

This program is designed for freshmen or transfer honors students who plan to attend law school upon earning their bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Upon acceptance into the program, students are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of courses, programs, and lectures related to the law. Upon successful completion of the program requirements and standards, students are guaranteed admission to the SIU School of Law.

Who qualifies for admission to the Pre-Law Scholars Program?

- Freshmen or transfer students entering Southern Illinois University Carbondale.
- ACT composite score in the 85th percentile or higher, or equivalent SAT (critical reading and math).
- Must be accepted to the SIUC University Honors Program by March 15. Application can be obtained at honors.siu.edu.

What requirements or standards must I complete while I am an undergraduate student?

Upon acceptance into the program, the School of Law will provide a list of requirements. In addition, students are required to maintain good academic standing in the SIUC University Honors Program.

Required Coursework

- UHON 450 – Topical Seminar (American Law and Legal System)
- PHIL 310 – Advanced Critical Thinking
- Select TWO of the following courses:
 - POLS 332I – Introduction to Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
 - POLS 333a – Constitutional Law I: Institutional Powers and Constraints
 - POLS 333b – Constitutional Law II: Rights and Liberties
 - POLS 435 – Judicial Process and Behavior
 - POLS 436 – Administrative Law
 - POLS 437 – Jurisprudence (Theories of Law)
 - POLS 438 – Women, Legal Practice and Social Change
 - POLS 475 – International Law
 - PHIL 309i – Philosophy of Politics/Law/Justice
 - PHIL 340 – Ethical Theories
 - PHIL 445 – Philosophy of the law

Optional Programs - We will invite you to attend various programs and public lectures at the School of Law each year. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to get involved in the life of the law school.

What major should I select?

There is no required major for your admission to the SIU School of Law. If you satisfy the requirements of the Pre-Law Scholars Program, you are guaranteed admission irrespective of what you major in during college. We recommend that students interested in law school take courses that will build their reading comprehension, written and oral communication, and analytical skills.

Will I be required to take the Law School Admission Test?

As part of the admission requirements, students will be required to have a valid LSAT on file through the Law School Admission Council. Although the exam score is an important factor in determining eligibility for scholarships, a minimum score is not required for this program. If you meet the requirements for the Pre-Law Scholars Program, you are guaranteed admission to the SIU School of Law.

What guarantees admission to SIU School of Law?

Pre-Law Scholars who successfully complete the required courses, maintain good academic standing in the SIUC University Honors Program, and meet the admission requirements outlined below are guaranteed admission to SIU School of Law.

- J.D. application requirements
 - Completed Application (application fee waived)
 - CAS report generated by LSAC
 - LSAT taken within the last five years
 - Undergraduate transcripts
 - Two letters of recommendation
- Personal Statement
- Current Resume
- A satisfactory Character and Fitness report*

When can I start the J.D. program?

Students will enter the program only in the fall semester. A student cannot enroll in the J.D. program without successful completion of a bachelor's degree from SIUC. Students have a maximum of one year following graduation to enroll in the SIU School of Law through this program.

Can I apply to other law schools?

Participation in this program does not prevent students from applying to other law schools. The SIU School of Law will not require an early decision or early commitment from you.

What if I decide I am no longer interested in pursuing law school?

There is no penalty should a student decide he or she is no longer interested in pursuing a legal education.

For more information, contact:

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Updated: May 2016

*Southern Illinois University School of Law considers, as part of the admissions process, prior acts of academic and other misconduct. Similarly, the SIU School of Law must certify to the Board of Bar Admissions of each state in which students apply for admission that they are fit to practice law. For these reasons, all applicants are required to make a full and complete disclosure to the character and fitness questions outlined in the application. Questions pertaining to this requirement may be directed to the SIU School of Law Office of Admissions.