

The University of Mississippi School of Law

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■ Introduction

Recognizing the need for formal law instruction in the state of Mississippi, the legislature, in 1854, established the Department of Law at the University of Mississippi. Over the years, the law department has evolved into today's modern law center. Located in Oxford, on the main campus of the University of Mississippi, the law center is housed in Lamar Hall, named in honor of the late Mississippian, L.Q.C. Lamar, former Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court and one of the first law professors at the university. Oxford, a small town of approximately 12,000 people, lies nestled in the quiet hills of North Mississippi, just 75 miles southeast of bustling Memphis, Tennessee, and 180 miles north of the state capital of Jackson.

The University of Mississippi is the fourth-oldest state-supported law school in the nation. The School of Law is fully approved by the American Bar Association and is a long-standing member of the Association of American Law Schools.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The library houses one of the most extensive federal, state, and international law collections in the southeast. The library's experienced, service-oriented staff is available to assist patrons with these materials and to provide training in all aspects of traditional and computer-assisted legal research. Other library features include open stacks, an online catalog, two state-of-the-art computer labs, and private study rooms and carrels that may be reserved. The library has a strong commitment to new information technologies and has recently added additional multimedia support, along with enhanced wired and wireless network access for patrons.

■ Admission

Admission to law school is gained by committee approval based upon an applicant's credentials. These credentials include a satisfactory LSAT score and an acceptable academic record at the undergraduate level. A bachelor's degree from an accredited school is required before an applicant can register for law school.

There are no prelaw requisites. Every applicant must take the LSAT and register for the LSDAS. An LSAT score obtained more than three years before application is not valid, and the applicant will be required to retake the test. Applications are available the September preceding admission, with the application completion deadline for both summer and fall enrollment being March 1. However, early application is encouraged. Applicants who file late risk being placed on a waiting list.

Although the LSAT and GPA are obviously the most important factors in the admission process, other considerations are (1) grade patterns and progression; (2) quality of undergraduate institution; (3) difficulty of major field of study; (4) number of years since bachelor's degree was earned; (5) job experience; (6) social, personal, or economic circumstances that may have affected college grades or

performance on the LSAT or academic record; (7) nonacademic achievements; (8) letters of recommendation; and (9) residency.

■ Entrance Dates

Students are given the option to enter in the summer or fall of each admission year. Because summer and fall enrollees are considered as one class, the same standards are applied in the decision-making process.

■ Curriculum

First-year students complete a predetermined curriculum that focuses on the development of analytical skills and a foundation of substantive knowledge. Largely, second- and third-year students are free to select their own courses of study and emphasis, although a number of courses are recommended to ensure a broad-based substantive and procedural background. Students may select from a large number of elective courses, including seminars, clinical, and trial advocacy courses. The elective curriculum offers generous opportunities for students to pursue special interests such as constitutional and individual rights, business and commercial transactions, federal taxation, international law, and environmental law.

■ Clinical Programs

Civil Law Clinic—Under the supervision of the director of the clinic, students provide legal counseling for indigent clients on civil matters.

Criminal Appeals Clinic—The Criminal Appeals Clinic was established by the National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law. The course of study is designed to give students practical experience representing clients in criminal appellate cases and includes direct student participation in the pro bono representation of indigent persons in their cases on appeal.

Prosecutorial Externship Program—The Prosecutorial Clinic was established by the National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law. It is designed to prepare law students for careers in criminal law by combining academic training with placements as externs in local, state, and federal prosecutor offices.

■ Student Activities

The Mississippi Law Journal, edited and published by law students three times each year, includes articles by distinguished professors, judges, and practitioners.

The **Moot Court Board** oversees the administration of moot court trial and appellate cases, as well as several moot court competitions.

■ Summer Abroad Programs

The School of Law offers an opportunity to earn up to six semester credit hours in its summer session held annually in England at Downing College, Cambridge University. Classes offered are for full academic credit and are subject to the same academic standards maintained in the domestic program.

■ Special Programs

One of the most active organizations is the **Public Interest Law Foundation**. The student-run organization focuses its efforts on community groups that need legal assistance—victims of domestic violence, children, and defendants who cannot afford an attorney. The organization raises money to support students working in public interest jobs.

The **National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law** is a new component of the law center funded by a multimillion dollar grant from the Department of Justice. The center works cooperatively with agencies in sponsoring research, hosting international and national conferences, and presenting educational programs on issues related to criminal justice, such as international and domestic terrorism, drug-trafficking, and the role of the proposed International Criminal Court.

The **National Center for Remote Sensing, Air and Space Law** is funded by a grant from NASA. The only center of its kind in the United States, it will serve as a research, advisory, and training resource for the emerging commercial geospatial industry, the international legal community, and related user groups.

■ Housing

On-campus housing is available, and students who are interested in living on campus should make early application to the Housing Office. The majority of law students live off campus in rental units.

■ Career Services

A full-time director of career services assists students in finding employment. Seventy-five to 100 law firms and other prospective employers interview at the law school each year. Approximately 60 percent of graduating seniors are employed prior to graduation, with the remaining number being placed within six months of graduation. The law school is an active member of NALP and annually participates in the Atlanta Legal Hiring Conference, the Equal Justice Works Public Interest Career Fair, the Patent Law Career Fair, and the Southeastern Minority Job Fair.

Applicant Profile

The University of Mississippi 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		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	0
170-174	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
165-169	7	7	8	8	4	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	27	25
160-164	24	24	22	22	19	19	21	20	25	9	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	120	96	
155-159	49	49	86	72	80	46	70	21	36	6	23	2	8	0	3	0	0	0	3	1	358	197	
150-154	73	39	105	18	151	24	98	8	64	4	33	0	19	0	7	0	5	0	2	0	557	93	
145-149	38	12	56	9	69	2	60	3	48	2	33	2	18	0	4	0	1	0	9	1	336	31	
140-144	13	3	22	3	26	1	22	0	23	0	15	1	11	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	137	8	
135-139	0	0	7	1	21	0	8	0	9	0	8	0	6	0	3	0	1	0	7	0	70	1	
130-134	0	0	1	0	5	0	2	0	7	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	27	0	
125-129	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	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	
Total	205	135	307	133	376	96	285	56	215	22	126	8	68	0	21	1	9	0	30	2	1642	453	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 98% of the total applicant pool.