

The University of Memphis—Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law

207 Humphreys Law School

Memphis, TN 38152-3140

Phone: 901.678.5403; Fax: 901.678.5210

E-mail: lawadmissions@memphis.edu; Website: www.memphis.edu/law

■ History of the School of Law

The Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis was founded in response to widespread interest in developing a full-time accredited legal preparation program to serve Memphis and West Tennessee. The Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law was founded in 1962 and accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) in 1965. The school was named in honor of Cecil C. Humphreys, then-president of Memphis State University and an educator of great distinction. Dr. Humphreys led the group that worked with the state legislature and the ABA to accredit the law school. The school is also an active member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS).

Since its inception, the School of Law has graduated over 5,000 students and continues its tradition of preparing competent and ethical attorneys. Our graduates can be found throughout the United States, employed in private practice, federal and state judiciaries, corporate boardrooms, government agencies, and public service organizations.

■ Memphis and the School of Law

Memphis is one of the South's largest, and most beautiful and diverse cities. Memphis has one of the lowest cost-of-living rates of any major US city, and its temperate climate provides ample opportunity for year-round activities. Memphis has a rich history and an unmatched musical heritage.

The School of Law brings together unique individuals with a wide variety of cultural, geographical, employment, and academic backgrounds. Many of its students come to law school immediately after finishing their undergraduate education; however, a significant number have been in the workforce or have completed advanced degrees. The diversity within the student body enriches the classroom experience for all students and enhances the overall quality of the educational program.

The University of Memphis has been rated by *preLaw* magazine as one of its "best value" law schools. This publication recognizes that Memphis is among schools that can boast a high bar exam passage rate, a strong job placement rate for graduates, and affordable tuition.

The university has acquired the historic Memphis Post Office Front Street Station to serve as the future home for the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. We will be moving to downtown Memphis in the fall of 2009, and classes begin there in the spring semester of 2010. This beautiful building is within walking distance of law offices and state and federal courthouses.

■ The University of Memphis

The University of Memphis serves as a regional center for education, service, and research, and is linked historically, intellectually, and emotionally with its community. It is a comprehensive urban university that enrolls over 20,000 students and is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

■ Curriculum

The School of Law offers a full-time day program and a limited part-time day program. Our challenging curriculum

prepares our students for the practice of law. The curriculum reflects a commitment to traditional legal education, and academic emphasis is placed on fundamental lawyering skills and areas of knowledge.

■ Lawyering Skills, Legal Clinics, and Externships

The School of Law provides the opportunity to take advanced courses in lawyering skills, including trial advocacy, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution. During their third year, students can receive class credit and practical experience through our Externship and Clinic Programs. Governmental and community externship positions are offered in the Bankruptcy Court, the US Attorney's Office, state judicial offices, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the Criminal Justice program through the Shelby County District Attorney General's Office and Public Defender's Office, and the Memphis Area Legal Services (MALS) Office. Students also can choose from two legal clinics: Child and Family Litigation and Elder Law. Students enrolled in the legal clinic courses work with indigent and elderly clients through Memphis Area Legal Services and with children in delinquency and dependency proceedings and other legal matters.

■ Joint- and Dual-degree Programs

The School of Law and the Fogelman College of Business and Economics offer a coordinated degree program leading to both the JD and MBA degrees. The purpose of this program is to allow students to study both business management and law. This joint degree enables students to complete both the JD and MBA in considerably less time than would be required to complete each degree separately.

The School of Law and the Department of Political Science offer a dual degree leading to both the JD and MA degrees. Credit toward degrees in these disciplines can be earned simultaneously if admission and curricula are carefully structured, and students can complete both degrees in less time than would normally be required to complete each degree separately.

■ Library and Information Technology

The University of Memphis law library serves students, faculty, the legal community, and the public with reference services and access to its collection of print and electronic resources. Students also have access to the Ned R. McWhorter Library, the main campus library, and its print and electronic collections. In addition to the law school's computer lab, our students have access to campus computer labs and have wireless access in the law school and throughout the campus.

■ Student Programs and Activities

The University of Memphis Law Review is a scholarly journal edited and staffed entirely by students. Law review members have numerous opportunities to improve their legal research, writing, and editing skills.

The Moot Court Board (MCB) is composed of 20 third-year students who are dedicated to the development of advocacy skills. Members of the MCB plan, organize, and oversee

intraschool competitions. In addition to the intraschool competitions, the law school fields several teams in national moot court and mock trial competitions. In recent years, the University of Memphis teams have earned national recognition by finishing in the final round of both major national moot court competitions. This national recognition garnered an invitation to the Moot Court National Championship in 2009.

The Student Bar Association (SBA) is the student government of the law school. The SBA coordinates a wide variety of activities, ranging from social events to a *Speaker Series*. Students can also choose from many other student groups, ranging from legal fraternities to special interest organizations.

■ Admission

Some applicants are admitted based on a weighted combination of the LSAT score and the cumulative undergraduate GPA. Other applicants are selected by the Faculty Admission Committee through the nonquantifiable admission process. Other factors considered in the admission process include quality of the applicant's undergraduate institution, level and rigor of coursework, letters of recommendation, graduate work, employment during and after college, extracurricular activities, educational diversity, and state of residence. In an attempt to attract a diverse student population, the School of Law has developed a selection process that provides a comprehensive review of qualified applicants but assures that admission is on the merits of each applicant.

■ Career Services

The Career Services Office actively assists students and alumni by helping them develop their interest in specific areas of the law, enhancing their professional skills, and providing information about opportunities for legal employment. A comprehensive national Internet job bank as well as a network

of alumni mentors are available to help students who are interested in law careers outside of the Memphis area.

In addition to hosting a large number of firms, corporations, and public interest/governmental employers for on-campus interviewing and seminars, the School of Law is a member of several organizations that conduct annual recruiting conferences providing second- and third-year law students and judicial law clerks the opportunity to interview with law firms, government agencies, and corporations throughout the nation.

Employment statistics for Memphis law graduates have remained consistently high during the last decade. Of those seeking legal employment in the graduating class of 2007, 96.1 percent were employed within nine months of graduation, as reported to the National Association for Law Placement. Memphis has graduates practicing in all 50 states and in several foreign countries.

■ Tennessee Institute for Pre-Law

The Tennessee Institute for Pre-Law (TIP) facilitates law school admission for Tennessee and border county residents from diverse backgrounds who apply to one or both of the state-assisted law schools in Tennessee, but do not meet the traditional academic standards for admission. At the University of Memphis only, students from Crittenden County, Arkansas, and De Soto, Marshall, Tate, and Tunica counties in Mississippi are eligible to apply. Participants who successfully complete the program will be guaranteed admission at the state law school(s) to which they applied. The TIP program is available to graduating college seniors or applicants who will have met the requirements for a baccalaureate degree prior to the program's commencement. The TIP program is a five-week diversity access program of classroom instruction that simulates the first-year law school curriculum. The program is held at the University of Memphis School of Law and begins in early June.

Applicant Profile

The University of Memphis—Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law

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		2.50–2.74		2.25–2.49		2.00–2.24		Below 2.00		No GPA		Total		
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	
175–180	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
170–174	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3
165–169	5	5	4	4	1	1	2	2	3	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	16
160–164	13	11	12	9	10	6	16	10	4	3	3	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	63	40	
155–159	38	30	41	31	35	22	39	20	24	14	18	6	10	2	3	0	1	1	1	0	210	126	
150–154	46	21	63	25	80	28	51	14	37	7	20	1	9	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	310	98	
145–149	15	2	29	1	37	3	47	6	38	1	20	1	14	2	5	1	2	1	1	0	208	18	
140–144	5	0	12	0	26	0	27	0	17	1	17	0	14	1	7	1	0	0	1	0	126	3	
135–139	0	0	4	0	11	0	20	0	9	1	11	1	8	0	4	0	2	0	5	0	74	2	
130–134	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	
125–129	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	8	0	
120–124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Total	125	72	165	70	206	61	206	52	136	30	92	10	60	7	27	3	9	2	11	0	1037	307	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.