

University of Missouri—Kansas City School of Law

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■ Introduction

Located in the midst of a beautiful college campus, UMKC takes pride in being the urban public law school with a small liberal arts feel. From this unique vantage point, UMKC serves and collaborates with the legal communities in two major metropolitan areas of the states of Missouri and Kansas. Students, faculty, and alumni actively lead and participate in professional activities with area bar associations, lawyers, and law firms, as well as government agencies and the judiciary. A variety of community-based projects benefit from this involvement.

UMKC law school graduates hold important responsibilities in legal arenas across the country, distinguishing themselves in private practice, government service, academia, and corporate roles. Notable UMKC alumni include a president of the United States, a justice of the US Supreme Court, and a director of the FBI. Many other UMKC alumni currently serve as judges at the federal, state, and local levels—an unmistakable sign of community respect for the school and its graduates.

The law school enjoys support from its alumni, a number of whom participate in the Inns of UMKC, a program designed to help students achieve academic success, improve their preparation for the bar exam, and better prepare them for life as practicing attorneys. Modeled after the English Inns of Court system of training young lawyers (barristers), each Inn is led by prominent members of the local bar—attorneys and a judge—as well as two law school faculty. Inns meet on a regular basis throughout the year. Each student meets with his or her faculty advisor for individual advising on a prescribed schedule.

Founded in 1895, the school is accredited by the ABA and is a member of the AALS.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

Office suites shared by faculty and students are designed to foster the exchange of ideas and to promote collegiality between faculty and students. The school has over 121,000 square feet of modern, usable space, which includes wireless computer access throughout the building, a recently renovated student lounge and computer bar, an outdoor courtyard, four lecture halls with state-of-the-art projection equipment, student offices, and a courtroom.

The Leon E. Bloch Law Library is a modern facility that combines the traditions of print media with electronic media in preparing the lawyer of the future and supporting the legal community.

■ Curriculum

UMKC School of Law is a community of learners bridging the gap between theory and practice. Courses are taught in a variety of formats, but all have high-quality teaching and student-faculty interaction. Many of the substantive courses include problem solving, service learning, and the development of skills components essential to the practice of law.

The first-year JD program is prescribed, with classes that average fewer than 60 students each. A year-long intensive course in Introduction to Law and Lawyering Processes

provides instruction in legal analysis, research, writing, and advocacy. The upper-level program includes a combination of required courses, as well as a broad selection of elective courses, including approved non-law courses in other UMKC divisions. No class offered is larger than 80 students, and most are significantly smaller.

The school is committed to the success of its students. Academic enrichment opportunities in the form of supervised, structured study groups, lecture series, and weekly workshops are offered. Additional opportunities include a weeklong summer program available on a limited basis.

While the school's innovative new Solo & Small Firm Initiative prepares students for general practice, those seeking more focused study can pursue one of our four emphasis areas: Litigation; Business & Entrepreneurial Law; Urban, Land Use and Environmental Law; and Law in Service to Children and Families. These emphases build on our long-standing tradition of excellence in these areas and prepare students to enter the job market with specialized knowledge and skills.

A part-time day program is available for those students with family or career responsibilities who are unable to enroll on a full-time basis. Students may graduate in two and one-half years by attending two summer sessions.

■ JD/MBA and JD/MPA Programs

The School of Law has established dual-degree programs with the Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration. The program allows students to earn a JD degree and a Master of Business Administration or Master of Public Administration degree on an accelerated basis through cross-acceptance of some credit hours. Applicants must satisfy the admission requirements of each school.

■ JD/LLM and Combined-degree Programs

The School of Law has adopted combined-degree programs that allow qualified JD students to apply up to 12 credit hours (with the permission of the Graduate Studies Committee) of UMKC tax or estate planning courses approved for this purpose toward an LLM on an accelerated basis, generally requiring only one additional semester (or two summer sessions) beyond that required for the JD degree.

■ Student Activities

The law school's location in a metropolitan area provides many opportunities for students to engage in real-life representation of clients (under faculty supervision) in clinical programs that include UMKC's Child and Family Services Clinic, Tax Clinic, Entrepreneurial Law and Practice Clinic, and Wrongful Convictions (the school's "Innocence Project"). The school also offers a number of field placements, including judicial clerkships with federal and state judges, and internships with prosecutors, public defenders, Legal Aid, the Department of Labor, the EPA, and the US Attorney's Office.

Students write and edit a substantial portion of the *UMKC Law Review*, a scholarly legal journal, and also serve as assistant editors of the *Urban Lawyer*, published by the ABA Section of

Local Government Law, and the national and international *Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers*.

Students obtain advanced skills development in trial and appellate advocacy through sequenced upper-level courses and competition participation. Students also participate in client counseling and negotiation competitions. UMKC teams frequently win regional and national honors in these competitions.

UMKC benefits from an active Student Bar Association, which represents students at faculty and committee meetings and plays an important role in establishing school policy. Three national legal fraternities have chapters at the school, as do the following law student associations: Black Law Students, Hispanic Law Students, Jewish Law Students, Asian Pacific Islander Students, Women Law Students, and Non-traditional Law Students. Additional student organizations specialize in Environmental Law, Public Interest Law, Intellectual Property Law, International Law, and other areas of interest, comprising over 30 student organizations. Students also have the opportunity to participate in one of two annual study abroad programs that visit China and Ireland.

■ Admission

While some students are admitted primarily on undergraduate GPA and LSAT scores, most applications are considered by a committee that examines applicants' complete files to ensure

that the entering class contains persons of diverse backgrounds and interests whose achievements qualify them for law study.

Our admission process aims to identify those who demonstrate a likelihood of success in law school, who will be active contributors to our law school community, and who will become competent, ethical members of the legal profession and the larger community.

Students may be admitted with a bachelor's degree from an approved institution or, in appropriate cases, with 90 hours of acceptable academic work. A \$200 seat deposit is payable by April 1 or within 20 days of admission, whichever comes later, and a second \$200 seat deposit is due June 15. Applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the school. Arrangements can be made to meet with students and faculty, visit a class, or tour the law school.

■ Career Services

The Office of Career Services assists law students in exploring and defining career options. It also provides advice and assistance in résumé preparation and interviewing skills. The office sponsors a series of programs to introduce students to a variety of career opportunities, including large firms, small firms, government, corporate, and public interest law. Participants in the school's Judicial Clerkship Initiative have enjoyed a high placement rate in pursuing clerkships with state and federal judges.

Applicant Profile

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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
165 +	6	6	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	16	13
160-164	13	11	14	14	12	12	11	10	8	5	6	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	69	57
155-159	30	29	48	46	42	41	36	34	29	16	20	9	9	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	216	181
150-154	57	47	91	60	113	45	94	30	57	12	32	4	14	0	3	0	4	0	3	0	468	198
145-149	28	5	59	5	52	4	48	5	53	2	16	0	13	1	4	0	2	0	1	0	276	22
140-144	7	0	23	0	25	0	28	0	18	0	11	0	7	1	3	0	1	0	8	0	131	1
Below 140	4	0	3	0	12	0	8	0	15	0	12	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	65	0
Total	145	98	240	127	258	104	226	80	180	35	100	18	51	8	16	1	8	0	17	1	1241	472

Apps = Number of Applicants
Adm = Number Admitted
Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.

The School of Law considers many factors beyond LSAT score and GPA. This chart should be used only as a general guide.