

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

If additional foundational courses want to be taken,

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 334-3 The Constitution and Defendants' Rights

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

Family and Juvenile Law

CCJ 374-3 Juvenile Justice

PARL 350-3 Family Law

Government and Politics

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

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

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 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

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:

University Honors Program
Southern Illinois University
Morris Library 110, MC 6532
605 Agriculture Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901
honors@siu.edu | P: 618.453.2824

Office of Admissions
Southern Illinois University School of Law
Lesar Law Building, MC 6804
1150 Douglas Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901
lawadmit@siu.edu | P: 618.453.8858

Updated February 2020

*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.