

Florida A&M University, College of Law

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■ Introduction

Established in 1887, Florida A&M University is a comprehensive, public, coeducational, and fully accredited land-grant university offering a broad range of instruction, research, and service programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels. The main campus occupies over 419 acres located in the capital city of Tallahassee. The College of Law's rich tradition of excellence dates back to its original founding in 1949. From 1949 to 1968, the College of Law graduated 57 students. In 2002, the FAMU College of Law reopened in downtown Orlando, Florida.

■ Location and Physical Facilities

Considered one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in Florida and the nation, the city of Orlando is a racially and culturally diverse community, ideal for a progressive law school. Located in downtown Orlando, the College of Law is within walking distance of the courts, county library, government buildings, and a wide variety of cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities. The new, state-of-the-art, four-story, 112,000-square-foot law school building is conveniently accessible from Interstate 4. The facility houses a law library, classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, and an area dealing with student affairs, including admission, financial aid, the registrar, alumni affairs, and career planning and placement. There is a moot courtroom, space for student organizations and meetings, and space allocated for students to participate in the hands-on clinical program.

■ Enrollment and Student Body

Since opening in the fall of 2002, the Florida A&M University College of Law has admitted three entering classes and has a current student enrollment of 293 students. The student body is composed of 204 full-time day students and 89 part-time evening students. With 60 percent women and 53 percent minority students, the FAMU College of Law is one of the most diverse law schools in the state of Florida. The College of Law is committed to helping its students further develop their talents, professional skills, and goals. To that end, we offer cocurricular and extracurricular activities, including the Academic Success Program and the Law in America lecture series. These programs enhance not only the study of the law, but students' leadership and professional abilities, and oral and written communication skills. FAMU College of Law students are very active within the law school and in the Central Florida community. As students at a recently reestablished law school, they have taken on the challenge of establishing organizations that will serve current and future students for years to come. The FAMU College of Law Student Bar Association supports and governs all student activities and organizations at the College of Law. In three short years, students have founded the following student organizations: the Jesse J. McCrary Jr. Chapter of the National Black Law Students Association; the Association of Trial Lawyers of America; the Women's Law Caucus; the Entertainment, Arts, and Sports Law Society; and the Hispanic Law Students Association. Over the next several

years, the law school will continue to support students in their efforts to establish additional organizations and interest groups.

■ Programs of Study

The FAMU College of Law offers both a full-time day program and a part-time evening program of study. Full-time day program students must successfully complete six semesters or three academic years for their degree requirements. Enrollment in the day program represents a commitment to the full-time study of law. Part-time evening program students must successfully complete their degree requirements in four years, consisting of eight semesters and three summers. Part-time evening classes meet Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 10:00 PM. The part-time evening program is designed for particularly well-qualified and dedicated students who are unable to attend on a full-time basis and want to earn a law degree while working full-time. Courses in both programs demand the same standards of performance by students and are taught by full-time faculty members who are assisted by adjunct faculty.

■ Curriculum

The law school offers a rigorous traditional curriculum of required and elective courses that are complemented by extensive skills training which includes an intensive three-year writing program and a strong clinical program. The College of Law's curriculum is designed to provide students with both the intellectual and practical skills necessary to meet the demands of the modern practice of law by combining theoretical coursework with clinical and practical experiences. Through the use of elective courses and leading practitioners as adjunct faculty, students are introduced to emerging trends and developments in the law.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

Tuition rates and fees are set annually by the Florida Legislature and the Florida A&M University Board of Trustees and may be changed at any time without advance notice. For the 2005–2006 academic year, tuition for law students is \$238.60 per credit hour for Florida residents and \$886 per credit hour for non-Florida residents. In addition, Florida A&M University imposes additional fees on all graduate and professional students. Approximately 90 percent of law students are receiving some form of financial aid, including federal loans, law loans, need-based stipends, and merit-based scholarships. Need-based stipends and merit-based scholarships are awarded to a select number of entering full-time and part-time students who have excelled academically and who possess other outstanding qualifications for the study of law. All admitted students are automatically considered for these awards. Scholarships are not automatically renewable and may vary in the amount awarded. The average scholarship award in 2005–2006 was \$1,500.

■ Admission

Admission to the College of Law is highly competitive. The law school seeks diligent, hardworking students with a broad array of talents and experiences who demonstrate both an exceptional aptitude for the study of law and a strong history of, or commitment to, public service. Selection for admission is based on a thorough evaluation of all factors in an applicant's file. While an applicant's academic record and LSAT performance are weighted heavily in the evaluative process, the Admissions Committee considers other factors, including writing ability, as evidenced by the LSAT writing sample and the personal statement; community and public service; academic honors and awards; work experience; leadership ability; extracurricular activities; letters of recommendation; and character and motivation. The standards for admission in the full-time day and part-time evening programs are not the same. Greater demands of work and study for evening students necessitate a different emphasis on admission criteria than in the day program. While the entire application file is reviewed, the evening program admission standards place a greater emphasis on the objective indicators of LSAT scores and undergraduate grade-point average than the day program.

Advanced Standing—the College of Law admits students for first-year status only. Current law students from other

ABA-approved law schools seeking admission to the College of Law will be considered for first-year status only. In addition, graduates of foreign law schools will also be considered for first-year status only. The College of Law does not accept transferred credits to our program.

■ Applicant Profile

While an applicant's undergraduate record and LSAT are important, they are not the sole determinants for admission to law school. No index or cut-off is used in reviewing applications. There are no combinations of grades or scores that assure admission or denial.

An applicant's transcripts are analyzed for breadth and depth of coursework, trend in grades, and rank; the competitiveness of the school and major are taken into consideration, as are special honors, awards, and activities. Other aspects of the application significantly influence the decision, such as work experience and evidence of a commitment or interest in public service.

In making its decision, the committee aims to enroll an entering class of students with the strongest combination of qualifications and the greatest potential to contribute to FAMU College of Law and to the legal profession.

Applicant Profile

Florida A&M University, College 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
170-174	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
165-169	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
160-164	0	0	0	0	5	5	2	1	3	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	12	10
155-159	2	2	5	5	3	3	9	8	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	25	20
150-154	4	4	17	14	12	11	19	17	22	14	15	9	8	4	3	1	0	0	1	1	101	75
145-149	5	2	20	14	31	22	32	18	41	20	30	18	17	6	8	1	1	0	3	3	188	104
140-144	4	3	17	6	28	15	46	15	43	14	40	11	36	5	25	2	3	0	1	0	243	71
135-139	4	0	5	1	18	1	28	2	30	6	25	2	19	0	6	1	5	0	6	1	146	14
130-134	1	0	3	0	3	0	12	0	18	0	12	0	11	0	10	0	5	0	3	0	78	0
125-129	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	13	0
120-124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Total	20	11	68	40	100	57	152	61	159	58	126	40	92	15	57	6	16	1	17	5	807	294

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the applicant pool.