

University of Missouri School of Law

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■ Introduction

The University of Missouri School of Law (MU) is a dynamic and collegial community. Founded in 1839, MU was the first state university west of the Mississippi River. Established in 1872, the School of Law has had an enviable history of service to the state and the nation. Graduates include judges, governors, attorneys general, and legislators who serve locally and nationwide. The law school is a charter member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) and is fully accredited.

Located in Columbia, MU is 35 miles from Jefferson City, the state capital. The location provides law students with easy access to the legislature, the Supreme Court, and the various offices of state government. In addition to living and studying in one of America's most livable cities, students are within two hours of the cultural, athletic, and entertainment centers of St. Louis and Kansas City. Students and their families enjoy Columbia's Midwestern friendliness. It combines a small town feel with the diversity and opportunities often found only in larger cities. Columbia truly offers something for everyone.

■ Faculty

The faculty at MU is strong and vibrant. The faculty focus is on teaching, research, and service. MU is among the top 10 percent of law schools in American Law Institute membership. Multiple members of the faculty serve as commissioners and reporters for the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Faculty maintain an open-door policy for students. Faculty scholarship regularly appears in the finest national law publications.

■ Enrollment/Student Body

The law school student body is composed of students from numerous states and foreign countries. This diverse, but collegial, group of students provides a wealth of experience and fosters a stimulating learning environment.

■ Curriculum

The academic program leading to the JD degree traditionally consists of six semesters of study. One seven-week semester is offered each summer. The first-year curriculum is proscribed, as is a portion of the second-year curriculum.

To graduate, students must complete 89 semester hours, including a writing requirement and a professional perspectives requirement. Students must have a minimum average of 77.5 on a scale of 65 to 100 to graduate.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

John K. Hulston Hall is dominated by windows, skylights, and large open spaces. It is a magnificent laboratory in which to study the law. The law school is part of the campus wireless network and law students can access the Internet and computer-assisted legal services throughout Hulston Hall or anywhere on campus. Exams are offered on laptop computers.

The law library houses an extensive collection of legal volumes and reference materials and a significant rare book

collection. A staff of specialized librarians, researchers, and computer support personnel are available to assist students. Faculty and students have 24-hour access to the law library.

■ Special Programs: Alternative Dispute Resolution

The Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution is a unique feature of the law school and provides national leadership in this rapidly developing area of the law. First-year law students are exposed to an overview of dispute resolution processes. MU also offers a variety of dispute resolution courses and other educational opportunities for second- and third-year students.

One of the first programs of its kind in the country, the Center houses a Master of Laws in Dispute Resolution degree program.

■ Dual-degree Programs

The School of Law offers several dual-degree programs, including: Business Administration (JD/MBA), Public Administration (JD/MPA), Health Administration (JD/MHA), Library Science (JD/MLS), and Journalism (JD/MA and JD/PhD). The law school has established other dual-degree programs to meet individual interests. Traditionally, dual-degree students spend their first year in the School of Law. (Students must fulfill the entrance requirements of both schools.)

■ Certificate Programs

The law school offers a certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution. Students can complete this certificate by concentrating their elective hours in this area of the law.

In addition, a certificate in Journalism, the Digital Globe, or the European Union is available to law students through the Graduate School.

MU hosts one of 10 European Union (EU) centers in the United States. The EU Center is working to develop a better understanding of the transatlantic agenda between the EU and the United States.

■ Study-abroad Programs

The School of Law offers two opportunities to study abroad. Since 2004, MU has offered a summer program in Capetown, South Africa. The program is available to all law students and consists of three two-credit courses in different areas of comparative law. Students reside in De Waterkant Village, one of Cape Town's trendiest neighborhoods, and are transported to their classes at the University of the Western Cape. Field trips to the Cape of Good Hope, the Stellenbosch wine region, Robben Island (the prison home of Nelson Mandela), and other scenic and historical locales are included in the itinerary. MU is also part of the London Law Consortium. This group of seven American Bar Association (ABA)-approved schools offers second- and third-year law students a culturally enriching spring semester in London. With law school approval, students also can obtain academic credit while studying in another ABA-approved law school international program.

■ Clinics and Externships

MU provides students with practical experience to enhance lawyering skills and to promote awareness of ethical issues. An active externship and judicial clerkship program and five clinical programs—the Criminal Prosecution Clinic, Family Violence Clinic, Legislative Clinic, Mediation Clinic, and the Innocence Clinic—have been developed to enrich student skills. Students, subject to the rules of the Missouri Supreme Court, are able to practice law in these programs.

■ Student Activities

All students are eligible to participate in the writing competition for membership on the *Missouri Law Review*, the *Journal of Dispute Resolution*, or the *Missouri Environmental Law and Policy Review*. Also open to all students, the Board of Advocates sponsors a wide variety of advocacy competitions. The school has chapters of the Order of Barristers, the Student Bar Association, and two legal fraternities. In addition, MU is one of only 75 law schools with a chapter of the Order of the Coif, the national law school honor society. Other student organizations, encompassing almost every aspect of social and academic life, are also offered.

■ Admission

A faculty committee reviews all applications. In many cases, factors other than the GPA or LSAT score have proven to be

determinative. If the LSAT is repeated, the committee will consider all scores in its evaluation. Applications from disadvantaged students are especially encouraged.

Students are encouraged to apply early and to visit the law school. The Admissions Office can arrange for students to meet with an admission counselor, attend a class, and tour the facility.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

Although costly, law school is a career investment. MU offers an outstanding value for the cost, and the accompanying housing, utility, and related living expenses in Columbia are low when compared to more urban settings.

Financial assistance is available to students.

■ Career Services

The Office of Career Services and Professional Development serves as a liaison between students or alumni and prospective employers. Students are taught to use their analytical and advocacy skills to achieve career goals. Workshops, seminars, and individual counseling are offered to help students successfully employ their lawyering skills. Typically, between 90 and 95 percent of each graduating class accepts employment within nine months of graduation.

Applicant Profile

University of Missouri 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
175–180	Good Possibility				Possible				
170–174	Good Possibility				Possible				
165–169	Good Possibility				Possible				
160–164	Good Possibility				Possible				
155–159	Good Possibility				Possible				
150–154					Possible				
145–149					Possible				
140–144					Possible				
135–139					Possible				
130–134					Possible				
125–129					Possible				
120–124					Possible				



Good Possibility



Possible



Unlikely

This chart is to be used as a general guide only. Nonnumerical factors are strongly considered for all applicants.