

University of Tennessee College of Law

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■ Introduction

For more than a century, the University of Tennessee College of Law has offered a strong combination of practical and theoretical legal training. Established in 1890, the College of Law is a charter member of the AALS and is ABA approved.

■ Enrollment/Student Body

The College of Law enrolls a small, selective, and diverse class each August. The 2008 entering class was composed of 153 students, of which 41 percent were women, 59 percent were men, and 25 percent were students of color. Entering students were graduates of 70 colleges and universities across the nation and around the world, and were residents of 12 states. Although many members of each entering class are pursuing a law degree directly from undergraduate school, a number of law students have advanced degrees and have had careers in fields as diverse as engineering, teaching, medicine, journalism, and business.

■ Faculty

The quality of our faculty is evidenced by their legal training at some of the finest law schools in the US, the significance of their scholarly writings, their activity in professional associations, and their involvement with public service. Current students at UT tell potential candidates for admission that they find the faculty to be excellent teachers, accessible, and caring.

■ College of Law, Library, and Physical Facilities

The law center at the University of Tennessee—a melding of the old with the new—is an exceptional setting for education in the twenty-first century. The 110,000-square-foot facility was completed in 1997 and is located on Cumberland Avenue, just across from the University Center, in the heart of the campus. The law center includes the Joel A. Katz Law Library, dedicated to a distinguished corporate and entertainment lawyer and alumnus.

■ Location

The College of Law is located on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, the largest city in eastern Tennessee and the third largest in the state. More than 28,000 students attend UTK. Knoxville has the natural advantage of being located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, making hiking, biking, golf, and fishing popular and accessible activities. Knoxville is close to major legal markets in the Southeast, including Atlanta, Nashville, and Charlotte.

■ Curriculum

First-year students begin law school with a week-long introductory period; a series of minicourses introduce students to the study of law. Second- and third-year students may choose from over 70 elective courses. Two dual-degree programs are offered—the JD/MBA and the JD/MPA (Master of Public Administration).

The College of Law offers two optional concentrations for students. The James L. Clayton Center for Entrepreneurial Law offers integrated upper-division courses that expose students to facets of law that affect business deals, provides hands-on experience in negotiating and documenting transactions, and offers insight into the needs and concerns of the business community. A Business Clinic is offered for students seeking practical experience working with business clients.

The Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution allows interested students to focus their second- and third-year experience toward a career in advocacy, commonly thought of as litigation or trial practice. UT was recognized by the American College of Trial Lawyers for the 1996 Emil Gumpert Award for Excellence in Teaching Trial Advocacy.

The Charles H. Miller Legal Clinic is the site for our clinical programs in advocacy and mediation. Established in 1947, this is one of the oldest continually operating clinical programs in the US. UT also offers a Mediation Clinic, in which students work in teams to mediate real civil and misdemeanor cases in the lower courts.

The Prosecutorial Externship Program enables students to prosecute real cases on behalf of the state under the supervision of experienced district attorneys in Knox County.

■ Student Activities and Programs

Students can choose from a variety of student programs, activities, publications, and organizations. A complete listing is available on our website.

UT moot court teams have distinguished themselves in competitions. Tennessee has won three Jerome Prince Evidence Moot Court national championships and was the first team in the history of that competition to win back-to-back titles in 2000 and 2001.

The *Tennessee Law Review* offers participants an excellent opportunity to conduct legal research and produce writings of a scholarly and practical nature. The *Transactions Business Journal* provides an opportunity for students to write about topical issues and legal developments of interest to the business bar. Students participating in the *Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy* analyze the latest developments in law and public decision making. The Student Bar Association and various other student organizations offer numerous programs, services, and special events. The national honor society, Order of the Coif, and two leading professional fraternities, Phi Delta Phi and Phi Alpha Delta, have local chapters here.

UT Pro Bono is a student-directed, community service organization. Working with local attorneys and legal aid organizations, UT Pro Bono serves as a resource by providing law students for research, educational, and investigatory assistance. UT Pro Bono currently operates the Tennessee Innocence Project, programs working with the homeless population, and family justice, immigrant assistance, animal law, and volunteer income tax assistance projects. Through an Equal Justice Works grant, the college also operates a Children's Advocacy Network-Lawyer's Education Advocacy Resource Network (CAN-LEARN), which provides education and support to attorneys working on children's educational law issues.

■ Admission

The College of Law strives to craft a class of diverse individuals, whose life experiences will enrich the law school community. Admission to the College of Law is competitive. The Admissions Committee places substantial emphasis on traditional indicators of performance—UGPA and LSAT score. The committee also considers factors such as improvement in undergraduate grades and graduate school performance, strength of undergraduate institution and major course of study, extracurricular activities, community service, and employment and professional experience. Also considered are circumstances that may have affected an applicant’s grades or LSAT score; economic, social, or cultural background; and success in overcoming social or economic disadvantage. Applicants are required to submit two letters of recommendation and write a personal statement and an essay.

The College of Law recognizes its obligation to assure legal education to qualified applicants who are members of historically underrepresented groups in the legal profession and encourages applications from such students.

Successful completion of the CLEO Summer Institute and the Tennessee Institute for Pre-Law may also be considered by the Admissions Committee.

■ Expenses, Financial Aid, and Housing

The College of Law offers a number of scholarships for entering students. Scholarships may be based on academic credentials (LSAT score and UGPA), records of leadership and community service, or other factors as established by the scholarship donor. Several scholarships may be awarded for which financial need, as established by the university after the FAFSA process is complete, is a primary criterion. Candidates for admission should complete the FAFSA process as soon as

possible after the first of the year to be considered for scholarships in which financial need is a factor. Candidates for admission will automatically be considered for all scholarships for which they are eligible. Please check our website or our Applicant Guide for more information and application guidelines. Campus apartment housing is open to law students. Knoxville also offers ample private apartment housing at a reasonable cost within walking distance or a short drive from the law school.

■ Career Services

Recruiting and hiring practices in the legal job market suggest that making career decisions be an ongoing, developmental process that begins in the first year of law school and continues through and after graduation. UT students acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to research, select, and seek the right career path for them and gain necessary information about the professional areas in which a law degree can be used.

The staff of the Bettye B. Lewis Career Center offers a comprehensive menu of services for employers who seek to recruit Tennessee students through formal and informal recruitment methods, off-campus job fairs, and recruiting consortia. First-year students are introduced to career development and job-search strategies through individual counseling and small group resource training sessions called the IL Career Integration Program. Students are coached in the development of individual job-search strategy plans throughout their law school careers.

These efforts have contributed to a consistently high employment rate for UT graduates that is well above the national average. Most graduates choose to stay in the southeastern US, but graduates accept positions across the country. For detailed information, please see the College of Law website at www.law.utk.edu.

Applicant Profile

University of Tennessee College of Law

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

LSAT Score	GPA																				Total			
	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					
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm		
175–180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
170–174	3	3	0	0	2	2	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
165–169	13	13	13	10	10	9	6	5	4	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	39
160–164	55	50	39	32	54	40	24	12	19	5	7	1	5	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	210	140		
155–159	90	58	117	52	104	19	65	8	33	5	23	1	6	0	1	0	1	0	7	4	447	147		
150–154	62	14	95	21	90	9	47	7	37	4	15	2	14	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	364	59		
145–149	21	6	28	8	34	3	23	5	30	1	14	4	10	0	5	0	3	0	4	0	172	27		
140–144	3	1	14	2	29	3	20	2	11	0	9	0	8	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	99	9		
135–139	0	0	2	0	6	0	7	0	4	0	6	0	6	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	35	0		
130–134	0	0	0	0	4	0	5	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	15	0		
125–129	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0		
120–124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1		
Total	248	145	308	125	333	85	199	40	141	19	81	8	49	2	17	1	9	0	20	5	1405	430		

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 100% of the total applicant pool.