diverse career materials, including national and international directories, judicial clerkship information, and government and public interest job information. Students can contact the Office of Career Services at 618.453.8707 or by e-mail at lawjobs@siu.edu.

■ Expenses, Scholarships, and Financial Aid

Due to a generous program of scholarships for both incoming and current students, graduates of the SIU School of Law enjoy

an average debt load that is below the national law school average. Students can qualify for the in-state resident tuition rate after they have been an Illinois resident for six consecutive months. Student loans, work-study opportunities, and most other forms of financial aid are administered by the university's Financial Aid Office. Information concerning in-state resident applications, loans, and financial aid procedures may be obtained from the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid at 618.453.8858 or by e-mail at lawadmit@siu.edu.

■ Admission

Admission decisions are based on a number of factors. Although the LSAT score and undergraduate GPA are important, nonnumerical factors are considered as well. The highest LSAT score is used for repeat test takers. Other factors considered by the Admission Committee include trends in academic performance, writing ability, leadership and maturity, letters of recommendation, work experience, community and public service, and obstacles imposed by religious, ethnic, gender, or disability discrimination.

Applicant Profile

Southern Illinois University School of Law

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

| LSAT Score | GPA | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| | 3.75 or Above | 3.50–3.74 | 3.25–3.49 | 3.00–3.24 | 2.75–2.99 | 2.50–2.74 | 2.25–2.49 | 2.24 or Below |
| 165 or Above | Probable | | | | | | Competitive | Unlikely |
| 160–164 | Probable | | | | | | Competitive | Unlikely |
| 158–159 | Probable | | | | | | Competitive | Unlikely |
| 156–157 | Probable | | | | | | Competitive | Unlikely |
| 155 | Probable | | | | | | Competitive | Unlikely |
| 154 | Probable | | | | | | Competitive | Unlikely |
| 153 | Probable | | | | | | Competitive | Unlikely |
| 152 | Probable | | | | | | Competitive | Unlikely |
| Below 152 | Probable | | | | | | Competitive | Unlikely |



Probable



Competitive



Unlikely

This grid reflects the highest LSAT score of the applicant.