

Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville

University of Louisville

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■ Introduction

Founded in 1846, the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville is Kentucky's oldest law school and America's fifth oldest law school in continuous operation. Heir to the legacy of Justice Louis D. Brandeis, the school is distinguished by a rich history, national outreach, and profound dedication to public service. It is an integral part of the University of Louisville, a public institution and major research center founded in 1798. The metropolitan area, with a population of approximately one million, combines the gracious ambience of southern hospitality with cultural, aesthetic, and recreational attractions (including historic Churchill Downs, the Actors' Theatre of Louisville, the J.B. Speed Art Museum, and the Mohammed Ali Peace Center).

■ Enrollment/Student Body

The Brandeis School of Law enrolls first-year students beginning in the fall semester, which starts in August. Candidates may apply for admission to either the full-time (three-year) division or the part-time (four-year) division. Part-time students take their first-year courses on Monday through Thursday evenings and generally continue to take evening courses throughout their program.

Candidates must have completed a bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university prior to enrollment. All undergraduate majors are acceptable, with courses that emphasize critical reasoning, writing, and communication skills recognized as good preparation for the study of law.

With the entering class numbering about 145 each fall, first-year class size seldom exceeds 50. Basic Legal Skills (the first-year writing course) has classes that are only half that size.

The entire student body, composed of almost as many women as men, numbers about 400, enabling every student to be a name, not just a number, and presenting students the opportunity to develop close relationships with their professors.

■ Faculty

With 30 full-time faculty members (including 11 women and 4 faculty of color) and numerous part-time or adjunct teachers, the faculty/student ratio is one of the best in the country at 1 to 14.

The faculty gives a high priority to excellence in teaching and accessibility to students. They are also a community of active scholars.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The law school is housed in Wilson W. Wyatt Hall, a gracious colonial style building overlooking the formal entrance to the University of Louisville Belknap campus—a traditional college campus located in an urban setting. The University of Louisville also includes two other campuses: the Health Sciences Center (housing the Medical and Dental schools) and the Shelby Campus, which offers continuing education classes.

The school's law library houses a collection of more than 400,000 volumes and microform volume equivalents, carefully

selected to aid student instruction and promote research. The library still receives original briefs of the US Supreme Court—a rare distinction for a law school and a practice originated by Justice Brandeis that continues today.

Students have access to Westlaw, LexisNexis, the Internet, and word processing programs through two computer laboratories and via their home computers. The library, classrooms, and student commons area have wireless service. Interactive video workstations allow students to learn legal concepts by viewing and participating in real-time situations.

■ Curriculum

The law school's full-time day division and part-time evening division share the same curriculum, faculty, and academic standards. After basic courses in the first year, students take core courses in doctrinal subjects, advanced research and writing, and professional responsibility. Students also may choose from among a rich variety of specialized and interdisciplinary electives. The Brandeis School of Law conducts a summer enrichment program for a limited number of newly admitted students.

A highly successful academic support program provides tutoring groups in all first-year courses and guidance in study and test-taking skills, as well as individual advising and counseling.

■ Samuel L. Greenebaum Public Service Program

Reflecting the spirit of Justice Louis D. Brandeis, the School of Law was one of America's first five law schools to adopt public service as part of the prescribed course of study. Through this public service work, students develop practical skills, serve their communities, and establish professional values.

■ Special Programs

The Brandeis School of Law offers several dual-degree programs designed to enhance the student's understanding, skills, and career opportunities in both areas of study. Each requires application and admission to both participating schools: Master of Business Administration/Juris Doctor (MBA/JD); Master of Science in Social Work/Juris Doctor (MSSW/JD); Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Humanities (JD/MAH); Juris Doctor/Master of Divinity—at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (JD/MDiv); and Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Political Science (JD/MAPS).

The school also operates clinical externship programs in which upper-class students, with supervision, represent clients and appear in court. A third-year student may receive credit by working in the criminal arena (DA or PD), in tax (IRS), in the judicial branch (various judges), in family law (Center for Women and Families or Legal Aid Society), or in technology (University of Louisville Office of Technology Transfer).

International experience is another unique opportunity. The Brandeis School offers faculty or student exchanges with law schools in France, England, Germany, Finland, Australia, and South Africa.

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■ Practical Success

Participating annually in about a dozen moot court and skills competitions, the law school has won several regional and national championships.

Students are also actively involved in writing for and publishing the *Brandeis Law Journal* and the *Journal of Law and Education*. Graduates of the Brandeis School of Law consistently achieve high employment rates.

■ Admission

Applicants are urged to apply beginning **October 1** and before **March 1** of the year they intend to enter law school. However, applications received prior to **May 15** will be given consideration on a space-available basis. Both full-time and part-time first-year students must start classes in the fall semester.

For the best chance of consideration, it is recommended that the LSAT be taken no later than December. LSAT scores taken in June, prior to the first semester of enrollment, will be considered only under extraordinary circumstances.

Applicant Profile

Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville

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	
175-180	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
170-174	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	3
165-169	5	5	6	5	4	4	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	22	18
160-164	15	15	15	13	25	23	25	21	22	13	9	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	115	89	
155-159	44	32	58	45	67	49	66	45	37	13	28	7	8	1	4	0	1	0	1	0	314	192	
150-154	50	23	76	13	98	13	72	4	44	0	27	0	14	0	6	0	1	0	1	0	389	53	
145-149	24	6	39	5	55	3	40	0	34	2	26	0	6	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	227	16	
140-144	9	0	9	0	17	0	22	1	16	0	13	0	7	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	98	1	
120-139	3	2	4	0	9	0	9	0	7	0	9	0	10	0	4	0	1	0	3	0	59	2	
Total	152	85	207	81	275	92	237	73	163	29	113	10	49	2	21	2	4	0	9	1	1230	375	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 100% of the total applicant pool.

The faculty admission committee reads all files very carefully. Beyond numerical indicators (LSAT scores and grade-point averages), the committee looks for individuals with unique attributes who will bring diversity to the entering class and good character to the legal profession. Numerical quantifiers are not automatic grounds for admission or denial.