Contact Information

Office of Admissions
Southern Illinois University School of Law
1150 Douglas Drive – Mail Code 6804
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Direct 618.453.8858
Toll free 800.739.9187, ext. 1
Email lawadmit@siu.edu
Website www.law.siu.edu

Consideration for Admission

Individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree or equivalent, from an accredited institution in the United States or abroad, by the first day of fall semester class (August 18, 2014), are eligible for admission to law school. There are no prerequisite courses or specific majors required for entry. Each year, applicants from all disciplines and areas of study are admitted to the School of Law.

Application and Admissions Timeline

The School of Law Admissions Committee will conduct a holistic review of every application received. Therefore, while GPA and LSAT are important factors in the admissions process, non-numeric factors are considered. Non-numeric factors include the personal statement, letters of recommendation, and work experience, community service, honors or awards reflected through a resume.

Applications for fall 2014 entry are available on September 1, 2013. Electronic applications may be submitted through the Law School Admission Council (LSAC.org). Since we offer a rolling admissions process, there is no absolute deadline. However, we strongly suggest applicants complete their application before June 1, 2014. We will accept scores from the February 8, 2014 LSAT administration.

- Sept 1: Office of Admissions begins accepting applications for fall 2014 entry
- Nov: Admissions Committee begins reviewing applicant files
- Nov-Jun: Applicant files are reviewed on a rolling basis; committee decisions are posted to the applicant’s online status checker
- Apr 1: First seat deposit due
- Jun 1: Second seat deposit due; preferred application deadline for fall 2014 entry

Application Material Checklist

Below is a checklist for first-year JD applicants. For international, transfer, or visiting JD applicants, please visit the School of Law website for a specific list of requirements. An application will not be reviewed until all application materials have been received. Once a file is complete, please allow 2-3 weeks for a committee decision to be reached. All admission decisions are posted to the applicant’s online status checker located on the School of Law website.

- Application and $50 Application Fee - waived for fall 2014 entry (LSAC.org)
- Personal Statement (upload with online application)
- Current Resume (upload with online application)
- Character and Fitness supplemental documents and explanation, if applicable
Personal explanation for each incident (upload with online application)
- Official supplemental documents for each incident (upload with online application or email to lawadmit@siu.edu)
- LSAC Credential Assembly Service Report (CAS)
  - LSAT taken within the past five years
  - Transcripts sent directly to LSAC from all institutions attended including graduate work, if applicable
  - Two letters of recommendation sent directly to LSAC from recommenders
    - Preferably one academic reference
    - Applicants who graduated from an undergraduate institution several years ago may substitute letters from employers or supervisors who can address the applicant's abilities and intellectual promise for the study of law.

Application Fee Waiver

SIU School of Law will automatically grant an application fee waiver to applicants who have been granted a waiver through the Law School Admission Council. LSAC grants fee waivers to applicants who have an absolute inability to pay for either the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) or the CAS fee. We encourage you to learn about the LSAC Fee Waiver program and obtain an application on the LSAC website, http://www.lsac.org/JD/LSAT/fee-waivers.asp.

LSAC Credential Assembly Service (CAS)

Applicants are required to register with the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) and all undergraduate and graduate transcripts and letters of recommendation must be sent directly to LSAC. For more information on the LSAT or CAS, visit the Law School Admission Council website, LSAC.org. Questions relating to your CAS law school report should be directed to LSAC, Box 2000, 662 Penn Street, Newtown, PA 18940-0998. The candidate referral service phone number is 215.968.1001.

International Students

Applicants with undergraduate degrees from colleges or universities outside of the United States and whose native language is not English, or who have not obtained an undergraduate or graduate degree in the United States, must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). To be considered for admission, applicants must have a minimum score of 600 (PBT), 250 (CBT), or 100 (IBT). Applicants must retake the TOEFL if the minimum score is not earned. In addition, applicants are required to register with the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) and all academic records must be mailed to LSAC for transcript translation and evaluation.

International applicants who are admitted to the School of Law will be required to participate in the Southern Illinois University Center for English as a Second Language Graduate Student English Program or an equivalent program prior to matriculation, unless this requirement is waived. To learn more about our admission requirements for international applicants visit the School of Law website, www.law.siu.edu.

Personal Statement

The Admissions Committee conducts a holistic review of every file including non-numeric factors. Therefore, all applicants are required to submit a personal statement. When writing your personal statement, you may want to consider using the five questions outlined below. Personal statements should be 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced, and uploaded as an attachment to the online application.
- Why do you want to go to law school?
- What makes you different from other law school applicants?
- Why do you want to go to law school at Southern Illinois University?
- What are your career plans after law school?
- Why should the Admissions Committee grant you an offer of admission?

Current Resume
All applicants are required to submit a current resume that includes all post-high school education, employment history, honors and awards, and extracurricular activities including community service. **NOTE:** Gaps in an applicant's education or employment history of more than six months should be included in the resume; however, a separate addendum should be included to explain the gap in education or employment. The resume (and addendum, if applicable) should be uploaded with your online application.

**Character and Fitness Disclosure**

Southern Illinois University School of Law requires all applicants to make a complete and full disclosure to the Character and Fitness questions at time of application. If the answer is "Yes" to one or more of the Character and Fitness questions outlined in the application, applicants will need to attach the following documents for each incident.

- A personal explanation of each incident that occurred **must** be included as part of your online application.
- Appropriate documentation from the academic institution, professional organization, licensing agency, or court documenting each wrongdoing and any sanctions imposed. If this documentation is not available at the time you submit your online application, please submit via email to ldavid@siu.edu.
- If the actual documentation cannot be obtained, a statement outlining the incident and disposition from the appropriate agency will be required. In the event there is no record of an incident, a statement from the appropriate agency will be required. If this statement is not available at the time you submit your online application, please submit via email to ldavid@siu.edu.

**NOTE:** Full disclosure is required for any charges against you, including those that have been dismissed, and those for which you were acquitted, adjudication was withheld or deferred, a conviction was reversed, set aside, or vacated, any records were sealed or expunged, you received court supervision, or you pled guilty or nolo contendere to the charge, and regardless of whether you have been previously told that you do not need to disclose any such instance.

In addition, applicants are under continuing obligation to update disclosures and add new occurrences. Failure to make complete disclosure on this application may result in revocation of an offer of admission to the School of Law and/or denial of your application for admission to practice law in a particular state. Discrepancies between disclosure on this application and an applicant’s Character and Fitness Application for admission to the bar may result in serious consequences while in law school and when applying to take the bar examination. Therefore, prior to matriculation, applicants are encouraged to seek the specific bar requirements for the state the applicant plans to practice law.

**Cost of Attendance, Financial Aid, and Scholarships**

Educational costs for attending the SIU School of Law are determined each year by the SIUC Board of Trustees. The resulting budgets are used to determine a student's financial need and eligibility for various types of financial aid.

Applicants applying for financial aid must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application online, www.fafsa.ed.gov. Applicants must include the Southern Illinois University federal school code (001758) to have the FAFSA information sent directly to the SIU Financial Aid Office. In order to receive timely financial aid award information, the School of Law suggests that applicants submit the 2014-2015 FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, 2014. For more information on estimated cost of attendance, law student budget and financial aid, please visit the School of Law website, www.law.siu.edu.

Applicants who are admitted to the School of Law are automatically considered for scholarships; no additional application is necessary. Scholarship award notifications are included with the offer of admission. For more information on financial aid and scholarships available, contact the Office of Admissions at ldavid@siu.edu or 618/453-8858.

**Residency**
Southern Illinois University is a state-funded institution. Although the non-resident tuition rate is much lower than that of most private schools, it is considerably higher than the resident tuition rate. However, the residency policy permits students to change their classification status from non-resident to Illinois resident after six-months of residency.

To be classified as in-state resident, students must have an Illinois address, register his or her car in Illinois, have an Illinois driver's license, and be registered to vote in Illinois. Students may qualify for in-state tuition any time of the year prior to the start of law school by meeting specific deadlines in December for the summer semester, February for the fall semester, or July for the spring semester. To learn more about establishing residency in Illinois visit the School of Law website, www.law.siu.edu.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The SIU School of Law follows all applicable laws and regulations relating to students with physical or learning disabilities including the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Applicants are not required to identify known disabilities in the application. Admitted students with a physical or learning disability who seek an accommodation from the School of Law should immediately contact Associate Dean Frank Houdek at the School of Law. Requests for accommodations must be accompanied by appropriate documentation obtained within the last two years preceding the beginning of law school classes. Such documentation should include assessments, diagnoses and specific recommendations for modifications. Requests for accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis. For more information, visit the Current Student - Disability Services and Policies page on the School of Law website, www.law.siu.edu, or the Southern Illinois University Disability Support Services website, www.siu.edu/~dss.

**Equal Opportunity Policy**

In accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois and the United States, the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and is committed to taking affirmative steps aimed at overcoming historical patterns of discrimination in our society. The Board of Trustees directs that all elements of Southern Illinois University adhere to procedures which promote this policy in all phases of university activities including employment, educational programs, choice of contractors, and relationships with employee organizations. Article VII. Policy on Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Statutes of the Board of Trustees of SIU. For more information, visit the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustee Statute, http://bot.siu.edu/leg/statutes.html#7.

**Questions**

If you have additional questions about the admissions process, financial assistance, student organizations, career services, or the School of Law in general, please contact:

**Office of Admissions**
618.453.8858
lawadmit@siu.edu

**Career Services Office**
618.453.8858
lawjobs@siu.edu

**Student Services**
618.453.8299

**Registrar’s Office**
618.453.8765
lawreg@siu.edu

**Technology Services**
618.453.5378