

University of South Carolina School of Law

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■ Introduction

The University of South Carolina School of Law, established in 1867, is located in Columbia, SC. With a metropolitan population of more than 450,000, Columbia combines the advantages of a progressive, growing area with the pace of a smaller city. The School of Law is located two blocks from the state capitol building. As the seat of state government, the SC Supreme Court, State Court of Appeals, federal district court, and criminal, civil, and special jurisdiction courts meet in Columbia. There are also numerous law firms in proximity to the law school. Situated in the center of the state, there is easy access to the mountains and the coast. The School of Law enjoys the unique advantage of being the only law school in South Carolina that is accredited by the ABA. The School of Law has been a member of the Association of American Law Schools since 1924.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

Since its founding, the School of Law has provided excellent preparation for students of the law. The curriculum combines traditional teaching methods and courses with modern, state-of-the-art studies. The School of Law houses a major research library with a collection of about 450,000 volumes and extensive computer-assisted research capabilities, including LexisNexis, Westlaw, Loislaw, Dialog, RLIN, OCLC, and USCAN, the online card catalog. The library also includes the SC Legal History Collection. A well-trained staff of librarians provides assistance and instruction in research and reference techniques. The library is open more than 111 hours per week and for extended hours during the examination period. The computer lab and two electronic resource learning centers are also located within the library. Individual closed study carrels are available for assignment to students, and larger study rooms and open carrels are also available for students.

The School of Law offers a full-time-only day program leading to the Juris Doctor degree. In order to earn the JD, a student must successfully complete 90 semester hours of coursework. In each semester, a student must register for a minimum of 12 credit hours. The School of Law offers one seven-week summer session each year.

In addition to all first-year courses, students are required to take Constitutional Law II, Criminal Procedure, Professional Responsibility, and a perspective course, and satisfy an upper-level writing requirement. The School of Law offers advanced courses that allow detailed study in corporate and commercial law, tax and estate planning, and litigation. The peer-assistance tutoring program provides academic support to first-year students, and a mentoring program pairs a first-year student with an upper-class student. Every effort is made to assist students in succeeding academically.

■ Dual-degree Programs

The School of Law, in cooperation with other graduate programs at USC, currently offers dual JD and master's degrees in the following: international master of business administration (IMBA), human resource management, accounting, economics, public administration, criminal justice,

social work, earth and environmental resource management, and health administration.

The USC School of Law and Vermont Law School offer a dual degree in environmental law. Students earn a JD from USC and a Master of Studies in Environmental Law (MSEL) degree from Vermont Law School.

■ Special Programs

The School of Law recognizes that experiential learning in the area of professional skills is essential to a well-rounded legal education. Under special court rule, third-year law students in South Carolina may represent clients and appear in court when enrolled in a clinical legal education course. The clinical education program offers courses designed to develop critical lawyering skills. The program offers training in trial advocacy, interviewing, counseling, negotiation, alternative dispute resolution, and legal drafting. Clinics include environmental law, criminal practice, juvenile justice, domestic practice, bankruptcy, and federal litigation. Judicial internships place students with trial and appellate court judges.

The Pro Bono Program, one of the longest operating programs of its type, has an outstanding national and local reputation. Under the leadership of a full-time director and a student board, the program offers students an opportunity to be involved in activities such as income tax assistance, Habitat for Humanity, and legal research.

The National Judicial Advocacy Center and the National College of District Attorneys are located on the USC campus. The Advocacy Center, operated by the US Department of Justice, provides intensive training to approximately 15,000 federal prosecutors and attorneys from across the country. The National College of District Attorneys provides training to nearly 2,000 prosecutors.

■ Admission

The School of Law seeks to enroll qualified students who will enhance and embrace the school's rigorous educational environment and, as graduates, make positive societal contributions to South Carolina, the region, and the nation. In making decisions, the Faculty Committee on Admissions employs a holistic approach, taking into account all information available about each candidate. No single factor is conclusive. While undergraduate GPA and the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) are emphasized, the committee's decision is also influenced by other factors, including the applicant's personal statement, employment or other life experience, residency, letters of recommendation, and contribution to a diverse educational environment.

■ Student Activities

The School of Law publishes the *South Carolina Law Review*; the *ABA Real Property, Probate, and Trust Journal*; the *Southeastern Environmental Law Journal*; the *Journal of Law and Education*; and the *South Carolina Journal of International Law and Business*. Moot court teams are sponsored in the national, international, ABA, and labor law competitions. Students who have obtained high academic achievement are eligible for membership in the Order

of the Coif, a national legal honorary society, and the Order of Wig and Robe, a local scholastic organization founded in 1935. Student organizations include the Student Bar Association, Black Law Students Association, Women in Law, Christian Legal Society, Environmental Law Society, Children's Advocacy Law Society, Criminal Law Society, Federalist Society, Health Law Society, Healing Species Law Society, Intellectual Property Law Society, James L. Petigru Public Interest Law Society, Just Democracy, Society of International Law, Sports and Entertainment Law Society, Law Democrats, and Law Republicans.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

While most students depend primarily on federal and private student loans to finance their legal education, the School of Law does offer both merit-based and need-based scholarships. Merit-based scholarships cover up to the full cost of tuition. Awards are made on a rolling basis. Candidates who want priority consideration for merit-based scholarships should make sure that the completed application and all supporting materials are received in the Office of Admissions by February 1. There is no separate application for merit-based scholarships.

The application for need-based scholarships is available on the web at www.law.sc.edu/admissions/financial.shtml. The deadline for applying for need-based scholarships is June 1, 2006. Applicants for need-based scholarships will be notified of a decision by early July.

■ Office of Career Services

The Office of Career Services serves as liaison between students and legal employers and offers services to equip students with the skills and information necessary for a successful employment search. The Office of Career Services uses e-Attorney/OCI+. Services available include individual counseling, résumé writing and interviewing seminars, on-campus interviews, and participation in job fairs. The School of Law regularly participates in the Southeastern Law Placement Consortium in Atlanta, GA; the Mid-Atlantic Recruiting Conference in Washington, DC; the Southeastern Minority Job Fair; the Patent Law Interview Program; the Atlanta Legal Hiring Conference; and the National Public Interest Career Fair.

Applicant Profile

University of South Carolina School of Law

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	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
170-174	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	8
165-169	8	7	7	6	9	7	7	6	4	4	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	34
160-164	23	22	41	35	38	36	24	22	24	18	9	7	5	4	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	166	145
155-159	59	35	99	52	95	44	97	38	53	19	18	3	5	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	430	194		
150-154	42	15	91	21	109	26	96	18	62	13	25	2	6	0	3	0	1	1	2	1	437	97		
145-149	25	7	44	8	51	6	47	3	24	1	23	0	11	0	3	0	0	0	3	1	231	26		
140-144	7	1	15	3	22	3	23	0	17	1	14	0	6	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	110	8		
135-139	0	0	5	0	10	0	10	0	11	0	6	0	2	0	5	0	2	0	6	0	57	0		
130-134	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	6	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	14	0		
125-129	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	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	165	88	305	128	335	123	311	89	202	56	101	14	37	7	20	3	4	1	18	4	1498	513		

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.