

## Southern Illinois University School of Law

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### ■ Introduction

Southern Illinois University School of Law is located in a community of 27,000 people in one of the most scenic areas of Illinois. National forests, state parks, historic sites, campgrounds, theaters, festivals, and cultural events make Carbondale's quality of life among the highest in small cities in Illinois. The School of Law is one of many colleges of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, a 130-year-old university with a tradition of excellence as well as a diverse, multicultural student body of 23,000. The 13:1 student to faculty ratio at the School of Law is among the best in the nation. The School of Law is fully accredited by the ABA and the AALS.

### ■ Library and Physical Facilities

Students enjoy a completely renovated library, courtroom, and classrooms. Technological improvements include 24-hour keypad access to the law building and library, a wireless network allowing Internet access anywhere in or near the building, and distance-learning capabilities allowing live correspondence with national law schools. The new courtroom and classrooms are stocked with the latest computers, televisions, video cameras, and digital projectors to enhance learning. The vast collection of legal authorities the law library houses meets the demanding research needs of the prospective lawyer. All facilities are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

### ■ Curriculum

All students have a uniform first-year curriculum. A broad range of courses and seminars are offered in the second and third years. Throughout the curriculum, the faculty emphasizes professional skills such as writing, oral argumentation, drafting documents, interviewing, negotiating, and counseling.

An innovative and nationally recognized first-year Lawyering Skills Program gives students a strong foundation in basic lawyering skills, including legal research and writing, oral advocacy, client interviewing and counseling, and negotiation.

The school has a very strong health law curriculum and is the site for the National Health Law Moot Court Competition as well as a Center for Health Law and Policy. The school also has groups of courses in trial/litigation skills; intellectual property; and criminal, labor, corporate, family, international, and environmental law.

### ■ Special Programs

Clinical programs enable senior law students to represent clients under the supervision of licensed attorneys. The Elderly Clinic provides direct legal assistance to persons 60 years of age and older in the 13 southernmost counties of Illinois. Students may participate in the Externship Program and obtain academic credit while working at nonprofit, local, state, or federal legal offices. The Alternative Dispute Resolution Clinic allows students to develop mediation skills and use them through community, peer, and in-court mediation services. The Domestic Violence Clinic provides legal assistance to victims of domestic violence. Students can also gain valuable experience

through work in the Illinois Agriculture Mediation Program and the award-winning Self Help Legal Center.

The school provides a comprehensive trial and appellate moot court program with teams that have competed in the National Moot Court, ABA Moot Court, all-Illinois Moot Court, and Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court competitions. The school also provides an annual intraschool Client Interviewing and Counseling Competition and a Negotiation Competition.

All entering law students are assigned a study group and a senior law student tutor as part of the Academic Success Program.

The School of Law sponsors two annual lecture series: the Hiram H. Lesar Distinguished Lecture and the Dr. Arthur Grayson Memorial Lecture. Past speakers include Morris Dees, Dr. David Kessler, Nadine Strossen, Governor Douglas Wilder, and Kerry Kennedy Cuomo. In addition, the school cosponsors an annual health law symposium, the Health Policy Institute, which brings experts in health law policy from across the country to Carbondale.

Students participate in the Professional Development Workshop Series, which received the 2004 E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award from the American Bar Association.

### ■ Joint-degree Programs

Concurrent JD/master's degree programs in education, social work, public administration, accounting, and business administration are offered in conjunction with the graduate school. A concurrent PhD program is available in political science. A six-year program offered in cooperation with the School of Medicine permits students to concurrently obtain JD and MD degrees.

### ■ Career Services

The Career Services Office reports 94 percent of the 2003 graduating class was employed or seeking an advanced degree within nine months of graduation. The office provides services for both enrolled students and alumni, including individual career counseling, on-campus interviews, a research-pool service, career workshops, a job-listing service, subscriptions to a variety of job newsletters, a biweekly job-vacancy bulletin, and job-bulletin exchanges with other law schools. Special presentations that cover a variety of career and employment topics are offered throughout the year, and students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of regional and national job fairs and career conferences. The Career Library contains diverse career materials, including firm résumés, corporate brochures, and directories. Students can contact the Career Services Office at 618.453.8707 or by e-mail at [lawjobs@siu.edu](mailto:lawjobs@siu.edu).

### ■ Expenses, Scholarships, and Financial Aid

Due to a generous program of scholarships for both current and existing students, graduates of the SIU School of Law enjoy an average debt load that is more than 30 percent below the national law school average. Students can qualify for the in-state resident tuition rate after they have been an Illinois resident for six consecutive months. Student loans, work-study

opportunities, and most other forms of financial aid are administered by the university's Financial Aid Office. Information concerning loans and financial aid procedures may be obtained from the Financial Aid Office at 618.453.4334 or by e-mail at [fao@siu.edu](mailto:fao@siu.edu).

## ■ Admission

Admission decisions are based on a number of factors, the LSAT score and undergraduate GPA being the most important. The highest LSAT score is used for repeat test takers. Other factors considered by the Admission Committee include trends in academic performance, writing ability, leadership and maturity, letters of recommendation, work experience, community and public service, and obstacles imposed by religious, ethnic, gender, or disability discrimination.

## ■ Student Activities

The school publishes the *SIU Law Journal*, which provides editorial and writing experience for a number of upper-class

students. Students with a particular interest in health law can also publish articles in *The Journal of Legal Medicine*.

All students belong to the Student Bar Association. The SBA schedules lectures and social affairs, provides services to its members, and serves as a channel of communication between students and faculty. Students play an active role in law school governance, serving on most faculty committees. Past and current student organizations include Equal Justice Works, Phi Alpha Delta, International Law Society, Women's Law Forum, Environmental Law Society, Parents as Law Students, Animal Legal Defense Fund, Business Law Society, Black Law Student Association, Federalist Society, Law School Democrats, Law School Republicans, Media Law Society, Lesbian and Gay Law Students, Sports Law Society, Phi Delta Phi, Law and Medicine Society, Christian Legal Society, Hispanic Law Student Association, Asian Pacific Law Student Association, and law student divisions of the Illinois State Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

## Applicant Profile

### Southern Illinois University School of Law

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

LSAT Score	GPA								
	3.75 or Above	3.50 - 3.74	3.25 - 3.49	3.00 - 3.24	2.75 - 2.99	2.50 - 2.74	2.25 - 2.49	2.24 or Below	
165 or Above									
160-164									
158-159									
156-157									
155									
154									
153									
152									
Below 152									

Probable

Competitive

Unlikely

This grid reflects the highest LSAT score of the applicant.