This program is designed for 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, students are guaranteed admission to the SIU School of Law.

Who qualifies for admission to the Pre-Law Scholars Program?
SIUC undergraduate students with an ACT composite score in the 85th percentile or higher, or equivalent SAT (critical reading and math), may be eligible to participate if accepted into University Honors Program prior to their senior year.

What major is required to participate in this program?
There is no required major for your admission to the SIU School of Law. 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?
Students are 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.

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 law school admission requirements are guaranteed admission to SIU School of Law.

When can I start the J.D. program?
Students will enter the program 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 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.
What requirements must I complete while I am an undergraduate student?
Requirement of 18 hours total comprised of courses from a two-tiered selection of courses: Law Foundations and Law Specialization & Preparation.

Level I – Law Foundations (Three Classes)
These three electives constitute the foundations as approved by the SIU School of Law.

- PHIL 309i-3 Philosophy of Politics/Law/Justice
- PHIL 340-3 Ethical Theories
- PHIL 445-3 Philosophy of the Law
- POLS 332I-3 Introduction to Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
- POLS 333a-3 Constitutional Law I: Institutional Powers and Constraints
- POLS 333b-3 Constitutional Law II: Rights and Liberties
- POLS 435-3 Judicial Process and Behavior
- POLS 436-3 Administrative Law
- POLS 437-3 Jurisprudence
- POLS 475-3 International Law

Level II – Law Specialization & Preparation (Three Classes)
Level I Foundation courses can also be taken as electives if the three (3) course requirement at Level I has been met. As this list is not inclusive, students may seek approval for course substitution in Level II.

Business and Management
- ECON 329-3 Introduction to International Trade
- FIN280-3 Business Law I

Civil and Human Rights
- AFR 332-3 Black Americans and Law
- AFR 339-3 Black Americans and the Correctional Process
- CCJ 460-3 Women, Crime, and Justice
- HIST 487-3 The U.S. Civil Rights Movement
- POLS 326-3 African-American Politics

Constitutional Law
- JRNL 399-3 First Freedoms
- POLS 323-3 The Supreme Court
- POLS 333a-3 Constitutional Law I
- POLS 333b-3 Constitutional Law II
- POLS 334-3 The Constitution and Defendants’ Rights
- POLS 435-3 Judicial Process and Behavior
- POLS 436-3 Administrative Law
Criminal Law
CCJ 310-3 Introduction to Criminal Law
CCJ 408-3 Criminal Procedure
CCJ 461-3 White-Collar Crime

Dispute Resolution
CMST 262-3 Interpersonal Communication
PHIL 309I-3 Philosophy of Peace, Law, and Justice

Family and Juvenile Law
CCJ 374-3 Juvenile Justice
PARL 350-3 Family Law

Government and Politics
PHIL 309I-3 Philosophy of Peace, Law, and Justice
POLS 326-3 African-American Politics
POLS 406-3 American Political Thought
POLS 419-3 Political Sociology
POLS 456-3 Gender and Global Politics

Health Law
PHIL 344-3 Biomedical Ethics

History, Culture, and Diversity
AFR 332-3 Black Americans and Law
CCJ 203-3 Crime, Justice, and Social Diversity
HIST 487-3 The U.S. Civil Rights Movement
POLS 332I-3 Introduction Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
SOC 455-3 Racial Inequality
WGSS 302-3 Women and Leadership: Government, Law, and Business
WGSS 438-3 Women and the Law

Intellectual Property and Technology Law
JRNL 434-3 Media Ethics

International, Comparative, and Immigration Law
POLS 439-3 Comparative Law and Courts
POLS 475-3 International Law
UHON351/Independent Study (3-6) Honors Global Seminars Cuba/Japan

Legal and Professional Preparation
CMST 221-3 Advanced Public Speaking
CMST 262-3 Interpersonal Communication
CMST 325-3 Argumentation and Debate
CMST 326-3 Persuasion
ENG 290-3 Intermediate Analytical Writing
PHIL 310-3 Advanced Critical Thinking
PHIL 445-3 Philosophy of Law
POLS 230-3 Law in American Society
SOC 301-3 Theory and Society

Litigation and Advocacy
CMST 221-3 Advanced Public Speaking
CMST 262-3 Interpersonal Communication
CMST 325-3 Argumentation and Debate
CMST 326-3 Persuasion

Public Interest Law
CCJ 374-3 Juvenile Justice
PARL 350-3 Family Law
PHIL 309I-3 Philosophy of Peace, Law, and Justice
POLS 332I-3 Introduction Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
POLS 438-3 Women and the Law

Sports, Arts, and Entertainment Law
JRNL 332-3 Journalism Law
JRNL 399-3 First Freedoms

Torts and Products Liability
PARL 360-3 Torts

Trust and Estate Law
PARL 320-3 Wills, Trusts, and Estates

For more information, contact:
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Southern Illinois University
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605 Agriculture Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901
honors@siu.edu | P: 618.453.2824

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*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.