

University of Missouri—Columbia School of Law

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■ Introduction

The University of Missouri—Columbia is a dynamic and collegial community. Founded in 1839, MU is the first state university west of the Mississippi. The School of Law was established in 1872 and has had an enviable history of service to the state and nation. Graduates include judges, governors, attorneys general, and legislators who serve nationwide. The law school is a charter member of the AALS and is fully accredited.

Located in Columbia, MU is 35 miles from Jefferson City, the state capital. Our location provides students with easy access to the legislature, the Supreme Court, and various offices of state. In addition to living and studying in one of America's most livable cities, students are within two hours of the cultural, athletic, and entertainment centers of St. Louis and Kansas City. Students and their families enjoy Columbia's Midwestern friendliness. It combines a small town feel with the diversity and opportunities often found only in large cities. Columbia truly offers something for everyone.

■ Enrollment/Student Body

The student body of the law school is composed of students from numerous states and several foreign countries. This diverse group provides a wealth of experiences and fosters a stimulating learning environment.

■ Faculty

The faculty at MU is strong and vibrant. MU is among the top 10 percent of law schools in American Law Institute membership. Four members of the faculty serve as commissioners to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and two serve as reporters. The Executive Director of the National Conference is an emeritus professor. A recent president of the AALS is also on the faculty. The faculty focus is on teaching, research, and service. Faculty maintain an open-door policy for students.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

John K. Hulston Hall is dominated by open spaces, skylights, and windows. It is a magnificent, state-of-the-art laboratory in which to study law. The law school is part of the campus wireless network. Students can access the Internet and computer-assisted legal services anywhere on campus or in the law building.

The law library houses an extensive collection of legal volumes and reference materials and a rare book collection. It employs a large staff of specialized librarians, researchers, and computer support personnel. Faculty and students have 24-hour access to the law library.

■ Curriculum

The academic program leading to the JD degree traditionally consists of six semesters of study. One seven-week semester is offered each summer. The first-year curriculum is proscribed, as is a substantial portion of the second-year curriculum.

To graduate, students must complete 89 semester hours, including a writing requirement, with a minimum average of 70 on a scale of 55 to 100.

■ Special Programs: Alternative Dispute Resolution

The Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution is a unique feature of the law school and provides national leadership in this rapidly developing area of the law. First-year students are exposed to dispute resolution processes. MU also offers a variety of dispute resolution courses and opportunities for second- and third-year students.

The center also houses a Master of Laws in Dispute Resolution degree program, one of the first programs of its kind in the country.

■ Dual-degree Programs

The School of Law has dual-degree programs with the graduate schools of Business Administration (JD/MBA), Public Administration (JD/MPA), Health Administration (JD/MHA), Library Science (JD/MLS), and Journalism (JD/MA and JD/PhD). The law school will consider establishing other dual-degree programs to meet individual interests.

Traditionally, dual-degree students spend their first year in the School of Law. (Students must fulfill the entrance requirements of both schools.)

■ Certificate Programs

The law school offers a certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution. Students can complete this certificate by concentrating their elective hours in this area of the law.

In addition, a certificate in Journalism, the Digital Globe, or the European Union is available to law students through the Graduate School.

MU is one of 10 European Union (EU) centers in the United States working to develop a better understanding of the transatlantic agenda between the EU and the United States that is shaping our relations.

■ Study Abroad

The School of Law offers second- and third-year students three opportunities to study abroad. An exchange program at Bucerius University in Hamburg, Germany, offers a fall semester abroad. Courses are taught in English by German faculty. Students proficient in German have additional course opportunities. The London Law Consortium provides a winter semester in London. A summer program in Capetown, South Africa, is available for all students. The program consists of three two-credit courses in different areas of comparative law. Students reside in De Waterkant Village, one of Cape Town's trendiest neighborhoods, and are transported to their classes at the University of the Western Cape. Field trips to the Cape of Good Hope, the Stellenbosch wine region, Robben Island—the prison home of Nelson Mandela—and other scenic and historical locales are included in the itinerary.

■ Clinics and Externships

MU provides students with practical experience to enhance lawyering skills and to promote awareness of ethical issues. An active externship and judicial clerkship program and four clinical programs—the Criminal Prosecution Clinic, Family Violence Clinic, Legislative Clinic, and Mediation Clinic—have been developed to address these needs.

■ Student Activities

All students are eligible to participate in the writing competition for membership on the *Missouri Law Review*, the *Journal of Dispute Resolution*, or the *Missouri Environmental Law and Policy Review*. The Board of Advocates sponsors a wide variety of advocacy competitions. The school has chapters of the Order of the Coif, the Order of Barristers, Student Bar Association, and two legal fraternities. Other student organizations, encompassing almost every aspect of social and academic life, are offered.

■ Admission

A faculty committee reviews all applications. In many cases, factors other than the GPA or LSAT score have proven to be determinative. If the LSAT is repeated, the school uses an

average of the scores for its evaluation. Applications from disadvantaged students are especially encouraged.

Students are encouraged to apply early and to visit the law school. The admissions office can arrange for students to meet with an admission counselor, attend a class, and tour the facility.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

Law school is a career investment. MU offers an outstanding value for the cost. In addition, the cost of housing, utilities, and related expenses in Columbia are low when compared to urban standards.

Financial assistance is available to students.

■ Career Services

The Career Development Office serves as a liaison between students or alumni and prospective employers. Workshops, seminars, and individual counseling are offered to help students develop career goals and sharpen their job-search skills. Typically, over 90 percent of each graduating class accepts employment within nine months of graduation. The majority of graduates practice in Missouri, however, graduates find employment throughout the world.

Applicant Profile

University of Missouri—Columbia 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
175-180	Good Possibility				Possible				
170-174	Good Possibility				Possible				
165-169	Good Possibility				Possible				
160-164	Good Possibility				Possible				
155-159	Good Possibility				Possible				
150-154					Possible				
145-149									
140-144									
135-139									
130-134									
125-129									
120-124									



Good Possibility



Possible



Unlikely

This chart is to be used as a general guide only. Nonnumerical factors are strongly considered for all applicants.