

The University of Memphis—Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law

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■ History of the School of Law

The University of Memphis School of Law was founded in 1962 and was fully accredited by the ABA in 1965, when it graduated its first class. The School of Law is an active member of the AALS. Since its inception, the School of Law has graduated over 5,000 students and continues its tradition of preparing competent, ethical attorneys to enter the practice of law, the federal and state judiciary, corporate boardrooms, and service to the community and government.

■ Memphis and the School of Law

Memphis is one of the south's largest and most beautiful and diverse cities. Memphis has one of the lowest cost-of-living rates of any major US city, and its temperate climate provides ample opportunity for year-round activities. The downtown area of Memphis has a distinctive sense of place and a unique skyline.

The School of Law brings together unique individuals with a wide variety of cultural, geographical, employment, and academic backgrounds. Many of its students come to law school immediately after finishing their undergraduate education; however, a significant number enroll after having been in the workforce or after completing advanced degrees. Its entering class usually has students who represent a variety of backgrounds.

The diversity within the student body enriches the classroom experience for all students and enhances the overall quality of the educational experience.

■ The University of Memphis

The University of Memphis serves as a regional center for education, service, and research. It is a comprehensive urban university that enrolls over 20,000 students and is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The University of Memphis is linked historically, intellectually, and emotionally with its community. The university is situated in the pleasant surroundings of residential neighborhoods away from the hustle of the city.

■ Curriculum

The law school offers a full-time day program. A part-time day program is also available for a limited number of students whose other responsibilities make full-time study difficult. The curriculum is designed to challenge its students and prepare them for the modern practice of law. The curriculum reflects a commitment to traditional legal education, and academic emphasis is placed on fundamental lawyering skills and areas of knowledge.

■ Lawyering Skills and Legal Clinics

The School of Law provides the opportunity to take advanced courses in lawyering skills. These include trial advocacy, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution. Several externships are available for students to work under the

supervision of a faculty instructor or field supervisor in administrative agencies in the court system and in the criminal justice field. Students can choose from one of three legal clinics operated by the School of Law: a General Litigation Clinic, an Elder Law Clinic, and a Child Advocacy Clinic. Students enrolled in the legal clinic courses work with indigent and elderly clients through the Memphis Area Legal Services and with children in delinquency and dependency proceedings.

■ Joint-degree Programs

The School of Law and the Fogelman College of Business and Economics offer a coordinated degree program leading to both the JD and MBA degrees. The purpose of this program is to allow students to study both modern business management and law. The JD/MBA program enables the student to complete both the JD and MBA in considerably less time than would be required to complete each degree separately.

■ Library and Information Technology

The University of Memphis law library is enhancing the School of Law's reputation as an information technology center for the Midsouth, assisting students and the legal community with legal research and the efficient delivery of legal services. The law school's wireless network can accommodate more than 1,250 simultaneous users. The Ned R. McWherter Library, the main campus library, features state-of-the-art information technology and is a regional federal depository library as well as a depository for Tennessee state publications.

■ Student Programs and Activities

The law school has two scholarly publications, edited and staffed entirely by students, that are an integral part of the law school experience: *The University of Memphis Law Review* and *Tennessee Journal of Practice and Procedure*. The Moot Court Board (MCB) is composed of 20 third-year students, who are dedicated to the development of advocacy skills. Members of the MCB plan, organize, and oversee three intraschool competitions. The law school also fields several moot court teams in national moot court and mock trial competitions. The Student Bar Association (SBA) is the student government of the law school. The SBA coordinates a wide variety of extracurricular activities, ranging from informal weekly gatherings with faculty members to formal lectures and philanthropic opportunities in and around the Memphis community. Students can also choose from approximately 20 other organizations, ranging from legal fraternities to special interest organizations.

■ Admission

Some applicants are admitted based on a weighted combination of the LSAT score and the cumulative undergraduate GPA. Other applicants are selected by the Faculty Admission Committee through the qualifiable admission process. Other factors, such as quality of the applicant's undergraduate institution, level and rigor of coursework, letters of recommendation, graduate work,

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employment during and after college, extracurricular activities, educational diversity, and state of residence are considered in this process. In an attempt to attract a diverse student population, the School of Law has developed a selection process that provides a full review of qualified applicants but assures that admission is on the merits of each applicant.

■ Career Services

The Career Services Office actively assists students and alumni by developing their interest in specific areas of the law, enhancing their professional skills, and providing information about opportunities for part-time and full-time employment in their law careers. A comprehensive national Internet job bank as well as a network of alumni mentors is available to help students who are interested in law careers outside the Memphis area.

In addition to hosting a large number of firms, corporations, and public interest/governmental employers for fall and spring on-campus interviewing and seminars, the School of Law is a member of several organizations that conduct annual

recruiting conferences that provide second- and third-year law students and judicial law clerks with the opportunity to interview with law firms, government agencies, and corporations throughout the nation.

Employment statistics for Memphis law graduates have remained consistently high during the last decade. According to the National Association for Law Placement, the 2003 class of Memphis graduates reported a 98.3 percent employment rate within nine months of graduation. Memphis has graduates practicing in all 50 states and in several foreign countries.

■ Tennessee Institute for Pre-law

The Tennessee Institute for Pre-law facilitates admission of African American students who are Tennessee residents to the two state-supported law schools in Tennessee. Participants who successfully complete the eight-week-long summer program and who meet specified requirements for admission will be guaranteed admission to one or both of the state-supported law schools.

Applicant Profile

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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	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
165-169	4	4	1	1	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	9
160-164	11	9	12	12	9	8	12	9	8	7	13	8	5	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	72	56	
155-159	21	19	38	28	46	36	48	30	20	14	23	9	6	5	5	1	1	0	3	0	211	142	
150-154	40	10	64	11	105	19	65	10	46	7	28	3	19	1	6	1	0	0	5	3	378	65	
145-149	17	2	31	2	66	4	53	2	27	1	33	1	13	0	3	0	2	1	7	0	252	13	
140-144	8	2	23	3	29	2	30	3	19	1	14	0	14	0	5	0	4	0	5	0	151	11	
135-139	2	0	7	0	12	0	14	1	10	0	15	0	9	0	4	0	1	0	6	0	80	1	
130-134	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	5	0	4	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	23	0	
125-129	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	
120-124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	103	46	176	57	272	72	231	56	135	30	134	21	69	9	26	2	8	1	31	3	1185	297	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 98% of the total applicant pool.